

# 1980 Big Nine Conference Football Schedule

	Sept. 12	Sept. 19	Sept. 26	Oct. 3	Oct. 10	Oct. 17	Oct. 24	Oct. 31	Nov. 7
KENNEWICK	at Hoquiam	Richland	at Wenatchee	Eisenhower	at Walla Walla	Kamiakin	at Moses Lake	Davis	at Pasco Nov. 8
KAMIAKIN	at Walla Walla	Lewis & Clark Sept. 20	Moses Lake	at Davis	Pasco	at Kennewick	at Wenatchee	Richland	Eisenhower
PASCO	at Richland	Wenatchee	at Eisenhower	Walla Walla	at Kamiakin	Moses Lake	at Davis	Newport	Kennewick Nov. 8
RICHLAND	Pasco	at Kennewick	Columbia River	Wenatchee	at Eisenhower	Walla Walla	at Kamiakin	Moses Lake	at Davis
EISENHOWER	Moses Lake	at Davis	Pasco	at Kennewick	Richland	at Wenatchee	at Redmond, Ore.	Walla Walla	at Kamiakin
DAVIS	at Wenatchee	Eisenhower	at Walla Walla	Kamiakin	at Moses Lake	Sammamish	Pasco	at Kennewick	Richland
MOSES LAKE	at Eisenhower	Walla Walla	at Kamiakin	North Central	Davis	at Pasco	Kennewick	at Richland	Wenatchee
WENATCHEE	Davis	at Pasco	Kennewick	at Richland	at Bellevue	Eisenhower	at Walla Walla	Kamiakin	at Moses Lake
WALLA WALLA	Kamiakin	at Moses Lake	Davis	at Pasco	Kennewick	at Richland	Wenatchee	at Eisenhower	at Shadle Park

Ex-Big Sky coaches return to prep ranks

## Carlson, Hake join Big Nine

Two new coaches from the college ranks — the Big Sky, to be more specific — will be featured in the Big Nine Conference this fall. But Pasco's Gene Carlson and Moses Lake's Leo "Bud" Hake don't figure to make any major waves in 1980.

Instead, Big Nine football fans will probably be treated to another three-way race between conference heavyweights Richland, Kennewick and Wenatchee.

But the addition of Carlson and Hake will undoubtedly upgrade a couple of floundering grid programs and thus improve the quality of the already strong Big Nine.

Carlson and Hake left Montana and Idaho State, respectively at the end of last season after disappointing tenures in college football. But both men were highly successful in the high school ranks.

Kennewick's Ed Troxel and Wenatchee's Lee Bofto also give the Big Nine additional Big Sky flavor. Troxel was the head coach at Idaho before taking the job at Kennewick two years ago and Bofto played his college ball at Montana.

