



The Rockets' Levi Theime slides into home plate during Friday's game against Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa in Pilot Rock. Staff photo by Kathy Aney

EAGLES COME ALIVE IN OPENER

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

The Wallowa Valley Eagles split their season opener at Pilot Rock losing their first game 11-10, despite a 4-for-5 plate performance by junior Rylie Hayward, but soared back in the second game for a 5-4 victory.

Coach Dick Johnson was pleased with Eagles' effort in the split.

"We could have won game one, but we made some early-season mistakes in the third and fourth innings," he said.

The Eagles used pitchers Tate Olsen, Chris Bathke and Rylie Hayward in the game. Pitching stats were unavailable for either game.

The Eagles kept their bats warm during the opening contest with Hayward pounding out a double and 4 RBIs. Bathke went 2-for-5 at the plate with a homer and RBI. Christopher Nobles was 1-for-3 with an RBI while Dylan Staigle brought in 2 RBIs. Gus Ramsden pulled off an anomaly: He stepped up to the plate five times but never racked up an official at-bat. He walked four times and hit one sacrifice fly, leaving Ramsden with an .800 on-base percentage along with his three runs scored.

"I've never seen that before ever," assistant coach Geoff Hayward said.

The bottom end of the twin bill proved more satisfying for the Eagles as they walked away with the win.

Ramsden, Nobles and Hayward provided pitching for the Eagles.



Rocket second baseman Levi Theime gets the ball too late to tag a Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa runner during Friday's non-conference game in Pilot Rock. Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Once again, the Eagles outit the Rockets 7-3. Hayward again led by going 2-for-3 with a RBI while Ramsden was 2-for-4 with a double and RBI. Clayne Miller was 1-for-3 with 2 RBIs.

However, it wasn't the veterans who most impressed coach Johnson.

"I was real pleased with the ability of younger kids, pleased with the way they all put the ball in play," he said. "Not everyone hit safely, but we had only one strikeout, while the rest hit the ball. It shows these young players are already making a contribution."

Player Rylie Hayward said he couldn't have had such a good day at the plate without Johnson having the confidence to let him hit fourth in the lineup.

"That allowed my teammates to consistently get into scoring position, which helped us," Hayward said.

He added that if the Eagles win their upcoming game in Elgin this week, that it would really motivate the team.

"We think we can compete. We have guys who can play anywhere on the field, and other teams should be looking out for us," he said.



Wallowa Valley Eagles hurler Tate Olsen throws a fastball under the watchful eye of coach Dick Johnson. Steve Tool/Chieftain

Spring has sprung at ball fields

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

Spring doesn't arrive in Wallowa County with the faint greening of grass on the Zumwalt Prairie, nor with the posies in bloom on the East Moraine of Wallowa Lake.

Only by the gathering of young men in their diamond-shaped Holy of Holies and the sound of horsehide on premium cow leather, signify the death of winter and the arrival of spring.

This year, 13 Wallowa Valley Eagles practice their rites of spring under new coach Dick Johnson. Johnson spent last year as one of several assistant coaches on the team before former head coach Calvin Word handed him the reins after last season.

"I've coached for a long time," Johnson said. "This group of boys know they're going places, and negativity is not a part of that journey."

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SPORTS CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 23
Enterprise/Wallowa track at Buck Track Classic, Pendleton, 11 a.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24
Enterprise/Wallowa/Joseph softball vs. Scio at Pilot Rock Tournament, 1 p.m.
Enterprise/Wallowa/Joseph baseball at Elgin, noon

SATURDAY, MARCH 25
Enterprise/Wallowa/Joseph softball at Pilot Rock Tournament, opponent TBA

THURSDAY, MARCH 30-SUNDAY APRIL 1
Enterprise/Wallowa/Joseph baseball at John Day Tournament, multiple opponents

Eagles track treks to The Dalles for first meet

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

The Joseph Eagles track team traveled to the Mullet-Leavitt Invite in the Dalles last week to compete against 15 other teams.

Coach John Roberts thought his team gave a good performance, especially considering that two of the schools competing

were in the 5A class.

"We did good for the first meet," said Roberts. "It was a little windy and raining, and that cut down some on our running times." Roberts added that he got excellent performances from new athletes, as well as its more seasoned athletes.

The team's next meet is at Pendleton's Buck Classic on Thursday at noon.

RESULTS: (TOP JOSEPH FINISHER OR ANY EAGLE IN THE TOP 10)

Girls — 100 meters: Alexis Sykora, eighth, 15.75. 200 meters: Alexis Sykora, fourth, 29.82. 400 meters: Isabelle Tingelstad, fourth, 1:10.23. Ella Coughlan, sixth, 1:10.80. 800 meters: Isabelle Tingelstad and Haley Miller, tied fourth, 2:42.47. 1500 meters: Isabelle Tingelstad, third,

5:15.50. Haley Miller, eighth, 5:34.27. 4X100 relay: Camille Crenshaw, Courtney Bailey, Addie Kilgore and Alexis Sykora, fourth, 59.60. Shot put: Courtney Bailey 21'10". Discus: Natalie Gorham, fifth, 75'8". Javelin: Courtney Bailey, sixth, 77'6". Pole Vault: Maddie Bailey, fifth,

6'6". Long jump: Ally Cooney, fifth, 14'11.75". Triple Jump: Ally Cooney, first, 32'2.75".

Boys — 100 meters: Cayden DeLury, seventh, 12.23. 200 meters: Cayden DeLury, second, 23.43. 4X100 relay: Cayden DeLury, Tucker VanWinkle, Aji

Priatmojo and Aaron Borgerding, sixth. Shot put: Aaron Borgerding, sixteenth, 33'9". Discus: Aaron Borgerding, seventeenth, 79'10". Javelin: Aaron Borgerding, tenth, 115'4". Pole vault: T.J. Grote, seventh, 9'. Long jump: Kade Kilgore, 15'03". Triple jump: T.J. Grote, twelfth, 32'09".

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