

WIAA sets sports seasons

Football moves to spring; fallback season set for other sports

By DEE CAMP
The Chronicle

RENTON — Fall usually means football at high schools around the state, but this year's gridiron season won't happen until spring.

Some other sports also will have different seasons.

The Washington Interscholastic Activities Association executive board decided July 23 to modify the 2020-21 sports season calendar in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The board created four WIAA-sanctioned seasons and will also move moderate- and high-risk team sports, originally scheduled for the fall season, to WIAA Season 3.

Local schools' officials are taking a wait-and-see approach to the four-season plan.

"I appreciate all the work that the WIAA has put in over the summer," said Kevin Daling, athletic director for the Okanogan School District. "I think their plan is the best we could ask for right now."

"It is still too early for us to know the impact of this decision," said Steve McCullough, Tonasket School District superintendent. "We still do not even know if we will be allowed to return to a face-to-face school model in the fall."

"We want to provide as many opportunities as we can, recognizing the importance of extracurricular activities in the education of our students."

Omak Athletic Director Joe LaGrou said counties need to be in at least Phase 3 to have athletic participation, "so we are continually relying on guidance from the WIAA, the health department, and the school district superintendent and board of directors."

Sept. 7 start set

Cross country, slowpitch softball, and alternative seasons for golf and tennis would be in Season 1, tentatively set for Sept. 7 to Nov. 8.

Each would begin practices the week of Sept. 7, as set by the WIAA executive board at a previous meeting.

The remaining fall sports of girls' soccer, 1B/2B boys' soccer, volleyball and football will move to the early spring of 2021 as part of WIAA Season 3. Tentative Season 3 dates are March 8 to May 2.

The boys' soccer change wouldn't affect local teams, even though most are in the B ranks, because they all opt up to 1A, which plays in the spring, for post-season play, said Daling.

"So, according to the WIAA's plan,



AL CAMP | The Chronicle
Joseph Bucsko (26), Omak, grabs Okanogan's Brad Ingram during the Nov. 1, 2019, Backyard Brawl football game between the two high schools. This year's football season is moved to spring under the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association sports restarting plan.

our boys' soccer season would be with the rest of the traditional spring sports in Season 4, while our girls' soccer program would have their season during Season 3," Daling said.

With the four-season proposal, "don't anticipate students being forced to choose a sport in the 1A classification," said LaGrou.

"The important item to notice is that we can plan for the future, but we will need to have flexibility with the scheduling contests, depending on the phase the county is in, the governor, the health department's director, and the school board's guidance," he said.

The viability of girls' swimming and diving taking place in WIAA Season 1 is dependent on more information from the state Department of Health, said WIAA officials.

No local schools offer swimming and diving.

"The board recognizes that participation in any fall sports will depend on county progression through the phases laid out in Gov. (Jay) Inslee's Safe Start plan over the coming weeks," said WIAA. "The executive board will create benchmarks on July 28 to be met in order for WIAA Season 1 to take place."

"If the benchmarks are not met, the board will plan to move the remainder of fall sports to WIAA Season 3."

Hoops, wrestling stay put

Traditional winter sports — basketball, bowling, boys' swimming and diving, gymnastics, competitive cheerleading and wrestling — would take place in WIAA Season 2, with the expectation to begin in late December or early January.

Tentative Season 2 dates are Jan. 4

to March 7.

Traditional spring sports will occupy WIAA Season 4, tentatively set

for May 3 to June 27.

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AL CAMP | The Chronicle
Lexi LaDoux (center) leads Omak's Katie Walker (left) and teammate Olivia Richards during a cross country meet last October.



AL CAMP | The Chronicle
Shane Proctor is dumped from Major Spirit during saddle bronc riding at the 2018 Omak Stampede. He fared better in bull riding recently in Utah.

Proctor finishes third in bull event

SPANISH FORK, Utah — Lake Roosevelt graduate Shane Proctor finished third in the Spanish Fork Fiesta Days Xtreme Bulls event July 20.

Total pay-off for the event was \$40,420.

Stock contractors were Frontier Rodeo and Powder River Rodeo. Okanogan graduate J.J. Harrison, Walla Walla, was the clown/barrel man and specialty act.

Bulls — 1, Clayton Sellars, 90 on Frontier Rodeo's Trophy Rack, \$12,126. 2, Boudreaux Campbell, 87.5, \$9,297. 3, Shane Proctor, 85, \$6,871. 4 (tie), Ruger Piva and Elliot Jacoby, 84, \$3,638 each. 6 (tie) Daylon Swearingen and Brady Portenier, 83, \$1,819 each. 8, Trey Kimzey, 75, \$1,213.

Oval racing suspended in Republic

REPUBLIC — A statewide change in the number of people who may gather in Safe Start Phase 3 counties has led Eagle Track Raceway officials to suspend the racing schedule until further notice.

Races had been planned today, July 25, at the dirt track off Pendry Road south of town.

"We are working hard to find positive ways to continue racing in Republic," said an announcement from the track. "Although we are disappointed, we are following the guidelines set forth."

Organizers said they would keep people posted on possible reopening, and urged folks to support businesses in Republic and surrounding areas that support the track.

"Please support our track if we need the help in the coming weeks," organizers said.

The track may be available to rent for private testing and tuning.

Nuehring scores high in pinochle

OKANOGAN — Debbie Nuehring had high score in pinochle July 21 at the Okanogan Eagles Club and participated on two teams with 300 pinochle.

Nuehring had 8,550 points. George Dunckel came in second with 8,370.

Partners with 300 pinochle were George Dunckel and Debbie Nuehring, George Dunckel and Peggy Myers, George Dunckel and Bill Bruton, and Diana Saucedo and Debbie Nuehring.

Partners with around the horn were George Dunckel and Buck Workman, and Dick Fuller and Bill Bruton.

Parks agency deals with overcrowding

OLYMPIA — The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is limiting the number of visitors at two state parks in Chelan County.

To avoid overcrowding, Lake Chelan and Lake Wenatchee state parks staff will close day-use areas to additional visitors when parking lots become full. The measure started Friday, July 24.

Signs will be posted at park entrances when they reach capacity. Park staff will also monitor entrances to educate visitors who attempt to access the park on foot.

"We want to provide the

public with enjoyable outdoor recreation opportunities this summer," said region manager Ryan Layton. "But we need to do it safely by following state public health guidelines."

Both parks have been experiencing high visitation this summer, making it hard for visitors and staff to maintain social distances. Crowding is a particular problem in swimming areas.

Washington State Parks is asking visitors to follow state guidelines for responsible recreation when planning a trip to any state park,

especially more popular destinations such as Lake Chelan and Lake Wenatchee. The public should avoid parking on county roads to access parks on foot.

Visitors should check which parks are open before heading out, avoid crowds and be prepared to go somewhere else if the park is at capacity, said agency officials.

State parks reopened day-use areas in early May after a five-week closure because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Camping began reopening June 1. To date, not all state parks have reopened.



WASHINGTON STATE PARKS
Lake Wenatchee State Park suffers from overcrowding.

