



# RETURNING TO THE GRIDIRON

Magic Valley teams push to play amid coronavirus uncertainties, see page 5

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DREW NASH, TIMES-NEWS

Valley cheerleader Kirsten Wethern cheers on the Vikings during their game against Raft River at Valley High School in Hazelton.

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**On the cover:** Carey's Brigham Parke catches the ball for a punt to Lighthouse Christian Friday night, Sept. 13, 2019, at Lighthouse Christian in Twin Falls.

DREW NASH, TIMES-NEWS

## TIMES-NEWS

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## SCHOLAR OF THE WEEK

Beginning Wednesday, September 9, 2020, The Times-News will feature a high school senior who has been nominated by their guidance counselor. The story and photo will detail the student's involvements in school and in the community. Throughout the school year we will feature 32 seniors. At the end of the school year scholarships will be awarded to 3 students, totaling \$5,000.

# IT'S TIME FOR FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

Teams push to play amid coronavirus uncertainties

**CHASE GLORFIELD**

For the Times-News

Over the years, high school football has outgrown its label as simply a game. It's a way of life for communities across the state of Idaho. When August rolls around, everyone knows athletes are beginning fall camp, and the sound of shoulder pads and helmets can soon be heard in neighborhoods. When that first fall crispness is felt in the air, it's time to grab a hoodie and head to the stadium for some Friday night lights.

But in 2020, the nostalgia of high school football is on the ropes, and the excitement for the season is overshadowed by worry. The weather will be getting colder soon, but players, coaches, fans and parents alike have shared anxiety about what might happen when teams try to play and what they will do if their stadiums remain dark and lifeless come September.

The highly-contagious Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and the accompanying Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) have the possibility of a high school football season up in the air.

The state of Idaho and its school districts have put protocols and guidelines in place in an attempt to allow football to be played, but no one knows if it will guarantee a season. There are financial implications of a canceled season and undoubtedly, a community impact.



Continued on **Page 6** Player Iradukunda Enery runs the ball after a catch during practice Monday, Aug. 17, 2020, at Twin Falls High School.

**DREW NASH, TIMES-NEWS**

From page 5

## Safety Measures and Protocols

On July 16, the IHSAA published guidelines that must be followed in order for school-sponsored sports to resume. It stated, "It is the goal of the Idaho High School Activities Association to start all activities on time this fall."

This document mandated four components: All schools must have a plan in place regarding fan attendance of games, a travel plan for practices and games, a plan to handle any positive COVID-19 tests from coaches or athletes, and a return to participate plan for the athletes. It declared that everything put into place by school districts must be in conjunction with local health departments and follow reopening guidelines established by Governor Brad Little.

The 52-page document goes on to offer contingency planning recommendations that can be adopted by schools across the Gem State.

In keeping these guidelines open-ended, IHSAA director Ty Jones and his assistants, along with the board of directors, allowed flexibility for school districts to plan according to the local level of community spread. Administrators in the state adopted many of the IHSAA-suggested protocols and began building their return-to-sports plans.

Additionally, each district developed a framework to determine how instruction would be delivered during the 2020-21 school year; in person, online, or a hybrid. Most of these plans involve a color system associated with the current level of safety of a community and include an accompanying method of learning. They also determine the status of that district's sports.

In Twin Falls, for example, green means all instruction is in-person and sports are a go with no restrictions. Yellow involves students in class and limited fans in the stands – with face masks and appropriate social distancing. Orange is a hybrid of online instruction and staggered groups in buildings, and games are played with no one in attendance. Red is fully online learning and sports are canceled. Every district developed its own version of the same idea.

If Twin Falls were to go into red, all games and practices would be canceled until the district moves back into one of the other colors.

"There is no rescheduling," said Bruin Twin athletic director Nancy Jones. "It's absolutely canceled."

For a time Minico School District was in its orange category, which means un-



DREW NASH, TIMES-NEWS

Ben Kohring, head coach, watches as his team runs drills during practice Monday, Aug. 17, 2020, at Twin Falls High School.

less it changed, the Spartans would open their football season inside an empty stadium. The neighboring district, Cassia County – schools in Burley, Oakley, Declo, and Malta – are in yellow, and will have fans in attendance. Clearly, complications abound when each district creates its own plan.

"Every school has different guidelines and protocols so we have had a hard time trying to get everyone on the same page," Jones said. "For example, Wood River has said that unless an opponent is in green they are not playing them. So if we don't get into green, our game against them is off."

It's important to point out that districts are not facilitating COVID-19 tests. If a student feels sick in the Twin Falls School District, for example, they are asked questions about their symptoms. If they have at least two symptoms, their temperature is taken. If it's high, they are sent home and can't come back to school until 10 days have passed since they first began exhibiting symptoms and they have gone three days without any, or if they get a COVID test and it comes back negative.

If an athlete gets sick, with coronavirus or something else, they will likely miss some time. That may seem excessive, but it's what is necessary to prevent viral spread and to keep teams playing, schools say.

"Our mission is to save the season," Jones said.

In the Magic Valley, the common theme among football coaches is they will do whatever it takes in order for the athletes to play.

"If the state of Idaho is a go, we are a go," Minico head coach Keelan McCaffrey said. "For our kids and our coaches, we are very proactive, and we do what we have to do. If we need to wear masks, clean footballs, whatever, we will do it to protect the kids. I want our kids and our seniors to play football."

All in all, coaches have more to worry about and monitor beyond their already full plates. But their love for the game and the importance they feel football has on high school athletes mean they are willing to take on the extra load.

"This year our focus is to stay very present, be there for the kids and make sure

we are doing what the school board and admin," Wendell head coach Michael Konrad said.

"We plan to play a full season and we are doing what we can to make it happen," Hansen head coach Jim Rife said.

## "Bubbles"

Long before the word coronavirus became a household term, coaches preached to their players the idea of controlling what they can control and not worrying about outside matters. This mantra has never been more fitting than in the current situation. Coaches across the Magic Valley are choosing to put their focus on the here and now, not the nebulous maybe.

"I really strongly believe in things that we can control," Gooding head coach Cameron Andersen said. "We said from the very beginning that with the protocols, we don't have any control of them. We are just simply going to do them. We are going to get the kids on the field and keep coaching them until we are told we can't. We are having fun, we're being positive, and the

From page 6

kids are buying in.

“We want to make sure these kids are receiving the things football gives them.”

At Twin Falls High School, first-year head coach Ben Kohring has a unique approach to this idea.

“We are the Twin Falls bubble,” he said.

Bubble? Major League Soccer, the NBA, WNBA, NHL, and in some ways Major League Baseball, all resumed their respective sports in bubbles – self-contained, meticulously-controlled environments that eliminate physical contact with the outside world. In this way athletes, coaches, and support staff can continue their work and are almost guaranteed to avoid close proximity to people infected with COVID-19. No one leaves the bubble, and no one enters without self-quarantining and being tested for the virus.

While high school sports programs can't maintain a true bubble – students go to school, back home to their families, stores, restaurants, etc. – there is a measure of control coaches do have on their team's environment. A lot of it involves those same IHSAA-suggested and district-adopted protocols.

“Our main concern is just keeping everyone healthy and trying to make sure there is a season,” said Canyon Ridge head coach Sean Impomeni.

Wood River's Shane Carden echoed the sentiment: “Let's do everything right. It takes a lot of little things to make it right, and if we want the season, we have to do them. We can't control some of these things, but we have to stay optimistic and work as if it's going to happen.”

The biggest concern with combining football and a virus that spreads through saliva droplets is the very nature of the game itself. It is impossible to block, hit, tackle, or defend a receiver while social distancing. Spit, sweat and physical contact are common on a football field. The idea of bubbles is great, but most of that control goes out the window once a game starts.

“We can control our own environment, but not that of any opponent,” Lighthouse head coach Cory Holloway said. “Quite honestly, when the whistle blows it's football.”

## Financial Impact

In Idaho, as in many states, high school football is a “revenue sport.” The funds generated from gate sales and concessions at football games provide financial support for other sports at a school. Should a football game – or an entire season – be canceled, or should a district have to adhere to limited capacity guidelines for their stadiums, there would be financial ramifications.

“Football is pretty important to schools,” said Kimberly athletic director Kirby Bright. “You make most of your income from home football games, and that funds your non-revenue athletics.

“Some of these non-revenue athletics still go to state, and that has to be financed,” he said. “Without football,



Cayleb Mayes catches the ball during practice at Twin Falls High School.

