

# JAMES:

continued from Page A10

counting the story of Ego's postgame address. "As soon as I knew, I was like, 'Sweet.' I love playing with him."

"It was really exciting," James said of his first start in Hermiston's 74-58 loss to Hanford. "Just sitting on the bench and hearing your

name called — it's one of the best feelings."

Naillon said it was an easy transition to playing with the freshman.

"He just knows the game of basketball," he said. "I mean, don't get me wrong we all make mistakes out there. But he knows what he's doing, and it's really nice to play with guys who can think when they're playing basketball and not

make bad decisions.

"He's got that basketball I.Q. and that's what we need."

Naillon, who is a three-year varsity player, doesn't look at grade or age. He just looks at a player's ability to contribute. Ego has the same philosophy, saying before the season that if a freshman is good enough, he's good enough. Naillon used his experience as a

young varsity player to understand James and his role.

"I've always been big on I don't care what grade you are," he said. "When I was a freshman, I hated all that stuff. I said, 'When I'm a senior, I'm gonna treat everyone the same.' So, I thought it was a super sweet that we could come together as a team and let a freshman do what he's able to do." Naillon, though, was still

surprised by the quickness in which James adjusted from the middle school level to the varsity level with nothing in between.

"I didn't expect it out of him," he said. "But, I'm glad he did it. He proved himself that game."

But still, James remains humble in his early success. He understands he still has room to grow, places in his game to improve. He

doesn't even consider himself one of the better players on the team, just a guy who has a role to fill.

"I don't see myself as a standout player yet," he said with a shy smile. "Maybe in the next couple of years with everybody coming up. I see myself as a role player, a guy who gets a couple points a night and some assists and rebounds. The small things, nothing big."

# MUSTANGS:

continued from Page A10

Along with my family, my community, my coaches, and my brothers, we can finally say 'we did it.'"

On the offensive side of the football Kindle was one of many cogs of a high-powered offense, but he was perhaps the most dangerous. Kindle led the team with 2,313 all-purpose yards and 31 total touchdowns — highlighted by his five-touchdown performance in the state title game. He even completed one pass for 21 yards.

Kindle says that he is

still trying to wrap his head around everything from the season

"Everything that has happened has been unreal ... then to add the state honors on top of that is something else," Kindle said. "Our hard work truly paid off with the numerous all state honors our team had."

But he also noted that none of the players feel they would have had this success without the Coach of the Year pushing them every single day.

"Without him none of us would be where we are today on and off the field," Kindle said, "and I think

I can speak for the whole team when I say that about coach Grant."

Mustangs quarterback Kaden Clark (1,272 yards, 19 TD), wide receiver Logan Grieb (1,274 all-purpose yards, 19 TD), and tight end/running back Weston Putman (949 all-purpose yards, 10 TD) highlighted the other Mustangs first-team selections, with Collins and Murray representing the stout offensive line.

However, the Mustangs weren't the only team to land several players on the all-state teams, as the Stanfield Tigers saw six selections. Junior offensive

lineman Jose Garcia was Stanfield's lone first-teamer and junior running back Tyler Monkus was the Tigers' only offensive player to make the second-team roster.

Other second-team defensive players were junior defensive lineman Jared Warren, junior linebacker Dylan Grogan, and Monkus again at defensive back.

Offensive lineman Noe Sanchez also made the team as an honorable mention, as did Irrigon's star running back Fredy Vera.

**2A All-State Roster**  
Coach of the year: Greg Grant, Heppner  
**OFFENSE**  
Player of the year: C.J. Kindle, Heppner, senior

