

Sports

Baseball, Lacrosse, Softball, Track, and Tennis

Baseball clinches league with six straight wins

JON HELMKAMP

co-Sports Editor

With six consecutive wins, the Varsity Baseball Team clinched the Three Rivers League title with a 14-5 drubbing of Putnam, the one team West Linn had failed to beat this season. Nathan Gonzalez, senior, came up huge with a grand slam and Ryan Barnes, sophomore, and Mitchell Bailey, senior, each had a home run.

Following a victory over Lakeridge 12-1 on April 20, the Lions were looking at a week that would prove to be telling, playing Putnam on April 23, Lake Oswego on April 25, and Clackamas on April 27. Going into that week, Mike Lord, head coach, stressed how important those three games would be.

"This next week is like the playoffs. If you guys want to prove that you deserve to get to State, you have to prove yourselves with these three games," Lord said to the team after the Lakeridge game.

The team squared off with Putnam, losing 5-3. Against

Lake Oswego they lost 10-6, and suffered another setback against Clackamas with a 6-5 loss.

In their match up with Putnam, four of Putnam's five runs were unearned. Both teams had eight hits, but it was poor defense that led to a Lion loss. Against Lake Oswego, they left eight guys on base and went only five for 14 with runners in scoring position. The opportunities were there, but they couldn't take advantage of them. Against Clackamas, they gave up two unearned runs and again left eight guys on base.

"It wasn't like we played horribly that week. They just didn't go our way," Brian Bailey, assistant coach, said.

After three games that dampened the spirits of West Linn baseball enthusiasts, the Lions came back and won their next four games, two of which were rematches against teams that beat them in their three consecutive losses.

On April 30, the Lions

faced off against Lakeridge, crushing them 18-2. Two days later, they hosted Clackamas, redeeming themselves with a 6-0 shutout. On May 4, despite having to pack the team and all its gear into four trucks to get to the game, the Lions beat Lake Oswego, 7-3.

They beat Oregon City 5-1 on May 7 with Kyle Kraus stealing the show, pitching a complete game in only 69 pitches. After a week of success, the Lions once again perched atop the league, one game ahead of Lake Oswego.

The team hopes to see the return of Alex Edwards, senior, first baseman, who broke his wrist in a collision with a base runner at first base earlier in the season. He has missed almost the entire season, but has been at every practice and every game and has a positive attitude about the season.

"It helps watching the team play and not getting to participate, but it helps



Nathan Gonzalez, senior, takes his lead from second base against Putnam on May 14. The Lions went on to win 14-5, earning the league title.

Photo by Jon Helmkamp

knowing I should be able to be back so I can contribute in playoffs," Edwards said.

Next year, the team will return most of the Varsity players, including the entire pitching staff and Barnes, who is currently batting .468 with 22 runs batted in. He's the Varsity lead-off hitter as a sophomore, stepping into a leadership role. Lord will also be bringing up members from the JV team that has lost only one game.

"They're a really talented team. Next year (on Varsity) they should be contending for a State title," Edwards said.

Colby Martzall, senior, leads the Lions' offensive attack with a batting average of .500 and 26 RBI's, along with Bailey who's batting .457 and Justin Monahan, junior, who's batting .411. Bailey, catcher, and Martzall, shortstop, along with being huge offensive threats, are the core of the defense as well.

Girls' Rugby Team wins State title for fourth straight season

KATIE CARNAHAN

Staff Reporter

After winning its first State championship in 2004, the Girls' Varsity Rugby Team has been nearly undefeated taking home many titles. At the National Invitational Tournament held in Milwaukee, Wisc. on May 19 and 20, the team won every game taking home ninth place.

On April 28, the team added a fourth consecutive State Championship after defeating a Canby team and on May 5, the girls played at Pacific NW Regionals and placed third.

"It was exciting, but overall I think we just did okay," Kylie Rogers, junior, said.

Every day, at Athey Creek Middle School, the teams practice passing drills, tackling, scrums and rocking.

"(In rugby), 'rocking' is when you tackle someone, and instead of stopping the game, you just push the other player and keep going," Megan Hackney, sophomore, said.

Although no Oregon

colleges offer scholarships for rugby players, one team member, Audrey Jones, a student from Lake Oswego High School, was selected as an alternate for the USA Eagles, a U-19 team which



Zhone Jones, sophomore, outruns the Canby defense in the State championship game. The Lions defended their State title for the fourth consecutive time, 33-10.

Photo submitted by Megan Hackney

gives girls a chance to continue their success in the World Cup Competition.

Overall, Rogers and Hackney added that the game is a lot of fun and that they hope next season will go even better.

"Last year, there were no signs, and really no acknowledgments of the team. It was nice to see the 'Come to Girls Rugby' and the 'Congratulations' signs hanging in the halls," Rogers said.

Two girls named to Elite Team; Lions makes case for State

ZAK LASTER

co-Sports Editor

The Oregon Elite Travel Team is a group of 18 girls chosen from a group of 86 Varsity lacrosse players. These 18 girls form a team that represents the state in a series of games. They play two tournaments during the summer in Vail, Colo. and one tournament on the east coast in early October.

The team will have a few practices but the majority of the preparation for the tournaments will be on their own time. Two girls from West Linn, Solveig Lee and Erika Busch juniors were deemed qualified enough to make the Oregon Elite Travel Team. For both Busch and Lee, being on the team is something that they are really excited about.

"We were able to exhibit skills at a level high enough to be placed on the Oregon Elite Travel Team. It is an honor for me," Lee said.

"I think to be a part of the Oregon Elite Travel Team is really cool. It's a big opportunity for me and I'm looking forward to it," Busch

said.

Their placement on the team has capped off what has been a remarkable season for the team which won 14 of its 17 games. One of the top teams in the state, the Oregon City Pioneers, first in league and undefeated, gave the Lions the most problems. They lost twice to them, each time by one only point.

"We have done much better than anyone could have expected. Even before try-outs nobody had predicted the kind of success we've had this season," Lee said.

The goal for the Lions is a State championship. This is very realistic based on the way the girls have played against their competition. Whether or not they win a State championship, they will all remain friends for a long time, according to Lee.

The State tournament held



Shannon Edwards, junior, picks up a loose ball against Lakeridge on May 8. The Lions won the game 12-3.

Photo by Sarah Chicoine

at the Tualatin Recreation Center began for the Lions on May 18 with a 11-7 victory over Roseburg. They advanced to the semi-finals against St. Mary's on May 22. The winner of that game would play the winner of the Oregon City/Lincoln game for the State championship. Results of these games were not available by press time.

"This year, has been one of my favorite years of playing lacrosse. We are a very bonded group and we do a good job at helping each other," Lee said.