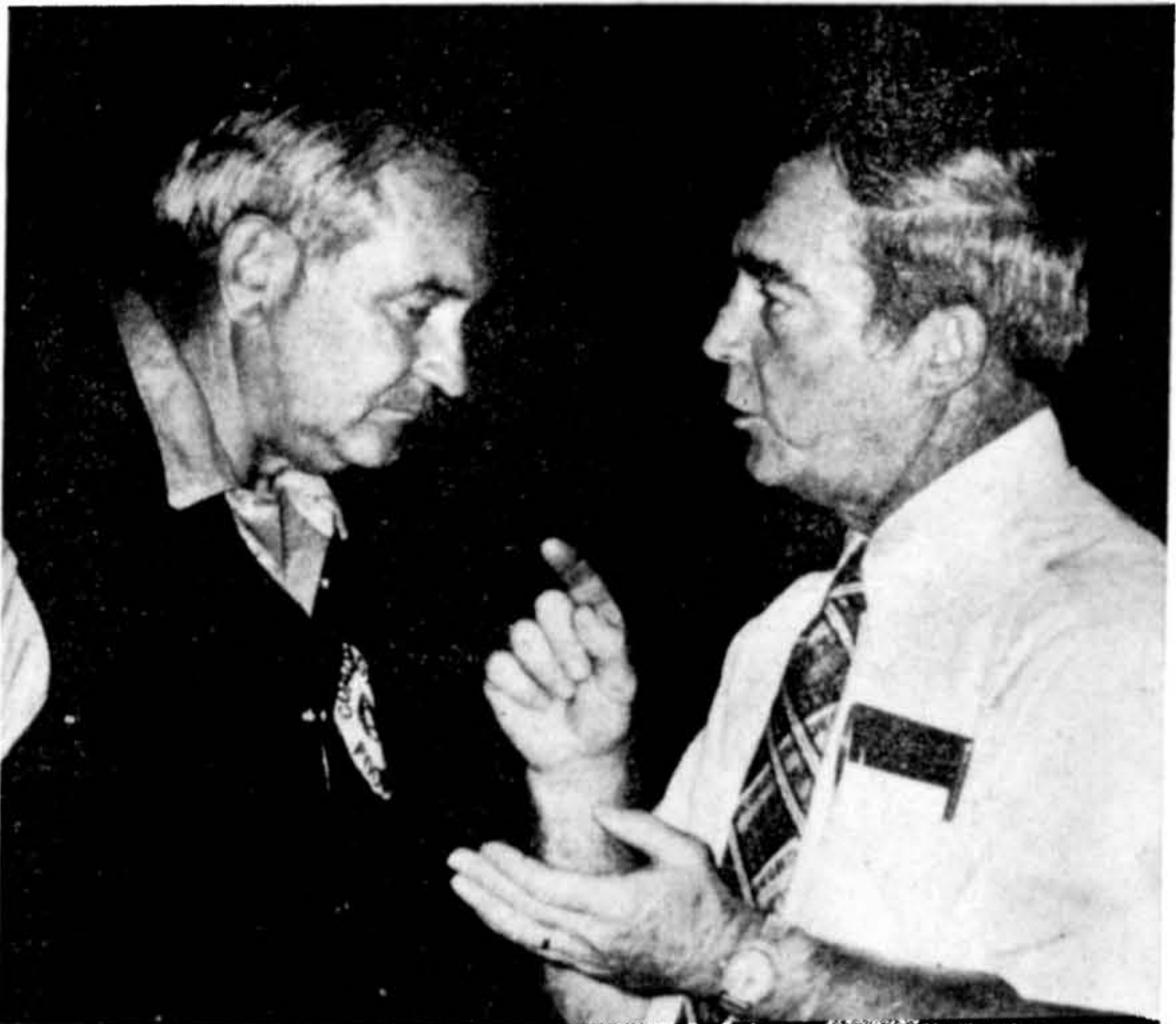
Carlson and Hake have their work cut out for them. Moses Lake finished in the league cellar with an 0-9 mark while Pasco was the penultimate team with a 2-7 record.

Both are highly regarded by their fellow mentors. "The two new coaches will make this league tougher than it is already," Bofto stated. "Both men are outstanding coaches."

"I coached against Gene in college and I know he's a great coach," Troxel said of his Pasco counterpart. "And I know Bud will do a fine job at Moses Lake. They can't help but improve the league's quality of football."

Still, it should be the Big Three of the Big Nine, with Kamiakin as a dark horse, fighting for the conference championship.

A poll of the league's coaches gives a slight edge to the Bombers of J.D. Covington. "Richland will be very strong again," Troxel said.



Kennewick's Ed Troxel, left, and Richland's J.D. Covington, two of the top coaches in the area, got together prior to their teams' game last season. Troxel, a former coach at the University of Idaho, will be joined by two more ex-Big Sky head coaches this year in the Big Nine. Gene Carlson, from Montana, is the new coach at Pasco while Bud Hake, from Idaho State, will assume the reins at Moses Lake.

xel said. "They should be the team to beat."

"The tradition that J.D. has established makes Richland very tough," said Kamiakin's Dan Purple. "Plus, J.D. has a lot of kids to choose from."

"I see Richland head and shoulders over the league this year," Bofto said. "Look at their JV and sophomore programs and you'll understand."

Walla Walla, always tough on its home field, should also be a formidable foe for the Big Nine clubs. "I think Walla Walla and Pasco can't be taken lightly," Bofto added.

