

**ON DECK**

**Friday, May 13**

**(Games completed after print deadline)**

**PREP BASEBALL**

Baker/Powder Valley at La Grande (2), 2 p.m.  
Nyssa at Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa (2), 1 p.m.

**PREP SOFTBALL**

Baker/Powder Valley at La Grande (2), 2 p.m.  
Heppner/Ione at Union/Cove (2), 2 p.m.  
Nyssa at Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa (2), 1 p.m.

**PREP TRACK & FIELD**

Cove, Elgin, Imbler, Powder Valley, Joseph at 1A Special District 4, Baker High School, 1 p.m.

Union, Enterprise at 2A District 5 Championship, Weston-McEwen, 11 a.m.

**COLLEGE TRACK & FIELD**

Eastern Oregon at Cascade Collegiate Conference Outdoor Championships, Ashland, all day

**Saturday, May 14**

**COLLEGE TRACK & FIELD**

Eastern Oregon at Cascade Collegiate Conference Outdoor Championships, Ashland, all day

**COLLEGE FOOTBALL**

Eastern Oregon Blue & Gold spring game, 6 p.m.

**Monday, May 16**

**COLLEGE SOFTBALL**

Eastern Oregon vs. Texas A&M Texarkana, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 9 a.m.

**PREP BASEBALL**

Union/Cove at Dufur/South Wasco County, 4 p.m.

**PREP GIRLS GOLF**

La Grande at 4A state championships, Redmond

**PREP BOYS GOLF**

La Grande at 4A state championships, Banks

**Tuesday, May 17**

**PREP GIRLS GOLF**

La Grande at 4A state championships, Redmond

**PREP BOYS GOLF**

La Grande at 4A state championships, Banks

**PREP SOFTBALL**

Grant Union/Prairie City at La Grande 4 p.m.

**ROLLING**

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From behind the plate, La Grande's catcher has been impressed with the depth of this year's starting pitching staff.

"I'm really impressed with our group this year," senior catcher Cole Jorgensen said. "Not only do we have Sam (Tsiatsos) and Jace (Schow) as our one and two, but we have a bunch of dudes that can all compete really, really well. This year, we have around six guys that can throw and compete really well."

Mirroring La Grande's pitching depth, the team's one-through-nine batting lineup has seen success at the plate. Bornstedt noted that heading into the conclusion of the regular season, the team's ability to gain production from the whole roster will set the Tigers on pace for a strong playoff push.

"If the top half of our lineup is struggling a little bit, the bottom half always picks them up," he said. "I think that's one of our strongest points, that everyone is going to give you a tough at-bat."

Through winning numerous games by a wide margin, La Grande has managed to give playing time to younger players and get more pitchers time on the mound. Heading into the playoffs, the team's seniors are aware of how important a deep roster can be in the postseason.

"I don't know that I've ever been on a team that has the depth like this team," Jorgensen said. "We've got at least two guys at each position that can compete really well."

While blowout victories provide playing opportunities for many players, the competitiveness and mindset during a lopsided victory still remains high. Several of the team's seniors noted that high-scoring victories still serve as important situations to improve on defensive mechanics, situational gameplay, base running and other important aspects of a successful team. With a large group of experienced players on the team, practices also serve as an important time to simulate

the playoff experience.

"We really think about what we're doing in practice and take it seriously, never taking a rep off," senior Derek Begin said.

"This time of the year we really stick to the fundamentals and make sure we have every small part of the game down," Bell said. "Improving on the little things can help take us all the way to the state championship."

**Years in the making**

With many players making up the core of this year's La Grande team having played together since little league, the seniors on the team point toward team chemistry as a major factor in the Tigers' success.

"We're like a family," Staab said. "Our chemistry has been really good and it's been a really fun season. I think we can go all the way, for sure."

As the season nears an end and expectations for a playoff run continue to rise, La Grande is looking to take things on at-bat at a time.

