



EDITOR'S COLUMN
Jeffrey L. Place

BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW ...

With the demise of the Pac-12 Conference, it left a few schools and several athletes in limbo.

Founded in 1915 as the Pacific Coast Conference, they are known as the "Conference of Champions," because they have won more NCAA championships than any other conference.

The top three schools with the most championships are in the Pac 12: Stanford, UCLA and USC. Washington's title in women's rowing in 2017 was the 500th NCAA championship won by a member school.

With the new conference alignments and several schools leaving, the Pac-12 demise ushers in a new look for college athletics. Where it will end is anyone's guess.

• Did You Know that if hockey's **Wayne Gretzky** never scored a single goal, he would still be the NHL's all-time points leader with his assists alone which is a whopping 1963?

• Did You Know there are only 18 minutes of action in a Major League Baseball game?

• Did You Know that **golf** was banned in England in 1457 because it was considered a distraction from the serious pursuit of archery?

• Did You Know that NFL officials also receive **Super Bowl** rings?

Gearing Up for Change

Toppenish, Prosser Have New Athletic Directors

As we spin one more time around the rock (or ball of flames) known as the Sun, there are some interesting changes happening around the region.

Besides the collapse of the Pac-12, perhaps the biggest news will be how high school classifications wind up in early December. (See box at right.)

They will now be using Direct Certification rather than Free/Reduced lunches to place schools in classifications.

It is unclear how this will affect schools, but the number is much lower (35%) rather than (47%) under the previous method.

This could help the CWAC possibly grow as rumors that Toppenish, perhaps even Connell or Wahluke could move up. It may also help Othello, the biggest school stay at the 2A level.

However it plays out, the 1A and B schools could face a daunting task under the new enrollment cycle.

With the previous announcement that Region 5 and 6 would combine, travel would be a major issue in the post-season.

A school like Zillah could have to travel as far north as Omak or Chelan in the post-season. Or, a 2B school like River View (Finley), could travel to Okanogan.

With schools having

transportation issues and the higher cost of fuel, this doesn't make a lot of sense.

• Long time Toppenish A. D. (21 yrs), **Brett Stauffer** has retired and has been replaced by **Daniel Sanchez**.

Stauffer hopes to stay involved though but at a different level. He is running for a school board position and it looks good.

Sanchez is a graduate of Top-Hi and has coached and taught at the district for years.

• **Prosser** has hired Sunnyside Christian graduate, **Jackson Haak** as their new full-time A.D.

Haak replaces Kasey Blair, who filled the role last year after Kevin Lusk was let go.

Haak was previously the A.D. at Wahluke.

SSC, a long-time private B school now has two former graduates in the athletic director positions in the Yakima Valley. (**Lance Den Boer** is at Zillah.)

• **Kyler Bachofner**, who led the Lady Mustang basketball team to back-to-back 3rd place finishes at state, has accepted the same position at 4A Lake Stevens.

Surprisingly let go by the school district this past spring, he is excited to be moving near his parents but is still heart-broken by the district's decision to let

The WIAA is releasing mid-count numbers for the first time, with final classifications to be announced in December.

They are using "Direct Certification" rather than "Free/Reduced" lunches to adjust school enrollment numbers.

According to Andy Barnes of the WIAA during the Two-Minute Drill podcast, they feel it is more reliable than the previous process.

The committee feels the free/reduced data is not as reliable as other verified services data collected by OSPI (The Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction) like direct certification does.

Applied using the same method as free/reduced, the state-wide average of the new process is 35%, whereas the old process was 47%. The same range of above 40% was used to adjust the school's enrollment numbers.

Schools will be allowed to appeal to the WIAA Executive Board if they feel there are unique and significant impacts to their school enrollment numbers.

him go.

Assistant Jessica Huntington (East Valley grad) and Prosser grad, Kason Blair are rumored to be interested in the job.

Huntington led the team to a second place finish, (losing to Kennewick) at the prestigious Wapato hoop tourney at the end of July.

• Also, **Selah** has parted ways with **Tim Garza** as the boys basketball coach. Former Medical Lake coach, **Jordan Starr** (2009 Davis grad) will replace him. ♦

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