DREW NASH,  
TIMES-NEWS

that puts a significant hit on your budget.”

Bright mentioned that although money would be saved from not paying football officials and timekeepers, and not having to pay bus fees for the team to travel, it wouldn't be enough to balance the ledger.

“You might be saving a little in the fall, but you're not generating,” he said. “If you still have your winter and spring sports, you need to have that money to pay for them.”

Without funds from football, other sports would be forced to foot the bill.

“Financially, football dictates so many things for other sports,” Gooding's Cameron Anderson said. “If sports go away, football will likely come back, but other sports won't. Then those kids who play other sports miss out on the lessons sports provide.”

Bright added that getting students on the field – and court or track – is what everyone wants, even if it means operating with a tight budget for a while.

“If we don't make a dime this fall, and all our kids get to play, then it is worth it,” he said. “But we want them safe as well.”

Another aspect is the numerous businesses and families that donate money to high school athletic departments in the Magic Valley, specifically to football teams. Some schools have banners or signs they put up to promote and advertise for their sponsors. What happens to that money if a football season is canceled? As with many things related to the coronavirus and its effects, the answer is unknown.

“Do we give it all back?” Jerome head coach Sid Gambles asked. “It's this kind of stuff I don't know about or can't control that has me scared.”

Bright echoed the sentiment.

“This is all so new,” he said. “That is something we might have to think about, but we haven't yet because we are drinking out of a fire hose trying to get all this figured out.”

## What if...

The goal is to play. When the IHSAA released its 52-page document of guidelines and suggestions in July, school district administrators and coaches across the state jumped into action and began putting things into place for sports to happen in Idaho. Protocols were established, training started, and workouts and camps kicked into gear.

But what if things go south? What if a player or a coach tests positive for COVID-19? What if numerous players on a team test positive? What if viral spread is detected in a school or community and a district has to shut down, permanently or temporarily? What if games have to be played in front of empty stands? There are so many unknowns with this football season and accompanying school year.

There are, however, some breadcrumbs to follow. In July, a Jerome player tested positive for the virus, and summer workouts had to be halted while testing,

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cleaning, and contact tracing took place. When the all-clear came, the Tigers resumed. But what if there is a positive test during the season?

“We don’t necessarily have to shut down,” Jerome head coach Sid Gambles said. “But if there are more it could be considered spread.”

If the season gets canceled, some coaches have already started planning an intramural football competition among students at their schools. Up north in Moscow, the school district has already nixed its fall sports travel and done just that.

Still, that wouldn’t fill the football-less void entirely.

“Football games are social events,” Rife said. “Losing that would be really tough. This team is so important to the community.”

The reality of living with a deadly and uncontrolled virus means things change by the minute. Every day is a new story.

What is known, however, is an absence of Friday night lights will leave small towns across the Gem State missing a vital thread in the fabric of their lives.

“I am planning on playing a full season, and I am going to be disappointed if we don’t play one,” said Burley head coach Dylan Corless.

“Everyone in the community comes to the football game,” Minico’s Keelan McCaffrey said. “We have middle school kids wearing their jerseys, parents rocking Minico gear and a full stadium. Without sports, that will create a void that we can’t fill.”



Coach Dominik Unger talks to players as they run drills during practice Monday, Aug. 17, 2020, at Twin Falls High School.

DREW NASH,  
TIMES-NEWS



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## TWIN FALLS BRUINS

**Head coach:** Ben Kohring, 1st year

**Record:** 3-6

**Playoffs:** none

Following the second retirement of longtime head coach Allyn Reynolds, Twin Falls turns to Ben Kohring, who has been an assistant with the Bruins for 13 years. One of his tasks is to guide Twin back to the 4A state play-off, which it missed in 2019.

"I have coached everything but quarterbacks," Kohring said.

And Twin Falls is set this season in the quarterback department with the return of Nick Swensen, now a senior, who has started under center since his sophomore year. Following the graduation of bruising running back Jarod Perry, plus a number of experienced offensive linemen, junior all-purpose back Jace Mahlke and senior scatback

Colton Rasmussen will carry the load.

"We don't have as much experience in the trenches as our line is pretty young," Kohring said. "We will try to give Jace the ball in a lot of different ways. And Colton will line up everywhere in multiple formations."

Defensively, seniors Tyler Robbins (line-backer), Marcus Garcia (end), Emery Iradukunda (corner-back), along with junior free safety Luke Moon, will be the physical and vocal leaders. Kohring plans to adapt his defense to best fit the skill set of his players.

"We will make changes based on the athletes that we have," he said. "We will stay close to what our base was last year, but it's a different year with different athletes."

The Bruins' opener is a road trip to Caldwell to face Vallivue on Friday, Aug. 28.



Twin Falls senior Haylen Walker flips over Canyon Ridge wide receiver River Osen as he attempts to intercept the ball during the annual Service Bowl.

PAT SUTPHIN,  
TIMES-NEWS



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Twin Falls senior Haylen Walker catches a deep pass before Canyon Ridge defensive back Jose Quintana can tackle him Sept. 27, 2019, during the annual Service Bowl in Twin Falls.

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## CANYON RIDGE RIVERHAWKS



**Head coach:** Sean Impomeni, 7th year

**Record:** 3-7

**Playoffs:** lost 57-7 to Bishop Kelly in first round

The 2019 season was an important step for Canyon Ridge under Sean Impomeni. The Riverhawks defeated Twin Falls for just the second time in the crosstown rivalry series, and qualified for the 4A state playoffs for the third time in their 10-year history as a school. It was their second appearance at state in the last three seasons.

On offense, senior quarterback Brody Osen is a key returning starter. The 6-foot-4, 180-pound signal-caller will lead a young group of skill players and will rely on an undersized but talented group of linemen. Senior Andy Shaw returns to anchor the line, and the Riverhawks add Ridgevue senior transfer Colby Hagan.

"We like what Hagan did in camp," Impomeni said. "Our line is going to be a bit smaller, but there is some experience there."

Defensively, Christian "Jet" Perez is the focal point for a young defense that also includes free safety Carson Sainsbury, linebackers Wyatt Summers and Braden Clark, and defensive lineman Sam Lupumba.

"Jet is the only senior in that group," Impomeni said. "We are going to focus on running to the ball and tackling. We want to create turnovers and get the ball back for our offense."

The Riverhawks begin the year on the road at Wood River on Friday, Aug. 28.



PAT SUTPHIN TIMES-NEWS

Canyon Ridge quarterback Brody Osen scrambles to find an open receiver Friday, Sept. 27, 2019, during the annual Service Bowl at Twin Falls High School in Twin Falls.



PAT SUTPHIN TIMES-NEWS

Canyon Ridge wide receiver River Osen runs the ball down field Friday, Sept. 27, 2019, during the annual Service Bowl at Twin Falls High School in Twin Falls.

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## JEROME TIGERS

**Head coach:** Sid Gambles, 9th year

**Record:** 7-4

**Playoffs:** lost 45-16 to Middleton in quarterfinals

Jerome had a renaissance season in 2019, and despite losing some key contributors from that squad, the Tigers are primed for another big year. Big-armed quarterback Dalan Thompson, now a senior, is back and has



returning weapon Shayler Bingham as a top

target. Junior Gavin Capps was injured one season ago, but his large body and athleticism will be a boon at the tight end position. Gone is receiver Garrett Elison, but his younger brother Colton, a junior, looks to fill that void.

"We will use the Elison kid just like we did his older



PAT SUTPHIN PHOTOS, TIMES-NEWS

Burley wide receiver Jake Bracken is brought down by Jerome safety Jeffrey Ledezma, left, and defensive back Stockton Lott, center, on Friday, Aug. 30, 2019, at Jerome High School in Jerome.

brother," said Jerome head coach Sid Gambles. "He's pretty dynamic."

The Tigers also have key returners on the offensive line in junior David Gill and senior Porter Wright. Soph-

omore Keenan Blair will be a strong presence at that position as well.

Defensively, senior line-backer JW James looks to anchor Jerome along with senior defensive lineman



Jerome safety Garrett Elison pulls Burley wide receiver McCray Mort to the ground Aug. 30 at Jerome High School in Jerome.

Joe Stevenson, senior line-backer/defensive end Jayden McIntyre, and Bingham at cornerback. Elison will also

play corner for the Tigers. "The rest of the spots are kind of up for grabs," Gambles said. "But we feel good about

our defense again this year." The Tigers host Gooding on Friday, Aug 28, to start their year.

