

Sports

OSAA moves all fall sports to spring 2021

By Ronald Bond
The (La Grande) Observer

High school sports in Oregon will not kick off until 2021.

The Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) on Wednesday announced it has moved the fall season — including football — to a March start date. Winter sports will begin in January under the new schedule, and spring sports will begin in May.

The move was made after state health officials announced a school reopening plan that already has caused many

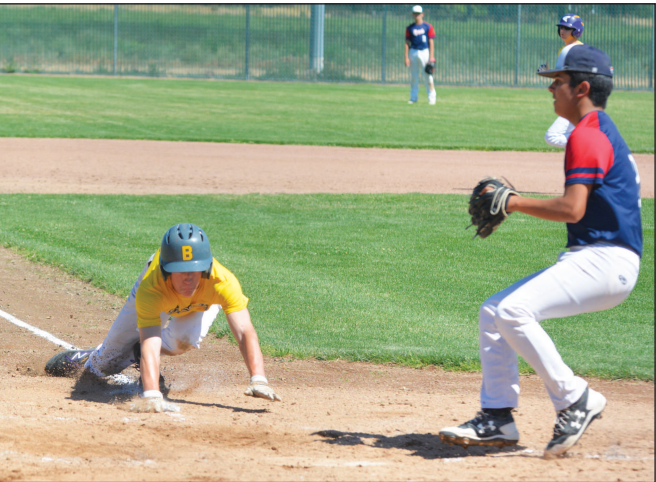
schools — including La Grande — to make the decision to start the 2020-21 school year online. Many large districts already have said it would be October or November at the earliest before they could resume in-person teaching.

Under the new calendar put together by OSAA, there are four seasons — Season 1, Season 2, Season 3 and Season 4. Season 2 is for winter sports including basketball, swimming and wrestling, 3 is for fall sports, including volleyball and cross-country, and 4 is for traditional spring sports.

Season 1 is a timeframe during the traditional fall season when students can participate in sports Aug. 17 through Dec. 27 at the discretion of individual school districts, including potential games against other schools.

Season 2 will begin practice Dec. 28, and have two weeks of practices before a seven-week regular season begins Jan. 11. Season 3 begins practice Feb. 22 and starts contests on March 8, with the exception of football, which would play its first games the week of March 15. And Season 4 practices will open on April 19 and begin games on May 3.

BARLEY BROWN'S BREWERS 16 AND UNDER SUMMER BASEBALL TEAM



Corey Kirk / Baker City Herald

Baker’s Connor Chastain raises a cloud of dust as he slides safely into home Tuesday at the Sports Complex.

Brewers wrap up season

By Corey Kirk
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Five weeks ago, a group of Baker City boys gathered on the baseball diamond for the first time in months.

Along with new coach Jared Rodgers, this team comprised a couple of juniors, a large number of underclassmen, and even some middle schoolers.

This 16 and under team has grown a lot since an abbreviated summer schedule started. On Monday and Tuesday the team hosted a round-robin tournament to end the season at the Baker Sports Complex.

“We definitely learned our strengths and weaknesses as a team,” incoming junior Silas Carter said. “It was a very young team.”

Monday, Game 1

To begin the tournament, the Baker City Brewers, sponsored by Barley Brown’s, faced the La Grande Tigers.

The Tigers took an early 5-0 lead after 2 innings and Baker wasn’t able to rally.

La Grande went on to win 13-1.

Thomas Smithson had a double for Baker’s only extra-base hit.

Monday, Game 2

Later on Monday Baker returned to the field to take on the Pendleton Buckaroos.

Baker again struggled early, as Pendleton scored 10 runs in the first 2 innings.

The Brewers scored six runs in the fifth inning to cut Pendleton’s lead to 15-8, but the Buckaroos went on to win, 17-10.

Tuesday, Game 3

On Tuesday the Brewers ended up facing the Buckaroos for the second game



Corey Kirk / Baker City Herald

Baker’s Cody Skidgel makes contact. Skidgel had four hits, including a pair of doubles, during the Brewers’ four games in two days.

in a row. For the first three innings, the Brewers made it a ball game, trailing 1-0 after allowing a run in the first inning. Baker wasn’t able to get anything going offensively, though.

Pendleton prevailed, 11-4.

Tuesday, Game 4

Ending the round-robin tournament the same way

they started, against La Grande, Baker sent incoming freshman Caden Conklin to the mound.

Rodgers saw a lot of promise from the young hurler, despite Baker falling behind 6-0 early.

The Brewers were working to get on base through situational hitting and taking advantage of walks. Sopho-

more Kai Ogan started off the inning with a single, stole two bases and eventually scored.

But the Tigers took control with a six-run fourth inning.

The game ended by 10-run mercy rule after five innings, with La Grande winning 12-2.

Though the numbers on the scoreboard weren’t the prettiest, Rodgers was happy to see how much the team had grown in such a short period of time.

Carter was also excited to see younger players, including incoming eighth-grader Jaxon Logsdon, who caught several games this summer, develop.

“He was great behind the plate even though his legs were killing him,” Carter said. “He put on his gear and got back there; threw a lot of people out at second, threw people out at third.”

DEMOLITION

Continued from Page 1A

Attendees will also be allowed to meet the drivers and see the cars in the pits if they stick around after the derby.

“We weren’t sure if it was going to be on until about three weeks ago, but we wanted to give people in the community something to do since there’s really not much else going on,” McCue said.

