

PARTING SHOTS

A weekly snapshot from The Daily Astorian and Chinook Observer photographers



The late afternoon sun starts to go down on the Warrenton High School ballfields during a recent softball/baseball doubleheader.

DAMIAN MULINIX — EO Media

Lund: Dane has been a catcher since he was 10 years old

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And now Sue. You are a writer, and this is a story just right for you. Wouldn't it be cool to find out how his mom and dad saw this game? Were they there? Will Jordan Poyer (who, like Dane, was undervalued in high school) talk about Dane? I remember Dane in Astoria as a stubby blond dirtball, good hitter, but too small to be a catcher. How did he get from there to OSU? I sure never pictured him in Division I college ball, and then catching a historic game.

Oh, I forgot to say. In the first inning, Dane put down a perfect sacrifice bunt moving the runner to second base. That guy scored on a single for the only run the Beavers would need. In the third, Dane's single on my scorecard was another perfectly placed bunt for a base hit.

What a day, thrilling for the kid and family, I'm sure, and exhausting even for me. Too much fun.

— Robin

Dear Robin,

Dane's parents were in the stands in Corvallis March 21. "It was just amazing," Dane's Mom Kim said. "We were so thankful to be there. It's been his dream to play at Oregon State since he was 7 years old."

"I kinda knew right from the start, when there were three up and three down" that the pitcher was on his mark, said David Lund, Dane's father.

"By the fifth inning when there were 15 up and 15 down, I knew he was on his game. By the seventh inning, I had to get up and started walking around."

The amazing part was that Rasmussen put the ball where he wanted it, David said. "They didn't hesitate to throw inside or in the dirt. The only time the baseball was in the dirt was when they wanted it there." And, Dane stopped it every



Photo courtesy of Lund family

Dane Lund catches in the 2003 Little League state tournament.

time. "The pitcher was unhittable," Dave said.

"This is history," Kim added.

Yes, Dane played with Jordan Poyer in high school. He was one year younger than Poyer, who chose football over baseball and starred at OSU before heading to the NFL, where he now plays for the Cleveland Browns.

The road to Division I wasn't paved with gold for Dane.

He attended Mt. Hood

Community College for two years, where he was all-league, all-tournament and all-conference.

He then went at San Jose State for one year, but wanted to be closer to his family, he said. He played summer ball in Corvallis and knew the OSU coaches. Coach Pat Casey offered him a place in the baseball program, but, in Division I, if you transfer, you have to sit out a year.

"That was rough," Dane

said of not playing last year. "But, I think it helped in the long run."

Since he was 10 years old, Dane has been a catcher. "You always get to be a part of every single play," he said. "It's definitely not boring. I love it!" Dane said his focus changed when Dave Gasser, Oregon's winningest baseball coach arrived in Astoria. Dane was in eighth grade. "It was like having your eyes opened for the very

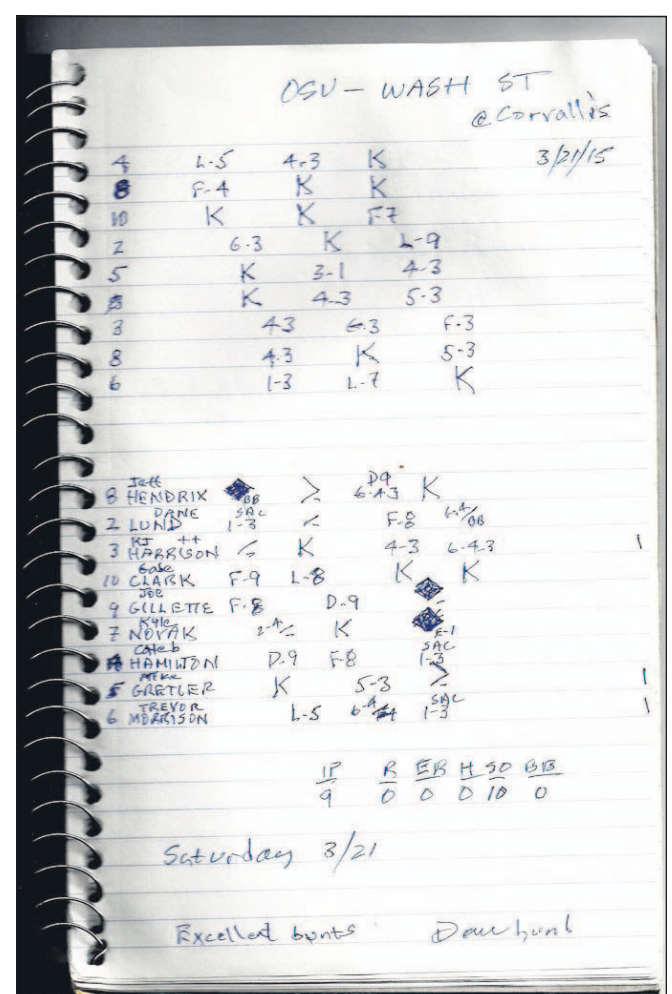


Photo courtesy Robin Cody

Robin Cody's soggy scorecard from Oregon State's perfect game March 21. Note at bottom says "excellent bunts" — Dane Lund.

first time," Dane said. Over the years, Gasser prepared his players to continue after high school, Dane said.

Coach Gasser was a catcher, but never caught a perfect game. A couple of no-hitters, but nothing like what happened in Corvallis. "I cannot even imagine what it feels like to catch a perfect game in nine innings at that level. It's literally impossible to imagine."

"Dane is a great catcher, no doubt about it," he said. "The catcher is such a big part of that success, the pitcher and catcher act like one organism. The catcher starts taking on respon-

sibility for this accomplishment to happen. Dane will remember this for the rest of his life."

Dane said he plans to keep baseball in his future and perhaps will coach.

— Sue

Robin Cody played baseball in his hometown of Estacada and was captain of Yale University's baseball team. He later was an umpire in the Portland area, where he still resides. His books include "Voyage of a Summer Sun," "Ricochet River" and "Another Way the River Has." Sue Cody is deputy managing editor and sports editor at The Daily Astorian.

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