

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2022

FOLLOW US ON  TWITTER @EOSPORTS |  FACEBOOK.COM/EOSPORTS

A9

## Castillo takes over Irrigon football program

He spent 4 years as an assistant at Kiona-Benton

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

IRRIGON — Nothing is ever perfect when a new coach walks in the door.

Irrigon football coach Andrew Castillo is having some issues with equipment, but he is excited about the fact that 35 guys have signed up for spring ball.

"I'm really excited," Castillo said. "I've had a team meeting. We have quite a large team. I have a really good group of assistant coaches and we expect to be competitive right away."

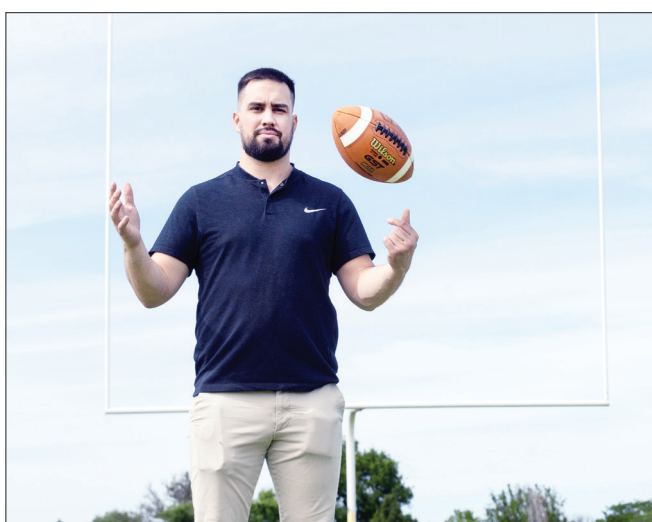
Irrigon Athletic Director Mike Royer said they feel

lucky to have landed Castillo.

"He has some good experience coaching at a small high school," Royer said. "He is someone with a lot of energy. Has already met with the boys a couple of times and is really excited to get going with Irrigon football. It is hard to find coaches these days. We are lucky to have him aboard."

Castillo takes over for Ken Thompson, who coached the Knights for four years before stepping down after last season.

"Ken did a good job," Royer said. "I know he's really focused now on wrestling. I wish we had more people like Ken who are willing to coach. He knows how to win. He has helped build our wrestling program. He spends a lot of time



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

**New Irrigon head football coach Andrew Castillo, shown here on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, played football for Kamiakin High School in Kennewick and baseball for Yakima Valley College.**

with our youth program."

Castillo is a 2012 graduate of Kamiakin High School in

Kennewick, where he was a receiver and defensive back for the Braves.

"I played for Scott Biglin," he said. "We played in the 2011 title game against Bellevue (Washington). We lost, but they were good. There are three of those guys in the NFL right now."

Castillo also was a stand-out baseball player. He pitched and played in the outfield in high school, then moved on to play baseball at Yakima Valley College. He played his last two years at University of Tennessee at Martin.

He has his masters in education from Grand Canyon University, and will teach at Irrigon High School.

As soon as he returned to the Tri-Cities, Castillo took a job at Kiona-Benton High School, where he was an assistant football coach for four years — three as the

offensive coordinator.

"I had been looking for a head coaching job for a while," Castillo said. "A program that reminded me of my former program."

Castillo has been impressed with what he has seen so far at Irrigon.

"There is a really nice press box, the field is nice and we have a really strong administrative core," Castillo said. "Mike is really supportive."

Castillo will start spring ball Friday, June 10, then transition into weights and conditioning. He will use the next couple of weeks to implement the new offense.

"We are going to be transitioning to an offense that I played in high school, and at Ki-Be," Castillo said. "A speedy up-tempo offense."

## Nation, Graham selected to East-West All-Star Baseball Series

TigerScots' Pierce will help coach East Team

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

ATHENA — Heppner's Toby Nation and Weston-McEwen's Quinn Graham have been selected to play on the East Team in the 34th annual East-West All-Star Baseball Series on June 11-12 at Linfield University in McMinnville.



Graham



Nation

Weston-McEwen's Shawn Pierce will coach the East Team, along with Steve Stebbins of South Umpqua.

"I'm really happy I got elected to play in those games," Nation said. "I found out about it (the series) last year when Hayden Hyatt went."

The three-game series will see two games played Saturday, June 11, starting at 4 p.m. The third game will be played at noon Sunday. The series is for graduating seniors from 3A, 2A and 1A high schools.

Nation, who transferred to Heppner from Dibble, Oklahoma (population 878), his junior year, played third base and pitched for the Mustangs.

In 24 games, Nation had a .560 average with a team-high 47 hits. He had 10 doubles, one triple, two home runs and a team-high 31 RBIs.

On the mound, Nation pitched 64 innings with a 3.39 ERA. He struck out 68 and walked 21.

Nation was selected as a third baseman for the series.

"I like playing in the field and hitting," Nation said. "Pitching is fun too, but there's just something about a rocket to third base. You can't beat it. Third base is really the only position I played until my sophomore year when I started pitching."

Nation played baseball for the Dibble Demons, but didn't play football until

he got to Heppner.

"My only year playing football was my senior year," he said. "It was pretty fun. I'm glad I ended up doing it."

Graham is going into the game as a second baseman.

In 22 games, Graham hit .338 with 24 hits, including four doubles, one triple and 13 RBIs. He also scored 31 runs.

"It should be a lot of fun," Graham said. "I'm blessed to have a chance. It will be fun to meet some new kids. I have never played on turf before."

It's also a chance to play

with some good players from other teams.

"I'm glad to have the Dufur pitchers (Isaac Anthony and Brock Lafaver) on our team," Graham said.

Graham also played football and basketball for the TigerScots. He plans on going to University of Idaho and getting an agricultural business degree.

Weston-McEwen's ace pitcher Blane Peal also was selected to pitch in the series, but he had his wisdom teeth removed Monday and won't be available to play.

## Community Memorial Service

& BUTTERFLY RELEASE

To celebrate our loved ones and how life is transformed.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY VANGE JOHN MEMORIAL HOSPICE

### Event Details:

- Bring your family. Children welcome!
- Please bring your own lawn chair(s)
- Refreshments provided with additional refreshments for purchase
- Look for event table when you arrive.

### Each Attendee will receive (while supplies last):

- Origami Butterfly
- Butterfly-Friendly Flower Seeds to Plant at Home
- Butterfly Fact Sheet

For an additional fee, pre-registrants may receive one live butterfly to release in honor of their loved one.

Please register at <https://communitymemorial.eventbrite.com>

Saturday, June 18, 2022  
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Victory Square Park  
150 SW 10th Street | Hermiston, OR 97838

Entertainment by Brass Fire Band!

For more information, call Carollyn Robinson,  
BSN, RN at 541.667.3540.

Want to make a donation to Hospice?  
Visit [www.gshealth.org/communitymemorial](http://www.gshealth.org/communitymemorial)

