

Little League Iris champs



Submitted

Keizer Blue Thunder, left, and Keizer Gray won the majors and juniors divisions at the Iris Festival Tournament, hosted by Keizer Little League on May 19-21. Blue Thunder includes Cynthia Ceiplis (head coach), Lynzi Eslava (scorekeeper), Alison Knight (assistant coach), Andrea Morse (team manager), Meadow Lenz, Kamryn Long, Madison Morse, Madilyn Ward, Natalie Ward, Samantha Carpenter, Britney Cooper, Mia Eslava, Kristi Lange and Gwen Leduc. On the Keizer Gray team is Jeffrey McGrath (head coach), Hannah Kenworthy, Sierra Lane, Isabell McCants, Lorena McGrath Haylie Vaught, Maddalin Wyscaver, Maddie Bevens, Kylie Buckmaster, Samantha Curran, Sydney Gates, Akacia Hiatt and Trinity Kampstra.

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Taking advantage of an error, Ebner and Nadia Witt then scored on a ground ball by Carr that went through the shortstop's legs and rolled all the way to the fence to give the Lady Celts a 4-1 lead.

Danner retired the first two hitters in the bottom of the fifth before the game began

to slip away from McNary. A walk and RBI double got Oregon City within 4-2.

After hitting a batter, Danner got a fly ball to right field. However, a charging Alexa Cepeda couldn't make the catch and two more runners scored, tying the game at 4-4.

Danner then got a ground ball back to the pitcher but she couldn't field it cleanly and the runner beat the throw to first. The Pioneers then added a RBI single to take a

5-4 lead. "Defensively, we kind of knew they (Oregon City) were a little weak and they made some errors," Wise said. "But unfortunately we did, too."

Haley Bingenheimer reached on another Oregon City error in the top of the sixth but didn't get any farther than first base.

With two outs in the bottom of the sixth, the Pioneers scored two more runs on a triple.

With one out in the sev-

enth, Cepeda singled to give McNary hope. However, Ebner struck out swinging and Cepeda was then picked off first base to end the game.

Hornback, who had 25 strikeouts through the first two rounds of the playoffs, added eight more against McNary.

The Lady Celts were able to record six hits.

Ebner was 2-for-4 with two runs and a RBI. Witt, Cepeda, Carr and Alfaro each had a hit as well.

Wise said he received a

scouting report regarding Hornback from West Salem head coach Ty Nicholson. The Titans played her in the second round of the playoffs. Several Lady Celts had also hit against Hornback during summer ball.

"The thing about this team is they're not afraid of anybody, no matter who they're facing," Wise said.

"So we worked really hard on a game plan. We knew what she was going to try to do. She was going to get us to try to chase the rise. We had a

good game plan and they executed it."

Danner also allowed six hits and only three earned runs.

"Faith has done awesome for us all year," Wise said.

"She obviously doesn't throw as hard as the girl they have but Faith moves the ball around, she hits her spots. I'd take Faith any day. Faith is the same kind of kid, nothing really rattles her. We kind of figured out what their hitters were going to do and we tried to work that and she did a great job with it."

CARR, continued from Page 10

She knew it was the right decision as soon as she stepped back on the field.

"It was just a different world," Carr said. "It was fun again and I enjoyed being on the field and I enjoyed being

in the box and I just liked being out there again, just experiencing all the close games, diving for balls, everything about it became fun again. I couldn't imagine this is my last time ever on the field. I didn't want it to be over yet. I was ready for more."

Carr is getting more. She signed with Clackamas Community College on Friday, May 5.

"It's weird because I went through the process of going through recruiting and all that stuff and then I didn't want to do it anymore," Carr said. "Then when it came up you're just in shock because it actually happened and all the work you put forth is actually getting a positive result."

Carr's attention turned to Clackamas a month ago when her former Oregon Titan teammate Baylee Eaton committed to the Cougars.

"She brought up the idea of us getting a house together and all of that stuff," Carr said. "It was just something that once I started thinking about it I thought that'd be awesome. We don't travel very far at Clackamas. I wouldn't miss a ton of school. It's still getting a good school but also getting to continue playing a sport that I love. I loved the coach. I loved all the girls so it was a

pretty easy decision."

Carr has been on the McNary varsity team for four years, playing in the outfield, third base and now second. She finished her career with one of her best seasons, batting .578 with four home runs, 29 RBIs and 27 runs as the Lady Celts' cleanup hitter.

"She is hitting the heck out of the ball right now and it's been a fun senior season watching her," McNary head coach Kevin Wise said. "Being around her the last four years, she's just one of those kids that makes you smile and laugh a lot. She's goofy but in a really good way. You need those kind of people around to keep the mood light and that's what Hannah does."

As one of only three seniors on a team full of underclassmen, Carr has made it a point to be a leader.

"I want to be a huge impact on the younger girls," Carr said. "My freshman year I was afraid of every single senior that was on the team and I didn't know how to talk to them but I try to let them (underclassmen) know that I'm there for them even off the field if they need anything, help with school, help with anything. I've been through it all."

Carr has also loved the fight

she's seen in the young team, especially in an 11-inning, 5-4 win over South Salem on April 26.

"You got to see all of the fight in the younger girls who were putting everything they had on the table out there," Carr said. "You could see in their eyes that they wanted it, the drive that they had. That was just something that was really cool for me."

Wise is happy he got one more season with Carr.

"Deep inside it broke my heart because (assistant coach) Brad (Ulrey) and I talk about how these guys are our daughters," Wise said of the idea of Carr not playing her senior year. "Regardless of the outcome of the season, you want to have these guys around for four years."

"I was really happy that she stuck with it and to see the way she's doing things this year on and off the field, it's awesome. You watch her play and the love is back. We knew she had the talent to do this. I hate to see her quit playing because there's so much talent there so to see her go on and play at the next level, it makes me happy because she's worked hard on and off the field. She's a great kid. It's been a pleasure to get to know her over the last four years."

Register for basketball camps

McNary High School is hosting two weeks of basketball camps this summer.

The boys camp, led by Celtics head coach Ryan Kirch, is June 26-29 with incoming third through fifth graders at 9 a.m. to noon followed by sixth through ninth graders at 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The camp, which is \$55 and includes a T-shirt, focuses on developing fundamental skills like footwork, shooting

technique, passing, defense, dribbling and rebounding.

For more information, contact Kirch at 541-908-1609 or rkirch@hotmail.com.

The girls camp, led by new Lady Celts head coach Elizabeth Doran, is July 3-6 with incoming second through fifth graders at 9 a.m. to 11:30 followed by sixth through ninth graders at noon to 3 p.m.

The camp is open to any girls at all levels looking to im-

prove their skills through fundamentals like shooting, passing, ball handling, footwork and defense.

Registration is \$50 and includes a T-shirt.

For more information, contact Doran at coach.lizdorand@gmail.com.

All campers should be dressed in gym shoes and athletic gear.

No non-bring valuables, money or jewelry.

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