



Scottie Ziegner to represent HRV boys tennis at state championships

Eagles place third of seven teams at district tournament in Bend; girls season comes to an end at districts

By **BEN MITCHELL**
News staff writer

Capping off the team's first-ever Columbia River Conference title earlier this month, the HRV boys tennis team had a good showing during last week's 5A Special District No. 1 Championships in Bend, which saw the Eagles take third overall and No. 1 singles standout Scottie Ziegner finishing high enough to represent the team at the state championships.

Coach Jon Hiatt has heaped much deserving praise on his athletes after matches this season, and the district tournament was no exception.

"We had three doubles and two singles players playing (in the championship rounds) on Saturday; this is where we always want to be," he said. "Overall, I am pleased with how we did."

In singles competition, Ziegner, who received a third seed, cruised through his first two matches in the championship round,

shutting out Hermiston's Skyler Grigg in the second round and then defeating Summit's Nick Berning, 6-1, 6-0. Ziegner lost to Summit's Carter Quigley in the semifinals (1-6, 4-6), who would end up winning the entire singles bracket. Ziegner then battled to defeat another Summit netter, Cole Younger, whom he shut out in both sets.



SCOTTIE ZIEGNER

Ziegner got revenge for his teammate, Cooper Holzman, who had been defeated in the second round by Younger, 6-1, 6-2. Holzman, however, who was unseeded, got the upset in first round when he defeated The Dalles' Will Coy (6-1, 6-3), who was seeded fifth. HRV's Will Ferrick, whom Hiatt said played "awesome" during the tournament, also had a tough match, losing to eventual champion Quigley in the quarterfinals (0-6, 1-6).

In doubles, Victor Garibo and Patrick Humann, who were seeded seventh, ended up

finishing sixth overall in the tournament, losing to Hermiston's Wade Kemper/Snell (no first names given) in the fifth-place match.

Also competing for HRV at districts were Alden Sova in singles competition and the duos of Brandon Campos/Miguel De La Rosa, Jorge Calderon/Hugo Sandoval, and Cole Shepherd/Sawyer Bogard.

Ziegner will travel to Portland Thursday for the state championship tourney, which will be held at the West Hills Racquet Club, starting at noon.

Girls tennis season ends at districts

The girls team has struggled to win matches throughout the season, and the district tourney was no different, with the Eagles' five points resulting in a seventh-place finish out of seven teams.

"Our goal all season long was to become the best team we could possibly be going into districts," explained coach Jaime Rivera. "While there were certainly hurdles we had to jump over, in my opinion we accomplished

our goal as evidenced by our improved team culture and the respect we showed each other, win or lose."

No one qualified for state, although in singles, Olivia Newcomb was one win away from fifth place, which would have earned her a spot as an alternate. Team leader Maddy Graham came away the victor in two matches, and then lost to Pendleton's Matilde Cianci in the championship quarterfinals. Graham and Newcomb faced off in the consolation semifinals, with Newcomb coming away the winner, who then lost in the next round to No. 1 seed Autumn Layden of Summit.

In doubles, Madison Mooney and Vanessa Olivas also won two matches overall, then lost in the first round of the championships but advanced to the consolation semifinals.

Other athletes competing for HRV included Ann Evans and Annelise Acosta in singles and the pairs of Camaryn Chambers/Tia Semmes, Bianca Badillo/America Flores, and Nikki Paulus/Crystal Flores in doubles.

HRV track and field wins first-ever CRC title at District Championships



Photos by Mike Weber

HRV TRACK AND FIELD dominated the Columbia River Conference Track and Field District Championships last week, with both the boys and the girls team taking first overall thanks to numerous great performances from athletes. At left, junior Lauren Robinson competes in the 1500-meter run on Friday on the way to a second-place finish; at right, senior Mason McDowell clears the last of the high hurdles during the Friday finals to take first place in the event.

