



Boys lax outlasts Grant, advancing to Cascade Cup semifinals with Canby

By **BEN MITCHELL**
News staff writer

The HRV boys lacrosse team received its first true test Friday on its quest to win the school's first-ever Cascade Cup, erasing a two-goal deficit and holding in check a furious late rally by HRV's opponent, the Grant Generals, whom the Eagles defeated, 12-8.

No. 3 HRV faced off against No. 6 Grant in Hood River Friday night in home quarterfinal game that oftentimes felt more like an away game thanks to a sizable and raucous contingent of Generals fans who made the trek to Henderson Community Stadium to watch the two Portland League teams duke it out.

The Eagles didn't get the start they were looking for, coming out sluggish and giving up two goals within the first five minutes of play to go down 2-0.

"I think Grant came out and played a hell of a first quarter; they came out fast and I give them huge props. They played great all around," HRV coach Matt Luchsinger said, while noting that "it took (HRV) a quarter to realize, 'Wow, these guys came out to play.'"

A goal from attack Levi Glass with about three minutes left allowed HRV to somewhat salvage the first quarter. The second quarter, the Eagles sunk their talons into Grant, scoring four goals in just over six minutes to grab 5-2 lead and wrest control of the game from the Generals.

The key to the momentum shift, Luchsinger said, was the ability of long stick midfielder Alex Ellifritz

to grab ground balls, which lead to scoring opportunities.

"Alex Ellifritz, personally, I believe he changed the game for us, by starting to win the ground ball battle at the midfield line, especially on the face-offs," he said. "We ended up scoring three or four goals off his ground balls."

Grant, however, was far from out of it, with the two teams horse-racing for the rest of the game. The Generals tightened things up, trailing 6-4 at the end of the half and then coming within one after scoring with less than eight minutes to go in the third quarter.

HRV pushed back, scoring five goals without a response from Grant to pull far out in front with a 10-5 and 9:25 remaining in the game. Again, Grant refused to go down, scoring goals at 8:29, 7:01, and 4:47 remaining to come perilously close to HRV, clinging to a 10-8 lead. As the Grant fans stomped on the stadium's metal bleachers and roared their approval at the momentum shift that prompted Luchsinger to call timeout, HRV assistant coach George Dolack advised his players that the next goal, regardless of which team scored it, was crucial.

Attack Torsenn Brown, apparently, was listening. After HRV took control following the faceoff, Brown ran to the right side of Grant's net and with a quick flick, scored a behind-the-back goal to put HRV up 11-8. Attack Henry Barton put in one more with 1:19 re-



Photos By Ben Mitchell

CHARLIE COHN (white jersey, No. 8), out-jumps two Grant players for a contested ball, while Alex Ellifritz (No. 23) backs him up. Coach Matt Luchsinger said Ellifritz's five ground balls had significant impact on the game for the Eagles.

Please see LAX, Page A8

HRV gets second post-season shutout in a row

Eagles beat the Putnam Kingsmen, 4-0 to set up semifinal showdown with CRC rival Pendleton



Photo by Ben Mitchell

KAMERON WALKER shakes his fist and yells in celebration after throwing the final pitch of HRV's state tourney quarterfinal game against Putnam Friday evening. Walker, who pitched all seven innings, gave up no runs, five hits, struck out four batter and walked none in the shutout at home.

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The HRV Eagles defense once again put on a masterful performance Friday evening in Hood River, defeating the Putnam Kingsmen, 4-0, to get their second consecutive shutout of the post-season — the only team in the 5A playoff bracket to shut out an opponent at all, let alone twice.

Much like the game on Wednesday, which saw HRV beat Dallas, 5-0, Putnam was largely ineffective behind the plate, flummoxed by HRV's pitching, and bottled up by the team's defense. Like they have done in so many games this season, the Eagles jumped out to an early lead and never looked back, putting confidence in their pitching and fielding to finish the game.

"These are things we've worked on all year," noted coach Erich Harjo. "We're playing really good baseball right now and that's the right time to do that."

This time, HRV's opponent met its demise at the hands of starting pitcher

Kameron Walker, who threw four strikeouts, walked none, and allowed five hits over seven innings. With Ryan Ward and Walker both getting shutouts this post-season, Harjo said the team has "put a really solid game plan on the mound," noting that Walker's pitching has improved significantly from the 2014 season.

"Kam just has that uncanny ability to keep guys off-balance," he said. "He made a huge adjustment from last year on the mound and he's a huge reason why we're where we are today."

