

Varsity Baseball Team sets sights on "unfinished business"

JON HELMKAMP

co-Editor-in-Chief

Three years ago, the Varsity Baseball Team lost a close State Championship game, falling short of its season-long goal. Two years ago, they fell short again, losing in the semi-final round. Last year, same story. This season the team is set on winning that championship title.

"Leaving last season, we felt that we had unfinished business that we needed to take care of," Mike Lord, Varsity Baseball head coach, said.

That mindset and attitude

carried over into this season, and is driving this year's team to capitalize on the missed opportunities of the last three years.

So far this season, the team is 11-6 overall, including four losses at the National Classic in Anaheim, Calif., and has a 4-2 record in league. In the National Classic tournament, ten of the top 20 teams in the nation were playing.

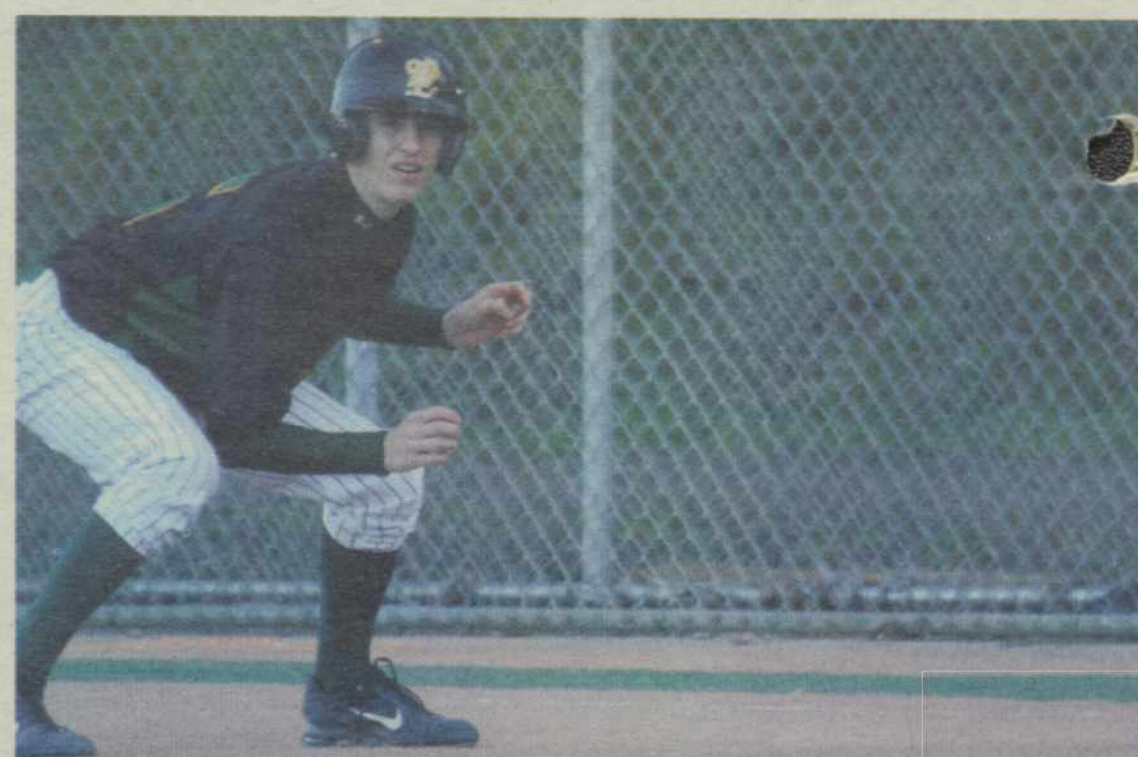
"It (the National Classic) was a good tournament, better than regular games because it's a tournament environment," Lord said. "It was really good preparation for our season and

what we're going to experience in the Three Rivers League. We played against some tough teams. If you make a mistake against a good team, they will capitalize on it, instead of bad or average teams who might not capitalize. We played well, even though we lost."

In their six League games, their two losses came against Lake Oswego, a team that Lord expects will be one of the Lions' top competitors in the TRL this season.

"We've had a few rough spots this season, like the two losses to LO (Lake Oswego). No one said this season was going to be easy. We expect to make it back to the State Championship but we're going to have to earn everything we get. Every team wants to beat West Linn, so we know that we have to come ready to play every game," Lord said.

Lord feels that it's going to take good pitching and timely hitting to make it to State. The team has been struggling a little bit hitting with runners in



Tyler Weber, sophomore, takes his lead off from first base in a Varsity game against Lake Oswego on Apr. 2. Weber serves as a pitcher and an infielder. Photo by Jon Helmkamp

scoring position according to Lord and have been working on it in practice.

On April 14, they set a school record with 25 hits in a game against Oregon city, earning a huge morale booster of a victory, winning handily 21-5.