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# That Friday night feeling



The sun sets behind the stands as Kimberly faces off against Gooding on Friday, Oct. 25, 2019, at Kimberly High School in Kimberly.

PAT SUTPHIN TIMES-NEWS

The Twin Falls Bruins take to the field during the annual Service Bowl at Twin Falls High School in Twin Falls.

**PAT SUTPHIN,**  
TIMES-NEWS



Twin Falls fans cheer on their team Friday, Sept. 27, 2019, during the annual Service Bowl at Twin Falls High School in Twin Falls.

**PAT SUTPHIN,**  
TIMES-NEWS



**DREW NASH, TIMES-NEWS**

Children watch as Raft River controls the ball against Valley during their game Friday night, Oct. 11, 2019, at Valley High School in Hazelton.



**DREW NASH, TIMES-NEWS**

Jerome fans cheer on the Tigers during their game Friday night, Oct. 18, 2019, at Twin Falls High School.



**PAT SUTPHIN TIMES-NEWS**

Filer Head Coach Ty Hess watches a play unfold Friday, Oct. 18, 2019, in Filer.



**PAT SUTPHIN TIMES-NEWS**

Kayden Jensen, Twin Falls Student Council Activities Director, plays air guitar as he rocks out with the crowd Friday, Sept. 27, 2019, during the annual Service Bowl at Twin Falls High School in Twin Falls, Idaho. The game focuses on patriotism over school spirit to deter common rivalry game problems like fighting and vandalism.

## BURLEY BOBCATS

**Head coach:** Dylan Corless, 2nd year

**Record:** 3-6

**Playoffs:** none

Burley looks to continue last year's strong defensive effort with a senior-laden group on that side of the ball. Linebacker Jake Bracken, cornerbacks McCray Mort and Damien Castillo, and end Judson Mathis are slated to lead what should be a tough Bobcat defense.

"I would like to see these four lead by example and help the rest of the team understand what working together means," said Burley head coach Dylan Corless.

On offense, Corless' Bobcats are a young group that will be led by two senior receivers in Mort and Slater Watterson. Junior Preston Ramos also returns at running back. Taking the quarterback reigns from the



graduated Ethan Gibbons will be junior Treven Fenstermaker, who is anxious to get on the field after breaking his collarbone during the first JV game of the season last year.

"He has some JV experience," Corless said. "But he has had a really good summer camp and is ready to go."

With more than 50 kids participating in summer workouts, Burley feels good about its prospects both this season and in the future.

"We've had a really good turnout," Corless said.

Burley travels to Mountain Home to begin its year. The game is slated for Friday, Aug. 28.



Burley defensive back McCray Mort on runs down Jerome quarterback Dalan Thompson last season at Jerome High School.

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## BUHL INDIANS

**Head coach:** Seth Blick, 5th year

**Record:** 2-6

**Playoffs:** none

With a combination of experienced seniors and an athletic, game-ready junior class, the Buhl Indians and head coach Seth Blick enter the 2020 season with the pieces to have a successful year.

"We have a good core group of seniors and we are pushing that class to be their best," Blick said. "We also have some kids who had a lot of success at the JV level and we are excited to have them playing varsity this season."

The Indians should have an explosive offense behind senior quarterback Drexler Jaynes, a versatile athlete who will also play some running back. Senior receivers

Jose Rivera and Eli Azavedo are back, as is senior offensive lineman Kaden Homan. Junior receiver and part-time quarterback Kaden Ray will contribute as well.

"Our strength this year is we have kids in each one of our skill positions who are a threat to score at any time," Blick said.

Buhl has many athletes who will play on both sides of the ball. Jaynes will make the transition from cornerback to safety, while Homan will line up as a defensive lineman, and Rivera and Azavedo at outside linebacker.

"A contributor on offense will likely be a contributor on defense," Blick said.

Buhl opens the season Sept. 4 at home against Burley.



## IDAHO HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM RECORDS

### 5A

Most Points Scored	56 Highland 2000
Most Yards Rushing	410 Meridian 2005
Most Yards Passing	448 Lewiston 2000
Most Yards Gained	609 Eagle 2001

### 4A

Most Points Scored	55 Hillcrest 2008, 2018
Most Yards Rushing	577 Hillcrest 2018
Most Yards Passing	403 Jerome 2008
Most Yards Gained	553 Hillcrest 2008

### 3A

Most Points Scored	56 Snake River 1996
Most Yards Rushing	405 Snake River 1999
Most Yards Passing	353 Salmon 2008
Total Yards Gained	522 Snake River 1999

### 2A

Most Points Scored	66 Firth 2006
Most Yards Rushing	472 Kamiah 2000
Most Yards Passing	375 Gooding 1985
Total Yards Gained	562 Firth 2006

### 1A Div. I and Div. II 8 Man

Most Points Scored	72 Prairie 2014
Most Yards Rushing	509 Kendrick 2000
Most Yards Passing	443 Kendrick 1991
Total Yards Gained	668 Deary 1995

### 1A 11 Man (not sponsored after 2002)

Most Points Scored	55 Wilder 1988
Most Yards Rushing	436 Mackay 1998
Most Yards Passing	389 Wilder 1988
Total Yards Gained	499 Mackay 1999

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# MAGIC VALLEY FOOTBALL 2020

All games begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Schedules are subject to change due to coronavirus.

AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	SEPTEMBER	SEPTEMBER	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	OCTOBER	OCTOBER	OCTOBER
28	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23


## CLASS 4A GREAT BASIN CONFERENCE

 Burlley Bobcats	@ Mountain Home	@ Buhl	Wood River	Kimberly	@ Minico	Pocatello (6 p.m.)	Twin Falls	Jerome	Canyon Ridge
 Canyon Ridge	@ Wood River	Gooding	Twin Falls	@ Shelley	@ Jerome	Minico	@ Mountain Home	@ Century	Burley
 Jerome Tigers	Gooding	@ Kimberly	Shelley	@ Twin Falls	Canyon Ridge	Mountain Home	@ Minico	@ Burley	Wood River
 Minico Spartans	@ Skyline	Middleton	Mountain Home	@ Sandpoint	Burley	@ Canyon Ridge	Jerome	@ Wood River	@ Twin Falls
 Twin Falls Bruins	@ Vallivue	@ Pocatello	@ Canyon Ridge	Jerome	Century	@ Wood River	@ Burley	Mountain Home	@ Minico
 Wood River Wolverines	Canyon Ridge	@ Mountain Home	@ Burley	Filer (6 p.m.)	@ Buhl	Twin Falls	@ Kimberly	Minico	@ Jerome






## CLASS 3A SAWTOOTH CENTRAL IDAHO CONFERENCE

 Buhl Indians	@ Weiser	Burley	Burley	@ Declo	Wood River	Gooding	@ Wendell	Kimberly	@ Filer
 Filer Wildcats	@ North Fremont	Valley	@ American Falls	@ Wood River	Wendell	@ Kimberly	Gooding	@ Declo	Buhl
 Gooding Senators	@ Jerome	@ Canyon Ridge	Nampa Christian	Mountain Home	Declo (Sept. 24)	@ Buhl (Oct. 1)	@ Filer	Valley (Oct. 14)	Kimberly
 Kimberly Bulldogs	Snake River	Jerome	Declo	@ Burley	@ Mountain Home	Filer	Wood River	@ Buhl	@ Gooding

## CLASS 2A CANYON CONFERENCE

 Declo Hornets	West Jefferson	@ Aberdeen	@ Kimberly	Buhl	@ Gooding (Sept. 24)	Valley	@ Nampa Christian	Filer	@ Wendell
 Wendell Trojans	Nampa Christian	@ Marsing	Cole Valley	@ Payette	@ Filer	Buhl	Buhl	@ Valley	Declo
 Valley Vikings	@ Marsing	@ Filer	Ririe	@ Melba	Nampa Christian	@ Declo	Wendell	Soda Springs	

