

— MEET THE — MID-COLUMBIA CONFERENCE



PHOTO COURTESY THE TRI-CITY HERALD

Chiawana's Summer Yates (10) heads the ball during a Mid-Columbia Conference high school girls soccer game against Richland last season. Yates scored 3 goals before the half.

CHIAWANA

The Chiawana Riverhawks are the newest school in the Mid-Columbia Conference, opening in 2009 as Pasco's second high school.

They were the 2016 state champs in girls' bowling, and took second place in football for the 2014-15 season with a 13-1 record. Their football team is currently ranked at No. 21 in the state, and were state champs for the 2013-14 season.

Student population: 2,543

Home turf: 8125 W. Argent Road in Pasco



PHOTO COURTESY THE TRI-CITY HERALD

Kamiakin's Jonah Franco runs in the state cross country 3A championship at Sun Willow's Golf Course in Pasco last season. Kamiakin won the boys team state title, ending North Central's 10 year run.

KAMIAKIN

Kamiakin High School is home to 19 varsity teams, 12 junior varsity teams, and nine "C" teams, and compete in WIAA's 3A class — the state's second largest division. Former New Orleans Saints linebacker Ron L. Childs, former Texas Rangers pitcher Tony Mounce, and former Seattle Mariners designated hitter Ron Wright are all former Kamiakin Braves. Their football team is currently ranked at No. 26 in the state. Their girls' track and field team had an impressive four-year streak winning the state championship from 2011-2015, and their girls' track and field had an equally stellar run, taking home the state title during the same four years. Their softball team were state champions from 2011-2013, and their baseball team won the title for their 2011-12 season. Their girls' gymnastics team were also state champs in 2016.

Student population: 1,778

Home turf: The campus is located at 600 N. Arthur St. in Kennewick, but most football games are played Kennewick High School's Neil F. Lampson Stadium.



PHOTO BY THE TACOMA NEWS TRIBUNE

The Richland Bombers celebrate winning the WIAA 4A State Football Championship in the Tacoma Dome Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017.

RICHLAND

Currently ranked at No. 3 in the state, the Richland Bombers football team were state champions in 2017, and are coached by Mike Neidhold. United States World Cup and Gold Medalist-winning goalkeeper Hope Solo led their state championship team in 1999, following an undefeated season. Alumna Kathryn Ruemmler served on the White House Counsel to President Obama from 2011-2014. Their baseball and football teams were last year's state champions. It was Richland's only high school until Hanford was founded in 1972.

Student population: 2,022

Home turf: 930 Long Ave. in Richland



PHOTO COURTESY THE TRI-CITY HERALD

Hanford's Caylee Shelton (3) bumps the ball during a high school girls volleyball game against Walla Walla last year in Richland.

HANFORD

The Hanford Falcons of Richland were originally part of a K-12 complex built in 1972. The elementary school was closed in the 1980s, and the middle school shut down in 2005. In 2013, the boys varsity soccer team took 4th in state. Their girls' bowling team were state champions in 2016, as were their girls' golf team in 2013.

Student population: 1,911

Home turf: 450 Hanford St. in Richland



PHOTO COURTESY THE TRI-CITY HERALD

Kennewick's Johan Correa wins the boys mile during the 57th annual Pasco Invite at Edgar Brown Stadium in April. It was the fastest high school mile in the nation for spring.

KENNEWICK

Until Kamiakin's establishment in 1970, Kennewick High School served as the city's only high school. Notable Kennewick Lions alumni include former MLB player Russ Swan, who played for the San Francisco Giants, Seattle Mariners and Cleveland Indians, two-time Pittsburgh Steelers Super Bowl winner Ray Mansfield, and former Washington Redskins defensive end Adam Carriker.

