



EO file photo

Stanfield pitcher Dylan Grogan throws in a game versus Umatilla last season. Grogan will lead the defending league champ Tigers this spring.

Tigers eye breakout season

STANFIELD — The 2014 baseball season ended in heartbreak for the Stanfield Tigers.

They gave up a late rally to Harrisburg in the first round of the state playoffs in a 10-7 defeat, and they're looking to rebound. The Tigers return their core from a 20-win team a season ago, and have the talent, balance and motivation to improve on last year's finish.

"The (coaching) staff has been pretty impressed with how dedicated they are," ninth-year head coach Bryan Johnson said. "They're all coachable, they get it. ... I think they're excited to play

some other people."

Stanfield possesses depth throughout the roster and balance throughout the lineup. Sophomores Dylan Grogan, Tony Flores, Tyler Monkus and Ryan Bailey all figure to be major pieces for Johnson. He called Monkus a "five-tool guy," and Grogan and Flores will split time at short while the other is pitching. When neither are pitching, Grogan will man third base.

Stanfield has options on the bump, too. Bailey and Klay Jenson are both lefties that can eat innings, Grogan has a live arm and Flores can throw strikes, too.

TIGER BASEBALL

Coach: Bryan Johnson, 9th year
2014 season: 20-8,10-2 (Eastern Oregon League)



Postseason story: The Tigers lost 10-7 to Harrisburg in Round 1 of the Class 3A state playoffs
Key returners: Dylan Grogan, soph.; Tony Flores, soph.; Ryan Bailey, soph.; Tyler Monkus, soph.

2015 Schedule

Fri., March 20	at Orting (WA)	3 p.m.	Sat., April 18	vs. Valley Catholic	Noon
Sat., March 21	at Cascade (WA)	11 a.m.	Fri., April 24	at Vale (DH)	1 p.m.
Sat., March 21	at Cashmere (WA)	1:30 p.m.	Tue., April 28	at Dufur	4:30 p.m.
Thu., March 26	vs. Union/Cove	11 a.m.	Fri., May 1	vs. Nyssa (DH)	1 p.m.
Fri., March 27	vs. Sheridan	1:30 p.m.	Tue., May 5	vs. Tri-Cities Prep	5 p.m.
Fri., March 27	vs. Dufur	4 p.m.	Sat., May 9	vs. Clatskanie	Noon
Fri., April 3	vs. Riverside (DH)	1 p.m.	Sat., May 9	at Portland Christian	2 p.m.
Sat., April 4	at Irrigon	11 a.m.	Tue., May 12	vs. Irrigon	5 p.m.
Sat., April 11	at Elgin/Imbler (DH)	1 p.m.	Thu., May 14	vs. Mac-Hi	5 p.m.
Tue., April 14	vs. Weston-McEwen	5 p.m.	Fri., May 15	at Umatilla (DH)	1 p.m.

PIONEER BASEBALL

Coach: Mike Garcia, 5th year

2014: 9-13, 2-10 (Greater Oregon League)

Postseason story: The Pioneers did not reach the playoffs

Key Returners: Joey Barnhart, sr., INF; OF; Scott Zitterkopf, sr., OF; Jacob Chaney, sr., P/INF; Kody Banek, sr., P/OF; Hunter Yensen, jr., P/INF; Bailey DeBord, jr., INF.



Coachspeak:

On team's pitching staff:

"Right now I see that we've got three who can get the job done."

Key to the season: All-Greater Oregon League pitcher and infielder Hunter Yensen will have to be a force for the Pioneers to climb out of the GOL basement. The Pioneers benefit from returning all but one player from a year ago and adding a few possible contributors.