## CLASS 1A DIVISION I SNAKE RIVER CONFERENCE

 Glenns Ferry Pilots	@ Lighthouse Christian	@ Kendrick (4 p.m.)	Idaho City	@ Rimrock	@ Shoshone	@ Raft River	Oakley	Murtaugh	Lighthouse Christian
 Oakley Hornets	@ Raft River, 8/28 Prairie 8/29, 1:30	@ Grace	Challis	Garden Valley	@ Murtaugh	@ Shoshone	Glenns Ferry	@ Lighthouse Christian	Raft River
 Raft River Trojans	@ Idaho City (8/29, 6:30 p.m.)	Challis	Watersprings (5:30 p.m.)	no game	Lighthouse Christian	Glenns Ferry	@ Murtaugh	@ Butte County	@ Oakley
 Shoshone Indians	@ Richfield	@ Castleford	@ Castleford	Glenns Ferry	Carey (4:30 p.m.)	Oakley 10/8, 5 p.m. Rockland 10/9, 6 p.m.	Wendell	Soda Springs	
 Valley Vikings	@ Marsing	@ Filer	Ririe	@ Melba	Nampa Christian	Wendell	Soda Springs		
 Lighthouse Christian Lions	Glenns Ferry		@ North Gem (4 p.m.)	@ Mackay	@ Raft River	Grace	Oakley	@ Glenns Ferry	
 Murtaugh Red Devils	@ Hansen	Rimrock	Rockland	@ Castleford	Oakley	@ Lighthouse Christian	Raft River	@ Glenns Ferry	

## CLASS 1A DIVISION II SAWTOOTH WEST CONFERENCE

 Camas County Musers	Rockland (3:30 p.m.)	@ North Gem (4p.m.)	Bye	Richfield (3:30 p.m.)	Dietrich (3:30 p.m.)	@ Castleford	@ Carey	Hagerman (4 p.m.)	@ Hansen
 Carey Panthers	@ Challis	Garden Valley	@ Richfield	Hagerman	@ Shoshone (4:30 p.m.)	Hansen	Camas	@ Castleford	@ Dietrich
 Castleford Wolves		Shoshone	@ Dietrich	Murtaugh	Hansen	Camas County	@ Richfield	Carey	@ Hagerman
 Dietrich Blue Devils	Garden Valley	Butte County	Castleford	Hansen	@ Camas (3:30 p.m.)	@ Hagerman		Carey	
 Hagerman Pirates		Horseshoe Bend	@ Hansen	@ Carey	Richfield	North Gem	Dietrich	Camas County	Castleford
 Hansen Huskies	Murtaugh	@ Rockland (4 p.m.)	Hagerman	@ Dietrich	@ Castleford	@ Carey	Bye	Richfield	Camas County
 Richfield Tigers	Shoshone	Watersprings (4:30 p.m.)	@ Carey	@ Camas County (3:30 p.m.)	@ Hagerman	@ Dietrich	Castleford	@ Hansen	

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## MINICO SPARTANS



PAT SUTPHIN PHOTOS, TIMES-NEWS

Burley running back Luis Gomez is met by a host of Minico defenders Friday, Sept. 7, 2018, at Minico High School in Rupert.

**Head coach:** Keelan McCaffrey, 3rd year

**Record:** 8-3

**Playoffs:** lost 42-14 to Blackfoot in quarterfinals

Minico looks to maintain its title as a serious state contender under third-year head coach Keelan McCaffrey. Behind a senior-driven defense, the Spartans have all the parts to make a deep run in the playoffs.

"We return a lot of dudes back there," McCaffrey said.

Among those seniors are linebackers Dawson Osterhout (who McCaffrey calls a tackling machine) and Kent Merrill, cornerback Cannon Schow, safety Nick Sorenson, and defensive end Johnny Hernandez.

"Nick is kind of our coach out there. He's smart and savvy," McCaffrey said. "Johnny is an absolute monster. He should have been an all-state player last year with 8.5 or 9.5 sacks."

Minico also expects big contributions from sophomore linebacker Brevin Trenkle and junior Easton Arthur.

On offense, Trenkle will play quarterback and running back. Seniors Jace LaRoque and Joaquin Chavez will be joined by junior Peyton McManus to provide plenty of weapons at receiver. Senior Karter Zampedri returns at running back and fullback, replacing standout Rylan Chandler.

"He's a big, physical dude," McCaffrey said of Zampedri.

The Spartans have to replace a lot on the offensive line, but returning senior Bryan Guzman is a good anchor. Junior Luke Arthur played some as a sophomore



Minico fans cheer for their team Friday, Sept. 7, 2018, at Minico High School in Rupert.

and will contribute on the Idaho Falls on Friday, Aug. 28, as part of the annual Rocky game is a neutral site location at Madison High School in Rexburg.

Minico faces Skyline of Mountain Rumble. The

## WOOD RIVER WOLVERINES

**Head coach:** Shane Carden, 2nd year

**Record:** 1-6

**Playoffs:** none

Second-year head coach Shane Carden and Wood

River have a quarterback battle on hand heading into the 2020 season. Senior Matt Meyers and sophomore Sawyer Grafft are the duo fighting to get under center.

"Those two are really pushing each other," Carden said. "They are

friends and they are really engaging in a great competition to get on the field."

Whoever wins that battle will have plenty of help in the backfield as the Wolverines return senior slot receiver/running back Andres Salamanca, senior running back Eli Trevino, and a pair of senior slot receivers in Ethan Shoemaker and Eli Fuller. Senior offensive lineman Drake Humphreys will anchor the trenches.

Wood River also expects to get carries from junior running back Asher Stern and senior running back

Casey Erickson, who transferred in from Minnesota. Sophomore Zach Dilworth will work as an outside receiver.

Senior middle linebacker Tuffer Manning will quarterback the Wolverine defense, alongside Meyers at outside backer. Salamanca will get time on the field as a hybrid linebacker/defensive back, while seniors Victor Solis and Gianpierre Fajardo are Wood River's cornerbacks.

Wood River hosts conference foe Canyon Ridge on Friday, Aug. 28.

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## CAMAS COUNTY MUSHERS

**Head coach:** Rusty Kramer, 5th year

**Record:** 2-6

**Playoffs:** lost 63-16 to Lighthouse Christian in first round

Camas County's line will be the strength of its defense during the 2020 season. Behind the talents of senior end Alex Robles, junior end

Dawson Kramer, and senior tackle Marcus Quinonez, the Mushers hope to overpower and confuse opposing offenses.

"Those two ends will be our anchors for sure," said head coach Rusty Kramer. "We don't play a lot of zone, but we are changing formations up quite a bit. We will jump to



different fronts and are constantly changing up our looks. It keeps the offense on its toes."

Offensively, Kramer will carry the ball as a running back while Robles will line up at both running back and receiver. Sophomore Marcus Staley is a scat back and receiver Camas County is excited to get on the field.

Under center, Kramer isn't sure what he has quite yet.

"We are trying to figure out this quarterback position," he said. "Once we do that we will have a better picture of where everyone else will play."

The Mushers host Rockland on Friday, Aug. 28, to begin their year.

## CAREY PANTHERS

**Head coach:** Lane Kirkland, 20th year

**Record:** 10-2

**Playoffs:** lost 34-28 in overtime to Lighthouse Christian in championship

Carey has played in the last three 1A DII state championship contests, and the Panthers look to make a return trip in 2020.

Senior Hunter Smith returns for his third year as Carey's starting quarterback. The Panthers also have a number of senior weapons back in running back/tight end Dallin Parke, running back Chase Gross, and skill players Wyatt Degn and Wyatt Mecham. The offensive line will be anchored by senior Adrian Gonzalez.

"We have a lot of fast kids coming back, and a lot of new ones to introduce," said head coach Lane Kirkland. "We are a balanced offense as we have some younger kids who are quick in space."

On the other side of the ball, Parke and Smith will play defensive back, Gross and sophomore Connor Simpson are linebackers, and Gonzalez will man the middle of the trenches at nose guard.

Carey hosts Challis on Friday, Aug. 28, for its season opener.



Lighthouse Christian wide receiver Clay Silva tries to run past Carey defensive back Hunter Smith in 2019.



The Carey Panthers take to the field before the start of the game Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019, during the 1A D2 state football championship game at Holt Arena in Pocatello. Lighthouse Christian School defeated Carey in overtime with a final score of 34-28.

PHOTOS BY PAT SUTPHIN TIMES-NEWS

## DECLO HORNETS

**Head coach:** Joshua Stewart, 2nd year

**Record:** 6-4

**Playoffs:** lost 48-7 to McCall-Donnelly in quarterfinals

Last year the Hornets spent the season installing and getting accustomed to a new defensive scheme. For the 2020 season, they will do the same thing with their offense.

"We have been wing-T forever," said second-year head coach Joshua Stewart. "We will still be similar with our blocking scheme, but we are going to run things out of the shotgun. It's kind of a hybrid."

After missing last season with an elbow injury, senior Gabe Matthews takes the reins of the offensive and will start at quarterback.