Student population: 1,562

Home turf: 500 S. Dayton St. in Kennewick

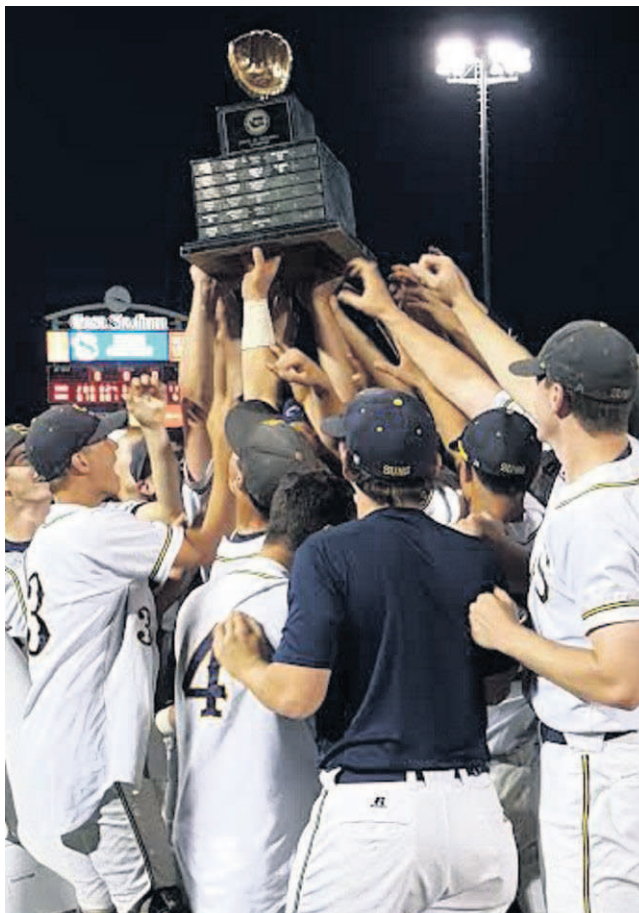


PHOTO COURTESY THE TRI-CITY HERALD

The Southridge Suns won the Class 3A state baseball title in May, their first since 2004.

SOUTHRIDGE

The Southridge Suns opened their doors in 1996, and have claimed four consecutive state championships in dance from 2004-2008. Alumni include Seattle Mariners infielder Shawn O'Malley and Pittsburgh Pirates first baseman and outfielder Mason Martin. Their girls' soccer team were state champs from 2015-2017, improving their record with each season (19-5 in 2015, 19-3 in 2016, and 22-3 in 2017).

Student population: 1,685

Home turf: 3520 Southridge Blvd. in Kennewick



HH FILE PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Hermiston head coach David Faateete hugs AJ Fernandez after the Bulldogs' 38-35 win against Churchill in the 5A state championship game last fall in Hillsboro.

HERMISTON

This year is the Hermiston High School Bulldogs' first year as an official member of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) after leaving the OSAA. It is the first out-of-state school on the roster, joining the Mid-Columbia Conference alongside Washington schools in the Tri-Cities and Walla Walla. The transition came about in order to accommodate the school's growth and to cut down on travel distance and budget spending.

Last year, the Hermiston Bulldogs won the Oregon 5A football title, following their state championship in 2014.

Student population: 1,509

Home turf: Kennison Field, 600 S. First St. in Hermiston



PHOTO BY PATRICK HAGERTY, COURTESY THE TRI-CITY HERALD

Pasco's Isaiah Gonzalez points to his fans after defeating Tacoma's Austin Michalski in their 4A 113 lb. State Wrestling championship match Saturday, Feb. 18, 2017, in Tacoma, Wash.

PASCO

Pasco High School was once the only high school in the city until Chiawana opened in 2009, who have since become their rivals. The football team won the state championship in 1998, 2000, and 2003, and their soccer team won in 1999 and 2007. Notable alumni include former Detroit Tigers pitcher Jeremy Bonderman, who was the only player to ever be drafted as a junior in high school, and former Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Anthony Davis. The Pasco Bulldogs' first football game of the 2018-19 season will be against the Hermiston Bulldogs. Their boys' soccer team took home the state championship during last year's season.

Student population: 2,059

Home turf: 1108 N. 10th Ave. in Pasco



PHOTO BY THE TACOMA NEWS TRIBUNE

Walla Walla's Paige Gardner competes in the 100-yard freestyle event at the 4A girls state swim and dive championships at the King County Aquatics Center in Federal Way, Wash., on Nov. 11, 2017. She set a new school record in the 50 free that day.

WALLA WALLA

The Walla Walla Blue Devils, otherwise known as Wa-Hi, share the distinction with Hermiston High of being the only other high school in the WIAA Mid-Columbia Conference not located in the Tri-Cities. Their softball team were state champions for the 2010-11 season. Drew Bledsoe, the first overall pick in the 1993 NFL draft, is a former Blue Devil.

Student population: 1,820

Home turf: 800 Abbott Road in Walla Walla