



# Ward's no-hitter propels HRV over Dallas

Eagles shut out Dragons, 5-0, advancing to quarterfinals for home game against Putnam on Friday



Photos by Ben Mitchell

**RYAN WARD** (above) hurls a pitch at a Dallas batter in Wednesday's playoff game, during which he pitched a no-hitter and struck out 17 batters. At top right, shortstop Skyler Hunter rounds third base on his way to scoring one of his two runs. At bottom right, outfielder Riley Van Hoose stretches out on his way to making a successful catch.

By **BEN MITCHELL**  
News staff writer

On paper, Wednesday's playoff game featuring the HRV Eagles and the Dallas Dragons seemed like it might be a good matchup. A No. 7 against a No. 10. A team that gives up the fifth-fewest runs in 5A versus a team that scores the fifth-most runs in 5A.

But it wasn't. After jumping out to a 2-0 lead in the first inning, the Eagles took the fire out of the Dragons, extending their lead to 5-0 in the third inning and keeping it safe thanks to starting pitcher Ryan Ward, who had his best game of the season, throwing a no-hitter and just one walk away from a perfect game. HRV had eight hits to Dallas' none, and no errors to Dallas' three.

But HRV coach Erich Harjo "wasn't really surprised" by the victory, nor by Ward's game on the mound.

"He's taken pretty much everyone all year," he said.

Ward's pitching confounded everyone in Dallas' lineup, as batter after batter left the plate in frustration and went to go sulk in the Dragons' dugout. No amount of practice swings or glove-adjusting seemed to make any difference. In seven innings, Ward struck out 17 batters and only on five occasions did Dallas batters make contact with his pitches, forcing HRV's defense to go to work, which it did. Ward tore through Dallas' lineup at breakneck speed, starting and finishing innings in just a few minutes.

"His tempo was really good and his pace

was really good," Harjo said of Ward's game. "His off-speed pitches were really working and that really sets up his fastball. He hides the ball pretty well too."

On offense, Skyler Hunter led HRV with two hits in four at-bats, both bunts, including one that started off the first inning. Harjo noted that the "ability to bunt the baseball was really big for us because we knew defensively (the Dragons) weren't very strong."

Hunter scored a team-high two runs, tied with Ward, who hit an RBI-triple in the bottom of the first. Patrick Harvey led in RBI thanks to a two-run RBI single he hit in the bottom of the third, which was his lone hit of the night.

Other hitters for HRV included Chase Lariza (1 for 2, single, run), Kam Walker (1 for 4, single), Adam Cameron (1 for 3, single), and Kellan Duffy (1 for 2, RBI single).

HRV's offense matched up well against Dallas' left-handed pitcher, Logan Hatley, of whom Harjo spoke highly.

"They were good; that's a good baseball team, with that guy they have on the mound, he's one of the best in the state," he said."

No. 7 HRV was scheduled to face No. 15 Putnam in Hood River Friday at 4:30 p.m. since the Kingsmen won a surprise 7-6 victory over No. 2 Churchill Wednesday night. Another interesting upset was No. 14 Pendleton's 10-3 defeat of No. 3 Corvallis. Pendleton faces No. 6 Crescent Valley on Friday and if both Pendleton and HRV win on Friday, the two teams will have a Columbia River Conference showdown in Hood River on Tuesday in a semifinal game.

*'(Ryan Ward's) taken pretty much everyone all year.'*

**ERICH HARJO**

# Boys lax rolls Rex Putnam in Cascade Cup's opening round

Eagles unhorse the Kingsmen in 18-3 victory to set up second-round game with Grant on Friday in Hood River



Photos by Ben Mitchell

**HRV SHOWED NO MERCY** against Rex Putnam, unloading shot after shot and scoring goal after goal. Clockwise, at top: Torsenn Brown winds up for a shot, Levi Glass is badgered by a Kingsmen defender, and Jackson Lebsack fires a shot on net.



By **BEN MITCHELL**  
News staff writer

For the second year in a row, the HRV boys lax team faced Rex Putnam in the opening round of the Cascade Cup. And for the second year in a row, the Eagles wiped the floor with the Kingsmen, this time by a score of 18-3, to advance to the second round.

HRV had already faced Rex Putnam this season, but the score was much tighter, 8-5, after what coach Matt Luchsinger said was an uncharacteristically "sloppy game" for his squad. In this meeting, however, HRV never let its opponent come close to jeopardizing its victory.

"I thought we started off really well, we came out firing, which is key," Luchsinger said. "Lots of times, we came out pretty flat-footed and played down to certain teams' levels. Within five minutes (of this game), we figured it out."

In front of the home crowd at Henderson Community Stadium, the boys lax team put on a show, scoring nine unanswered goals over the first two periods — a run that was kicked off by attack Levi Glass with just over seven minutes remaining in the first period.

The Eagles, who had dominated possession of the ball and dictated the pace of play for the majority of the game, let the momentum of the game tilt toward the Kingsmen in the latter half of the second period, giving up two goals in less than 90 seconds to put the score at 9-2.