"He's going to run things for us and do a good job," Stewart said.

Declo also returns senior receiver Peyton Silcock, senior H-back McKade Vail, and senior offensive linemen Jovani Gomez, Miguel Juarez, and Elijah Koyle.

Many of the same athletes will play on the defensive side of the ball starting with Juarez and Gomez anchoring the defensive

line. Junior Derek Matthews will be the quarterback of the defense from his middle linebacker position.

"He's our go-to guy on that side of the ball, and a good leader," Stewart said.

Senior Brogan Matthews will play safety, while senior Braden Darrington will play along the defensive line.

Declo opens its 2020 season hosting West Jefferson on Friday, Aug. 28.



Filer slot receiver Austin Perkins is brought down by Declo defensive lineman AJ Lyda, left, and defensive back Brogan Matthews, right, at Filer High School in Filer.



Filer slot receiver Austin Perkins is tripped up by Declo linebacker Layne Homer on Friday, Oct. 18, 2019, at Filer High School in Filer.

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## GOODING SENATORS

**Head coach:** Cameron Anderson, 11th year

**Record:** 8-2

**Playoffs:** lost 47-20 to Sugar-Salem in quarterfinals

It's impossible to replace a special talent like quarterback Shane Jennings, but Gooding and 11th-year head coach Cameron Andersen plan to keep on rolling with a new-look group of Senators.

"What you do is you find the next guys and build around their talents," Andersen said. "You don't try to make anybody be someone else."

Gooding's offense will be led by junior signal-caller Kurtis Adkinson, who was an all-state linebacker one season ago. The 6-foot-2,



255-pound Adkinson has a different build and skill set than Jennings, but his athleticism and effectiveness will help the Senators keep scoring points. Senior Jasen Faulkner will also line up under center at times.

Senior slot receiver and emerging star Logan Anderson, and junior tight end Colston Loveland, will be some of the weapons Adkinson has at his disposal.

Gooding also returns

five offensive linemen who started at least one game last season.

On the defensive side of the ball, Logan Anderson at safety will be a huge force for the Senators, as will cornerback AJ Darcy. Adkinson will continue to play linebacker while Loveland will get time at safety. Senior defensive lineman Preston Thiemann is an underrated Senator who causes problems for opposing offenses.

"This year we will be a true junior and senior varsity team for the first time as head coach. It's so nice we have built depth enough to do that."

Gooding faces Jerome on the road on Friday, Aug. 28, to begin its 2020 campaign.



DREW NASH, TIMES-NEWS

Gooding players listen to the National Anthem before their game against Kimberly Oct. 25 at Kimberly High School.

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## CASTLEFORD WOLVES

**Head coach:** Brian Lowry, 4th year  
**Record:** 2-6  
**Playoffs:** none  
 Second team all-conference offen-

sive lineman and now a senior Colton Leitch will anchor the trenches on both sides of the ball for Castleford. The Wolves begin their season

Aug. 30 on the road against Hansen. A home game against non-conference opponent Shoshone follows the week after, on Sept. 4. And on Sept. 11 Cas-

tleford once again hits the road, but this time for its first league game of the year when it takes on the Blue Devils in Dietrich.

## DIETRICH BLUE DEVILS



Dietrich quarterback Brady Power breaks away from a pack of Lighthouse Christian defenders as he runs the ball into the end zone during the 2019 1A D2 State Quarterfinal game at Lighthouse Christian School in Twin Falls.

**Head coach:** Rick Astle, 4th year

**Record:** 7-3

**Playoffs:** lost 42-28 to Lighthouse Christian in quarterfinals

The Blue Devils have a total of 17 kids out for football this season, and six of them are seniors. Head coach Rick Astle has a lot of experience on the line on both sides of the ball, and senior Brady Power will anchor the defense as if he was a coach



on the field.

"He'll play wherever I need him on defense," Astle said. "He is such an athlete.

"I have a total of 17 guys,

so we will be playing some iron man football with some never leaving the field."

In the trenches, seniors Senneth Hendrix, Lester Nance, Manny Cabrera, and Felipe Vargas will all play along the defensive and offensive lines.

Senior Wes Shaw is back at linebacker and running back for Dietrich.

Dietrich begins its year by hosting Garden Valley Friday, Aug. 28.



**PAT SUTPHIN PHOTOS, TIMES-NEWS**  
 Dietrich defensive back Jett Shaw pulls down Lighthouse Christian wide receiver Clay Silva during the 2019 1A D2 State Quarterfinal game at Lighthouse Christian School in Twin Falls.

## FILER WILDCATS

**Head coach:** Ty Hess, 2nd year

**Record:** 1-8

**Playoffs:** none

Second-year Filer head coach Ty Hess is adamant that everything with his team starts on the lines as it eyes a playoff spot, and he's happy to have 6-foot-4, 315-pound senior Cooper "Big Coop" Trease back to anchor both sides of the ball.

He's a big, strong dude," Hess said. "He worked hard in the offseason and nearly doubled his strength. He will definitely shore up the line."

Featuring 13 seniors on the team, the Wildcats return nearly its entire starting offense in 2020. This includes quarterback Logan Lockwood, running back/receiver Austin Perkins, offensive lineman Eian Wolf, and junior receivers/running backs Jonah DeLeon and Vernon Adams. Junior Joseph Bertao, in his first year playing football, is a wild card athlete Filer will line up at



PAT SUTPHIN PHOTOS, TIMES-NEWS

Filer slot receiver Vernon Adams sneaks the ball up the center in 2019 at Filer High School in Filer.



receiver.

In addition to Big Coop in the middle on defense, the Wildcats return senior middle linebacker Jett Van-Biesen, junior linebacker Chris Coach, lineman Joey

McKay, and safety/cornerback Kelson Gillett. Perkins will start at defensive back for the third year in a row.

"They are ready to go," Hess said. "We've been scrimmaging against other schools and our kids have looked really good. They have been getting after it."

Filer begins the season on the road when it travels to Ashton take on 2A opponent North Fremont on Friday, Aug. 28.



Filer wide receiver Mayson Martinez sneaks the ball up the center in 2019 at Filer High School in Filer.

## GLENN'S FERRY PILOTS

**Head coach:** Lonnie Funkhouser, 2nd year

**Record:** 3-6

**Playoffs:** none

Lonnie Funkhouser enters his second season with the Pilots as they look to improve on last year's 3-6 record. And with more than 30 athletes ready to play – including 11 freshman – they have the pieces to make it happen.

This year, Glenns Ferry will rely on junior Wyatt Castagneto to direct its offense. Between him and senior Allan DeLeon, Funkhouser plans to develop a potent ground attack.

"We are going to be running the ball more this year, he said. "That will be our focus."

On the other side for Glenns Ferry, senior linebacker Bradley Christensen and senior defensive end Wyatt Wootan will lead the



charge. Castagneto is set to play both ways – as is often the case in 8-man football – and will be an outside linebacker.

Funkhouser's team is young and he looks forward to seeing who else rises to the occasion.

"We are going to have to have some guys step up," he said.

Glenns Ferry opens its 2020 season on Friday, Aug. 28, with a non-conference road game at Lighthouse Christian.



PAT SUTPHIN, TIMES-NEWS

Glenns Ferry linebacker Kody Henslee takes down Valley wide receiver Brody Mussmann in 2019 at Valley High School in Hazelton.

## HANSEN HUSKIES

**Head coach:** Jim Rife, 4th year

**Record:** 2-6

**Playoffs:** none

The Huskies, under head coach Jim Rife, look to continue their steady climb upward. Gone are the days of having to combine with Murtaugh just to field a team; Hansen has more than 20 kids out for football this season.

While still young, Hansen does have one senior who will be the focal point on both sides of the ball; senior Jonathan Camarillo.

Camarillo is the Huskies' quarterback, but also plays linebacker and defensive end, depending on the formation. Sophomores Jason Orozco (running back), Elway Pickett (running back/receiver), and offensive lineman Aiden Egbert are also key components of the Hansen offense.

"Jonathan is my only senior and we only have three juniors," Rife said. "We are pretty young, but we have good speed this year."



In addition to Camarillo, junior defensive backs Tom Gibson and Jacob Pittman, plus lineman Ethan Leitchy, will be crucial as the Huskies cover the full-size field on defense.

"My big thing is consistency year in and year out," Rife said. "With this being our fourth year together, these kids have all played with me from the get-go. They understand what the program is and what we want to be."