By **MIKE WEBER**
For the News

The final day of the Columbia River Conference Track and Field District Championships turned out to be an historic day for the Hood River Valley Eagles, who won their first ever CRC title. The Eagles, guided by coach Donnie Herneisen, won the boys and girls district championships Friday at The Dalles High School.

"It was very special to win the district titles this year," said Herneisen. "Winning on either side would've been a great accomplishment, but it is extra special to have won on both sides this year. In every previous year, we always finished second to Hermiston's boys and girls teams. Last year was a much closer competition on the girls' side than in years past, but Hermiston's depth really helped them pull away from us. The tables flipped a bit this season."

HRV has 11 boys and eight girls that will advance to the state meet (May 22-23 at the University of Oregon's Hayward Field in Eugene), led by senior Jestena Mattson (100 meters, 200, high jump), junior Sebastian Barajas (discus, shot put) and junior Parker Kennedy (pole vault). The trio are each ranked No. 1 in their events.

A number of Lady Eagles won individual CRC titles, including three-time district champion Mattson, who won the 100 (12.36 seconds), high jump (school record of 5 feet, 7 inches), and the 200 (24.59, breaking her own school record). Senior Emily Viuhkola was a two-time individual district champ with victories in the 400 (66.77) and 800 (2:26.68). Mattson is the defending state champ in the 100 and 200.

"It was really super fun for me today," said Mattson, who has earned an athletic scholarship to attend Fresno State University in California in the fall. "In other years, I've

Horizon Hawks track and field teams also had a great showing at their district championships. **Turn to Page A8** to read the story.

won district titles in four events (100, 200, two relays), but this year I switched to high jump instead of being in the 4x400. It's super exciting to be going to state again for the fourth straight year. The state meet is always my favorite meet of the year. I'm ready to go and I hope to repeat as state champ in the 100 and 200 and I would like to win a state title in the high jump too, so that's my goal this year."

Eight Eagle girls qualified for state, including juniors Lauren Robinson (1500, 3000), Marlie Bloomster (300 hurdles), as well as freshman Audrey Marble, Caitlyn Fick, Cassidy Davidson and Chloe Clark. Marble, Fick, Viuhkola and Mattson combined to lead HRV to the district title in the 4x400 relay (4:15.88). HRV totaled 93 points in team scoring to take the title, with Pendleton (88 pts.) getting second place.

"We challenged the girls on Thursday at practice and told them we were going to need some heroes to step up," said Herneisen. "There were plenty to choose from after Friday's competition. We had so many kids step up and score points in the three, four and five spots such as (Marlie) Bloomster, Sophia Marble, Terri Hewitt, and (Caitlyn) Fick just to name a few. Even though we won quite a few events, lots of kids earned a whole lot of points with top-five finishes. Those were the heroes we needed to get the team

win."

The Eagle boys contingent of state qualifiers is led by two-time CRC champions Barajas (shot put, discus), Kennedy (100, pole vault), juniors Parker Irusta (200, long jump) and Justin Crosswhite (1500, 3000).

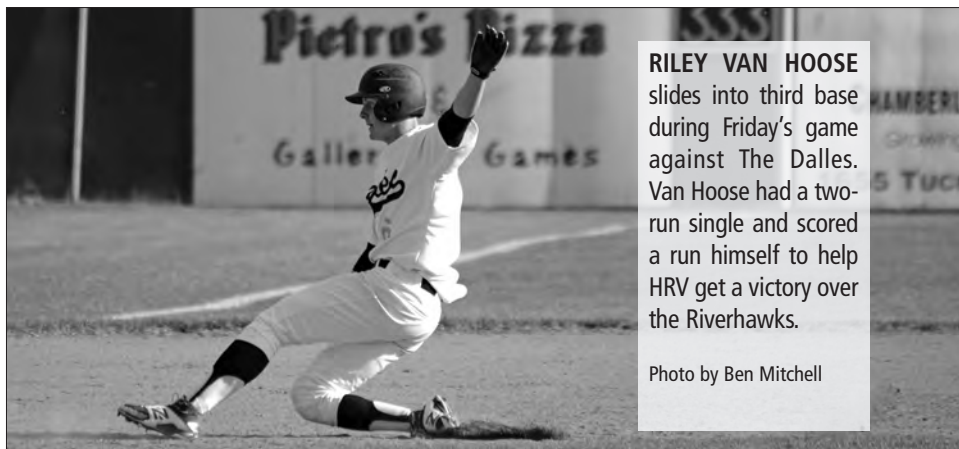
"I've had so much fun at districts and after winning the 3K on Wednesday, it felt good

