



Photo by Trisha Walker

RYAN WARD, Erich Harjo, and Kam Walker attended the All-Star Series last weekend in Corvallis. Harjo coached the North team to a 2-1 series victory, while Walker and Ward each had hits and scored runs during the series, as well as pitched a few innings.

Ward, Walker and Harjo have a good showing in All-Star Series

Members of the Hood River Valley baseball team traveled to Corvallis this past weekend for the end-of-the-season Reser's All-Star Series held at Oregon State University's Goss Stadium.

HRV coach Erich Harjo helmed the North team for the second year in a row and the North came away with two wins in the three-game series. The North defeated the South 8-0 in the first game and 7-3 in the second game, but lost 5-2 in finale.

On the North team were HRV seniors Ryan Ward and Kam Walker, who, after coming off of a 5A state championship win the previous week, also contributed to victories for their All-Star squads.

Ward pitched three innings of the game one shut out, striking out three, walking two, and giving up one hit.

In game one, Walker singled to second base in the bottom of the seventh in his first

at-bat, then scored in the same inning. He struck out in the bottom of the eighth for his final at-bat. On defense, Walker had an unusual task in that he was assigned to third base, as opposed to his usual position of pitcher or second base.

In game two, Walker pitched two innings and gave up three hits and three runs and walked one.

Ryan Ward grounded out to shortstop in the top of the second inning for his first at-bat, then hit one to left field in the top of the fourth that was good for a double and scored later in the inning. Ward then flied out to left field in the top of the fifth for his final at-bat.

In game three, Ward got a walk in the top of the second, struck out in the top of the fourth, then had an RBI single in the top of the fifth off a ball that was hit to left field. On defense, Ward played in right field.



Photo by Ben Mitchell

PICKLEBALL is a sport that's gaining popularity in Hood River, with new courts, called Coe Courts, opening up Monday behind Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital off Montello Avenue. Above, Mitch and Nancy Clement race to return a volley from Robin Panzer (facing away from camera) and her doubles partner, Mitch Panzer (not pictured), during the inaugural game Monday evening.

Pickleball court opens in Hood River

On Monday, new courts dedicated to the sport of pickleball opened in Hood River behind Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital, with about a dozen or so people playing in the inaugural games that evening.

For those who aren't aware, pickleball is a paddle sport for all ages, has simple rules and requires little athletic ability. A cross between ping pong and tennis, it can be played at a very low, slow level and at a very high competitive level. The game, reportedly invented on Bainbridge Island, Wash., in 1965, is played on a court smaller than what is used for tennis, uses what look like oversized ping pong paddles, and incorporates a wiffle ball into play.

In September 2013, pickleball was offered for the first time in Hood River through Community Ed. Local resident Nancy Clement learned pickleball on a friend's driveway in Gig Harbor, Wash., and Therese Franger first played pickleball in San Diego, Calif. They thought it should come to Hood River, and so went to John Rust at Community Ed, who was "very supportive and encouraging," says Clement.

The first pickleball session at May Street School started out with about eight players. A year later, enrollment in the Community Ed class had tripled, and this spring there are over 80 names on the pickleball list, according to Clement.

Another pickleball enthusiast, Elizabeth Whelan, has helped put together the newly formed Gorge Pickleball Association, with the goal of acquiring more courts for public pickleball play. She and Lori Stirn, director of Hood River Parks and Recreation, worked together to get permission to

put courts up at Coe Park: the cement area north of the Hospital off Montello Avenue.

Several Hood River pickleball players have even started going to tournaments around the area. A group just returned from the Rivers Edge tournament in Washougal, Wash., with many first, second, and third-place ribbons. Another group is going next weekend to Bend to participate in the Oregon Senior Games.

There are currently 15 people members of the GPA. A \$25 membership provides the lock box combination at Coe Courts to access the nets, balls and a couple paddles as well as priority in any organized play. The Coe court play is not part of Community Ed. Drop in players pay \$4 per session.