"Baseball can go either way on any given day," Jorgensen said. "We just have to go out and play our game. If we do that, then it's going to be really hard for anybody to beat us."

After last season ended on a walk-off loss in the state championship game, La Grande has set the expectation to contend for a title since day one. The Tigers last won a state championship in 2017, an 8-5 victory over Henley. With just one final regular season matchup at home against Pendleton/Griswold remaining, the Tigers will begin looking to shift regular season wins into playoff success.

"I don't even think we've played our best game yet," Bell said. "We're playing really good right now, but I still feel like there's more we can do. If we continue to peak into the state championship game, that would be the best time to do it."

"Our expectation is to keep winning," Staab said. "We know we're going to face tougher teams and we're prepared for that."

**RECORD**

*Continued from Page A9*

scored and seven RBIs. Will Killion added four hits, five RBIs and three runs scored.

That was just part of the longest day in the life of a Riverside Pirate.

The baseball team left home at 5:30 a.m. and headed out for its 226-mile trip to Nyssa. Their bus broke down 10 miles out of La Grande. With the track team right behind them, a plan was put in motion.

The track team would pick up the baseball team. The track team would be dropped off in Baker City, and another bus would be sent to take it home.

With no under bus storage, all of the track and baseball equipment was stuffed onto the bus. Athletes and coaches were doubled up in seats, and they made the most of it until they got to Baker City.

"When they first told us we were picking up the baseball team, I thought they were joking," Riverside track coach Viviana Colin said.

Everything seemed to be running smoothly. The first bus that broke down was fixed and sent to Baker City. When the baseball team finished its marathon day, it loaded up and had plans on stopping in Ontario for dinner.

They didn't get out of the parking lot.

"We fired up the bus we got from the track team and the bus driver smelled something," Davis said. "It wasn't going anywhere. We had to wait for the track team to come and get us."

The baseball team walked to a convenience store to get something to drink and make a plan. They ended up at the Tex-Mex Express for dinner. It was the only place still open.

"We got to sit down and have a meal together," Davis said. "It was fun hanging out with this bunch of guys."

When the track team arrived 3-1/2 hours later, the baseball team was waiting, cell phone lights beaming to lead the way.

"The track team had it worse," Davis said. "They had an extra four hours added on coming to get us."

With everything and everyone loaded, the bus headed for home.

You know it can't end there.

The bus's warning signal turned on just outside of Baker City. The bus drivers bought a bunch of coolant and got the bus to La Grande, where another bus was waiting for the last leg of the journey home.

"The track team said they don't want to share a bus with us again," Davis said. "It was definitely memorable."

In case you are wondering, Nyssa won the first game of the doubleheader 13-3.

**LOCAL STANDINGS**

**COLLEGE BASEBALL**

**Cascade Collegiate Conference**

Team	League	Overall
Lewis-Clark State	19-3	48-4
British Columbia	14-9	27-22
College of Idaho	14-10	29-25
Corban	10-12	23-22-1
Bushnell	9-14	11-36
Oregon Tech	9-15	30-25
Eastern Oregon	4-16	11-34

**COLLEGE SOFTBALL**

**Cascade Collegiate Conference**

Team	League	Overall
Oregon Tech	25-5	46-10
Southern Oregon	24-6	46-12
Eastern Oregon	24-6	41-14

College of Idaho	22-8	40-15
British Columbia	18-12	22-19
Corban	11-19	18-36
Carroll	11-19	14-31
Bushnell	11-19	15-33
Northwest	11-19	16-32
Warner Pacific	4-26	6-36
Providence	4-26	6-34

**PREP BASEBALL**

**Greater Oregon League**

Team	League	Overall
La Grande	10-0	21-1
Baker/Powder Valley	8-2	14-9
McLoughlin	1-9	6-11
Ontario	1-9	1-19

