

# 2021-22 Male Prep Player of the Year

## Jason Grant • Toppenish Wildcats



(George Garcia photo)

Grant is headed to Eastern Oregon to Play Football

**T**HERE HAVE BEEN many stories of athletes who are rumored to be the next ‘great’ athlete. Very few live up to the hype.

But not 6-foot-2, 205 pound, Jason Grant of Toppenish.

His older brother, Chris Grant, was one of the best athletes in the CWAC and turned heads in everything he did.

An outstanding left-footed punter and all-around athlete, people shook their heads when told that his younger brother would be better.

Chris a 2019 Toppenish graduate was a two-time all-CWAC selection at three positions. Hard to top that, right?

Well, the rumor was true.

Jason just completed a stellar high school career in which he helped lead two teams, football and basketball, to the state playoffs.

In football, the Wildcats, now competing in the 1A SCAC, went 10-0 during the regular season, and beat Mt. Baker 26-22 in the playoffs for their first playoff win in 31 years.

Although they lost to eventual state champion, Royal, the unstoppable force for coach Jason Smith’s team was Grant, who led them to 16 straight wins before losing to the Knights.

He had 1,612 all-purpose yards, scoring 23 touchdowns and averaging 31 yards per return on special teams.

The SCAC Offensive Player of the Year, he also had 42 receptions for 1,017 yards (24.2

avg.) and carried the ball 36 times for 165 yards.

Defensively, Grant was also incredible with 7 interceptions. That gave him a total of 18 in the Covid-shortened spring season and this fall.

To top it off, he was the SCAC Defensive Player of the Year last spring.

This June, Grant strapped up the pads for one last high school fling at the Earl Barden Classic in Yakima.

The all-state football game for 2A/1A/B players, Grant did well.

Showing no hard feelings and recognizing talent, Royal coach Wiley Allred, when asked what he planned to do with Grant replied, “We plan to use him all over.”

That, he did.

Grant intercepted a pass early in the game, made several tackles as a free safety and key receptions and blocking as a tight end.

In basketball, Grant was one of several excellent players for coach JoJo Mesplie’s team.

But, to be honest, it didn’t take more than a few second to recognize the man-child, Grant.

He could dominate in several ways as Toppenish made it to the 1A state tournament in the Yakima SunDome. They finished fifth with impressive wins over Freeman and Zillah before losing to King’s and Life Christian.

Headed to Eastern Oregon to play football, Jason Grant set a standard that will be remembered for years and that’s why he is our 2021-22 Male Prep Player of the Year.

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