



LEFT: La Grande's Jaiden Hafer connects on the first of her two home runs in Wednesday's victory.
RIGHT: Jacie Howton is met by head coach Woody Wright after hitting her first-inning home run.

Photos by Ronald Bond/The Observer

Tiger boys claim title at Walla Walla

Observer staff

Braden Bell was one of four La Grande golfers to shoot in the 80s, finishing with a score of 80 to lead the Tiger boys to victory Wednesday at Wine Valley Golf Course in Walla Walla, Washington.

"Having four in the 80s is awesome," head coach Ron Evans said. "That puts us (in scoring range) to compete at state."

Joining Bell in the 80s were Cruz Gallegos at 83, Tristen Shepherd at 84 and Bradon McCall at 86. Anton Evans rounded out the scoring at 107, with all the scores coming on what Ron Evans said is a tough course.

"The greens are big and (there's not) a flat spot on them," he said. "They kept the ball in play, hit it down the middle (of the fairway) and on or close to the green. And they putted well."

The Tigers' winning score of 333 was well ahead of second-place DeSales, Washington (359) and rival Baker (363), which was third.

"They're all starting to come together (and) supporting each other," the head coach said. "They're meshing as a team."

The Tigers travel to Baker Monday.

WILLIAMS LEADS LHS GIRLS AT WINE VALLEY

Katie Williams led the

La Grande Tigers girls golf team with a score of 94 to place fourth overall at Wine Valley Wednesday in Walla Walla, Washington.

Tori Bowen followed with a score of 103, Morgan Tussey added a score of 111 and Baylee McNeil had a 113 for the Tigers, who had an overall team score of 421.

"This modern links style golf course is very difficult and very unique, so it definitely was a challenge for the team, but their play far exceeded my expectations," head coach Cally Goss said. "I'm very proud of them. I think overall they felt successful considering the difficulty of the course."

The Tigers resume play next Friday at Buffalo Peak in Union.

OUTLAWS PLAY AT HEPPNER

Two members of the Enterprise Outlaws boys golf team took to the course in Heppner Thursday.

Boone Harrod led the Outlaws with a score of 68 on the par-61 course to take second overall, and teammate Zion Mark added an 82.

Greta Carlsen shot a season-best 115 for the Enterprise girls.

The Outlaws return to the course today at their home invite.

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Power surge lifts LHS

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

La Grande's Jaiden Hafer has come to expect offensive barrages by the Tigers softball team.

So she wasn't at all surprised about the team's effort in a 12-0, five-inning home win over the Fruitland Grizzlies Wednesday that featured the Tigers collecting 13 hits, and one in which she hit two of the team's four home runs.

"We play great all the

time, so nothing really stood out. I just expect us to hit the ball and put the ball in play so we can score runs," the junior said.

Jacie Howton and Jayce Seavert also went deep for the Tigers. Head coach Woody Wright said the team had to make a couple adjustments to a slower pitcher than they are typically used to seeing. He also said the key was allowing the ball to travel a bit closer to the plate before swinging.

Howton, who with Hafer hit back-to-back shots to center field in the first to help La Grande take a 4-0 lead, said that point was on her mind when she connected for the early blast.

"We talked about it yesterday at practice — contact points, (how) you have to let it travel, and that's the only thing I was thinking about when I was in the box," she said. "I have to wait, have to wait, and (then) the pitch

was right there."

Hafer connected in the third inning — this time a two-run shot to left-center — to stake the Tigers to a 6-0 lead.

"Both of them (were) making good adjustments at the plate," Wright said.

Howton and Hafer were two of five Tigers who had two hits on the day, continuing what has been a consistent theme for the defending state champions

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