The process involved to develop the Gorge Pickleball Association has been a community effort with helping hands from many sources, says Whelan, the secretary of GPA. Community Ed is currently providing the group with an indoor venue at the May Street Elementary gym until June 30. Then, the summer Community Ed session is at Westside School on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Parks and Recreation is the driving force behind getting the Coe Courts up and running, says Whelan. Parks and Rec has donated funds for the building materials and lock box. Morgan Paint has donated all the striping and painting material for Coe Courts.

For more information, call Community Ed at 541-386-2055.

Looking back: A great year for HRVHS athletics

By **BEN MITCHELL**
News staff writer

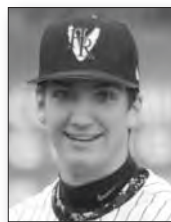
It's been a banner year for Hood River Valley High School athletics: the Eagles have won state titles, produced individual state champions, received numerous coaching awards, and most importantly, have some pretty intelligent, hard-working athletes to boot.

The HRVHS Athletics Department has been keeping track of players' accomplishments and provided a comprehensive list of accolades chronicling the work our local athletes (and coaches) have put in this year.

Let's start with some of the more recently announced awards:

Baseball:

The team wrapped up its successful season earlier this month by winning the 5A state title, blanking Liberty, 2-0, in the finals. The team never gave up a run in the playoffs. In addition to receiving the state championship title, coach Erich Harjo, was recently named the 5A Coach of the Year. Harjo coached his team to a 22-8 overall record (9-3 league regular season record). Ace Ryan Ward was named the 5A Pitcher of the Year, and The Oregonian/Oregon Live named him the Oregon Baseball Player of the Year last week. He ended the season with an incredibly low .681 earned run average and pitched an astounding 64 consecutive innings this season without allowing an earned run (not even including the All-Star game). He also had a team-high batting average of .423. In addition to Ward, junior shortstop Skyler Hunter was also named First Team All-State and sophomore catcher Adam Cameron and senior pitcher Kameron Walker were named to Second Team.



RYAN WARD

Softball:

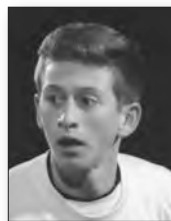


ZOE MUNN

Freshman catcher Zoe Munn, who was as great at the plate as she was behind it this season, was named to Second Team All-State. The frosh led the Eagles in batting average (.418), runs scored (21), hits (41), and stolen bases (29). The softball team ended its season with a 5-0 loss to St. Helens in a play-in game late last month. The Eagles finished up with an 11-16 overall record, 4-8 in the Columbia River Conference.

Boys soccer:

Junior midfielder Gio Magaña was named Male Prep Soccer Player of the Year at the Oregon Sports Awards ceremony held last week at Nike World Headquarters in Beaverton. Through 18 games (all of which HRV won, including a 2-0 win over Woodburn in the state title game), Magaña scored a total of 16 goals and racked up 13 assists.



GIO MAGANA

Now, a look back at this year's accomplishments by the numbers:

2:

Number of state championships this school year — one for baseball and one for boys soccer. The baseball team's 2-0 victory over Liberty in the final was the team's first state title since 1990 and was the fifth in team history (1980, 1986, 1988). The soccer team's 2-0 defeat over Woodburn was the first time the team has taken home the championship trophy in the program's history.

14:

How many conference titles HRV took this year, including boys soccer, girls soccer, boys alpine skiing, girls alpine skiing, girls swimming, girls freestyle skiing, boys freestyle skiing, baseball, boys track, girls track, boys tennis, as well as choir, band, and speech and debate, which are also included by the OSAA.

6:

Runner-up finishes this year: girls cross country, boys cross country, boys water polo, boys swimming, boys basketball, wrestling.

