

Nyssa, Riverside put on quite a show

Bulldogs, Pirates combine for 66 runs, tie a 45-year-old Oregon record

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

BOARDMAN — The Riverside baseball team was part of a record-setting game Friday, May 6, at Nyssa — and it had nothing to do with its bus breaking down three times, or the Pirates returning home 23 hours after they left.

The Bulldogs and Pirates combined for 66 runs in the second game of their Eastern Oregon League doubleheader, tying a 45-year-old Oregon record for the most runs in a single game.

Dufur and Cascade Locks combined for 66 runs in 1977 when the Rangers beat the Pirates 63-3.

Riverside's 30 runs set an Oregon record for most runs by a losing team.

"I was happy," Riverside coach Tyler Davis said. "After that first game, we were short on pitchers for the day. We tried to extend the arms as much as we could. It was a close game until we had to go to our bench."

Riverside scored nine runs in the first inning, then gave up 11 to Nyssa.

"With the inexperience, it has been a pretty up and down year," Davis said. "I was a little worried how they would respond. We hadn't given up 11 runs in an inning."

Riverside pitchers combined to throw 291 pitches, and simply ran out of arms down the stretch as the Bulldogs hung on for a 36-30 victory in a game that lasted nearly four hours.

"They did as good as I could have hoped for a bunch of freshmen with little experience," Davis said.

Riley Lantis led the Pirates with three doubles, five runs

See, Record/Page A10



The Observer, File

Jace Schow (1) throws a pitch against the Ontario Tigers at Optimist Field, La Grande, on Thursday, April 7, 2022. La Grande swept the visiting Ontario team in a double header match, scoring 14-1 and 19-1 in their first home games of the season.

La Grande baseball team rides momentum into last remaining regular season games

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The wins just keep piling up for the La Grande High School baseball team.

The Tigers enter the last weeks of the season riding high, winning over 15 games straight. While La Grande is currently a clear-cut favorite in the Greater Oregon League and highly ranked in the state, its core of upperclassmen is looking to continue the team's momentum and translate recent success into a state championship push. La Grande's deep roster and team chemistry stand out as two factors pushing this year's team toward success.

"Compared to all four years



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian, File

La Grande players meet Devin Bell at home plate after he hit a home run against Pendleton on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at Bob White Field, Pendleton. La Grande won the game 5-7.

of my high school baseball career, I feel like this team has come together the closest," senior Devin Bell said. "I think it's something really special."

The Tigers have dominated the competition this year, building up a 21-1 record

overall and 10-0 in league play through 22 games. La Grande is riding a 17-game win streak into a doubleheader against Baker/Powder Valley (completed after print deadline), with the last 10 victories coming in shutout fashion.

La Grande is averaging just over 12 runs per game on the season, while holding opponents to approximately 1.3 runs per game.

"I think our success just starts with energy," senior Nick Bornstedt said. "Energy in the dugout and being all in through every inning is huge."

Strong, well-rounded pitching efforts have played a beneficial role for La Grande this year. The team's one-two punch of juniors Jace Schow and Sam Tsiatsos have given opposing batters headaches, while Bell, Bornstedt, Logan Williams and Sergio Staab have all had consistent seasons as starting pitchers. Tsiatsos leads the way with six wins through the team's first 22 games and Schow has tallied five — Bell has earned three wins, while Staab, Bornstedt and Williams each have two victories on the season.

See, Rolling/Page A10

SPORTS SHORT

EOU softball team earns at-large bid to NAIA tournament

Mountaineers to meet Texas A&M Texarkana in first round

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The Eastern Oregon University softball program is headed to nationals.

The Mountaineers earned an at-large bid to the NAIA tournament during the association's selection show on Tuesday, May 10. Eastern, who is ranked No. 15 in the latest national poll, earned a two seed in the tournament and will face three-seed Texas A&M Texarkana in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on May 16. Joining the Mountaineers and Eagles in the Okla-



Christian

homa City bracket are Oklahoma City and William Woods.

Eastern is coming off a semifinal appearance in the Cascade Collegiate Conference tournament, where the team was eliminated by the College of Idaho. The Mountaineers have currently tallied a 41-15 record, which tied the program record for wins in a season.

Texas A&M Texarkana is currently 42-12 on the year, coming off a Red River Tournament championship title. The Eagles were ranked No. 22 in the latest NAIA national poll, but found themselves ranked as high as No. 13 earlier in the season.

Texas A&M Texarkana's Anna Westberry leads the way for the team's

pitching staff with a 23-4 record. Eastern's Amanda Smith has led the pitching efforts this season, accumulating a 19-6 record off 19 complete games.

Eastern's national tournament berth is its first since 2018, the last season the Mountaineers had a winning record. Head coach Nicole Christian, who is in her third year as Eastern's head coach, is set to make her national tournament debut with the Mountaineers.

The Mountaineers are scheduled to compete in game one of the Oklahoma City bracket on May 16, with the game time still to be determined. The four-team bracket is double elimination, with the final matchup slated for May 18.

Following the opening round, the winners will travel to Columbus, Georgia, for the world series bracket.



The Observer, File

Amanda Smith (14) delivers a pitch during the Mountaineers' matchup with Providence University on Friday, March 25, 2022, at the Peggy Anderson Softball Field, La Grande.

Find up-to-date scores and additional game coverage for your local high school, available 24/7 at www.lagrandeobserver.com.