Ione/Arlington places 4 on SD1 all-league team

By ANNIE FOWLER

IONE — In a league that features five of the top-10 ranked 1A 6-man football teams, Ione/Arlington made its presence known with four players earning Special District 1 honors from the league coaches.

Junior Colt Gronquist was a second-team pick as a nose guard, and an honorable mention quarterback. Senior running back Carter Eynetich was an honorable mention selection, while senior Ryder Steward was an honorable mention pick as a running back and linebacker, and junior Kyan Webb was an honorable mention linebacker.

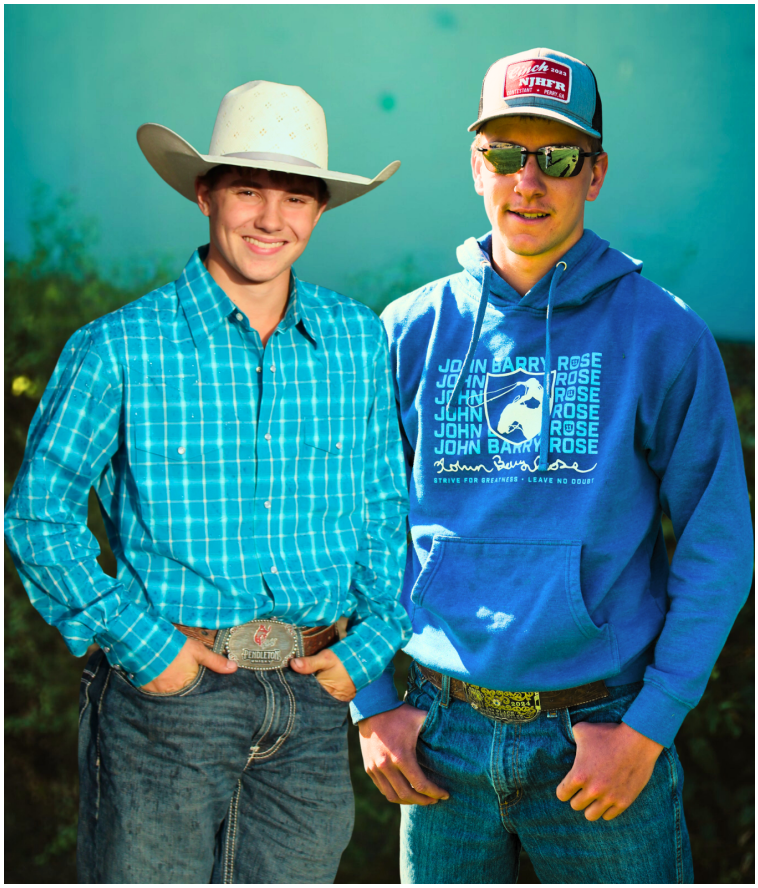


Photo courtesy of Arlington High School
Ione/Arlington's Ryder Steward (left) and Colt Gronquist earned Special District 1 football honors.

The Cardinals finished 2-7 in league play with wins over Wallowa and Huntington. They lose just three players to graduation — Steward, Eynetich and Koby Baker.

Harper's Madoxx Martinez was named the offensive player of the year, while teammate Richard Joyce was the defensive player of the year. Sherman's Paul Bish was named coach of the year by his peers.

Gronquist played every defensive position for the Cardinals throughout the season, finishing with a team-high 62 tackles.

Throwing is not a big part of a 6-man team's offense, but Gronquist was able to keep defenses honest, completing 21 of 30 passes for 474 yards and four touchdowns. He also had two interceptions.



Photo courtesy of Dawn Eynetich
Ione/Arlington's Carter Eynetich (left) and Kyan Webb earned Special District 1 football honors.

"Colt has turned into our leader on and off the football field," Ione/Arlington coach JJ Rosenberg said. "He knows the offense very well and proved he can also throw as the year went on. We passed primarily toward the end of the year. Colt brings a lot of grit and toughness to the team and is a great leader."

Steward was a late addition to the team this season, but made an impact despite it being his first year playing football. He was second on the team in tackles with 54.

"Ryder was another athlete who brought a lot of grit and toughness to the team," Rosenberg said. "He started late for us, but once he picked up the offense and figured out his assignment on defense, he played really well."

Webb was another newcomer to the team, but it didn't take long for him to find his groove.

"He was a great addition to the team this year as a player and a teammate," Rosenberg said. "He was third on the team in tackles, and he also had three forced fumbles, one he returned for a touchdown. He plays fast and has a nose for the football."