Luchsinger made an adjustment on defense, switching from zone to man and putting more pressure on the Kingsmen,

who were putting a fair amount of pressure on the Eagles with some hard checking and viciously contested ground balls.

"Personally, I felt like Rex Putnam was riding our backs pretty hard," Luchsinger said. "I think our guys did a really good job keeping their heads. I preached really hard to our guys this season that we don't let guys get in our heads. The way we get back at them is by putting balls in the back of the net."

The strategy seemed to work, with Rex Putnam bottled up for the rest of the game, with the exception of a goal that came in the second minute of the third period. Besides outscoring and outshooting their opponents, the Eagles grabbed the vast majority of ground balls and all but one of the face-offs.

The victory was "a team effort," according to Luchsinger, with seven members of the Eagles roster scoring. Attack Torsenn Brown led the way for HRV with five goals and an assist and middle Jackson Lebsack led in assists with three. Long stick middle Alex Ellifritz led in ground balls with six, followed by defenseman Kiefer Kreps, who had five.

Following up Brown in scoring were Levi Glass (3), Bruce Ostler (3), Cody Wheat (3), Elliot Cramer (2), Sam Newton (1), and Hunter Klien (1). In net for HRV was Mikey Hall, who had seven stops.

No. 3 HRV was scheduled to face fellow Portland Leaguer, the Grant Generals, ranked sixth in the Cascade Cup, on Friday at 7 p.m. in Hood River (results not available at press time). HRV played Grant once this season, which resulted in a 10-5 victory at home for the Eagles April 23.

## SPORTS BRIEFS



### HR 7/8 girls lax headed to playoffs

The Hood River 7/8 girl's lacrosse team — ranked No. 2 in the state — are headed to the playoffs. They face Eastside Portland in the quarterfinals May 30 at Westside Elementary at 9:45 a.m. Semifinals will be either held June 1 or 2. Pictured from left to right, Front row: Eva Jones, Ariana Munoz, Jihan Ziada, Frances Dickinson, Soleil Pelletier. Middle Row: Rebecca Kiyokawa, Bella Read, Eleanor Barton, Frances Melby, Elena Kroll, Camille Buschauer, Josephine Dickinson, Reed Bauer, Josie Peterson, Sonja Clay, coach Al Barton. Back Row: Coach Margaret Koenig, coach Bill Norris, Terra Mikkelsen, Payton Bunch, Nina Bockius, Lily Simpson, Payton Kincaid, Katie Koenig, Alex Willis, Brooklyn Holman, Emma Norris, Abby Bartles, Katie Lohr, coach Kateri Osborne Lohr.

### Eagle youth soccer camp June 22-25

Eagles boys and girls soccer coaches Jaime Rivera and Kevin Haspela will be hosting a soccer camp for those in grades K-5 from June 22-25. The four-day camp lasts five hours a day and will help kids learn the fundamentals of the game, increase their understanding, establish practice routines, and encourage teamwork — along with playing fun and engaging games. All camp participants will receive a free soccer ball. Students should bring soccer shoes, athletic shorts and shirt, soccer ball, shin guards, water bottle, a healthy lunch and snacks, sunscreen, and a positive attitude. All ability levels are welcome. The camp runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Westside Elementary. The cost is \$100 (50 percent non-refundable) and \$75 for students on free and reduced lunch, but no student will be turned away due to price (call Rivera at 541-490-0699 to make arrangements). All proceeds help fund HRV boys and girls soccer programs. Register online at www.hrcommunityed.org or in person at 1119 Eugene St., Hood River, or call John Rust at 541-386-2055.

### Free camping, fishing next weekend

State parks throughout Oregon invite the public to camp and play for free the weekend of June 6-7 in celebration of State Parks Day and Free Fishing Weekend. Camping is free the night of June 6 in traditional sites—full hookup (sewer, electricity and water), electrical hookup (electricity and water), and tent sites. Yurts, cabins and teepees are available at regular price. Parking will also be

free June 6-7 at the 26 parks that charge a day-use parking fee. Campsite reservations may be made by calling 800-452-5687 before 5 p.m. June 5. Or, reserve online at www.oregonstateparks.org. Of the 52 state park campgrounds, 40 take reservations. Visitors will also be able to fish, crab and clam without a license June 6-7 for Oregon's Free Fishing Weekend, hosted by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). ODFW will provide the gear, bait and instructions at some state parks, including Champoeg, Detroit Lake, Jessie Honeyman and parks in the Columbia River Gorge. All events are listed at dfw.state.or.us/education/angling/free\_fishing. Parks throughout the state will host activities including guided hikes, open houses, tours, special barbecues and guest appearances by J.R. Beaver, Oregon's State Park mascot. For a complete list of events, go to oregonstateparks.org and click on "Things to Do."

### Hole-in-one at Hood River Golf Course

Devin Hobbs, of Hood River, landed a hole-in-one on No. 3 at the Hood River Golf Course, playing the blue tee box, (148 yards) using an 8 iron.

His witnesses were Dennis Redmond and Pete Talmage. Congratulations to Devin Hobbs on his achievement!