The Huskies host rival Murtaugh on Friday, Aug 28 to start its year.



Hansen quarterback Jonathan Camarillo looks to throw during a game against Hagerman at Hagerman High School.

DREW NASH, TIMES-NEWS

## HAGERMAN PIRATES

**Head coach:** Dana Strong, 1st year

**Record:** 2-6

**Playoffs:** none

After five years as head coach of North Gem High School in Bancroft, Idaho, Dana Strong makes his way west to take the reins of the Hagerman Pirates.

Despite not being sure on who his starting quarterback will be, Strong returns running back Codey McCrorey, a big, bruising rusher who will anchor the offense.

"He is our top player both ways," Strong said. "He missed most of last year with an injury, but he's 6 foot 2, 230 pounds, and surprisingly quick."

Junior Rennick Moore and sophomore Cameron Zeitner are competing for the quarterback position, and if Zeitner wins out, Moore will see the field as a second running back.

Defensively, a trio of seniors lead the way for Hagerman in end McCrorey,



DREW NASH, TIMES-NEWS

Hansen quarterback Jonathan Camarillo is sacked by Hagerman's Codey McCrorey (23) and Kyle Turner (22) during a game at Hagerman High School.

who will play end, linebacker Ryan Nelson, and tackle Jesse Titone.

"These three anchored it last year and they will again this year," Strong said.

Hagerman opens its season at home against Horse-shoe Bend on Friday, Sept. 4.



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## KIMBERLY BULLDOGS

**Head coach:** Rich Bishop, 8th year

**Record:** 5-5

**Playoffs:** lost 64-29 to Fruitland in first round

The Bulldogs have only missed the 3A state playoffs once under head coach Rich Bishop – his first season in 2013. The Bulldogs are primed for another run in 2020 with a number of key returners on both sides of the ball.

On offense, junior quarterback Heath Owens is the linchpin.

“He has to be a leader and make good decisions for us,” Bishop said.

Senior receivers Brett Bronson and Quinn O’Donnell will stretch the field for the Bulldogs, while junior Race Widmier and senior Riley Mickelson look to replace four-time all-state running back McKade Huft.

“Coming off a broken hip last year as a sophomore, Race has worked hard in the off-season,” Bishop said. “He has great vision and runs hard.”

“Riley is a downhill runner and can be that guy to get



some of the tough yards.”

Senior Trace Mayo will move from defensive end to linebacker as the Bulldogs want to use his versatility to their benefit. Defensive ends Trevor Hammond and Cody Mendonca, linebacker/defensive back Trevor Christensen, and linebacker Calix Jones – all seniors – will lead the current version of what was a stingy Kimberly defense last season.

“Trevor and Cody bring length, athleticism, and strength,” Bishop said. “Both are about 6 foot 3 or 6 foot 4 and over 200 pounds, but move really well. We will hopefully be able to get pressure on the passer to help our pass defense.”

The Bulldogs host Snake River Friday, Aug. 28, to begin their season.

Kimberly senior Julian Perez, center, carries the school flag as he takes to the field with his team before the start of the game against Gooding in 2019.

PAT SUTPHIN, TIMES-NEWS



## LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN LIONS

**Head coach:** Cory Holloway, 7th year

**Record:** 11-0

**Playoffs:** won 1A DII state championship, 34-28 in OT over Carey

It will be a season of transition for the Lighthouse Lions in 2020. Not only did they lose a number of key players from their state championship squad last year, but the program is moving up a division to 1A DI to play in a tough Snake River Conference.

“We lost six starters to injuries in the last five games and still found a way to make it happen,” head coach Cory Holloway said. “Our motto last year was, ‘Next man up,’ and we will carry that into this year. Last year set us up. It will be harder, but we are prepared.”



On offense, Lighthouse will rely on senior quarterback Collin Holloway, senior running back Chance Gaskill, and junior receiver Clay Silva. Those three accounted for plenty of touchdowns one season ago.

“Having those three back is the foundation of things,” Cory Holloway said. “Everyone knows we’re trying to get the ball to Clay. It’s not a mystery. He can turn a 3-yard pass into a long

touchdown.”

Holloway is also excited about senior center Kevin Holliday, who didn’t play until starting the state semifinal and final last season, and didn’t flub a single snap.

On the defensive side of the ball, Gaskill at linebacker/defensive line will be the keystone for the Lions. Holloway at safety and Silva at cornerback will also play important roles. Senior defensive end Kaden Dejong returns after suffering a bad leg break early in the 2019 season.

“We lost so much on defense,” Holloway said. “But we have some key guys back and we will go from there.”

The Lions will host Glens Ferry Friday, Aug. 28, for a non-conference season opener.



DREW NASH PHOTOS, TIMES-NEWS

**LEFT:** Lighthouse Christian’s Steven Tanguy reacts after a tackle against Carey during their game 2019 game in Twin Falls. **RIGHT:** Tyler Munsee reels in a catch against Carey.



## OAKLEY HORNETS

**Head coach:** Brennan Jones, 2nd year

**Record:** 9-2

**Playoffs:** lost 50-22 to Prairie in semifinals

Oakley is set up for yet another winning season, and the Hornets have their eyes on a state championship after coming up short in the semifinals one year ago.

"I have a host of kids coming back," said head coach Brennan Jones. "We have 12 or 13 seniors coming back, guys who have played a lot of minutes.

"Winning is an expectation here and we don't expect to be anywhere short of where we were last year."

The Hornets will use a pair of quarterbacks in senior Jace Robinson and junior Payton Beck. Seniors Beto Bobadilla, Clay Douglas, and Jaren Yeck make up a formidable Oakley offensive line.

Now a senior, second team



all-state receiver Austin Cranney is back, as is junior tight end Corbin Bedke and senior running backs Robert Wybenga and Isaac Mitton.

On defense, many of the same names will line up to play. This includes linebackers Wybenga, a first team all-conference player, and Mitton, who racked up over 130 tackles in 2019. Junior Dace Stones will also play a key role for the Hornets at defensive back and linebacker.

Oakley begins its campaign Friday, Aug. 28, at Raft River.



Oakley wide receiver Jake Pulsipher runs the ball into the end zone during the 2019 8-man All State game at Canyon Ridge High School in Twin Falls.

**PAT SUTPHIN,**  
TIMES-NEWS

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## RAFT RIVER TROJANS

**Head coach:** Chad Evans, 3rd year

**Record:** 6-4

**Playoffs:** lost 60-26 to Prairie in quarterfinals

A significant senior presence has Raft River ready to maintain its status as a state title contender heading into the 2020 season.

Back is all-state offensive lineman Ryan Spaeth, all-state running back Ethan Bernad, quarterback Bodee Spencer, and receiver Jed Boden.

"We have to replace our other guard and our center, but Spaeth is a great anchor," said head coach Chad Evans. "Ethan is lights-out fast."

Adam Boden will get time at running back as well, and junior receiver/tight end Seth Tracy is expected to play a big role on offense.



On the other side of the ball, Spaeth returns following a second team all-state season on the defensive line. Adam Boden will play linebacker, and senior Kagen Knudsen will play defensive back.

"We have some other kids who are going to step up and get some good playing time," Evans said.

The Trojans' season opener is a home non-conference game against Oakley. It is scheduled for Friday, Aug. 28.



DREW NASH, TIMES-NEWS

**ABOVE:** Raft River's Justin Schumann runs the ball against Valley during their 2019 game at Valley High School in Hazelton.

**LEFT:** Raft River's Ethan Bernard is swarmed by Valley defenders during a game in 2019 at Valley High School in Hazelton.

# GO TROJANS!



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## MURTAUGH RED DEVILS

**Head coach:** Todd Jensen, 4th year

**Record:** 5-5

**Playoffs:** lost 52-14 to Carey in quarterfinals

Murtaugh makes the jump from 1A DI to 1A DII for the 2020 season, and the Red Devils are looking to qualify for the state playoffs for the fourth year in a row.

“We’ve made it a little further in the playoffs in the last three years,” said head coach Todd Jensen. “We are looking to continue to build on that.”

Defensively, senior Zac Gunnell, a three-year starter on the defensive line, is back to



anchor Murtaugh’s efforts. “We expect big things from him,” Jensen said.

Senior safety Ty Stanger, junior lineman, and senior Swiss Army Knife Wes Stanger also return for the Red Devils.

On the other side of the ball, Gunnell will play center while Martinez will line up as a guard. Quarterback Ty Stanger has receiver Wes Stanger as a weapon on the outside.

