



SPORTS ROUNDUP



SPORTS CALENDAR

APRIL 14

Baseball
Wallowa Valley @ Irrigon, 1 p.m.
Golf
Joseph/Wallowa, Enterprise @ Grant Union Invite, 10 a.m.
Softball
Wallowa Valley @ Elgin/Imbler, 1 p.m.
Track
Enterprise/Wallowa, Joseph @ Rivers Edge, Umatilla, 1 p.m.

APRIL 18

Track
Enterprise/Wallowa, Joseph @ Weston-McEwen Small Schools Invite, Athena, 4:30 p.m.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Irina Baldessari, of Enterprise, cruises to victory in her heat of the 100-meter hurdles Friday during the Carnival of Speed in Milton-Freewater.

TWO HEARTBREAKING LOSSES FOR CUBS

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Hard luck road for Cubbies

The Wallowa Valley Cubs traveled to Vale for a Friday, April 7, doubleheader with high hopes against the 10-ranked team in the state. Instead, the team came away with two heartbreaking losses.

The opener saw the ladies falling, 10-9, in a hard-fought contest that featured Madison Plew on the mound. The Cubs quickly fell behind, 9-0, as Vale's "small ball," consisting of slap-hitting, bunting and aggressive base running worked its magic.

The Cubs steeled their resolve, came back with three runs in the fourth, one in the fifth, three in sixth and two in the seventh.

The final out had Madison Plew hitting a screaming liner into a 20 mph. headwind, holding up the ball long enough for the left fielder to make a leaping catch on the warning track.

"Everyone played well. Our averages weren't high, but stats don't always tell the story. We hit ball hard, but at people," said Coach Andy Plew.

Madison Plew struck out nine Vikings. Josie Scott, Darby Gassett and Ashley Exon each contributed a hit and RBI to the cause. Gassett led the team with two runs scored. The team committed three errors and left seven runners on base.

The low end of the twin bill saw a pitcher's duel ending with another 4-2 loss for the ladies. Lexie Gassett pitched for the Cubs, striking out four.

Once again, the Vikings played small ball, but defensive changes by the Cubs kept its effectiveness to a minimum. The Cubs jumped out to an early 1-0 lead with the Vikings scoring three in the third, and one in the sixth, as did the Cubs. Coach Plew said that in the top of the seventh, the Cubs had two runners on with one out and the top of the order coming up.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Riley Gray, of Enterprise, competes in the long jump Friday during the Carnival of Speed in Milton-Freewater. Gray took third with a jump of 15 feet, 9.25 inches.

Both players hit the ball hard, but at fielders, squelching the rally.

"Both of the games were heartbreakers for us. We had runners left on base in both games that could have helped us win," Coach Plew said. He added that the team played much better defense than he's seen them in several seasons.

"We came out with our heads held high, and both games came down to last swing," he said.

The losses left the Cubs 0-2 in league play and 1-5 on the season. They next visit Elgin/Imbler for a league doubleheader on April 14.

Baseball triumphs

The Wallowa Valley Eagles fared a bit better in their twin-bill, pillaging the Vikings in their own home port. The Eagles squeaked by the Viks, 7-6, in the opener. After drawing first blood and jumping out to a 2-0 lead, the Eagles fell flat, entering the final inning down 6-2 before donning their rally caps and showing the Vikings their tail feathers. The Eagles batted through the lineup while drawing three-hit batsmen and a walk from Vikings pitching.

"We decided we didn't want to lose the game so they cut loose

TRACK RESULTS

**JOSEPH
(Top ten finishes only)**

Boys: 100 meters 6th, Cayden DeLury 12.57; 200 meters 2nd, Cayden DeLury 24.42; 400 meters 6th, Tyler Homan 57.37; Joseph Discus 8th, Ben Lopez 99-08; Pole Vault 9th, Kade Kilgore 8-00.00; Long Jump 7th, Tyler Homan 18-05.

Girls: 100 meters 8th, Johnelle Suto 14.91; 400 Meters 7th, Ella Coughlan 1:08.55; 9th, Camille Crenshaw 1:12.43; 3000 meters 1st, Isabelle Tingelstad 11:03.27; Discus 6th, Natalie Gorham 75-04; Javelin 8th, Ally Cooney 86-08; High Jump 4th, Ally Cooney 4-08; Triple Jump 4th, Ally Cooney 29-11.50.

