



TIMOTHY J. GONZALEZ/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Silverton shortstop Grant Roth can't catch up with a ground ball up the middle in the top of the sixth inning of Silverton's 9-2 loss in a Mid-Willamette Conference baseball game at Silverton last year. In Silverton's first year under head coach James Rise, the Foxes saw their record go from 6-12 in conference play the previous season to an 11-10 record the following year.

A NEW BALLGAME FOR SILVERTON

Foxes set high expectations this season

Matt Rawlings
Special to the Statesman Journal

Over the years, the Silverton High baseball program has never been a big-time powerhouse.

But under the direction of second-year coach James Rise, baseball is start-

ing to become more of a priority at Silverton.

In Silverton's first year under Rise, the Foxes saw their record go from 6-12 in conference play the previous season to an 11-10 record the following year with a postseason victory over Ashland.

"Last season we had our best season

as a program in 26 years, which really speaks volumes about our kids and how much time and effort they put in," Rise said.

"Guys have consistently been putting extra work in, and we have implemented

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The ball gets away from Silverton third baseman Kirk Martinson as West Albany's Brett Nicholzen slides safely into third during a conference baseball game last year. After making it to the Round of 16 last season, the Foxes have higher expectations for themselves as they head into this season.