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Photo by Ben Mitchell

MAKENA ZELLER slides in order to beat a tag at first base during Friday's game against The Dalles. Zeller led the team in RBI, with two, thanks to a two-run single she hit.



RILEY VAN HOOSE slides into third base during Friday's game against The Dalles. Van Hoose had a two-run single and scored a run himself to help HRV get a victory over the Riverhawks.

Photo by Ben Mitchell

HRV softball fights to the final inning against TD, faces St. Helens in play-in

By **BEN MITCHELL**
News staff writer

As far as making the playoffs were concerned, neither team had anything to play for during Friday's HRV and The Dalles game, but that didn't stop the two teams from putting on a show for the packed bleachers at the Westside Elementary softball fields.

The two teams jockeyed for position at the outset of the game, which saw five lead changes, but ultimately resulted with HRV falling to The Dalles, 9-6, thanks in large part to a three-run rally by the Riverhawks in the seventh inning that received no response from the Eagles.

Going into Friday's game, neither The Dalles (7-5 Columbia River Conference, 15-10) nor HRV (4-8 CRC, 11-15 overall) could move up or down in the CRC, with The Dalles a shoo-in for the first play-in spot and HRV guaranteed the second play-in spot. Pendle-

ton, ranked second in the state, took the league several games ago, as the Buckaroos had not lost any of their 12 CRC games this season.

The Dalles came out of the gate fast in the top of the first inning, scoring four runs, but HRV answered equally in the bottom of the same inning, scoring four runs of its own. Zoe Munn and Kaylin Winans scored the first runs for HRV, both off passed balls and Breanna Weekly and Jenni Packer scored off a Makena Zeller single, which came from a line drive hit to right field, to make it 4-4.

The Dalles regained the lead by a run in the top of the second, then pushed it out again in the top of the third to go up 6-4. In the bottom of the same inning, HRV came within one thanks to a double from Winans

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HRV baseball's sweet season gets the cherry on top with a win over TD

By **BEN MITCHELL**
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With the CRC title firmly in HRV's hands, the Eagles were only playing for pride in Friday's game against The Dalles, who unlike HRV, had a lot to lose — namely the final play-in spot in the Columbia River Conference.

The Riverhawks (4-8 CRC, 10-15 overall), lost both the game and the chance to edge Hermiston for the final play-in spot, falling to HRV (9-3 CRC, 17-8 overall), 5-3, despite rallying in the final innings of the game.

As they've done so often this season, the Eagles grabbed control of the game before their opponents had a chance to put up any runs. After a scoreless first inning, Chase Lariza provided HRV with its first run, scoring on a single from Ryan Ward, who hit a ground ball down the third-base line in the bottom of the second. Skyler Hunter scored

as well that inning, making it 2-0, HRV.

Both teams were quiet scoring-wise for the next two-and-a-half innings until the bottom of the fifth, when Kellan Duffy and Patrick Harvey scored off a single from Riley Van Hoose (line drive to center field) to extend HRV's lead to four: Van Hoose would then score the final run for HRV a couple plays later, thanks to a ground ball hit by Dallas Buckley, who was able to reach first base on an error by The Dalles' third baseman.

The Dalles pushed back in the final two innings, scoring two runs in the top of the sixth and another run in the top of the seventh to make things a bit interesting, but relief pitcher Kam Walker stayed composed on the mound, giving up two hits and a run (none earned) while striking at one batter in

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