ENTERPRISE

Boys: 200 meters 8th, Foster Hobbs 25.29; 800 meters 7th, Jacob Strampe 2:14.53; Shot Put 1st, Chandler Burns 42-08.00; 5th, Blaze Lepper 41-08; Discus 6th, Blaze Lepper 100-09; High Jump 8th, Kobe Ketscher 5-04.00; Triple Jump 6th, Joe Robb 36-08.50.

Girls: 100 Meters 7th, Hero Peters 14.83; 200 meters 5th, Christina Russell 28.87; 10th, Reagan Bedard 29.56; 800 Meters 2nd, Eliza Irish 2:35.32; 3rd, Deedee Duncan 2:35.33; 1500 Meters 9th, Ashley Wilson 6:27.23; 100 Meter Hurdles 3rd, Stacy Douglass 18.57; 5th, Ashlyn Gray 18.86; 7th, Irina Baldessari 20.52; 300 Meter Hurdles 1st, Karli Bedard 50.40; 8th, Irina Baldessari 56.58; 4x100 relay 2nd, Hero Peters, Reagan Bedard, Riley Gray, Stacy Douglass 54.61; Discus 10th, Ashlyn Gray 71-04; High Jump 1st, Karli Bedard 5-00; 8th, Stacy Douglass 4-04. Long Jump 3rd, Riley Gray 15-09.25.

and they scored five runs. We just pecked away and pecked away," said assistant coach Geoff Hayward. "We could have rolled over, but we didn't. We got fired up, and now we know we can win."

Senior Tate Olsen walked away with the win, pitching the final 3 2/3 innings.

The second game saw the Eagles tearing the Vikings wide open with a 12-1 rout in only five innings behind the one-hit pitching of Chris Bathke and the club of Travis Haga.

"They scored the first run. Their lead-off guy had a triple, and that was followed by error. That was the last hit," Hayward said. The Eagles tied the game in the second inning, added five runs in the third, two in the fourth inning and four in the fifth for an easy victory.

Haga led the hitting with a triple and home run while knocking in four RBIs. Bathke went the distance, striking out 12 of

19 batters, including whiffing six straight Vikings. The Eagles scored 12 runs on 11 hits.

"We played outstanding defense. Our guys are excited and stepping up. No one beats down on a player for mistakes, they support him: our chemistry is right," Hayward said. "These guys are dedicated, and that's the atmosphere we want, and it seems to be working."

The wins left the Eagles 2-0 in league play and 5-2 overall. The next varsity game is Friday at Irrigon.

Track

Both Joseph and Enterprise traveled to Shockman Field in Milton-Freewater for an April 7 track meet. The two schools competed against 21 other teams at the meet. Joseph boys placed 14th in the meet while the girls placed 10th. The Outlaws boys placed 11th while the girls placed second.

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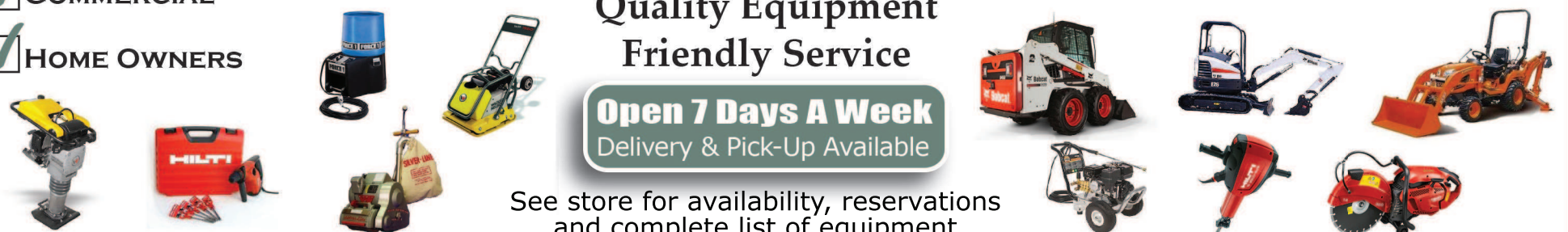


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