2015 Schedule

Tue., March 17	vs. Prescott (WA)	4 p.m.	Thur., April 23	vs. Riverside	4:30 p.m.
Fri., March 20	vs. Weston-McEwen	4 p.m.	Sat., April 25	at Ontario* (2)	Noon
Tue., March 24	at Prescott (WA)	4:30 p.m.	Mon., April 27	at Riverside	4 p.m.
Tue., March 31	at DeSales (WA)	4:30 p.m.	Sat., May 2	vs. La Grande* (2)	Noon
Sat., April 4	at Crook County (2)	10 a.m.	Mon., May 4	vs. Joseph	4 p.m.
Tue., April 7	vs. Walla Walla (WA)	4:30 p.m.	Thu., May 7	vs. Baker* (2)	4 p.m.
Sat., April 11	at La Grande* (2)	11 a.m.	Tue., May 12	at DeSales (WA)	4:30 p.m.
Fri., April 17	at Baker* (2)	3 p.m.	Thu., May 14	at Stanfield/Echo	5 p.m.
Mon., April 20	vs. Walla Walla (WA)	4:30 p.m.	Sat., May 16	vs. Ontario	at Noon

Yensen will guide Pioneers

MILTON-FREEWATER — The Pioneers know what they have in ace pitcher and short-stop Hunter Yensen; filling in the rest of the pieces may take some work.

"Hunter will have to lead the way," Mac-Hi coach Mike Garcia said. "He's done that in the past. I don't see why he wouldn't be able to again."

Last year the Pioneers finished in the cellar of the Greater Oregon League, but this year's roster — headlined by Yensen — will be a virtual carbon copy of last year's. Only one senior starter departed. Now it's a matter of determining how the rest of the pieces fit into place.

"On paper, we're a better balanced team than we were

last year," Garcia said.

Jacob Chaney is expected to join Yensen in the starting rotation as he did last year, and Kody Banek will add depth behind the pair. Freshmen Jesus Vella and Justin Carlton bolster the staff with young arms. The Mac-Hi bats are six or seven strong, Garcia said. Yensen, Banke and seniors Jacob Chaney and Joey Barnhardt are known commodities at the plate.

Sterling Sandberg golfed the last three years, but the senior will join the Pioneers on the diamond this spring. Garcia expects him to step in and start in the outfield.

Riley Chester will also be pulling double duty with golf.

2014 GOL Standings

	GOL	OVR.
Baker	11-1	19-9
La Grande	9-3	17-12
Ontario	2-10	6-18
Mac-Hi	2-10	9-13

New manager for Pirates

BOARDMAN — First-year coach Jarrett Thompson will have his hands full as he takes over a program that hasn't competed in the postseason in over a decade.

Last year's team found itself in the Eastern Oregon League basement, but Thompson believes enough key pieces are back to enjoy success this spring.

"We need to develop that fight with our group where we need to be in every game," the 25-year old coach said. "I'm not

going to pin success on wins and losses this year."

Senior Jose Salgado figures to be the Pirates' ace on the mound. When he's not, he'll be asked to call a good game behind the plate and swing a strong bat. Two other seniors will aid Salgado in leading the way. Gavin Roberts and Abel Rodello will both be fixtures in the infield. Juniors Wayne Killion and Derek Bingaman make up the upperclassmen core.

Six freshmen help to bolster the Pirates roster.

2015 Schedule

Tue., March 17	vs. Dufur	4p.m.	Fri., April 17	vs Nyssa* (2)	1 p.m.
Thur., March 19	vs. Irrigon	4p.m.	Thu., April 23	at Mac-Hi	4:30 p.m.
Mon., March 23	Tournament	TBA	Sat., April 25	at Columbia (WA)	11 a.m.
Tue., March 24	Tournament (2)	TBA	Mon., April 27	vs. Mac-Hi	4 p.m.
Mon. March 30	at Irrigon	4 p.m.	Tue., April 28	vs. Waitsburg	4 p.m.
Fri., April 3	at Stanfield* (2)	1 p.m.	Fri., May 1	at Umatilla* (2)	1 p.m.
Tue., April 7	at Tri-City Prep	4 p.m.	Tue., May 5	at Dufur	4:30 p.m.
Fri., April 10	at Vale* (2)	1 p.m.	Tue., May 12	at Union	4:30 p.m.
Tue., April 14	at Waitsburg	4 p.m.	Fri., May 15	vs. Elgin* (2)	1 p.m.

PIRATE BASEBALL

Coach: Jarrett Thompson, 1st year

2014 Season: 7-15, 2-10 (Eastern Oregon League)

Postseason Story: The Pirates failed to make the postseason

Key Returners: Abel Rodello, sr., 3B; Jose Salgado, sr., P/C; Gavin Roberts, sr., P/INF; Wayne Killion, jr., P/INF; Derek Bingaman, jr., P/INF.



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