

# SPORTS



Dufur freshman Henry Begay, on right, arrives safely at second base on a steel as the Lyle baseman Justin Ingram just misses the catch. Dufur swept Lyle in the doubleheader. Mark B. Gibson photo

## TD girls netters continue improvement

By Brandon Risley  
For Columbia Gorge News

As we reach the mid-way point of the spring sports season, The Dalles Riverhawks girls tennis team has shown marked improvement since its opening match last month.

While the scores have not quite reached the goals that the team has set for itself, Coach Debby Jones remains positive despite not having a team win so far.

"Overall, I knew this would be a rebuilding year," said Jones. "Even though we have not won a team match I am very pleasantly surprised that we are as competitive as we've been. We haven't been blanked in any of our matches and we wanted to keep that going. Win at least one match in the overall team score."

Heading into last month's match against HRV, Jones challenged her team to focus on something that would ultimately help them win more points going forward.

"We've lost a lot of points off what we call 'first strike balls,'" she said. "That could be serves or serve returns. If we can't get the ball in the court during our first strike opportunity it automatically puts us in a hole. With that said, improving our first serve percentage is key."

HRV won six of eight matches during the contest but the effort and determination was there for the Riverhawks. Number one singles player Hannah Biehn and the No. 4 doubles team of Maia Thomas and Giselle Ortega came away with their first victories in impressive fashion. Biehn, a senior and undisputed leader of the Riverhawks, got in a groove early, striking the ball with precision and confidence as

she went on to defeat HRV's Cassandra Moreno, 6-2, 6-2.

After winning the first set routinely, the second set became a little dicey for Thomas and Ortega, as they found themselves in a 4-2 hole in the second. The pair won the next four games, completing the comeback to take the match 6-3, 6-4.

Jones has high standards for her team. "To be honest I am seeing more progress during practice," she said. "The effort and enthusiasm are definitely there. We are struggling a bit to translate that into match situations. That is the mental part of the sport. We've been working on that part most recently. In comparing match and practice play we've discovered that our stress response is really triggered during match play. We are working on being able to regulate that stress and turn it into an asset instead of a negative. Playing matches is the best way to work on that."

Jones said a lot of her tennis players are participating in their first high school sport. "Learning to deal with losses and not judge effort and the score on the same level has been important," she said. "We've had a lot of team circle chats where we've asked team members individually to talk about their effort as compared to results."

"We then talk about what went well and what the player feels they need to work on in order to be more prepared for the next match. Because of our youth we need to build that resiliency within our players so that they are able to bounce back from losses. Every match is a learning opportunity, and the hard work will pay off if we are patient enough."

## Swift Dufur baseball team making the best of its on-base prowess

Staff report  
Columbia Gorge News

Base running is somewhat of a lost art at the major league level nowadays, but in Central Wasco County, it's a major weapon.

If opponents want to slow down the Dufur High baseball team this season, they had better keep the Rangers off the basepaths, or at the very least, learn how to keep those runners close. Dufur was a perfect 44 of 44 in stolen base attempts through four games, all wins.

The run-first Rangers were 5-1 heading into their May 4 contest against rival Sherman (4-3, 2-1 District 7) after suffering their first

loss, 3-0, Saturday at home against Weston-McEwen. The Rangers bounced back in the second game (the non-leaguer) of the doubleheader by a football-like 34-11 score.

That result was more in line with this year's Ranger offense, which is averaging more than 15 runs a game. The 4-0 start included doubleheader sweeps of Riverside and Lyle. Dufur's season started late because of COVID, but Coach CS Little's team made up for lost time in a hurry with a 20-1 and 17-0 sweep of Riverside on April 23, followed by a 13-0 and 12-1 sweep of Lyle on April 27.

In the second game

against Lyle, three Dufur pitchers combined on a no-hitter, recording 14 strikeouts of the 18 Lyle outs. Elijah Thomas, Brock LaFaver and Henry Begay kept Lyle hitters off balance the entire six-inning game. Jason Peters and Begay both had two hits for Dufur; Begay and Gabe Petroff knocked in three runs apiece. The Rangers took advantage of their team speed, stealing 13 bases in as many attempts.

