

# Baseball team enjoys success against elite talent

SEAN PEBLER

To be the best you have to beat the best. The baseball team has followed this credo closely in the early season, competing against some of the most difficult competition in the state. This was highlighted when the Lions defeated the number one team in the state at the time, Westview, 9-2.

"So far we are 6-4, playing mostly Metro league schools," Mike Lord, head coach, said. "I feel really good about where we are at heading into league play next week."

After a disappointing loss to another top-tier team, Southridge, 15-3, many players felt that the team had grown a lot from this humbling experience.

"We grew a lot closer and learned that we have to play hard every game," Andrew Yokubaitis, junior, said. "We got a little cocky after the Westview game and thought we could skate through games easily, but that is not the case."

Following the first two non-league games, the team travelled to Arizona for their

Spring Break tournament. The Lions finished with a 1-3 record at the tournament, with many

Upon returning from Arizona, the team went on a four-game winning streak

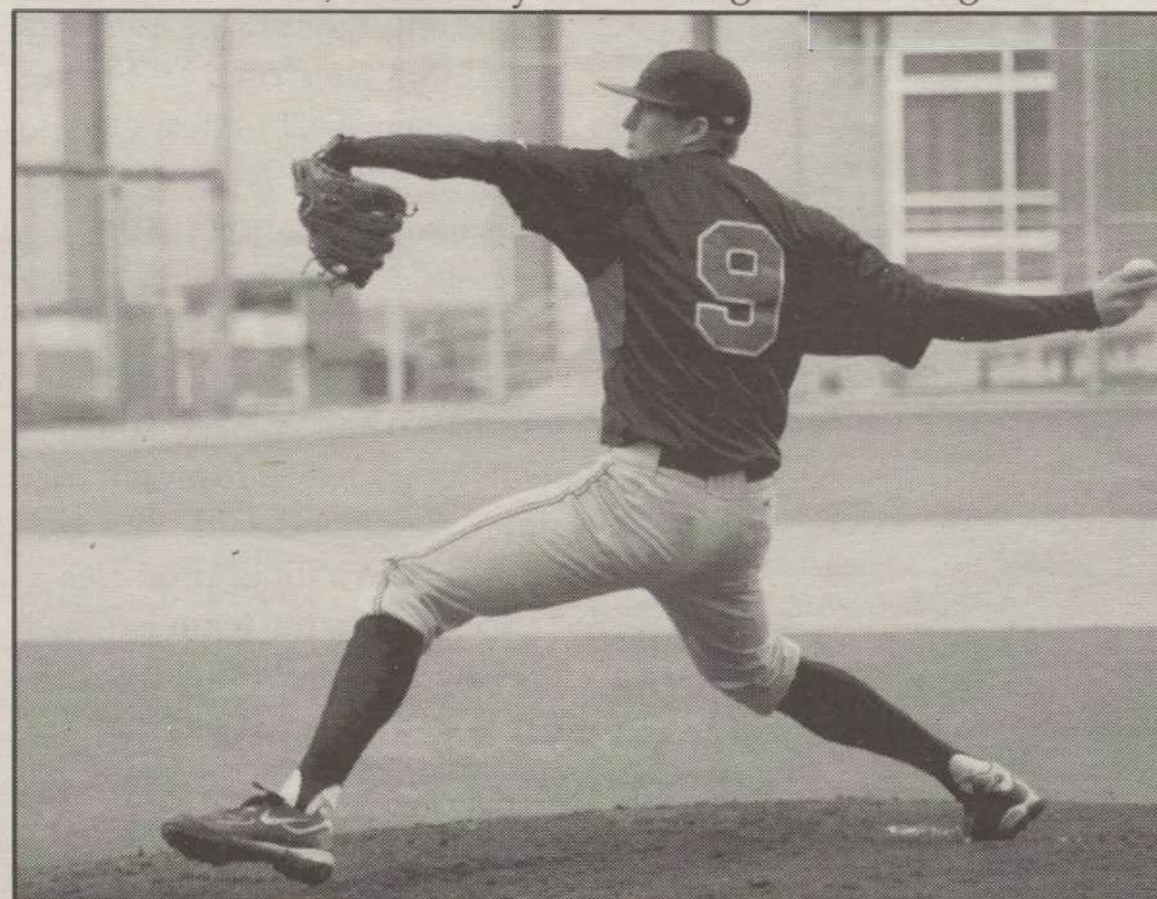


Photo by Laurel Massaro

Riley Wilkerson, senior pitcher, hurls the ball toward home plate in a league game against Oregon City on April 14. In a marathon-esque game that went 11 innings, the Lions came out victorious, defeating the Pioneers 15-14.

feeling it provided more insight as to the structure of the team.