Ken Bain, president of the Haines Stampede Rodeo Association as well as a Haines city councilor, said neither the city nor Friends of Haines is involved with the demolition derby. The city has no jurisdiction in events at the rodeo grounds because they’re outside the city limits. Haines Mayor Jim Brown said in July, after the Haines Stampede Rodeo on July 3 and 4, that he had heard from residents who were upset that the rodeo took place despite COVID-19 concerns, and blamed the city for letting it happen.

FAIR

Continued from Page 1A

“The sale part is fairly normal, with the exception of not having all of the buyers in the barn,” Siddoway said.

That’s not to say there weren’t hours of planning needed to make it happen. But Siddoway said the efforts were well worth it.

“One of the reasons we really wanted to go through all of the work to make this happen was so that the seniors would have the opportunity to do this,” she said. “The kids have been positive and happy to be here, and that makes me really happy. For them to be thankful that we did it makes it all better.”

Recent high school graduate Shane Cunningham, who has shown animals at the Fair for nine years, said this year’s event wasn’t like any other he’d competed in.

“It’s a lot different obviously with all the restrictions, but I’m still glad we’re able to do it,” he said. “I’m happy we’re still having it and they’re doing as much as possible to make it as normal as possible.”

Madison Yencopal, who will be a sophomore, has been involved in 4-H for four years.

“I really appreciate the leaders this year, I think they’re working ten times harder than they have in the past to make this year as normal and fun as possible,” she said.

Madison Morgan, a 2020 Pine Eagle High School graduate who’s heading to Eastern Oregon University, wants to be a veterinarian.

Morgan said that after seven years of raising and showing pigs, she now breeds and shows

her own pigs at the Fair. While she said that she was disappointed that the showmanship competition was canceled, she was still determined to make the best of it.

“You kind of wish it was different, but you can’t change the circumstances,” Morgan said.

McKenzie Leggett, an incoming senior at Powder Valley High School, said she was happy to have a fair at all. But she’s hopeful that next year’s event will be a full-fledged event.

“I was expecting a virtual fair, but we made a way around it with our masks and pens outside; I’m really glad I get to show this year and that we even get to have a fair,” Leggett said. “But I hope everything goes back to normal, because I do miss the fun of getting to play cards and having the tents and getting to hang out with the other kids.”

Kaylee Dalke, who graduated in June from Baker High School and will study ag business at Oregon State University, said that although this year’s fair isn’t an ideal end to her eight years of showing pigs at the Fair, it was definitely memorable.

“It’s really cool to see all the helpers and people in charge try to make it a fun experience even though we know it’s different,” Dalke said.

“This is my last year showing a pig; I’ve been doing it since the fourth grade, and it’s kind of a bummer to end it on this type of year but I’m glad that I still get to experience it and make a lasting memory.”

Fair animals will be auctioned Friday starting at 5 p.m. with the steers. The event is not open to the public.



Oregon Department of Transportation

Update 7/31/2020



NOTICE OF ROAD WORK

U.S. 395-C / U.S. 26 / OR 7 / OR 410 CHIP SEAL

(John Day-Burns / John Day / Whitney / Sumpter Highways)

Beginning in early August the Oregon Department of Transportation will be chip-sealing sections of multiple highways in the Baker and Grant County area. **NOTE:** See below for updated chip seal schedule.

WORK EXPECTED TO START:

- Early Aug.:** Prep work along these highway sections.
- Early-mid Aug.:** Chip seal - U.S. 395-C John Day-Burns Hwy. between Star Ridge and Harney Co. line, milepost 15.5 to 40.38, and between U.S. 26 in John Day and Canyon City, milepost zero to 2.34.
- Mid/late Aug.:** Chip seal - U.S. 26 John Day Hwy. between John Day and Prairie City, milepost 162.6 to 175.
- Mid/late Aug.:** Chip seal - OR7 Whitney Hwy. Grant Co. line to Mason Dam, milepost 9.5 to 35.3 and OR410 Sumpter Hwy. OR7 to Sumpter, milepost zero to 3.7.

NOTE: Dates are subject to change. Check TripCheck.com for current traffic impacts.

SEE ATTACHED MAP WITH PROJECT LOCATIONS



PARKING RESTRICTIONS: During chip seal activities in downtown areas, vehicles will not be allowed to park in work zones along U.S. 26 in John Day and Prairie City, along U.S. 395-C in John Day to Canyon City, and along OR410 in Sumpter.

TRAVEL IMPACTS: Expect up to 20-minute delays, reduced speeds, loose rock on the roadway, flaggers, and pilot cars directing single lane traffic through the work zones. Minor delays during nighttime/early morning hours for road sweeping. Please reduce speed and watch for construction activities in the area. Plan extra travel time and slow down to prevent loose rock from flying onto other vehicles. Crews will sweep roadway, but expect some loose rock to be present for several days after chip seal.

Bicycle riders should be prepared for traveling on rock chip covered highway sections behind a pilot car with no usable shoulders. Use alternate routes or delay travel if possible to avoid chip seal work zone. Pedestrians, including those with disabilities, will be provided access through or around the work zone.

RANCHERS, FARMERS, PROPERTY OWNERS: Please keep farm equipment off the impacted highway sections during and up to two days after the chip sealing. Also, adjust irrigation pivots and lawn sprinklers to keep water off the roadway. If you have plans for moving livestock on these highway sections, please advise Lee McDannel at 541-823-4030.



We greatly appreciate your support and cooperation during this paving operation.

For more info on this and other eastern Oregon highway construction projects contact Tom Strandberg at (541) 963-1330, email: thomas.m.strandberg@odot.state.or.us. For updated road conditions check TripCheck.com or call 511, or (800) 977-6368.

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