The Lions' Troxel has guided his charges to the state playoffs during his two years at Kennewick. Several key players return- ing for the 1980 season.

should make Kennewick strong. "Ed is an outstanding coach," Covington said. "He's got several of his kids back and I'm sure they'll be executing their plays a lot more smoothly than us when we meet."

The Lions and Bombers meet in Kennewick for a key game the second week of the season.

"I think Richland and Wenatchee probably will be the top two teams and Ike and Pasco could be tough," said Davis Coach Tom O'Brien. "It's hard to pick the top team, though, because it's going to be a very tough league."

Here is a team-by-team sketch of the Big Nine schools outside of the Tri-Cities.

WENATCHEE — Bofto is the

"I don't know if we can actually be competitive in each league game, but that's our goal in developing the basic steps," said Hake. "Another goal this year is that we try and develop some pride and make the kids believe and sell what we're doing."

Moses Lake opens its season Friday, traveling to Eisenhower and then faces Walla Walla at home the following week. According to Hake, to get this season off to a good start the Chiefs will have to win a game early to build some momentum.

EISENHOWER — The Cadets will feature a strong offensive line and a rebuilt defensive unit.

"Our strengths, and weaknesses should be pretty obvious," said Coach Art Ellis, who is entering his 10th year at the Cadet helm. "We're going to be pretty thin, lack depth and we won't have a lot of speed."

"We return five on offense and five on defense with good size and strength on the offensive line."

"We have to rebuild our line-backing crew where we lost everyone and that's primarily heart of a defense," added Ellis. "Jim McCormick a senior should be our leader and stabilizer on offense."

McCormick, Ike's leading rusher last season, will start at fullback for the Cadets.

Jay Johnson a 6-4, 215 senior tackle along with Don Bush a 6-6, 225 senior, will anchor what Ellis hopes to be a strong offense.

John Hearron a 6-3, 190 senior end, will be on the defensive line. "I just hope we can compete and not get our heads chopped off this year," said Ellis jokingly.

"We don't really have a Kent Kafentzis (Richland) or a Neil Palmer (Kennewick) and if you notice that's what the top teams always have."

"McCormick is our top player, but it's easy for a good team to key on him," added Ellis.

DAVIS — There are a number of questions that must be answered before O'Brien can even speculate on how his Pirates will do this season.

Although Davis returns nine starters off last year's 3-5 team, O'Brien says how his squad will do depends on how practices pan out and who steps in as the top quarterback.

Vying for the quarterback spot is O'Brien's son, Tom, and Jim Dunn. O'Brien has the better arm, but Dunn is noted for his ability to run the option.

"We lost a talented quarterback in David Trimble," said O'Brien, "and it's going to be awfully tough to fill his shoes."

Trimble, who passed up a college football scholarship from the University of Washington, recently signed a pro baseball contract with the Toronto Blue Jays.

Joey Hipp a 6-1, 200 senior fullback was named to the Big Nine honorable mention list and also started at linebacker. Hipp gained 346 yards on 74 carries for a 4.7 yards per carry average.

Ronnie Harris, a senior, will also be a key player according to O'Brien. Harris a 5-10, 150 wide receiver was the surprise of the team last year, says O'Brien.

In the backfield with Hipp should be Don Durkee a 5-10, 160 senior. As a defensive back, he led the Pirates in tackles and assists and also had an impressive year returning kickoffs and rushing on offense.

"Our offensive line will probably be the weakest part of the team at first glance," said O'Brien, "and inexperience at the quarterback slot."

WALLA WALLA — "We lost eight on offense and seven on defense," Bennett reported. "So we're going to be quite inexperienced this season."

The Walla Walla coach said he felt his defensive secondary would be one of the Blue Devils' strong suits. Tim Mitchell, a 6-foot, 185-pound senior who also plays quarterback, Steve Gurling and Mark Kicker will give Bennett an experienced defensive backfield.

"Our weakness is definitely in our offensive and defensive lines," Bennett pointed out. "We're inexperienced and small."

Wahi, which finished with a 5-4 mark last year, will host Kamiakin in its season opener Friday.