

Finally, the brothers hit a triple



LUKE OVGARD
CAUGHT OVGARD

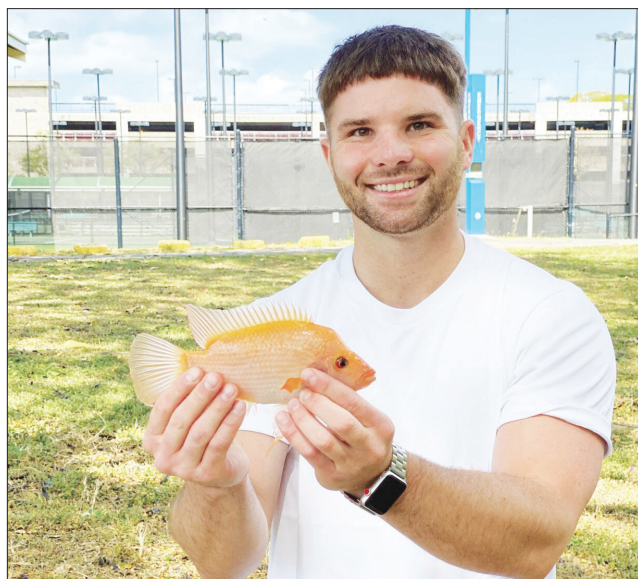
The year was 2005. A 14-year-old Luke took a break from watching his younger brother's baseball game in the Rogue Valley. Though his brother, Jake, was quite talented at the game, Luke didn't enjoy watching sports. Not really.

Playing them was great, but young Luke had suffered through the first game of the doubleheader, and let's face it: The level of competition in middle school just isn't that high.

Bored out of his mind and unwilling to slowly bake in the early summer sun, he went for a walk. At first, passers-by would see a gangly boy circling the edges of the small sports park, counting ground squirrels until he saw what appeared to be a pond in the distance. Grasshoppers were everywhere, and as he walked up to the bank, they decided to commit mass suicide, fleeing his gargantuan presence and dropping into the water below, where dozens of staging bluegills devoured them.

Having grown up on trout, Luke couldn't remember catching a bluegill. He had no fishing tackle, but that didn't stop him from running through the fields like a madman to chase grasshoppers into the waiting mouths of shoreline bluegills.

The following week, he came prepared with a rod and caught dozens of fish on the very same suicidal grasshoppers while Jake played baseball nearby. A single fisherman, playing



Luke Ovgard/Contributed Photo

The first time the author fished a baseball park pond was during his brother Jake's (pictured) game more than 15 years ago. Now, the author has come full circle and fished with Jake at a baseball pond. They caught red devil cichlids in the pond at the University of Hawaii.



Luke Ovgard/Contributed Photo

The author fished the Umatilla River during his brother Gabe's (pictured) Little League World Series qualifying tournament in Pendleton. A dozen years later, they fished a pond behind a baseball field together and caught several red devil cichlids like this.

the game.

Fast-forward a couple years. Luke was now a 17-year-old high school graduate, just a few weeks post-ceremony. This time, his younger brother, Gabe, had a baseball tournament in Pendleton. The stakes for

this tournament were a trip to the Little League World Series, and though it was more competitive than the games years before, it was still youth baseball.

Luke watched a few games, but inevitably found the days-long tournament a

little stale and decided to go for a walk, this time finding his way to a slow-moving oxbow in the Umatilla River where he caught northern pikeminnows left and right.

Though Gabe joined him in the evenings at McKay Reservoir, it was still a baseball trip, and Luke fished more by himself or with Jake more often than not, a double.

More than 15 years from the very first baseball park pond, Luke finally had a chance to fish with both brothers while the game was underway. Not in Oregon, this time, but while on a mini vacation for a friend's wedding in Hawaii.

On the University of Hawaii campus, as baseball and spring football and a track meet harmonized to form an athletic din of background noise, the Ovgard brothers caught fish after fish in the small drainage pond on campus.

Bluegills and pikeminnows weren't present, but there was no shortage of invasive species: red devil cichlids, jaguar guapote, banded jewel cichlids and even one smallmouth bass obliged the Ovgard bros that day, creating the first triple he'd ever had.

If Gabe's wife, Rylee, decides to join them on a ballpark fishing trip some day, it might just be a home run, but a triple was what Luke had always wanted and finally got.

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Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

Umatilla players and coaches have a timeout during a non-conference game against Irrigon on May 20, 2021.

Masks:

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same manner as Seasons 2 and 3 — run at the local or regional level.

Season 4 includes basketball, wrestling and swimming. Each of those sports were granted additional contests, as well. Basketball can have four additional games, swimming gets two additional dates and wrestlers get one extra date, two added weigh-ins and five

more mat appearances.

June 21-27 is the culminating week for Season 4. Seasons 2 and 3 have seen regional and even state-wide events put together by schools. Weber said OSA hasn't been overly involved in these larger events, but has provided support when schools had questions.

"We're not in drawing brackets, but trying to be a resource for athletic directors, whether it's the local tournament, or regional things, or the stuff that is even a little larger," he said.

CBYF:

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line, and to get a first down, the team must move the ball to at least the 20.

If the offense throws a completed pass, the defense only needs to touch the player with the ball to stop the action.

"The game has gotten really big," Alvarez said. "There's less of a chance of getting concussions. The 7-on-7 league is in the spring, which helps make them better for regular football in the fall. They are constantly playing."

HERMISTON BULLDOGS

Roster — Aiden Alvarez, Robby Akers, Emmanuel Bravo, Isaac Corey, Jared Garcia, Dale Krebs Jr., Cayden Mallory, Owen Osmin, Jairo Ramirez, Kolton Troppman and Nathan Waely. **Head coach** — Chris Mallory. **Assistant coach** — Sergio Alvarez.

After the May 22 tournament, the team will play in a tournament on May 23 in Salem.

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