Against Riverside, Dufur's 15-hit attack was led by LaFaver with three; he also had five RBI. Elijah Roden, Petroff and Kaleb Pence added two apiece. In game two, Petroff was 4-for-6 and knocked in three runs, and

Josh Taylor and Roden homered — Taylor's was a grand slam. The Rangers led 12-2 before Riverside made things interesting with a six-run fifth inning. Dufur scored five times in the seventh to put the game well out of reach.

Sherman lost its first league game Saturday, 3-1, at Heppner, and continues to keep pace with Dufur. The Huskies also lost the non-league game of the double-header, 10-5. The May 4 Sherman-Dufur double-header begins at 2 p.m. in Dufur.

## Experienced Pendleton too tough for young Riverhawks

By Mike Weber  
For Columbia Gorge News

It was a learning experience for the young The Dalles High Riverhawks baseball team in an Intermountain Conference three-game series versus the highly regarded Pendleton Buckaroos last week.

Pendleton won 14-2 at Quinton Street Ballpark in The Dalles April 27, followed by wins of 11-1 and 10-1 in an April 30 doubleheader at Pendleton High School.

The Dalles was hoping to snap a four-game losing streak when it faced the winless Crook County Cowboys at home Tuesday (results came after the printed edition deadline). The Riverhawks next game

is May 5 at 4:30 p.m. on the road against the Redmond Panthers.

The Dalles plays a doubleheader Saturday at Crook County High School in Prineville. The Dalles faces the Bend Lava Bears at 1:30 p.m., followed by a matchup against Crook County at 3 p.m. The Dalles meets area rival the Hood River Valley Eagles (4-2, 5-4) in a 4:30 p.m. home game contest May 11, followed by a 4:30 p.m. home game versus Redmond May 12.

The young Riverhawks (10 freshmen, four juniors), who have no seniors, were simply unable to overcome a much more experienced Buckaroo squad that has seven seniors. In the April 27 contest, Pendleton jumped in front

with an 8-0 first-inning lead. The Buckaroos, who have the No. 1 ranked offense (10.11 runs per game average) out of 31 Class 5A squads, added a run in the third and scored four more in the fourth to build a 13-0 advantage.

The Dalles scored two in the bottom half of the frame, making it 13-2. Pendleton, which outhit The Dalles 10-3, got a run in the fifth for the final margin.

Last Friday in Pendleton, The Dalles continued struggling in two games against the Buckaroos. In the first game, Pendleton scored in every inning, while jumping in front 9-0 after four innings. The Dalles sophomore Braden Schwartz (2-for-3, single, double) singled in the fifth and later scored on

an error, making it 9-1 to help the Riverhawks avoid a shutout.

Riverhawk sophomore pitcher Riley Brock was a bright spot on the mound for The Dalles. Brock had three strikeouts, walked four and allowed four hits in four innings pitched. In the second game, The Dalles enjoyed an early 1-0 first inning lead. Schwartz (1-for-3), singled and scored on a sacrifice fly RBI by junior Austin Agidius. It was short-lived though. Pendleton responded by scoring two in the bottom of the first and then outscored The Dalles 8-0 over the next five frames. Pendleton had six hits in its sixth straight win. The Buckaroos only loss this year was 11-3 to Hood River April 16 at Hood River.

## HRV moves into second place; league win streak now at four

Hood River Valley High School's baseball team is two games behind league-leading Pendleton and riding a four-game league win streak into this week's Intermountain Conference tests against Redmond.

The Eagles (4-2 IMC, 5-4 overall) defeated Ridgeview by identical 5-0 scores last week, April 27 at home and May 1 in Redmond. HRV faces Redmond High this week, at home May 4 (too late for press time) and on the road

May 8. Pendleton remained unbeaten in league games with a sweep of The Dalles (see related story in Sports).

Redmond is 2-2 in league and 2-4 overall. The Panthers will have a tough, three-game stretch midweek. After their game at HRV, the Panthers host The Dalles on Wednesday and then HRV again on Saturday.

## Columbia girls third at district meet

### Reyes, Acosta win individual titles

By Joe Petshow  
Columbia Gorge News

Columbia High capped off a successful track and field season Friday at the District IV 1A championships in Vancouver, where the Bruin relay teams won the meet's final events.