20:

Top-10 state finishes including: boys soccer (champions), boys and girls combined alpine skiing (champs), girls freestyle skiing (champs), boys freestyle skiing (champs), girls wrestling (champs), baseball (champs), boys water polo (2nd), boys Nordic skiing (2nd), boys alpine skiing (2nd), speech and debate (2nd), girls Nordic skiing (3rd), girls alpine skiing (3rd), girls swimming (4th), girls track (4th), boys track (4th), girls soccer (quarterfinals), girls cross country (8th), boys cross country (8th), cheerleading (8th), and boys tennis (8th).

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Summer sturgeon seasons on tap above Bonneville

Looking for a unique way to spend Father's Day? Think about spending a day fishing for North America's largest freshwater fish species — white sturgeon — on the Columbia River. The first of three scheduled summer sturgeon seasons kicks off just in time for Father's Day on June 21. Retention sturgeon fishing will take place June 19-21 on the Columbia River between the Bonneville and John Day dams. Additional three-day fishing periods are scheduled for June 26-28 and July 3-5, although managers may adjust those dates to remain within the 1,100 fish annual harvest guideline. Retention sturgeon fishing is also open from McNary Dam to the Oregon/Washington border through July. The rest of the Columbia is limited to catch-and-release sturgeon fishing. Sturgeon must be between 38 inches and 54 inches fork length to be retained. The bag limit is one fish per day and two for the year. Fishing is restricted to the use of a single, barbless hook. Anglers are reminded that sturgeon fishing, including catch-and-release, is not permitted in the sturgeon sanctuary from The Dalles Dam downstream 1.8 miles to the upper end of the boat ramp at the Port of The Dalles.

Mt. Adams Country Bike Tour June 27

The 2015 Mt Adams Country Bike Tour on Saturday, June 27th is almost here. Four spectacular tours to choose from in the Trout Lake, Wash., area. You'll wind over the stunningly scenic flanks of magnificent snow clad Mt Adams on good roads with easy to challenging rides and unequalled vistas. Riders can choose from the 11.5 mile Family Fun Ride (Trout Lake Valley); the 51 Mile Loop through Trout Lake, BZ Corner, Glenwood, and back; the 54 Mile Forest Loop (up and down the flanks of Mt Adams); and the combined 105 Mile Infinity Ride (51 + 54 mile loops). Each well-marked ride takes you on quiet country roads and is fully safety-supported with sag wagons, emergency teams, radio coverage, snacks/rest stops, optional box lunch and

post-ride meals. When: Saturday, June 27th, 2015. Day-of registration and rides begin at 7:30 a.m. at Trout Lake School, 2310 WA 141, Trout Lake, WA 98650. Cost: Family Loop \$10, all others \$65. More information and register online at troutlakewashington.com/mt-adams-bicycle-tour. Questions: E-mail TroutLakeBikeTour@gmail.com

Oregon Enduro series returns this weekend

The second leg of the Oregon Enduro mountain biking series is in town this week, with competition slated to take place at the Post Canyon trail network located on the west side of Hood River. The two-day race will occur Friday and Saturday and offer multiple stages on both days. Final race course is to be released Wednesday according to the event's Facebook page. The enduro series is described on the competition's website as an event that "combines the best parts of riding with your buddies and ripping down some of the best trails in existence, with that of some good old-fashion competition," with a race format that "offers a great experience for serious competitors, weekend warriors and those who just want to enjoy world class mountain biking with an après-ride festival atmosphere."

Maryhill Festival of Speed

The annual Maryhill Festival of Speed returns next week to the Mayhill Loops Road near Goldendale, Wash., featuring the largest gravity sports festival in North America. Athletes from around the world will arrive in the Gorge next week to compete in street luge, classic luge, and downhill skateboarding in this world cup race. Practice for the events will occur Wednesday and Thursday, June 24 and 25, then the action gets going on Friday with qualifying rounds running from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. followed by final races for a number of classes during the day on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, go to www.maryhillfestivalofspeed.com.