**First team**  
QB Kaden Clark, Heppner, senior  
RB C.J. Kindle, Heppner, senior  
RB Bishop Mitchell, Kennedy, junior  
RB Alex Pettner, Central Linn, senior  
WR Logan Grieb, Heppner, junior  
WR Austin Moore, Regis, senior  
TE Weston Putman, Heppner, senior  
OL Patrick Collins, Heppner, senior  
OL Kevin Murray, Heppner, junior  
OL Jose Garcia, Stanfield, junior  
OL Wyatt Robb, Central Linn, senior  
OL Jeremy Kliever, Kennedy, junior  
K Angel Mendez, Kennedy, senior  
**Second team**  
QB Steele Ware, Vernonia, junior  
RB Blade Ware, Vernonia, senior  
RB Tyler Tandy, Imbler, senior  
RB Tyler Monkus, Stanfield, junior  
WR Braden Nightengale, Central Linn, junior  
WR Garrett McConnell, Grant Union, senior  
TE Eric Gustin, Regis, junior  
OL Cody Nelson, Vernonia, junior  
OL Taylor Klus, Burns, senior  
OL Tanner Girtman, Lost River, senior  
OL Austin Voltin, Regis, senior  
OL Jordan Teeter, Imbler, sophomore  
K Eleanardo Silva, Central Linn, Freshman  
**Honorable Mention**  
RB Fredy Vera, Irrigon, senior  
RB Joe Ballard, Monroe, senior  
RB Joe Hixenbaugh, Reedsport, junior  
WR Trace Tiller, Burns, senior  
WR Brett Elliott, senior  
WR Jon Cyphert, Toledo, senior

OL Taylor Tandy, Imbler, senior  
OL Noe Sanchez, Stanfield, junior  
K Luis Orozco, Lost River, junior  
**DEFENSE**  
Player of the year: Patrick Collins, Heppner, senior  
**First team**  
DL Patrick Collins, Heppner, senior  
DL Kevin Murray, Heppner, junior  
DL Jacob Lopez, Kennedy, senior  
DL Taylor Klus, Burns, senior  
LB Weston Putman, Heppner, senior  
LB Eric Gustin, Regis, junior  
LB Tommy Bredfield, Heppner, senior  
LB Joe Ballard, Monroe, senior  
DL Logan Grieb, Heppner, senior  
DB C.J. Kindle, Heppner, senior  
DB Brett Traeger, Kennedy, junior  
DB Bishop Mitchell, Kennedy, junior  
P Mike Mitchell, Reedsport, junior  
**Second team**  
DL Egan Glover, Reedsport, senior  
DL Jared Warren, Stanfield, junior  
DL Jonah Land, Waldport, junior  
DL Alejandro Vera, Lost River, senior  
LB Andrew Goozee, Knappa, junior  
LB Dylan Grogan, Stanfield, junior  
LB Joe Boggs, Central Linn, senior  
LB Griffin Kaufmann, Reedsport, senior  
DB Tyler Monkus, Stanfield, junior  
DB Isaiah Marchant, Toledo, senior  
DB Trace Tiller, Burns, senior  
DB Sam Nieslanik, Regis, senior  
P Caeden Martin, Gaston, sophomore  
**Honorable Mention**  
DL Austin Voltin, Regis, senior

# NEAL:

continued from Page A10

Couer d'Alene quarterback Austin Lee.

He was a consistent contributor for a young team that dealt with injuries, and his experience was vital to maintaining cohesion from 2014 to 2015 with just four starters returning in total.

**5A All-State Roster**  
Coach of the year: Joe Padilla, Summit  
**DEFENSE**  
Player of the year: Marlon Tuipulotu, Central  
**First team**  
DL Marlon Tuipulotu, Central, junior  
DL Tre Neal, Hermiston, senior  
DL Noah Yunker, Summit, senior  
DL JT Gill, Crater, junior  
LB Jacob Thompson, Summit, senior  
LB Nicolas Ah Sam, Springfield, junior  
LB Cavin Gillispie, Crater, senior  
LB Kaelin Himphill, Liberty, senior  
LB Devin Thompson, Liberty, senior  
DB Sean Kent, Summit, senior  
DB Zach Shelton, Wilsonville, junior  
DB Stuart Bledsoe, Summit, senior  
DB Daniel Wilson, Springfield, senior  
P Zach Emerson, Mountain View, senior  
**Second team**  
DL Jordan Lyles, Hillsboro, senior  
DL Opeti Tuipulotu, Central, junior

Neal said he always wants that kind of recognition, but ultimately the team comes first.

"I try to help out my team as much as I can, but I still try to get those little personal accomplishments," he said.

Neal said he plans on continuing his football career, and has been in contact with "a couple coaches," though he wouldn't say who or from what schools.