"That's just such a great way to end the season, finishing on top of the podium," Coach James Anderson said of the Bruin girls and boys 4x400 relays.

Junior Chanele Reyes won both hurdle races and was the top point scorer for the Bruin girls, who finished third overall behind Montesano and Hoquaim. She also ran legs on Columbia's second place 4x100-meter relay and its champion 4x400 relay, which won in a season-best, 4 minutes, 18.55 seconds.

Both of those relay races were ultra-competitive events which weren't decided until the final few meters over the Seton Catholic track. There were anxious moments for the Bruin long relay, as LaCenter anchor, frosh Shaela Bradley, ran a 57-second final 400 split to make things interesting at the finish.

Columbia's Ella Zimmerman ran the opening leg, making up the stagger on the rest of the field. Reyes was next, as she and Hannah Polkinghorn combined to give the Bruins about a 20-meter lead. Bradley, who earlier in the meet had won the 100, 200 and long jump, closed the gap quickly on Bruin anchor, Makayla Fies.

"When LaCenter took off they were in third place and by the 200-meter mark she had already caught the Seton girl," Anderson said. "She was closing fast. Makayla

held on and got it home for us. For the girls it was a great way to end."

Three seconds separated the first three teams; Columbia's 4:18.55 was followed by LaCenter at 4:19.69 and Seton at 4:21.33.

Polkinghorn added 16 team points, with second-place finishes in the sprints. The Columbia junior recorded a personal best in the 100 of 12.63 seconds, and just missed her best in the 200.

Fies also PR'd in her specialty, the 400 (61.41), where she finished second, and was eighth in the 200. Reyes won the 100-meter hurdles in 17.45 seconds and the 300 hurdles in 50.06. Zimmerman ran a lifetime best 51.13 in the longer race to finish second and earn eight team points for the Bruins.

Anderson said Zimmerman's race for second in the low hurdles

behind Reyes was one of the more competitive ones on the day. "At about hurdle six, Ella and the King's Way girl (Camille Vaughan) were hitting the hurdles at the same time," Anderson said. "They crossed the last hurdles at the same time and Ella just had a better sprint at the finish. I was looking right across at the finish and I was going, 'She got it.'"

Both hurdlers ran lifetime bests; Zimmerman 51.13 and Vaughan 51.15. "The smile on her face at the end of the race was great," Anderson said of Zimmerman's PR. "Most of our runners either PR'd or had season bests at the meet. That's all you can ask for."

Frosh Jessica Polkinghorn added 10 other points for Columbia, with her third place in the shot put (30-5.75) and fifth in the javelin (90-07). Columbia's other individual points came from Esther Kline, who ran

another lifetime best in the 3200 — in as many weeks — this one in 14:31.57.

The Bruins were second to Montesano in both the 4x100 relay, 52.40 to 52.54, and the 4x200, 1:50.69 to 1:53.49. The time in the 4x200 was a season best. Anderson said Montesano was cleaner overall on its handoffs and that was the difference in the close 4x100.

Montesano's team depth was evidenced by the fact that it won just one individual event — Madolyn Olson's 400 victory. The Bulldogs won both short relays and finished with 135 team points. Hoquaim was second with 118 and Columbia had 91 points for third.

The Columbia boys were fifth with 63 points (Montesano also won the boys competition with 137). Columbia senior Juan Acosta was the lone Bruin individual boys district champ, winning the shot put

by a quarter inch over Elma sophomore Landon Ritter, 39-8.25 to 39.8.00. Acosta unleashed a 40-footer, but he was unable to maintain his position in the circle and scratched. "He wanted 40 so bad," Anderson said. "But, he watched it too long; he needed to turn his body away from it (to maintain his balance)."

Acosta also finished second in the discus, in a personal-best 118-4. Teammate Eli Nielson was eighth.

Montesano spoiled the Columbia boys' bid to win the 4x100 relay, so the Bruin squad did the next available thing — it won the 4x400 instead to finish off the day's competition. In the shorter race, Angel Sanchez, Peter Schlegel, Ryan Howard, and Jace Greenwood finished second to Monty, 45.81 to 46.07. Sanchez and Howard joined Calvin Andrews and Dylan Muehlbauer on the first-place long relay.

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