Murtaugh renews its rivalry with Hansen for its season opener on Friday, Aug. 28. This game will be at Hansen.

## RICHFIELD TIGERS

**Head coach:** Buck Hendren, 15th year

**Record:** 2-5

**Playoffs:** none

The last two seasons have seen Richfield play almost exclusively a JV schedule as a lower number of upperclassmen meant the Tigers weren’t quite ready for varsity ball. In 2020, however, the only move is up.

“We are back in the conference this time,” said head coach Buck Hendren. “We have about 11 kids and I didn’t lose anybody from last year’s young group. We have a



very familiar team and I felt it would be good to take the next step.”

Defensively, sophomores Carsn Perks at linebacker and Hudson Lucero at end are the key players that will lead Richfield.

“Both got a ton of experience last year,”

Hendren said.

On offense, Perks will play quarterback and Lucero running back.

Richfield will open the season hosting Shoshone on Friday, Aug 28.

## IDAHO HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

5A Championship	4A Championship	3A Championship	2A Championship	1A Championship - 11 Man	1A Div. I 8-Man
1979 Borah De Pankratz	1984 Nampa Rocky Patchin	1978 Buhl Greg Smith	1977 Homedale Daryl Kellum	1981 Nampa Christian Chuck Russell	2004 Raft River Randy Spaeth
1980 Boise Jim Carberry	1985 Skyline Mahlon Rasmuson	1979 Vallivue Bill Young	1978 Kamiah Greg Drake	1982 Murtaugh Jim Anderson	2005 Genesee Jason Hanson
1981 Borah De Pankratz	1986 Skyline Dale Guilford	1980 Madison Preston Haley	1979 Lapwai Jeff Wilson	1983 Mullan John Drager	2006 Council Dan Shumway
1982 Coeur d'Alene Herb Criner	1987 Idaho Falls Ken Sampson	1981 Moscow Eric Bjorkman	1980 West Side Craig Gladwell	1984 Mullan John Drager	2007 Oakley Nick Greenwell
1983 Capital Tom Swindell	1988 Idaho Falls Ken Sampson	1982 Madison Preston Haley	1981 Homedale Daryl Kellum	1985 Oakley Don Tompkins	2008 Prairie Travis Mader
1984 Highland Dirk Koetter	1989 Skyline Dale Guilford	1983 Madison Preston Haley	1982 Homedale Jim McMillan	1986 Raft River Tom Harrison	2009 Oakley Tim Behunin
1985 Coeur d'Alene Jim Clements	1990 Idaho Falls Ken Sampson	1984 Madison Preston Haley	1983 West Side Craig Butters	1987 Mackay Jack McKelvey	2010 Troy Rob Bafus
1986 Meridian Bob O'Mera	1991 Idaho Falls Ken Sampson	1985 Jerome Jon Jund	1984 Gooding Bob Milligan	1988 Wilder Ferris Lynn	2011 Hagerman Ron Echols
1987 Highland Randy Rehner	1992 Skyline Dale Guilford	1986 Jerome Joe Mattie	1985 Gooding Bob Milligan	1989 Hagerman Randy Clark	2012 Kamiah Ryan Ball
1988 Centennial Greg Drake	1993 Lewiston Nick Menegas	1987 Weiser John Srholec	1986 Homedale Jim McMillan	1990 Hagerman Randy Clark	2013 Hagerman Mark Kress
1989 Pocatello Jim Koetter	1994 Madison Mitch Buck	1988 Lakeland Terry Kiefer	1987 Homedale Jim McMillan	1991 Melba Dick Davis	2014 Prairie Ryan Hasselstrom
1990 Pocatello Jim Koetter	1995 Madison Mitch Buck	1989 Lakeland Terry Kiefer	1988 Firth Mitch Buck	1992 Rimrock Bob Murray	2015 Valley Brian Ayers
1991 Capital Steve Vogel	1996 Lewiston Nick Minegas	1990 Snake River Tom Harrison	1989 North Fremont Wally Siwachok	1993 Rimrock Bob Murray	2016 Raft River Brian Poole
1992 Pocatello Jim Koetter	1997 Sandpoint Satini Puailoa	1991 Kuna Gerry Nutt	1990 Valley Rod Malone	1994 Murtaugh Jim Hamblin	2017 Prairie Ryan Hasselstrom
1993 Highland Randy Rehner	1998 Eagle Mike Glenn	1992 Moscow Eric Bjorkman	1991 Homedale Jim McMillan	1995 Raft River Art Roper	2018 Valley Ryon Jarvis
1994 Pocatello Brent Koetter	1999 Vallivue Nate Borchert	1993 Preston Marv Majerus	1992 Homedale Jim McMillan	1996 Mackay Jack McKelvey	
1995 Highland Brent Koetter	2000 Century Layne Coffin	1994 Bishop Kelly Tim Brennan	1993 Fruitland Mel Person	1997 Mackay Jack McKelvey	<b>1A Div. II 8-Man</b>
1996 Centennial Lee Neumann	2001 Century Layne Coffin	1995 Snake River Tom Harrison	1994 Glens Ferry Bill Brock	1998 Mackay Jack McKelvey	2004 Horseshoe Bend Chris Chesnut
1997 Highland Brent Koetter	2002 Lake City Van Troxel	1996 Snake River Tom Harrison	1995 Glens Ferry Bill Brock	1999 Mackay Jack McKelvey	2005 Mackay Jack McKelvey
1998 Highland Brent Koetter	2003 Century John Raukar	1997 Weiser Jeff Murphy	1996 Parma Bruce Schlaich	2000 Mackay Jack McKelvey	2006 Carey Lane Kirkland
1999 Centennial Lee Neumann	2004 Bishop Kelly Tim Brennan	1998 Snake River Tom Harrison	1997 Homedale Stan Hoaglund	2001 Mackay Jack McKelvey	2007 Salmon River Brad Neuendorf
2000 Highland Brent Koetter	2005 Bishop Kelly Tim Brennan	1999 Snake River Tom Harrison	1998 Firth Cory Hollingsworth	2002 Raft River Randy Spaeth	2008 Carey Lane Kirkland
2001 Eagle Mike Glenn	2006 Pocatello Tom Harrison	2000 Snake River Tom Harrison	1999 Teton Dwight Richins	Not sponsored after 2002	2009 Salmon River Charlie Shepherd
2002 Highland Gino Mariani	2007 Blackfoot Stan Buck	2001 Snake River Tom Harrison	2000 Kamiah Tony Snyder	<b>1A Championship - 8 Man</b>	2010 Carey Lane Kirkland
2003 Centennial Lee Neumann	2008 Hillcrest Darin Owens	2002 Snake River Tom Harrison	2001 Kamiah Tony Snyder	1984 Council Larry Russell	2011 Lighthouse Christian John Van Vliet
2004 Twin Falls Tobe Smith	2009 Blackfoot Stan Buck	2003 Shelley Dwight Richins	2002 Melba Rod Herman	1985 Council Larry Russell	2012 Salmon River Charlie Shepherd
2005 Meridian Mike Virden	2010 Bishop Kelly Lee Leslie	2004 Marsh Valley Jason Taylor	2003 Wendell Jerry Diehl	1986 Richfield Rudy Miles	2013 Salmon River Charlie Shepherd
2006 Lake City Van Troxel	2011 Blackfoot Stan Buck	2005 Shelley Dwight Richins	2004 West Side Lyle Henderson	1987 Garden Valley Sam Nelson	2014 Lighthouse Christian Cory Holloway
2007 Meridian Kip Crofts	2012 Blackfoot Stan Buck	2006 Fruitland Bruce Schlaich	2005 Firth Bill Vassas	1988 North Gem Frank Bunce	2015 Salmon River Charlie Shepherd
2008 Highland Gino Mariani	2013 Bishop Kelly Tim Brennan	2007 Shelley Dwight Richins	2006 Firth Bill Vassas	1989 Garden Valley Sam Nelson	2016 Salmon River Charlie Shepherd
2009 Eagle Paul Peterson	2014 Bishop Kelly Tim Brennan	2008 Salmon Ken Miner	2007 West Jefferson Tobee Christiansen	1990 Garden Valley Sam Nelson	2017 Carey Lane Kirkland
2010 Coeur d'Alene Shawn Amos	2015 Bishop Kelly Tim Brennan	2009 Shelley Dwight Richins	2008 Parma Greg Asbury	1991 Kendrick Ken Swanger	2018 Carey Lane Kirkland
2011 Coeur d'Alene Shawn Amos	2016 Skyline Scott Berger	2010 Fruitland Bruce Schlaich	2009 Parma Greg Asbury	1992 Council Larry Russell	
2012 Madison Mitch Buck	2017 Skyline Scott Berger	2011 Snake River Jeff Dalley	2010 West Side Tyson Moser	1993 Deary Darrah Eggers	
2013 Coeur d'Alene Shawn Amos	2018 Hillcrest Kevin Meyer	2012 Shelley Travis Hobson	2011 Grangeville Jeff Lindsley	1994 Carey Heber Kirkland	
2014 Highland Gino Mariani		2013 Shelley Travis Hobson	2012 Declo Kelly Kidd	1995 Deary Darrah Eggers	
2015 Rocky Mountain Scott Criner		2014 Snake River Jeff Dalley	2013 Declo Kelly Kidd	1996 North Gem Date Yost	
2016 Mountain View Judd Benedick		2015 Emmett Mike Schroeder	2014 West Side Tyson Moser	1997 Deary Darrah Eggers	
2017 Highland Gino Mariani		2016 Fruitland Ryan Tracy	2015 Grangeville Jeff Lindsley	1998 Carey Heber Kirkland	
2018 Rocky Mountain Chris Culig		2017 Fruitland Ryan Tracy	2016 St. Maries Craig Tefft	1999 Salmon River Scott Robinson	
		2018 Sugar-Salem Tyler Richins	2017 Declo Kelly Kidd	2000 Kendrick Kevin Driskill	
			2018 Delco Kelly Kidd	2001 Kendrick Kevin Driskill	
				2002 Castleford Shawn Scow	
				2003 Cascade Pal Sartori	

