



EO file photo
TigerScot Jessica Lambert throws a pitch during last season. Lambert supplies a strong arm for WMHS.

Scots ready for another deep run

ATHENA — The TigerScots only lost three seniors from last season's state-semifinal roster, but they were significant. "We're going to have to come up with our 1-2-3 (hitters)," said veteran coach Jeff Griggs of last year's senior class that also made up the team's right infield and center outfield — they also lost a first-team all state utility foreign exchange student.

But the TigerScots return both pitchers and their catcher from a team that gained plenty of confidence while going 3-1 on the season against eventual state champs Union.

"Pitching and behind the plate I think we're going to be solid," Griggs said of pitchers Jessica Lambert and Taylor Entze, and catcher Sydney Peal.

The TigerScots have their sights set on one of the district's three seeds to state this season, but they could have a tougher path with the additions of Culver and Burns to the mix.

Both teams are relative unknowns, but Culver proved to be a worthy adversary the last time it was grouped in an Eastern Oregon league and Burns' girls reached the championship game in volleyball and basketball this year.

But Griggs said known commodities Union and Pilot Rock are the teams he's more concerned with.

"I don't think there's any need to look farther than the people who were here last year to say we've got a pretty tough league," he said. "Union is reloading, and Pilot Rock looks like it's loaded, so I think we won't have to look far to find competition."



TIGERSCOTS

TIGERSCOT SOFTBALL

Coach: Jeff Griggs, 13th year

2014 season: 25-2, 14-1 Special District 5

Postseason story: The TigerScots won their district title with a 13-2 beating of eventual state champions Union. In the state playoffs they beat Gold Beach 15-0 and Pilot Rock 10-0 before losing in the semifinals to Bonanza 2-1 in 10 innings.

Key returners: Keegan Shepard, sr., 3B; Jessica Lambert, jr., P/IF; Taylor Entze, sr., P/U; Sydney Peal, soph., C.

KNIGHT SOFTBALL

Coach: Dave Cooley, 2nd year

2014 season: 5-18, 2-13 (Blue Mountain Conference)

Postseason story: The Knights did not reach the post-season

Key returners: Kelly McLaughlin, jr.; Juliana Garza, jr.; Kendra Roberts, soph.; Kayla Gilman, soph.; Lily Mills soph.

Coachspeak: "I have very high hopes for this team," he said. "I think we can finish well above .500. I don't see any reason why we can't."

Key to the season: The Knights are hoping to make strides in coach Dave Cooley's second season at the helm.

While the 2014 campaign yielded just five triumphs, and two in league play, the Knights were the youngest team in the region. A roster devoid of any turnover from a year ago lends Cooley reason for optimism.

Junior Kelly McLaughlin provides Cooley with a de facto coach on the field. As one of few players with more than one year of varsity experience, the outfielder has undertaken a leadership position from left field.



2015 Schedule

Thu., March 19	at Riverside	4 p.m.	Tue., April 21	vs. Umatilla	4 p.m.
Mon., March 23	Tournament (2)	Noon	Sat., April 25	at White Salmon (2)	11 a.m.
Tue., March 24	Tournament (2)	10 a.m.	Tue., April 28	at Grant Union (2)	2 p.m.
Mon., March 30	at Riverside	4 p.m.	Sat., May 2	at Pilot Rock	11 a.m.
Sat., April 4	vs. Heppner (2)	11 a.m.	Sat., May 9	at Union (2)	11 a.m.
Tue., April 7	at Umatilla	4 p.m.	Tue., May 12	vs. Echo	5 p.m.
Sat., April 11	vs. Culver (2)	1 p.m.	Sat., May 16	at Weston-McEwen (2)	11 a.m.
Sat., April 18	vs. Burns (2)	1 p.m.			

2015 Schedule

Sat., March 21	vs Elgin (DH)	1 p.m.
Mon., March 23	at Riverside	10 a.m.
Mon., March 23	vs Knappa	3 p.m.
Tue., March 24	vs Nyssa	12:30 p.m.
Tue., March 24	vs Harrisburg	3 p.m.
Tue., March 31	vs Dayton (WA)	4:30 p.m.
Sat., April 4	at Union (DH)	11 a.m.
Tue., April 7	vs Echo	4:30 p.m.
Sat., April 11	at Pilot Rock (DH)	11 a.m.
Tue., April 21	at Dayton (WA)	4:30 p.m.
Sat., April 25	at Burns (DH)	1 p.m.
Tue., April 28	vs Touchet (WA)	4:30 p.m.
Thu., April 30	at Echo	4:30 p.m.
Sat., May 2	vs Culver (DH)	11 a.m.
Sat., May 9	vs Heppner (DH)	11 a.m.
Sat., May 16	vs Irrigon (DH)	11 a.m.

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