All-Stars shine, but come up short in championship

By GARY HENLEY The Daily Astorian

The Lower Columbia baseball All-Stars made a couple runs at state championships over the weekend, but came up short to teams from West Linn in two different games.

The 10U and 12U All-Star teams both played for state titles Sunday afternoon — the 10s in Newberg and the 12s at home, as the Lower Columbia 12U All-Stars hosted the North Oregon Cal Ripken Baseball state tournament, Saturday and Sunday at Columbia Field.

Lower Columbia finished the tournament with a 3-3 record.

Cal Ripken Baseball teams from West Linn won state championships at the 9U, 10U, 11U and 12U levels.

Only three teams took part in the 12U state tournament (Lower Columbia, Portland, West Linn). Lower Columbia went 3-0 against Portland, and lost all three to West Linn.

"We competed well and played hard," Lower Columbia coach Kenny Hageman said. "The kids on the team really lived up to All-Star baseball. They're a good group of players. We just had some untimely errors and some unlucky bounces (in the losses to West Linn)."

And with only three teams in the field, Lower Columbia, Portland and West Linn saw a lot of each other.

After splitting a pair of games Saturday (12-8 win over Portland, 13-1 loss to West Linn), Lower Columbia had to play four straight games Sunday.

Lower Columbia opened with a 9-5 win over Portland early Sunday morning, then lost a 3-1 decision to West Linn.

Portland took another shot at Lower Columbia in the afternoon, but Lower Columbia sent the Portlanders packing with a 16-6 win. Portland finished the tournament 0-6.

That put Lower Columbia and West Linn in the championship game, with Lower Colum-

bia having to win two games to win the title.

But West Linn needed just one, as the Lions scored a 15-5 win in the final game.

A three-run homer by Jimmy Strange had Lower Columbia within striking distance, before West Linn took advantage of a few Lower Columbia fielding miscues to pull away.

Lower Columbia's Michael Moore finished Sunday with three home runs, giving him five for the weekend.

"Michael Moore crushed the ball this weekend," Hageman said, while Devin Hoover also homered. "Anthony Reed and Warren Wirkkala both had some timely bunts, and Dylan Junes and Camo Miethe both had a couple line drive shots."

Saturday's Highlights

Lower Columbia opened the tournament Saturday morning with a 12-8 win over Portland.

After giving up a run in the top of the first, Lower Columbia scored three in its first at-

Tony Tumbarello's triple scored Hoover, and Strange followed with a two-run homer for a 3-1 lead. Moore belted the first of his two home runs on the day in the second inning, a tworun blast for a 5-1 advantage. Moore and Reed had

run-scoring singles in the third, and Junes had a double in the fourth that brought in Tumbarello, as the Lower Columbia lead reached 10-3.

Moore, Junes and Miethe did the pitching for Lower Columbia, which had to hold off a Portland rally in the fifth.

Lower Columbia had a 1-0 lead on West Linn in Game 2, after Moore's solo homer in the bottom of the first.

West Linn eventually responded, with a pair of two-run home runs in the third inning and another in the fourth for a 13-1 win.

"Overall, it was a real good tournament," Hageman said. "We had a good turnout both days. Teams love coming here for tournaments."



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian



Lower Columbia's Tony Tumbarello, No. 17, warms up on deck during the baseball game.



Lower Columbia's Jimmy Strange, No. 11, rounds third base after hitting a home run against Portland in their baseball game Saturday. Joshua Bessex The Daily Astorian



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Ford at Molalla (2), 5 p.m.; Neah-

Kah-Nie at Astoria Ford B (2), 5

p.m.; Knappa at Seaside (2), 4 p.m.

SATURDAY

Baseball — Gresham Legion at

Lower Columbia's Micheal Moore, center, smiles at his grandmother, Kay Hanna, after hitting a home run against Portland in their baseball game Saturday.

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