"I think that the trip was a really good bonding time for our team. It really helped solidify some positions for people," Warner Edwards, senior pitcher, said.

against difficult opponents Beaverton, Sandy, North Salem and Sunset. The success was highlighted by a thriller against Sunset, with the Lions coming out on top, 7-6.

"I feel like we have the potential to do some really

great things this year," Edwards said. "We have great pitching and hitting, I really feel like that we have an opportunity to win a state championship."

The bulk of the team's league schedule began with a three-game series against Oregon City, where the Lions swept the Pioneers. Following Oregon City, the Lions swept Lakeridge. The team's league

record currently stands at 6-0.

After the team's early success against top Metro-League and TRL teams, many have substantial expectations for the State playoffs.

"It is the best talent of any team I've played on, and we come together," Yokubaitis said. "I also feel that everyone has the desire and belief that we can win a championship."

## Softball Team longs for more improved weather and hitting

JENNIFER SITTON

After taking third in Three Rivers League last year and losing its first round playoff game to South Salem, the Softball Team is back for revenge this year. Battling

but no one really knows what to expect from Canby, a team that is new to the TRL this year.

"We're excited to play Canby for the first time," Figone said. "We hear they're pretty good."



Photo by Laurel Massaro

Nicole Goins, junior, takes a swing in the team's April 13 game against Oregon City. The Lions defeated the Pioneers 2-1, bringing their league record to 2-0 after a convincing 2-0 win over Clackamas.

inclement weather, the Lions started off the season with few growing pains, as they return many players from last year's team.

"We have pretty much the same team as last year so we know how each other plays," Sommer Figone, senior, said. "We work well together."

According to head coach Jamie LeVeque, the experience of the five seniors on the team as well as key pitchers Caroline MacAusland and Aubrey Pesicka, juniors, should help propel the team into the playoffs.

"We have a little experience. I also think we're pretty solid on defense. We have average team speed," LeVeque said. "I'm hoping our experience and pitching combined with timely hitting will be enough to win league."

But to accomplish the goal of taking first in the TRL, the team will have to take down tough opponents in Lake Oswego, Clackamas and Oregon City. According to LeVeque, Lakeridge has a young team and is facing a rebuilding year,

The team started off the season by beating Aloha 3-2, The Dalles-Wahtonka, 5-3, and losing to Forest Grove, 2-4, South Salem 0-2 and The Dalles-Wahtonka, 0-7. The team went on to beat Tigard 7-3, before falling to Sunset 0-2.

The team started off league play with wins against Clackamas, 2-0, Oregon City, 2-1, and Lakeridge, 4-0.

According to LeVeque, the team would love to win a game in the playoffs this year, and with the new playoff format, which features an RPI ranking system, it could have a better chance at doing that. The new RPI system takes into account all wins, losses, home and away games and the difficulty of opponents for each individual team. All of these are factored into the team's overall ranking, which will be used to determine its playoff berth.

"If we finish high enough we should get a good draw in playoffs," LeVeque said. But for now, the team is taking things one game at a time and simply hoping for better playing conditions.

## Girls' Lacrosse aims to conquer Clackamas to advance to playoffs

ALISON FIELDHOUSE

At the start of the new season, the Girls' Lacrosse Team has come out strong, winning its first five league games. In its sixth league game, the team suffered its first loss to Oregon City 13-6. On April 8 against Lakeridge, they won 11-10. The win against Lakeridge was huge because the team hasn't beaten Lakeridge in several years, according to Megan Elston, head coach.

"We know we can do great things this year, but we are still an up-and-coming team and can't take that win against Lakeridge for granted," Elston said. "We will continue to work hard at practice so we're prepared for them (and all the other teams) again."

The girls nabbed their fourth win by defeating Canby with a score of 14-7. On April 1 they shut out Putnam 14-0 and on March 29 the team beat Clackamas 7-6.

"The Clackamas score was close because they really wanted to beat us," Hannah Cotter, senior, said. "We took away their opportunity to go to playoffs last year."

In their seventh game, the girls won again 18-1 against Riverdale, but lost in their eighth after facing Lake Oswego, 16-9. In the next game they won against Clackamas, 13-9.

After losing in the first round of playoffs last season, the team is ready to win its way back and go beyond to earn the title of State Champions. However, they want to first focus on making it to playoffs.

