

Guerrero:

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Hermiston coach Jacob Arnold feels Guerrero will be a good addition to the Adams State program because of the work ethic he has shown at Hermiston.

“He’s the kid, when he steps on the field, he helps both ends of the field,” Arnold said. “He directs traffic. He brings everyone else up around him. He commands it. He was a huge part in running our winter workouts and making sure kids were showing up. He’s a big vocal leader. Communication is a big part of our success.”

Guerrero, a 5-foot-7, 165-pound attacker, has 22 goals, 10 assists and 12 ground balls in the Bulldogs’ first seven games this season.

“He is one of the leaders on the field,” Arnold said. “He has kind of always been that way. The first couple of games as a freshman he didn’t say a whole lot, then he was seeing things on field and started saying things.”

While Guerrero is one of the team’s top scorers, it’s his other attributes on the field that make him so important.

“He directs traffic out there,” Arnold said. “He and Vinny (Trevino) and Carson (Bradshaw) work so well together. They work so well

with the younger guys, and that allows them to contribute as well. He is the true meaning of a senior leader. He’s going to leave everything on the field.”

The Bulldogs are off to a 6-1 start, which has not surprised Guerrero.

“We knew we would have a really good team this year,” he said. “From the beginning, our coach said he expected us to win our conference and go to state. We set the bar high and we are held to that level by our coaches.”

Guerrero, who plans to major in business administration, is getting a head start with an internship at Umatilla Electric Cooperative in Hermiston through a class at the high school.

“I’m with HR (human resources), but I do a lot of paperwork, make spreadsheets, filing, whatever they need me to do,” he said.

Guerrero is the second Hermiston lacrosse player to sign a letter of intent to play at the college level this year. Trevino is headed to Newberry College. Bradshaw also has his sights set on college, but has not announced his decision.

“We have had a couple of other kids who signed to play in college, but with COVID they are no longer there and they didn’t play,” Arnold said. “This is the first time we have had multiple players in one year go on to play.”

Taylor:

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we’ll be able to play together pretty well.”

For Kemp, recruiting Taylor was one of his top priorities this offseason.

“I hope he can be one of those leaders, especially with the experience he has,” Kemp said of Taylor. “Just being in that Division I program and the experience he has with some of the leaders on our team, we hope to get him rolling right away and have that seamless transition.”

Taylor stated the idea of playing with his former teammates played a part in his selection process, knowing he, Valdez and Malatare were able to build good chemistry on the court in the two seasons they played together. He also noted the three were roommates at Northern Idaho, helping build a solid connection on and off the court.

“I think it will be a pretty smooth transition,” Taylor said. “I think it will be just going back to what worked for the three of us at NIC.”

Humble beginnings have helped shape the player and individual Taylor is today. He is Yakama/Nez Perce from Lapwai, Idaho — the school’s enrollment is just more than 100 students.



Idaho State Athletics/Contributed Photo

Emmit Taylor III shoots from the top of the key for Idaho State University during the 2021-22 season. The graduate transfer is set to transfer to Eastern Oregon University next fall, joining former North Idaho College teammates Phillip Malatare and Ismael Valdez with the Mountaineers.

Coming from a small town to playing Division I basketball, Taylor has taken life lessons at each stop along the way.

“Everywhere I’ve gone, I’ve learned something important,” he said. “Coming from a small town, it’s easy to not get looked at.”

Taylor said as one of the first-ever athletes from Lapwai to compete at the Division I level, he takes pride in being able to represent his community.

“I think my town will take a lot of the credit for getting me to where I am, since it was a big part of growing

up,” Taylor said. “We’re a big, tight-knit community so it’s pretty cool.”

Kemp and Taylor both said the guard will look to have a leadership role in addition to his shooting prowess, an opportunity that was often not as easily achieved on previous teams.

“He wanted me to take a bigger role, and I also wanted to take a bigger role,” Taylor said. “I’ve always been more of a role player, so I want to take that leadership role and I think I’m capable of that.”

The Mountaineers are coming off an 18-13 season

in which the team went 12-10 in conference play and was eliminated in the quarterfinals of the Cascade Collegiate Conference tournament. Entering his first season as a Mountaineer and last year of collegiate eligibility, Taylor is setting the bar high for next season.

“I definitely want to win a conference title and try to be as highly ranked as we can,” Taylor said. “I think we’re capable of being ranked highly. We have a great chemistry and balance of players, so I think it will work out really well.”

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