

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 2
Volleyball: Perrydale at Willamette Valley Christian, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 3
Girls Soccer: Warner Pacific College at Western Oregon, 4 p.m.
Volleyball: West Salem at Central, 6 p.m. Falls City at Country Christian, 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 4
Boys Soccer: Madison at Central, 7 p.m.
Football: Central at Bend, 7 p.m. Dallas at Crater, 7 p.m. Perrydale at Falls City, 7 p.m.
Volleyball: Western Oregon at Courtyard & Residence Inn Marriott Oregidigger Volleyball Classic, Golden, CO, 10 a.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 5
Football: Western Oregon at Humboldt State, 6 p.m.
Volleyball: Dallas at Southridge Tournament, 8 a.m. Western Oregon at Courtyard & Residence Inn Marriott Oregidigger Volleyball Classic, Golden, CO, 10 a.m.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 6
Girls Soccer: Western Oregon at Colorado State, Pueblo, 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 8
Boys Soccer: Central at McNary, 6:30 p.m.
Girls Soccer: David Douglas at Dallas, 4 p.m. Western Oregon vs. New Mexico Highlands at Pueblo, CO.
Volleyball: South Albany at Central, 6 p.m. Dallas at Woodburn, 6 p.m. Damascus Christian at Falls City, 5:30 p.m. Perrydale at Livingstone Adventist Academy, 5:30 p.m. Lewis & Clark at Western Oregon, 7 p.m.

SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

QUICK HITS

WOU to accept Hall of Fame nominations

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon University's athletic department will accept nominations for its 11th Hall of Fame Class through Sept. 28.

Nominations can be made online at www.wou-wolves.com/sb_output.asp?form=14 or by downloading printable forms and mailing submissions to WOU.

Any student-athlete that has been nominated since the Hall of Fame was first adopted in 2004 does not need to resubmit an application. Student-athletes who played for WOU in 2010 or before are eligible to be nominated.

The Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be held Jan. 29, 2016.

For more information: www.wou-wolves.com.

WOU finishes renovations

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon completed renovations on the track at McArthur Stadium.

Construction began in late May.

WOU will host the NCAA West Regional Cross-Country Championship in November and the Great Northwest Athletic Conference Outdoor Track & Field Championships in May of 2016.



COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Picking up the slack

Western Oregon has big shoes to fill on offense

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — At first glance, Western Oregon appears set up for a run at the Great Northwest Athletic Conference title. The Wolves return a majority of the starters from a year ago when WOU finished in a three-way tie for second.

If head coach Arne Ferguson is to help lead the Wolves to a conference title this year, Western Oregon must navigate a competitive conference and see some new faces perform in key positions.

"Game after game is decided by one or two plays," Ferguson said in an interview with the conference. "How well this team comes together and as a team, how we do the little things will

be important to win those one or two plays."

The Wolves were one of the conference's most prolific on offense in 2014. WOU finished second in the GNAC in passing yards, averaging 309.5 yards per game, but the Wolves have some key pieces to replace if they want to replicate that success.

Chief among them is Tyrell Williams, now with the NFL's San Diego Chargers. Williams ended his WOU career as the leader in receiving yards (2,792) and touchdowns (21).

Also gone is former starting quarterback Ryan Bergman, who threw for 26 touchdowns last season and was ranked ninth in the country in passing yards per game.

In his place, senior Trey Shimabukuro will



Revis

WOU Football

Head coach: Arne Ferguson (11th season).
2014 record: 6-5 overall; 4-2 Great Northwest Athletic Conference, tied for second place.
Key returners: Paul Revis, soph., receiver; Trey Shimabukuro, sr., quarterback; Joe Harris, sr., running back; Shane Kuenzi, sr., linebacker; George Swartzlender, sr., defensive line.
Newcomers to watch: Andy Avgi, sr., tight end; Shawn Munro, fr., linebacker; Chris Adamo, fr., defensive back.
Significant stat: 108.2 — The number of passing yards per game WOU averaged under Shimabukuro in 2014.

start the season-opener at Humboldt State on Saturday evening.

Shimabukuro played in five games in 2014, throwing for 541 yards, three touchdowns and interceptions while Bergman was injured.

Shimabukuro will have the luxury of throwing to one of the conference's most dangerous offensive weapons in Paul Revis.

The sophomore receiver/returner set a program record for receiving yards in a season (1,149) and tied the school mark for receiving touchdowns (11). Revis averaged 184.5 all-purpose yards in 2014, seventh

most in all of Division II.

In addition to receiver, Revis is one of the conference's top returners, averaging 23.7 yards per kick return in 2014.

"Paul Revis makes amazing catches," Ferguson said. "We're excited to see his development."

WOU also sees four of five starters on the offensive line return. The Wolves hope that experience leads to a big improvement after allowing 54 sacks in 2014 — the second most in the nation.

WOU may also have a secret weapon to unleash on opponents this fall. Western Oregon basketball player

Andy Avgi will play as a tight end for the Wolves.

On defense, WOU's front seven will form the team's strength.

Senior linebacker Shane Kuenzi had 65 tackles and 2.5 sacks in 2014, while defensive linemen George Swartzlender gives a 300-pound presence in the trenches.

Also returning are sophomore linebacker Tyler Johnson (71 tackles, two interceptions) and defensive back Roger Garret (second team all-Conference in 2014), keeping a group that gave up 25.1 points per game in 2014 nearly intact.

While the Wolves will see 18 starters return, WOU's newcomers will have a big chance to contribute. Among them include freshman defensive back Chris Adamo and freshman receiver Malik Braxton.

The Wolves enter the 2015 season with conference title aspirations. Whether they accomplish that goal will depend on how quickly some key players step up in new roles.

PREP GIRLS SOCCER

Central faced with early season test

Panthers look to rebound after big defeat, injury in first the match of the season

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — It was a routine play. A sequence of events that Central junior Alyssa Orozco had encountered playing for the Panthers' girls soccer team countless times before.

Near midfield, Orozco was fighting for control of a ball against her opponent.

This time, things took a turn for the worse. "I was going for the ball and I had just taken the step to get the ball," Alyssa said. "My foot or my knee locked up on me and I felt my knee go out. The other girl didn't push me or anything."

Orozco suffered a left knee injury. She couldn't put pressure on it when being helped off the field and will see a specialist in Portland on Thursday to determine



Orozco

the full extent of the injury. The outlook isn't good. "The knee was swollen and the X-rays didn't see anything," Central coach and Alyssa's father Joe Orozco said. "There were no broken bones, thank God. They think it's maybe her ACL or meniscus."

Joe Orozco said there's a chance it could be a less serious injury than an ACL. If it is less serious, she'll likely miss at least a month. An ACL injury would mean the end of her season.

"I have it in a brace and I can't move it or anything (as of Tuesday)," Alyssa Orozco said.

The Panthers, which lost 11-1 to North Eugene on

Thursday (Aug. 27), are left without one its captains and most experienced players, but Joe Orozco said Central can — and will — regroup quickly.

"We don't rely on one player," he said. "We're a team. It's a tough loss, but Naomi (Torres) and Lupita (Campos) are experienced and captains as well."

Alyssa Orozco's absence in the midfield also means Joe Orozco will make a few lineup changes, though he's not sure who he will move around just yet.

Joe Orozco remains optimistic about the season.

He believes the combination of the potential season-ending injury to a key player and lopsided loss to North Eugene should be a valuable lesson, not a devastating setback, for his team.

See CHS, Page 13A



Senior co-captain Naomi Torres (13) watches a play unfold during Central's match against North Eugene.

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