"Our focus this season will

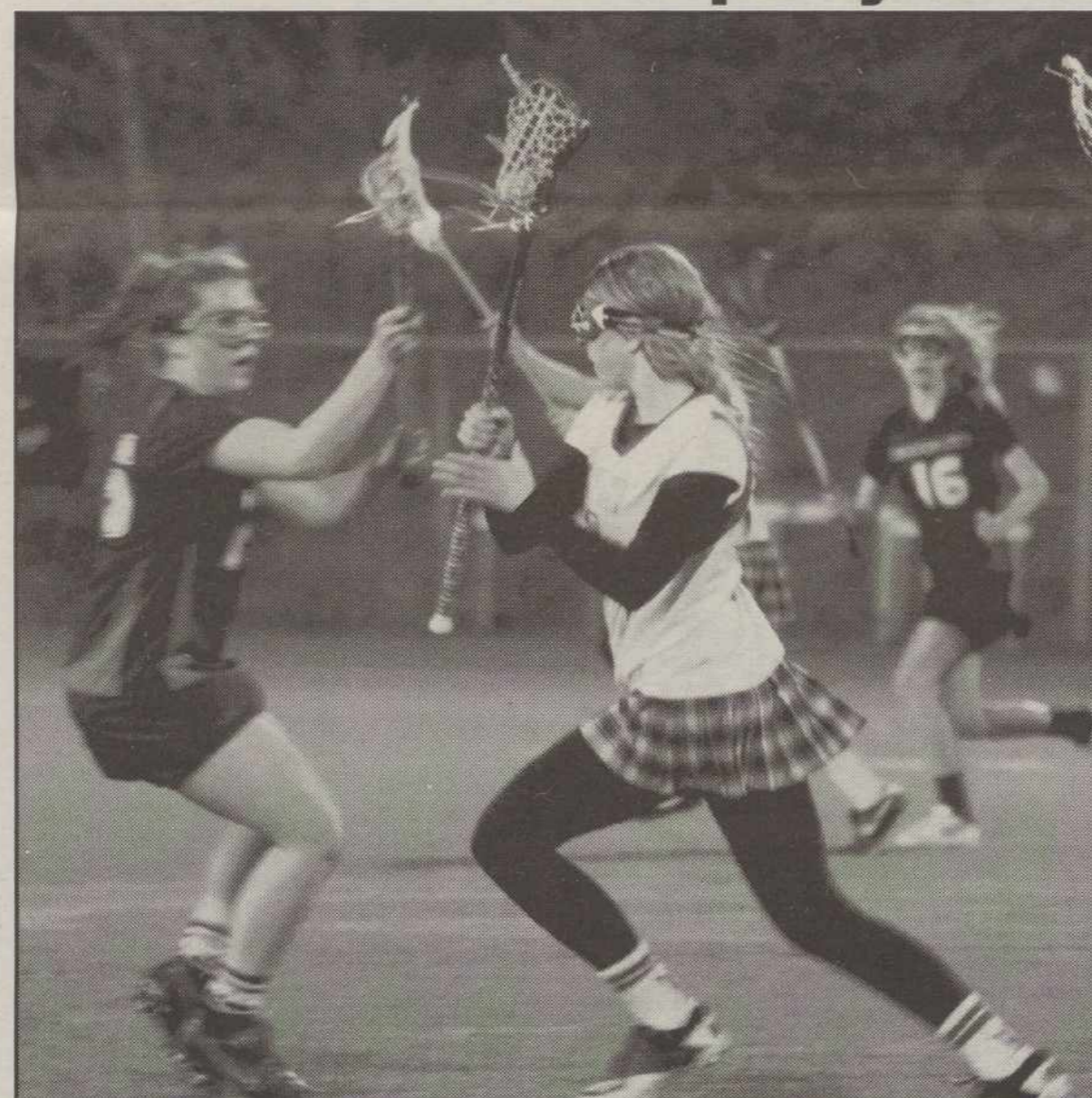


Photo by Laurel Massaro

Carli Wilson, sophomore, bypasses an Oregon City defender during the girls' lacrosse game on April 11 in which they faced their first loss of the season, 13-6. According to Megan Elston, head coach, the team's toughest competition will be Lakeridge, Clackamas and Oregon City as Oregon City was State Champion in both 2009 and 2010.

be to develop as a team and to beat Clackamas once again in order to make it to playoffs," Cotter said.

Their toughest competition will be Lakeridge and Clackamas, according to Elston. Lake Oswego and Oregon City will also be tough as Oregon City was State Champion in both 2009 and 2010.

"We beat Clackamas last year to go to playoffs, and by one goal in our first matchup against them this year. They're becoming a new rivalry," Elston said. "Of the three top teams in the Three Rivers League, Lakeridge is the one that is closest in skill to us, so they're the ones we want to beat."

In order to topple Lakeridge and Clackamas again, the players will implement what they learn in practice, such as stick skills and strengthening endurance, into games.

"I think the most important part of practice is learning the strengths and weaknesses of the team and how to mesh during games," Cotter said.

This year, the team is made up of younger players. There are only three seniors on the team, Cotter, Claire Offer and Connie Swanson. However, this doesn't take away from the skill of the team, according to Elston.

"There is talent everywhere on the field," Elston said.



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