

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2022

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B1

## A FRESH START

### Pilot Rock's Otteson transfers to Pendleton

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

**P**ENDLETON — It wasn't exactly the Baltimore Colts moving to Indianapolis in the middle of the night, but Jace Otteson's departure from Pilot Rock to Pendleton High School in January surprised a few people, including the Bucks' baseball and football coaches.

The talented sophomore since has earned himself playing time on the baseball team, and is taking part in morning weight training sessions with the football team.

Otteson was up front in saying the move was not sports related.

"Going into spring, I was unhappy and I was struggling," he said. "I got into a Young Life program and made new friends. It was good for my mental health. The Young Life leaders make a big difference in kids' lives. It's a change for the better."

He said he and his family moved, he knew he might not be able to play sports, but the Oregon School Activities Association cleared him.



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

**Pendleton's Jace Otteson bats against Scappoose on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at Bob White Field during the Red Lion Buckaroo Classic. Otteson transferred from Pilot Rock to Pendleton in January.**

"I would have made the change either way," he said.

The transition has been a smooth one for Otteson, who said he felt welcome from Day 1.

"I feel very fortunate I was brought into this school," he said. "The kids welcomed me with open arms. The guys on the (baseball) team have helped me out a lot, and the camaraderie has been eye-opening. They have been great."

"As far as 5A, he has talent,"

Pendleton coach TJ Hague-wood said. "He has shown growth as a player. He has athletic skills. He is in a situation where he is around players that will make him better. Just the difference in opportunity can make a difference. Jace has been a solid contributor."

The 5-foot-10, 185-pound Otteson has caught in the four games he has played for the Bucks. In eight at-bats, he has one hit, four RBIs, and has drawn five walks.

"They are very loaded with

players and coaches," Otteson said of the Bucks. "They are great guys and they know the players they have. I was not quite there. They brought me under their wing and helped me. I am fortunate to play behind (catcher) Andrew Demianew. Everything is more fast paced. The pitchers throw pretty hard. Easton Corey is throwing like 90 and Karson Lani is throwing in the 80s."

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### OLD OREGON LEAGUE



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

**Nixyaawii's Sophie Bronson (24) drives toward the basket against the Lone/Arlington Cardinals on Feb. 26, 2022, in the second round of the Oregon School Activities Association Class 1A State Tournament in Mission. Bronson was named the Old Oregon League Player of the Year.**

## POY: Bronson of Nixyaawii

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

**MISSION** — Nixyaawii girls basketball coach Michael BadWarrior knows he can count on Sophie Bronson to be the first player to show up for practice with her shoes on, to sweep the floor without being asked, and help other players fine tune their game.

"She was an overall leader on and off the court," BadWarrior said.

Bronson brought her dedication to the court every game, averaging 18.5 points and seven assists a game for the Golden Eagles, who qualified for

the 1A state tournament.

Bronson, a junior, was named Old Oregon League Player of the Year by the league coaches.

"On the court, she has been working and training her whole life," BadWarrior said. "She had a standout season. She had over 500 points this season. Whenever we needed to get something going, she did what she had to do. She really did anything and everything the team needed to win. She's extremely unselfish."

The Golden Eagles finished 11-0 in OOL play and 24-6 overall. At one point, they won 11 of 12

See Bronson, Page B2

### 3A ALL-STATE TEAM

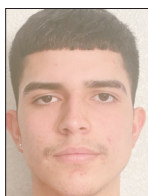
## Umatilla players earn honors

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

**UMATILLA** — Coming off their fourth-place finish at the 3A state basketball tournament, the Umatilla Vikings had two players selected to the 3A all-state team.

Senior Oscar Campos was selected to the third team by the state coaches, while senior Ulises Armenta was named to the honorable mention team.

Both players were named to the 3A all-tournament team, and both were first-team



Armenta



Campos

picks for the Eastern Oregon League.

Campos led the Vikings (18-10) with 12 points a game, along with 7.6 rebounds, 3.2 steals and 1.8 assists.

"Oscar is one of the hardest working kids I have had

a chance to coach," Umatilla coach Scott Bow said. "He brought his energy and enthusiasm every time he walked on the floor. He is the true definition of practice like you play, as he has no off switch. His ability to always guard bigger players and work himself into our leading scorer, rebounder and in steals. This (all-state honor) is another example of the effort this guy gave me everyday."

Armenta averaged 11.2

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### BLUE MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

## Sharp, Masterson earn first team honors

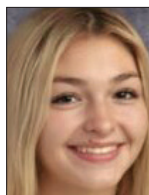
By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

**STANFIELD** — Stanfield's Maggie Sharp and Heppner's ZaBrena Masterson were unanimous picks for the Blue Mountain Conference first team by the conference coaches.

Sharp, a junior point guard, led the Tigers with 11 points, five assists and five rebounds a



Sharp



Masterson



Reeser



Shelby

game. Stanfield finished sixth at the 2A state tournament — the Tigers' first girls basketball trophy in school history.

The Tigers (23-7) also had senior Alexis Shelby (10 points,

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### ON THE SLATE

Schedule subject to change

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 26

**Prep softball**  
Umatilla vs. Stayton, Seaside Spring Break Tournament, 10 a.m.  
Pilot Rock vs. Warrenton, Union Sprig Bash, 11 a.m.

**Boys soccer**  
Southridge at Hermiston, 1 p.m.

**Track and field**  
McLoughlin at Hawks Invite, College Place, 10 a.m.

**College baseball**  
Southwestern Oregon at Blue Mountain (2), 11 a.m.

**College softball**  
Blue Mountain at Wenatchee Valley (2), noon

#### MONDAY, MARCH 28

**Prep golf**  
Hermiston boys at Pendleton, 11 a.m.  
Pendleton girls at Wildhorse, 11 a.m.

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 29

**Prep baseball**  
Madras at Umatilla, 3 p.m.  
Heppner at Pilot Rock, 4 p.m.  
Irrigon at Stanfield/Echo, 4 p.m.  
Pasco at Hermiston, 4 p.m.  
McLoughlin at Riverside, 4:30 p.m.  
Weston-McEwen at College Place, 4:30 p.m.

**Prep softball**  
Pendleton at College Place, 4 p.m.  
McLoughlin at Weston-McEwen, 4 p.m.

Riverside at Echo/Stamfield, 4 p.m.  
Heppner/Lone at Irrigon, 4:30 p.m.  
Hermiston at Southridge, 5 p.m.

**Boys soccer**  
Hermiston at Kamiakin, 7 p.m.

**Prep tennis**  
Pendleton at La Grande, 3 p.m.  
Lone/Heppner at Weston-McEwen, 3:30 p.m.  
McLoughlin at Stanfield/Echo, 4:30 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

**College baseball**  
Blue Mountain at Big Bend (2), 1 p.m.

**Prep golf**  
Hermiston at MCC pod, Canyon Lakes Golf Course, 1 p.m.

## READY SET GO!

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