



Ronald Bond/The Observer
La Grande pitcher Allie Brock delivers a pitch during Tuesday's semifinal game.

TIGERS

Continued from Page 7A and play softball.”

A win, though, is the ultimate hope, and on the field that will largely hinge on how well pitcher Allie Brock can maneuver through the Hornets’ offense and how well La Grande can hit off Henley pitcher Lilly Poe.

Brock, her catcher Seavert and the coaches typically put together the plan of attack for how they will pitch against the opposing lineup once Brock has loosened up pregame.

“After I warm up, (we talk about) what pitches are working (and) what pitches aren’t,” she said.

The junior added that the team needs to stick to what has been successful this season and not play up the game as a rematch.

“As much as we talk

about Henley, they’re a different team (from a year ago) and we’re a different team. I think we just have to trust in the skills we’ve been building up,” Brock said — and, she added, the Tigers must be confident.

The proper mentality — keeping levelheaded and not underestimating the opponent — will also be an important factor.

“We’re all here for the same reason. We’re going to work the same (way) we have before,” senior Kara Gooderham said. “We have good heads on our shoulders, we know what we’re capable of, and I think we’ll go in strong.”

Added Gomes: “Mentality is huge, because we know we have the capability of doing it physically. We proved that last year, and I think we can (again).”

Gooderham and Seavert

each said the team is set to play Saturday for each other.

“It’s one big family,” Seavert said. “We’re going into this game wanting to win, wanting to have fun, wanting to get a good game (and) wanting to do it for our seniors.”

First pitch Saturday is set for 5 p.m.

NBA FINALS

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little jittery at the start, with Kyle Lowry firing a pass well out of bounds on their first possession.

But they quickly settled in afterward, building a 10-point lead by halftime, surging to an 18-11 lead before the Warriors came right back with eight in a row. Siakam then went 6 for 6 in the third quarter to keep Golden State from gaining much ground, and the Raptors kept their lead around double digits for much of the final quarter, countering every attempt the Warriors made to catch up.

All four of the Warriors’ previous finals were against LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers, and they struggled to figure

out a new opponent. Toronto shot 50.6 percent from the field and the Warriors never found an answer for Siakam, the finalist for Most Improved Player who has a nice start for an NBA Finals MVP resume.

The player nicknamed Spicy P was red hot, shooting 14 for 17 from the field — and he tipped in his own shot on the last of those misses with 54 seconds to play.

The party 24 years in the making started early, with fans arriving at Jurassic Park outside the arena in the morning. There were lengthy lines at the arena entrances hours before the game, with some of the few fans who weren’t wearing Raptors red sticking to their original purple uniform with the dinosaur logo.

NHL FINALS

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have it in the third, but who cares?” Gunnarson said on the ice moments after his blast past Rask. “It’s great, taking this home.”

After a furious first period that ended in a 2-all tie, the teams went on defense in the second. Despite four penalties, including a high-sticking, blood-drawing double-minor against Boston’s Connor Clifton, neither team was able to score.

It stayed tied through a hard-hitting third period, with both teams failing to

convert good scoring chances and avoid overtime.

But after the break, it was all Blues.

Boston did not get off a shot in the overtime, and the Eastern Conference champs struggled to clear it

out of their own zone. With a penalty coming up, the Blues pulled Binnington for an extra skater and maintained possession until they could work it around to Gunnarson for a rifle into the corner of the net.

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