Eynetich was looking forward to his senior season, but a broken ankle and torn ligaments shortened his season to four games. In the games he did play, he made an impact. He ran for 162 yards against Wallowa and 110 against Sherman.
“Carter has been the heart and leader of the team,” Roseberg said. “He could have had a big year, but it was cut short because of the fracture and torn ligaments in his ankle. He still earned honorable mention because he was such a force in the games he played before the injury. Even with a torn up ankle, he still played the last game of the year, which is a testament to his toughness. He will be missed next year.”

1A 6-man Special District 1
Offensive player of the year — Madoxx Martinez, jr., Harper
Defensive player of the year — Richard Joyce, jr., Harper
Coach of the year — Paul Bish, Sherman

Offense
First team
Quarterback — Ross Eiguren, jr., Jordan Valley. Receiver — Kooper Grover, so., Joseph; Colt Bentz, sr., Harper; Cael Bish, so., Sherman. Running back — Madoxx Martinez, jr., Harper; Preston Fretwell, sr., Dayville/Monument. Center — Ace Christiansen, sr., Harper; Gavin Conlee, sr., Wheeler County. Offensive line — James Carlin, sr., Dayville/Monument. Kicker — Guillermo Olmedo, jr., Wheeler County.
Second team
Quarterback — Richard Joyce, jr., Harper; Gage Simpson, jr., Sherman. Receiver — Tyler Thompson, sr., Dayville/Monument; Kade Spelman, sr., Harper. Running back — Caiden Walker, sr., Sherman; George Barnett, sr., South Wasco County; Arram, Ford, sr., Wheeler County. Center — Caleb Taggart, so., Joseph. Offensive line — Lincoln Delco, so., South Wasco County. Kicker — Heitor Pegorari, sr., Huntington.
Honorable mention
Quarterback — Josh Thomas, jr., Dayville/Monument; Colt Gronquist, jr., Ione/Arlington; Waylon Witherrite, so., Joseph; Sawyer Brown, so., South Wasco County. Receiver — Alex Williams, jr., Jordan Valley;

Lane Jewett, sr., Jordan Valley; Isaac Beachy, sr., Joseph; Rhyder Smith, jr., Sherman. Running back — Logan Pine, sr., Wheeler County; Brydon Whitsitt, sr., Dayville/Monument; Ryder Steward, sr., Ione/Arlington; Carter Eynetich, sr., Ione/Arlington; Jonah Lyman, sr., Joseph. Center — Payton Whitmore, sr., Dayville/Monument; Riley Winkler, so., Huntington; Luke Blackledge, sr., Jordan Valley. Kicker — Scotty Osorio, sr., Harper; Alex Williams, jr., Jordan Valley.

Defense

First team

Defensive end — Colt Bentz, sr., Harper; Tyler Thompson, sr., Dayville/Monument. Nose guard — Rhyder Smith, jr., Sherman. Defensive back — Richard Joyce, jr., Harper; Josh Thomas, jr., Dayville/Monument. Linebacker — Ace Christiansen, sr., Harper; Kooper Grover, so., Joseph; George Barnett, sr., South Wasco County. Punter — Guillermo Olmedo, jr., Wheeler County.

Second team

Defensive end — Hoss Johnson, sr., Harper; Lane Jewett, sr., Jordan Valley; Isaac Beachy, sr., Joseph; Aidan McNeill, jr., Wheeler County. Nose guard — Colt Gronquist, jr., Ione/Arlington. Defensive back — Sam Jensen, sr., Harper; Jayden Skinner, jr., Jordan Valley; Gage Simpson, jr., Sherman. Linebacker — Preston Fretwell, sr., Dayville/Monument; Caiden Walker, sr., Sherman; Arram Ford, sr., Wheeler County.

Honorable mention

Defensive end — Luke Blackledge, sr., Jordan Valley; Jenning Scheifelbein, sr., Joseph; Lincoln Delco, so., South Wasco County; Jayden Castillo-Velez, sr., Wheeler County. Nose guard — Bobby Nichols, sr., Joseph. Defensive back — AJ Phillips, jr., Dayville/Monument; Ike Walker, sr., Harper; Jonah Lyman, sr., Joseph; Cristian Rubio, fr., Sherman; Joel Fischer, so., Wheeler County. Linebacker — Tristan Casiano, sr., Harper; Logan Pine, sr., Wheeler County; Ryder Steward, sr., Ione/Arlington; Kyan Webb, jr., Ione/Arlington; Thales Eiguren, so., Jordan Valley; Ross Eiguren, jr., Jordan Valley; Caleb Taggart, so., Joseph; Alex Williams, jr, Jordan Valley; Lehel Kulcsar, jr., Huntington.