"Kyle (Kraus) has been throwing well, and Ryan (Barnes) and Justin (Monahan) have been hitting well. Joe Offer's been a good surprise

for us this year. He's always been a good catcher, the best in the TRL in my opinion, but he's stepped up and has been hitting really well lately," Lord said.

This year's seniors have been playing together for many years and most of them have been together since Little League. "Winning the State Championship) would be a great cap to their baseball careers together," Lord said.

Snowboard Team brings home State hardware

MAX HAYS

Staff Reporter

The Boys' and Girls' Snowboard Teams brought back positive results in both the individual and team performances at the 2008 State Snowboard Championships held March 6-8 at Timberline.

For the boys, the team placed third in the Halfpipe competition and took home fourth in the Slopestyle Competition. Individually, Tanner Kewley, junior, had a couple phenomenal performances, including a second place finish in the Halfpipe with a best score of

196, and a tenth place finish in Slopestyle with a best run of 216 points. Joey McMillen, sophomore, also had a good finish in the half-pipe, ending up in sixth place with a best run of 175 points.

The girls' team captured third place in both Halfpipe and Slopestyle. Individually, Mackenzie Bruns, senior, had a strong performance in the Halfpipe with a best run of 149 points and Hayley Shafer, junior, finished an excellent fifth place in the Banked Slalom competition with a time of 47.89 seconds, only one tenth of a second behind the fourth place finisher.

Softball Team fights through early season blows

ADAM HOLMES

Staff Reporter

As spring sports continue, the Girls' Varsity Softball has had a rocky start, with a 2-4 record so far. This year's team has improved since last year, specifically in pitching and hitting.

In the first game of the season against the Grant High School Generals, the Lions' dominated with an 11-0 shutout. The second game ended with a defeat at the hands of the Gladstone Gladiators, with a 1-11 loss.

"We struggled to hit and score runs over the first few games," Jamie LeVeque, head coach, said. Despite that, the team scored another victory against St. Mary's High School at 8-0. However, several more defeats soon occurred with a 1-3 loss against Lake Oswego, a 2-3 defeat against Hillsboro, and an 0-7 shutout against Rex Putnam. The team is keeping their heads above water, as they recently scored a 3-2 win against Oregon City, and a 4-3 victory also against Oregon City.

The team has a wide roster of new players, with five freshmen and two juniors joining

the team. Exceptional players this year are newcomers Taylor Brooke, junior, and Kylie Crawford, freshman. In addition, McKenna Pyeatt, junior, is returning again this year as catcher and co-captain with Ashley Bruser, junior.

"I was really excited for the first couple of games. We have some really good frosh," Pyeatt said.

LeVeque says that the key to a good softball team is pitching, catching, and the ability to hit the ball out of the infield.

"The best softball players and teams play ball in the summer and fall to prepare for the school season in the fall. That is how this program will improve and what I encourage all the girls to do that want to play Varsity softball," LeVeque said.

In addition, the girls this year will be more competitive, have more speed, offensive power, and defense than in the past, in order to improve their chances of winning.

"Many of these girls play ball year around. They are more experienced and better prepared for high school ball," LeVeque said.

In addition, the girls seem to have an excellent team chemistry that promotes teamwork.

"I like our connection. We perform very well together," Pyeatt said.

The next home game for the Lions will be against Putnam at Rosemont Ridge Middle School on Apr. 21 at 4:30 p.m.

"People should come to the games to show school spirit," Pyeatt said.

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Girls' Golf wins first place in TRL

NICHOLAS ARNTZ

co-Editor-in-Chief

With the Girls' Varsity Golf Team ranked number one in the Three Rivers League, and Lake Oswego four points behind in second place, their goals of winning the league and competing in State are underway. The seniorless team consists of eight players, five of whom play Varsity, and the remaining three on JV.

The team consists of captains Josie Sells and Brianna Ruiz, juniors, along with teammates Elizabeth Enderle, Katherine Longtain, Sydney Nopson, sophomores, Suna Shin, Morgan Thompson and Darian Royse, freshman.

Their rigorous practice schedule consists of three to four days of golfing at The Oregon Golf Club, putting, working on their short game,

and playing nine holes at the club. The girls played 18 holes to get ready for their Mid-Districts match on Apr. 14.

"The girls work hard and practices don't usually end until after 6 p.m.," Shawn Hoffman, girls' coach, said.

Even though the weather has been wet, the girls prevailed at the Willamette Valley Invitational on Apr. 10, taking second place. West Linn took home the win At the TRL Mid-Districts, with a total score of 353, with their rivals, Lake Oswego, close behind with 356. West Linn also had the lowest individual score of 72, by Shin, a perfect par on the Stone Creek course.

"It's going to be a dogfight winning the league, as Lake Oswego and Lakeridge are right there as well," Hoffman said.