

Ladycats roll in opener



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Union/Cove's Callie Glenn delivers a pitch during the Ladycats' win over Enterprise Tuesday.

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

The Union/Cove Ladycats softball team scored six runs in the first inning to take control in its season opener on the way to a 13-3 win over the Enterprise Outlaws Tuesday in Union.

"It was a great game for us," Union/Cove Head Coach Paul Phillips said. "We made some mistakes in the top of (the fifth inning), but other than that we played great ball. Callie (Glenn) threw a great game for us (and) our bats came alive."

Glenn, one of five freshmen — three of whom played Tuesday — on a young Union/Cove squad that has no seniors, didn't seem to show any nerves in her first high school start.

"She's got four pitches, and she was working all four of them. She did a great job," Phillips said.

Glenn struck out three of the first four batters she faced and finished with seven strikeouts while allowing just one hit in four innings. Five of the batters she struck out were caught looking.

"I think it was a really good team effort. Everyone made great plays, and no one had a bad game," Glenn said. "I am pretty happy (with how I pitched). I think for my

first game it went pretty well."

The offense, meanwhile, took off right away as Union/Cove scored six runs in the first inning and surged out to a 12-0 lead after three innings.

The Ladycats hit the ball well and were advantageous in the first inning, using three Enterprise errors to help boost the fast start. Taylor Daggett, who finished with four RBIs, hit a two-run single to open the scoring, and Kylie Marriott followed with a two-run double for a quick 4-0 lead. Two batters later, Kaylee Lantis reached on an error, which allowed two more runs to score for a six-run edge.

Kylie Bruce's RBI double highlighted a three-run second inning for a 9-0 lead, and an RBI single by Daggett — sandwiched between two bases-loaded hit batters — extended the margin to 12 runs after three frames.

"I feel like our bats were pretty good," Daggett said. "They kept us in it. Callie's pitching was on point tonight."

Glenn, also a force at the plate with two hits, tripled and scored in the fourth for Union/Cove's final run.

Daggett finished with two hits. Kaylin Nowak and Harley Creech both scored three times, and



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Enterprise's Claire Farwell charges a ground ball during the Outlaws' game in Union Tuesday.

Glenn and Marriott scored twice.

The Outlaws, who didn't collect a hit until the third inning, finally got on the board in the fifth when they scored three runs — all with two outs.

Claire Farwell, who had two hits, reached on a triple and was able to score from third on an error on the play. Rylin Kirkland followed with an RBI single two batters

later and scored when Samantha McFarland reached on an error before the Ladycats got the final out for a five-inning win.

Enterprise Head Coach Gary Gasset said he was "not unhappy" with the way his team played, especially considering the Outlaws had yet to step outdoors for practice with snowy conditions still

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Who are the upset picks to watch for?

By John Marshall
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Picking a perfect bracket has become a nearly impossible act, the ritual of ripping up brackets an annual rite of the NCAA Tournament.

UMBC proved the point early last year by beating Virginia to become the first No. 16 seed to topple a No. 1 in tournament history. Loyola-Chicago proved it late by taking Sister Jean all the way to the Final Four.

No Retrievers or Ramblers in the bracket this year, but as always, there will be upsets.

Here are a few games to keep an eye on:

No. 12 Oregon vs. No. 5 Wisconsin, South Region. The Ducks are one of the bracket's hottest teams, finding a late-season defensive groove to become the second team to win four games in four days at the Pac-12 tournament. Don't expect a lot of points either way.

No. 12 Murray State vs. No. 5 Marquette, West Region. The Racers have Ja Morant, the type of player

who can singlehandedly lead his team to a win. Marquette has a similar player in Markus Howard, but lost its final four regular-season games and was bounced from the Big East tournament by Seton Hall.

No. 11 Saint Mary's vs. No. 6 Villanova, South Region. The Gaels proved they can play with anyone by beating top-ranked Gonzaga in the WCC title game. The defending national champion Wildcats became the first team to win three straight Big East titles, but had some shaky moments early in the season.

No. 13 UC Irvine vs. No. 4 Kansas State, South Region. The Anteaters enter the NCAA Tournament on a 16-game winning streak and have won 30 games. The Wildcats were the co-Big 12 regular-season champions, but senior forward Dean Wade was still in a walking boot as of Sunday.

No. 16 Gardner-Webb vs. No. 1 Virginia, South Region. Surely it can't happen again? You never

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Mariners win opener over A's in Tokyo

By Stephen Wade
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Ichiro Suzuki drew the loudest ovation back home in Japan and Domingo Santana delivered the biggest hit, launching a grand slam that led the Seattle Mariners over the Oakland Athletics 9-7 Wednesday in the Major League Baseball opener.

The game at the Tokyo Dome marked the earliest opening day ever — the summer sport actually started on the last day of winter. No doubt, most fans in North America were sound asleep when Oakland's Mike Fiers threw the first pitch at 5:36 a.m. EDT (6:36 p.m. local).

A year after the Cubs' Ian Happ homered on the very pitch of the season, the ball again was flying.

Tim Beckham also homered as several Seattle newcomers excelled. Kris Davis, who led the majors with 48 home runs last year, Stephen Piscotty and Matt Chapman connected for the A's.

A packed crowd of 45,787 was buzzing for its favorite star, sending cheers, chants and camera flashes for Ichiro bounding all around the park. Signs and Ichiro jerseys were plenty, too.

At 45, Ichiro became the second-oldest position player to start an opener, only a few months younger than Julio Franco was for Atlanta in 2004.

Batting ninth and playing right field, Ichiro popped up and worked a walk his two times up. After taking his defensive

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LHS softball takes down Pendleton; golf places third at The Dalles

Observer staff

The defending 4A state champion La Grande Tigers softball team opened the 2019 regular season with a 7-1 road win over the Pendleton Buckaroos — last year's 5A state champs — Tuesday in Pendleton.

The Tigers never trailed, taking a 2-0 first-inning lead on a Kara Gooderham RBI single and an Allie Brock RBI groundout. An Alaina

Carson RBI single in the second made it 3-1, and Carson scored on an error in the fourth. RBI singles by Jacie Howton and Jaiden Hafer gave La Grande a 6-1 lead in the sixth, and Jayce Seavert capped the scoring with an RBI single in the seventh.

Carson and Gooderham both scored twice for La Grande, which had six different players drive in

runs. Brock pitched six innings for the win, shaking off an early home run to allow one run on four hits and strike out seven batters.

La Grande (1-0 overall) travels to Banks Friday.

TIGER GIRLS GOLF STARTS STRONG

The La Grande Tigers girls golf team tied for third place at The Dalles Invitational to open the sea-

son Tuesday.

La Grande scored 458 points as a team, tying with host The Dalles. Pendleton was the winning team with 413 points.

Individually, Tori Bowen shot 107 to lead the Tigers. Morgan Tussey and Baylee McNeil followed close behind with rounds of 111 and 112, respectively, and Katie Williams rounded out La Grande's

scoring with 128.

"It felt very good to actually play golf outside after three weeks of being inside," Head Coach Cally Goss said. "We knew they would be rusty, but they did well. They've never played this course. For our first tournament and only playing three holes this whole year, they did fantastic."

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