"I'll keep that to myself for

now," he said after a pause.

On his recruiting profile at NCSAsports.org, Neal lists his scout as 385 pounds, his bench press at 295 pounds and he runs a 40-yard sprint in 4.9 seconds. He also starts at forward for the basketball team and was a state placer in the shot put, discus and javelin as a junior.

Neal wasn't the only local 5A player to catch the eye of state coaches, and several were

named to the honorable mention lists.

Hermiston senior linebacker Hayden Simon, junior defensive back Vaemuvete Ena and junior offensive lineman Kaden Caldwell rounded the Bulldogs' selections.

For Pendleton, senior Kai Quinn was honorable mention at defensive back and senior Jacob Banks earned the same distinction at offensive line.

# WRESTLING:

continued from Page A11

"We wrestled hard in some matches and in some matches we didn't," first-year coach Kyle Larson said. "We're learning and we're training hard. We have some things to work on. We're better than what you've seen in certain places. These guys beat us here two years in a row. It's good to get back on top."

DL Todd Bourassa, Springfield, senior  
DL John Ale, Crater, junior  
LB Brayden Bafaro, Liberty, senior  
LB Luke McBeth, Central, senior  
LB Ty Miller, Lebanon, junior  
LB Nick Aamodt, Redmond, senior  
DB Caden Reed, Liberty, senior  
DB Austin Kramer, Crater, junior  
DB Trae Gould, Marist, senior  
DB Cameron Hankins, Corvallis, senior  
P Walker Shibley, Ashland, senior  
**Honorable mention**  
DL Taylor Rich, Liberty, senior  
DL Kam Morgan, Wilsonville, senior  
DL Shea Paterson, Liberty, senior  
DL Jose Diaz, Silverton, senior  
DL Jake Schultz, Marist, senior  
DL Sam Futs, Hood River Valley, senior  
LB Sage Roundtree, Hillsboro, junior  
LB Quincy Johnson, Corvallis, senior  
**LB Hayden Simon, Hermiston, senior**  
LB Tommy Winningham, Crater, senior  
LB Jesse Merritt, Crater, senior  
DB Cole Sipos, Lebanon, junior

DB Myles Terry, St. Helens, junior  
DB Cruz Vasquez, South Albany, junior  
DB Evan Nelson, Hillsboro, senior  
DB Peter Mason, Central, junior  
DB Junior Perez, Churchill, senior  
DB Austin Cable, Redmond, senior  
**DB Kai Quinn, Pendleton, senior**  
**DB Vaemuvete Ena, Hermiston, junior**  
P John Bates, Lebanon, senior  
P Connor Grover, Hillsboro, senior  
**OFFENSE**  
Player of the year: John Bledsoe, Summit  
**First team**  
QB John Bledsoe, Summit, junior  
QB Trevor Watson, Springfield, senior  
RB Devin Kaneshiro, Liberty, senior  
RB Derek Brown, Redmond, senior  
RB Cavin Gillispie, Crater, senior  
WR Walker Shibley, Ashland, senior  
WR Sean Kent, Summit, senior  
TE Nicolas Ah Sam, Springfield, junior  
C Jake Brauchler, Redmond, senior

RB Cole Rixe, Bend, senior  
RB Brent Yeakey, Ridgeview, junior  
RB Michael Jones, Hood River Valley, sophomore  
WR Braydon Haas, Springfield, senior  
WR Damon Peters, Hillsboro, senior  
WR Austin Kramer, Crater, junior  
WR Shashi Penn, Ashland, senior  
TE Michael Pruitt, Ashland, senior  
TE Jalontae Walker, La Salle, senior  
C Zack Mason, Putnam, senior  
OL Alex Antillon, Liberty, sophomore  
OL Jordan Cardenas, Liberty, junior  
OL Sam Futs, Hood River Valley, senior  
OL Callan Connors, Summit, junior  
OL Colin Leutschart, Redmond, senior  
**OL Jacob Banks, Pendleton, senior**  
OL Chris Steffy, Ridgeview, senior  
**OL Kaden Caldwell, Hermiston, junior**  
K Austin Kness, Wilsonville, sophomore  
K Kaden Wadsworth, Summit, senior

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