



Baseball continues winning ways

'We had a good day playing small ball'

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Wallowa Valley Eagles continued their winning ways, winning two of three games at the Les Schwab Invitational Spring Break Tournament in John Day last weekend.

Coach Dick Johnson is pleased with the team's play. "The boys did pretty good. It's not all about me, it's not about the individual. It's about the team," he said.

The team's first game was on Friday against John Day, with the Eagles prevailing 12-7. Saturday's first game saw the Eagles on the losing end of a 9-5 slugfest versus Sherman.



The Eagle/ Rylan Boggs
Wallowa Eagle Tate Olsen gets a hit early in the game against Grant Union on Friday, March 31. The Eagles prevailed 12-7

"We hit the ball more than they did, and lead switched back and forth. Then, no mat-

ter what we did, or how we positioned our fielders, the ball fell in a hole somewhere, and

whenever we hit it, it seemed like someone was standing right there. It was one of those

things," Johnson said.

Saturday's last game saw the Eagles flying away with a 6-4 victory against Lakeview. Johnson held back three starters so the younger players would get some diamond time.

"They all did good, and everybody hit the ball," Johnson said. He noted that Lakeview had made it to the state playoffs last year. "We had a good day playing small ball."

Johnson said that they pitched as many of his players as possible to give them experience and noted the 7-for-11 hitting performance of Wallowa High School sophomore Gus Ramsden who added a triple and two doubles to the Eagles cause.

The weekend left the Eagles with a 3-2 record on the season. Their next game is an April 7 doubleheader against Vale.

SPORTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

Golf
Enterprise, Wallowa/Joseph boys and girls; 9 a.m., Pendleton Invitational at Pendleton County Club

Baseball
Joseph Enterprise/Wallowa; 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. doubleheader at Vale

Track
Enterprise, Joseph, Wallowa; 11 a.m. track events begin and field events at noon, Shockman Field, Milton-Freewater

TUESDAY APRIL 11

Baseball
Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa; 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. doubleheader, at home vs. Baker/Powder Valley JV

Golf
Wallowa/Joseph, 1 p.m. La Grande Invitational at La Grande Country Club



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Wallowa Valley Cubs softball coach Andy Plew watches over his team during a recent practice. Plew is looking forward to continue the Cubs' winning tradition this year.

Wallowa Valley Cubs hope to make mark

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Wallowa Valley Cubs softball team is beginning its season under new head coach Andrew Plew, assisted by Gary Gasset.

Both were assistants under previous coach Cliff Conrad.

"We just moved up a notch," Plew said with a laugh, while looking out on his 18 players scattered across the diamond on one of the few softball-friendly days thus far in Wallowa County. The coach is encouraged about the Cubs' chances this season.

"We're really sitting good. We picked up five new players, we have returning seniors and juniors. We have more athletes than we've had in a long time — we had 18 kids come out," Plew said. He also noted the return of junior Ashly Exon to the diamond after a year's hiatus and Becca Bateman's switch-hitting skills.

The team also has four seasoned pitchers in Madison Plew, Shelby Moncrief, Lexi Gasset and Rylee Goller.

"We're stacked — we have some really good athletes. We have good kids, and they work hard. I hope we live up to the past, and to our expectations this year. It's kind of hard with new coaching and all that," Plew said.

With the large number of team members, Plew is trying to split the schedule for both junior varsity and varsity games to make sure that the JV team gets its share of playing time.

"Having those specific JV games is great, because that's their time, and they haven't had their time in the past," Plew said.

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Elane Dickenson for the Chieftain

"Dragons in the Wallows" early last year when they barely knew how to get in the boat. The paddles and personal flotation devices pictured are the same as those lent to new members this year. The local "Dragons" went from here to 4th place against top Portland and Vancouver teams in just four months - and you can be part of the guts and glory in 2017.

DRAGONS KICK OFF NEW SEASON

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

"Dragons in the Wallows Paddling Club" race team applicants will meet 6 p.m. Monday, April 10, at Tomas Center, 309 S. River Street in Enterprise to determine a team to race at the Portland Dragon Boat Races June 9-11.

This is a separate from the 7 Wonders Cup that is held on Wallowa Lake Aug. 26-27.

Racers who sign up for the Portland event are welcome to race in the 7 Wonders Race as well. Those only interested in racing locally are not required to race in Portland.

Those racing in Portland will be paddling the large, recently-acquired Kaohsiung-style dragon boat. The Portland Dragon Boat Races are held in conjunction

with the Rose Festival — and welcome as many as 96 dragon boat teams from all over the world to race on the Willamette River at Tom McCall Waterfront Park in downtown Portland.

The Portland-bound "Dragons in the Wallows" race team will begin practicing on Wallowa Lake in the new boat as early as April 15. A \$40 race fee will be due by April 26 for those going to Portland. Shared housing is being arranged to minimize costs, or team members may make their own arrangements.

Normal membership dues for "Dragons in the Wallows" are \$100 per season for second-year paddlers and \$150 for new paddlers. The new paddler fee includes a one-time initiation fee that also entitles the new member to a team jersey.

For applications or other questions, email race captain Trudy

APPLICANT MEETING

When: Monday, April 10
Time: 6 p.m.
Where: Tomas Center, 309 S. River St. in Enterprise

Turner at Tturnersilversmith@yahoo.com.

Once the Rose Festival race is over, the Wallowa-based race team will switch to the sleeker Hong Kong boats, which weigh half what the big Kaohsiung boats weigh, as they prepare for the 7 Wonders Cup on Wallowa Lake in late August.

Any persons interested in joining the Wallowa paddling club, whether for racing or exercise, may attend the April 10 meeting. Applications will also be avail-

able at that meeting.

Volunteers who are interested in serving in support positions are also needed. Gear (t-shirts, hoodies and jewelry) will be available this year for both fans and club members.

Members can borrow paddles and personal flotation devices until they are sure they want to continue and wish to purchase their own. Used wooden and graphite paddles will be available for sale a few weeks after practice begins.

The paddling club will be training new callers and tillers to accommodate the growing membership and has purchased four Hong Kong-style boats with hopes of expanding the club to include youth and individuals interested in exercise but not competition.

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