The few batters that were able to connect with Walker's pitches were held in check by HRV's error-free defense. Most notable was a double play in the top of the third inning, when shortstop Skyler Hunter snagged a line drive out of the air with a leaping catch, and then threw it across the diamond to first baseman Montana Kurahara for the second out, which drew an ovation from HRV fans.

While the defense kept the Kingsmen on lockdown, HRV's offense went to work

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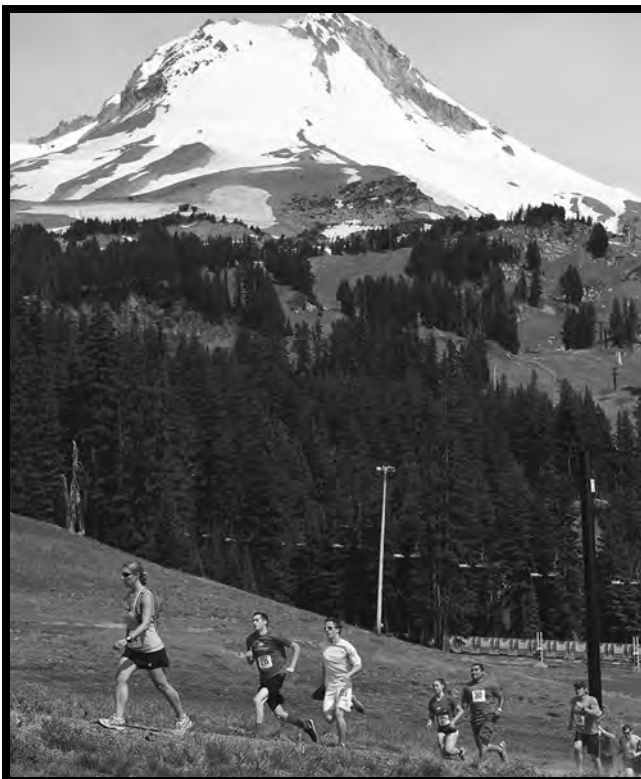
ERICH HARJO

Please see HRV, Page A8

No snow? No problem! Hood 2 River Relay goes on



Photos by Adam Lapiere



Runners, paddlers and bikers turned out in droves on Saturday for the second annual Hood 2 River Relay, racing from the slopes of Mt. Hood down to the Hood River Waterfront. Started last year by event company Breakaway Promotions, the relay had to replace the nordic and alpine legs with an uphill run and a trail run due to the lack of snow, said race organizer Chad Sperry.

Seventeen individuals, 13 pairs, and 38 teams ranging from two to six people attempted the multi-leg race, which consisted of a .25-mile uphill sprint leg, followed by a 1.5-mile trail run, a 6.2-mile mountain bike leg, a 27-mile road bike leg, a 6.7-mile road run, and finally, a 1.5 mile paddle leg

(which ends with a quarter mile sprint to the finish. Results for the top five finishers in each category are below:

Individual male: 1st: Kevin Brown (2 hours, 30 minutes, 54.8 seconds); 2nd: Joel Alberts; 3rd: Lucas King; 4th: Kimber Robinson; 5th: Nick Maelsen

Individual female: 1st: Kathleen Welland (3:20:06.5)
Pairs: 1st: Team Butman (male, 2:23:21); 2nd: Race Like a Girl (female, 2:39:06.5); 3rd: S&M (female); 4th: Fast as Time Allows (male); 5th: WTFR We Doing (coed, 2:57:24.6)

Team (male): 1st: Pasty Thighs (2:26:30.6); 2nd: Team Butman; 3rd: Dirt Hugger; 4th: Cannonball Run; 5th: Doug 2 Doug

Team (female): 1st: Fools Rushin (3:11:21.3); 2nd: Hot Lava Mamas; 3rd: Jalapeo Hotties; 4th: Team Fab Fifty; 5th: Hood-iez

Team (coed): 1st: Team Ten Speed (2:49:41.3); 2nd: Couples Retreat; 3rd: Lopezians; 4th: Zeal Optics; 5th: Team Mertz

Team (high school): 1st: Beast Mode (2:47:29)
Team (family): 1st: Lopezians Too (3:09:49.3); 2nd: Morss Family; 3rd: Snails and Stents; 4th: 826 Fo Life

Team (business): 1st: Full Sail Brewing Company (2:56:56.8); 2nd: #TeamProvidence; 3rd: Green Home Design Build; 4th: Cloud Cap Team 1; 5th: Cloud Cap Team 2