Team ready to push aside pandemic, get out and play

BY BRUCE DUSTIN
For The Columbia Press

Charlie Bergerson is a starting senior on Warrenton High School's varsity football team, No. 55 on the offensive and defensive lines.

In an interview, Charlie talked about the impact the pandemic has had on his life.

"I'm grateful that school is starting up again. But, more importantly, I'm excited about football," he said. "It's a way of relieving my stress. It gives me an opportunity to hang out with friends and to socialize--to be a part of a team."

Initially, he found the pandemic was depressing, especially when thinking about his high school career.

"From kindergarten, my dream was of being a senior," he said. "But once I got there, it was like a rug being pulled out from underneath me. I didn't have any incentive to work hard at home. I wasn't motivated, so I just didn't do it."

Warrenton's first full-pad practice of the season was on Friday, Feb. 19, according to Head Coach Ian O'Brien. The resumption of sports has changed Charlie's attitude.

"I had lousy grades in the beginning -- like I wasn't going to graduate. In my head, a diploma was just a piece of paper. I just didn't see the reason to put any real effort into something that I saw as ridiculous," he said. "Hybrid ed (education) and being part of a team has pulled me back out of my lethargy. It has given me a tomorrow."

Ian O'Brien, Warrenton's athletic director, said he's glad players finally have a chance to get out and compete.

"Our kids have been putting in a lot of hard work on the field during the lockdown," O'Brien said. "We have consistently had anywhere from 28 to 32 kids attending outdoor workouts through these last six weeks or better."

The training and hard

Bruce Dustin
Warrenton High School football players participate in the first full-pad practice of the season on Friday, Feb. 19.

Charlie Bergerson
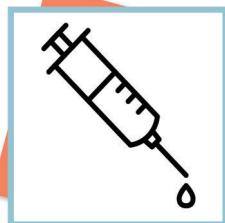

Coach Ian O'Brien

workouts are beneficial in many ways, he added.

"I would also like to take this time to thank all our coaches who have been diligently finding creative ways to give students these opportunities. We have dedicated kids and coaches.

"I am beyond fired up that our students have the opportunity to compete and play. It's going to be an exciting day on March 5th."

Three local residents have been named to the Eastern Oregon University dean's list for the fall term.

To qualify, students must achieve and maintain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher while completing a minimum of 12 hours of graded coursework.

Those on the list are Amanda Adams and Trenton Shaw, Astoria; and Robert Leitch, Hammond.