

# Herald Sports

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## Dawgs hire new baseball coach

Pendleton grad Kevin Moore hired as head coach

By ERIC SINGER  
STAFF WRITER



Kevin Moore

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After a 15-day search, Hermiston baseball has a new leader.

The school announced on Friday afternoon that Kevin Moore has been hired as the program's newest head coach, pending approval by the Board of Education at its meeting on July 10. Moore replaces Lance Hawkins, who stepped down from the position on June 1 after three seasons at the helm.

Moore, 40, comes to Hermiston from Idaho, where he has spent the past 12 years as an assistant baseball coach for Parma High School, Caldwell, Vallivue and Fruitland. He has strong ties to Eastern Oregon, though, as Moore grew up in Pendleton and graduated from Pendleton High School in 1995.

And even though the former Buckaroo is now going to be coaching for his high school rival, he is more than excited to finally get a chance as a head coach and get started with the Bulldogs.

"This was an opportunity for both my wife and I that we couldn't pass up," Moore said. "I've heard nothing but good things about Hermiston baseball and the opportunity to come in and enjoy the success that they've built and expand on that is exciting."

Moore's baseball back-

ground is pretty extensive, starting with a successful high school career with the Buckaroos that landed him a chance to play college baseball and eventually two seasons playing professional baseball in the Independent Frontier League before coming back to Pendleton.

From there, Moore spent two summers coaching Pendleton Legion baseball from 2000-2001 for the then-Dave's Chevron team with current Pendleton assistant Travis Zander before landing a teaching job in the Parma School District. His last two seasons in Idaho he spent assisting the Fruitland High team that won back-to-back state championships.

Hermiston athletic director Larry Usher said that Moore's baseball coaching background, along with experience in coaching football and golf was a perfect fit for what the school was looking for.

"He comes from a great baseball pedigree and has had success everywhere he's been," Usher said. "One thing good coaches should do is learn the most they can from competitive

programs and I'm humble enough to admit that Pendleton baseball has been fantastic and that's where he started, and then what he did in Parma spoke volumes to us."

Moore inherits a Bulldog program that finished 10-15 overall this past season and 4-8 in the Columbia River Conference, just missing out on a postseason spot. The Bulldogs do return some experienced players, though, as five positional starters and all three starting pitchers will return to the field.

Hermiston has just one more season to leave a lasting mark on the OSAA and the four-team CRC before it moves to the tougher Mid-Columbia Conference and the WIAA starting in 2018-19. Usher admitted that the move to the WIAA was a reason for the district going outside of the program.

"We don't want to go up there and not have a good showing," said Usher. "We think Kevin brings a bit of fire and will bring some charisma to the high school program."

## Hermiston roper seventh at CNFR

BMCC women's team title reign snapped



Preston Pederson

HERMISTON HERALD

CASPER, Wyoming — After two straight seasons as women's team champions at the College National Finals Rodeo, Blue Mountain Community College's reign comes to an end.

A surprisingly disappointing performance in the long round led to just one qualifier to the short go for the Timberwolf women, helping BMCC to a 26th place finish with just 60 points on Saturday.

It was their worst finish at the CNFR since 2010 when the Timberwolves finished 30th with 20 points. The Timberwolves came into the CNFR ranked No. 6 in the national standings 900 points out of first place.

After failing to qualify for the CNFR in 2011, BMCC rattled off five straight top-10 finishes including the last two national championships. Sam Houston State won the team title this year with 485 points.

Danyelle Williams, the 2016 women's

all-around champion, was the lone short go qualifier for the women, and she turned in a 20.49-second ride in barrel racing to finish 12th in the round and 12th in the average.

On the men's side, tie-down roper Preston Pederson of Hermiston and saddle bronc rider Johnny Espeland made it through to the short go. Pederson finished fourth in the round with a time of 9.2 seconds, earning him a seventh place finish in the average with 48.7 on four. Espeland registered a no score in the saddle bronc short go, and finished 12th in the average with 143.5 points.

The men's team finished 43rd overall with 70 points, while Panhandle State won the title with 827.5 points. Walla Walla Community College finished six spots ahead of BMCC with 85 points.

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