

# TIGERS

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Bowen in right, then collected another strikeout to get out of the inning unscathed.  
“That’s (a) kind of situation she hasn’t really been challenged in much this year. It goes to show she can bear down and get the job done,” Wright said.  
In the home half of the sixth, Gomes — who also had a second-inning RBI single for the Tigers’ only other run to that point — poked a two-out seeing-eye single into left field to jumpstart a La Grande offense that had been held in check by Sweet Home pitchers Savannah Hutchins and Ashtyn Walker.  
“I knew I had to get on base, and when I did I looked over at (first base coach) Pete (Caldwell) and said, ‘I’m getting home, whether (Bowen’s) hitting the ball (or another way),’” Gomes said. “Sure enough, she knocked one out to the fence. It worked out perfect.”  
Wright said it wasn’t the first time he’s seen the senior come through with a hit in a key situation.  
“I’ve coached Lexee for many years, (and) they call her ‘clutch’ for a reason,” he said. “Lexee always finds a way to get on. When you need it, Lexee’s there. (Then) Kinzy stepped up and did her job. The underclassmen have done that all year.”  
The Tigers managed seven hits but struggled for much of the game to adjust to what Wright said was slower pitching than they expected from Hutchins and Walker.  
The Huskies threw an added wrinkle in, pitching Hutchins, a left-hander, for the first two innings, then changing to Walker for two innings and back to Hutchins.  
Although it was a move the Tigers had anticipated, it may have contributed to the delay in the offensive breakout.  
“We were out on our front (foot) more than I would like, but we started to make an adjustment. When they went back to the lefty I knew (we) would start getting on her,” Wright said.  
While the win means a third consecutive semifinal appearance, it is the first for Bowen and the other freshmen who have contributed to the team’s success this spring.  
“It’s so amazing to be able to live this and do this,

especially with these girls,” Bowen said.  
Gomes had a different focus. “It’s time to lock down and focus and remember who we are playing for and the target we have on our backs,” she said. “We have to look past that (and) play our hardest. From here on out, it’s all mental. We know we have the ability (to win).”  
The Tigers (22-1 overall) host Junction City at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday with a trip to the championship in Eugene on the line.  
**Prep baseball**  
**EAGLES’ SEASON ENDS WITH LOSS IN 3A STATE QUARTERFINALS**  
The Wallowa Valley Eagles

baseball team collected just one hit as it saw its season end with a 7-1 road loss to the Pleasant Hill Billies in the quarterfinals of the 3A state playoffs Friday.  
The Eagles’ lone run came without a hit in the sixth inning when Gus Ramsden

walked and eventually came around to score on a wild pitch.  
David Salim had the Eagles’ only hit with a single in the seventh inning.  
The Billies scored three times in the third inning to add to an early lead and go

ahead 4-0, then scored two more runs in the fifth for a six-run margin.

Wallowa Valley finishes the season with an overall record of 16-8.

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his career,” Welch said.  
Paige Dodd finished as an all-American in the women’s heptathlon, coming in eighth place with a score of 4,658 points. After scoring 2,879 points during the first day Thursday, she finished with a mark of 16 feet 8 in the long jump, a throw of 96 feet 11 in the javelin and a time of 2:27.11 in the 800.  
Olivia Lane came away in 12th in the heptathlon with 4,402 points. Lane, who had 2,613 points through the first day, turned in a mark of 15 feet 5 in the long jump, posted a throw of 101 feet 8 in the javelin, then finished with a second-place showing in the 800 in a time of 2:20.65, missing first place by just 0.01 seconds.  
Darrian Walker just missed on giving EOU two all-Americans in the men’s pole vault, as he finished in ninth with a mark of 15 feet 7, while Maggie Ledbetter was 15th in the women’s discus with a throw of 133 feet 1. The EOU women’s 4x400 relay team of Lane, Boals, Michelle Herbes and Elizabeth Herbes finished 20th in the preliminary race with a time of 3:56.25. And Kalulusno Ngaida finished 24th in the women’s high jump at 5 feet 2-1/2 and 28th in the triple jump at 36 feet 5.

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