**2A/1A Special District 7**

**Team**

Team	League	Overall
Dufur/South Wasco Co.	12-0	18-1
Weston-McEwen	11-1	15-2
Heppner/Ione	10-4	11-8
Grant Union/Prairie City	5-5	10-9
Sherman/Arlington/Condon/Wheeler	5-7	7-8
Union/Cove	5-7	5-7
Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii/Ukiah	4-10	7-13
Stanfield/Echo 3-11	5-14	
Lyle/Wishram/Klickitat/Trout Lake	1-11	1-12
Adrian	0-0	4-0

**PREP SOFTBALL**

**Greater Oregon League**

Team	League	Overall
La Grande	9-1	13-6
Ontario	7-3	15-7
Baker/Powder Valley	2-8	8-11
McLoughlin	2-8	6-12

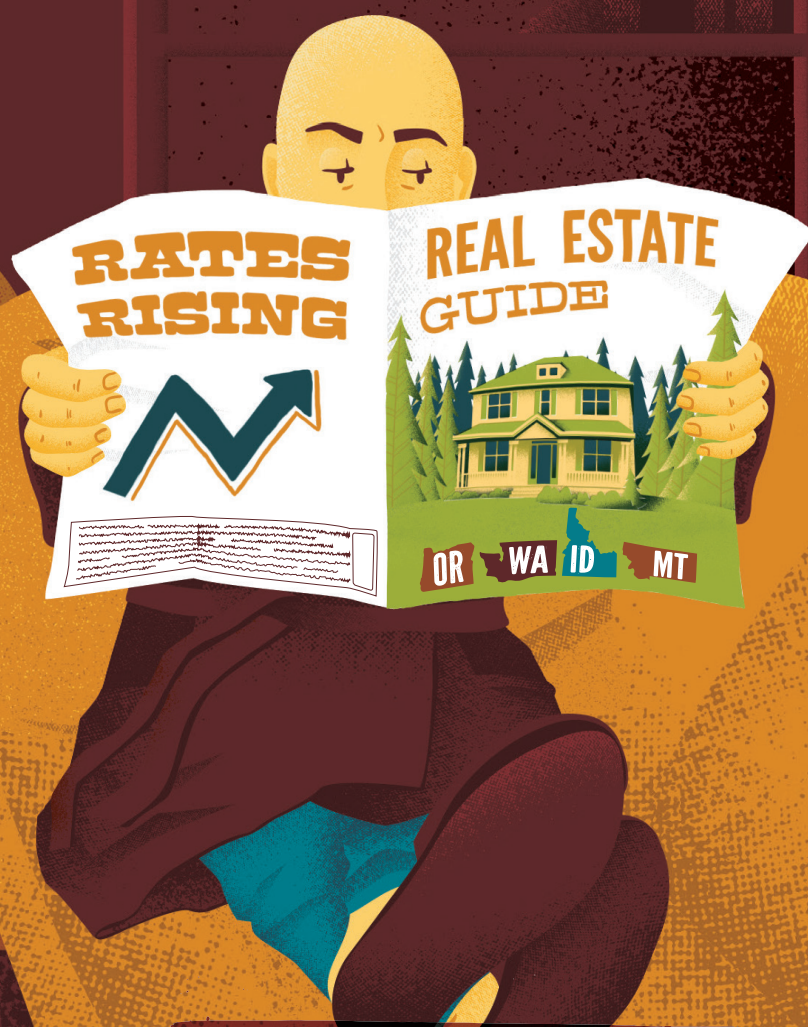
**2A/1A Special District 6**

Team	League	Overall
Grant Union/Prairie City	12-0	23-0
Weston-McEwen	7-3	12-7
Union/Cove	6-4	14-5
Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii	6-6	12-10
Echo/Stanfield	5-5	13-8
Heppner/Ione	2-8	4-17
Adrian	0-0	2-1
Elgin/Imbler	0-12	0-12
Lyle/Wishram/Klickitat	0-0	0-0

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