## SHOSHONE INDIANS

**Head coach:** Michael Perry, 8th year

**Record:** 3-3

**Playoffs:** none

Shoshone is set to play a combination varsity/ JV schedule for the third consecutive season. With 15

kids out for the football team this year, it's simply a numbers game.

The Indians will field a varsity team against Richfield, Castleford, Glenns Ferry, and Rockland. The rest of its schedule will be against JV competition.



Senior Alex Rasmussen and junior Carlos Leros will anchor both the offensive and defensive lines. Senior Colby Verneou at quarterback and junior Austin Stoll at quarterback are two more key contributors.

"We are expecting big things from

those four," head coach Michael Perry said.

The Indians begins their 2020 football season with a road game against the Richfield Tigers on Friday, Aug. 28.

## VALLEY VIKINGS

**Head coach:** Ryon Jarvis, 5th year

**Record:** 4-5

**Playoffs:** none

Valley is making the transition back to 11-man football and will rejoin the 2A Canyon Conference after spending six seasons in 1A DI. Head coach Ryon Jarvis says the change hasn't been difficult on his players.

"That part is good. It is going pretty smooth," he said. "Most of our moves and concepts are the same. That transition has not been very hard."

Offensively, the Vikings return three key senior skill players in quarterback Rawlin Godfrey, receiver Tony Ruiz, and receiver Brody Mussmann.

"We will be a spread formation team and we will be pretty balanced," Jarvis said. "Mussmann is our possession receiver, but we will take some shots down the field when the opportunity presents itself."

Jarvis says his athletes will be playing on both sides of the ball, something they are used to as it is common in 8-man football. He declined to mention specific players, but he is expecting a solid team effort.

"I hope we can be a gap-control, forceful defense," he said.

The Vikings travel to Marsing on Friday, Aug. 28, to open their year.



The Valley Vikings huddle up during a timeout in the game against Glenns Ferry at Valley High School in Hazelton.

## WENDELL TROJANS

**Head coach:** Michael Konrad, 2nd year

**Record:** 1-6

**Playoffs:** none

The back end of Wendell's defense will be formidable this season, led by a trio of linebackers and a safety with plenty of game time between them. Senior linebackers Remington Winmill and Tegan Dunn and junior Jared Hess, plus senior free safety Joey Ward, lead the way for the Trojans.

"They all played together last year, and they have a lot of experience," said head coach Michael Konrad. "Joey has stepped up all summer and has kept a positive attitude. He will direct things from the back."

Junior defensive end Aden Bunn returns to anchor the trenches as well.

On offense, Ward is slated

to play quarterback while Bunn will be a weapon at slot receiver. Wendell boasts a trio of talented outside receivers in senior Isaac Slade and juniors Bode French and Matthew Dahl.

"We are still working on creating an identity," Konrad said. "It's still a really big goal for me. We have to figure out who we are."

Wendell kicks things off by hosting Nampa Christian on Friday, Aug. 28.



PAT SUTPHIN, TIMES-NEWS

Members of the Wendell Cheer Team perform during the 2018 State Cheer Championships at the Ford Idaho Center in Nampa.

# Good Luck, Trojans!

Wishing all of our local athletes a successful year in the field and in the classroom.



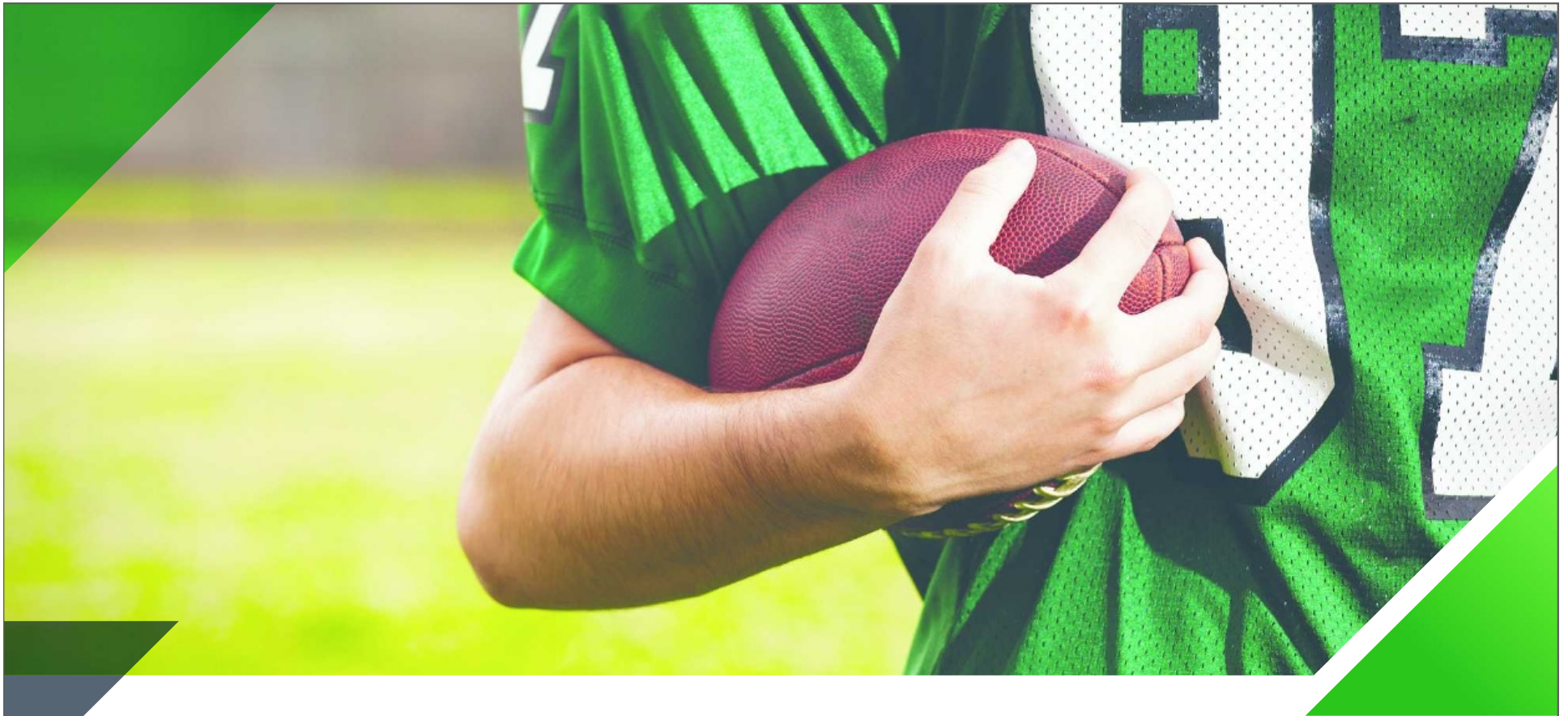
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