

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Golfers peaking as season winds down

Baseball team wins four straight

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Because of time constraints, the Chieftain did not publish the results of the May 4 Buffalo Peaks golf tournament in Union. Brycen Locke shot an 82 for first place in the boys' slot. Boone Harrod followed with an 84 for second place. Both Zion Mark and Tyler Gray shot a 102. The team had a 370 score for second place. Gracie Carlsen shot 109 for the girls.

"I was really excited about how the team played, and it was a perfect tournament to end the regular season going into the district tournament," Coach Kyle Crawford said.

Michael Diggins of the combined Wallowa/Joseph team shot a 106, a personal best, at the tournament.

Tori Suto of the Wallowa/Joseph combined team shot a 70 in the opening round of district and a 77 the following day to easily take first place for the ladies.

"She played really well," said coach Marvin Gibbs. "I'm not so sure she didn't break the district record for girls."

Michael Diggins shot a 116 in the opening round for the boys.

Baseball

The Wallowa Valley combined baseball team won four straight games over the week, knocking the stuffing out of Burns and Umatilla, respectively, in two doubleheaders. The team clinched second



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Christopher Nobles of the Wallowa Valley Eagles combined team strokes a base hit and an RBI during his team's lopsided 14-1 win over Burns on May 8.

place in the Eastern Oregon League after taking both ends of a doubleheader from Umatilla May 12.

Wallowa Valley took on the Burns Hilanders May 8 and took a thorough beating, 4-0 and 14-1. Senior Chris Bathke pitched the first game, throwing for six innings, striking out 11 while giving up a single hit and no walks. Rylie Hayward came in for the save. The team had no errors.

Offensively, Christopher Nobles was 2 for 3 with an RBI and a double while Hayward was 1 for 2 with two RBIs. Bathke was 2 for 4 at the plate.

Coach Mark Ramsden said that Burns came in fifth in the league, and the team is always tough. Ramsden noted they came in with the best catcher in the league, who promptly threw Wallowa Valley's first two base runners out.

"We held them to no runs," Ramsden said. "They couldn't stop us. We took it to their

pitching staff because that's what we had to do to knock them out of the race."

The 14-1 second game featured strong pitching and hitting for Wallowa Valley. Hayward started in the pitching slot, going four innings, scattering eight hits while giving up a single earned run. Gus Ramsden came on in relief for the save in the fifth inning, striking out two.

Bathke led the bat squad, going 3 for 4 with a double and RBI while Ramsden was 3 for 4 with two RBIs. Nobles was 3 for 3 with two RBIs and Hayward was 3 for 3 with an RBI. Dylan Staigle had three RBIs in his 2 for 2 plate performance. Nine of the team's 14 runs were earned.

Coach Ramsden said the Burns games led to the team's discovery of its own power.

"They knew how good they were as a team. We're playing on another level and want to be district champions. They won't

accept losing."

The first game against Umatilla saw ace Bathke and freshman Trace Evans combining for a no-hitter taking in a five-inning 11-0 blowout. Bathke pitched three innings, striking out six, allowing no hits or walks while Evans allowed no hits or runs on his part while walking one. The team had one error.

Wallowa Valley had four hits and scored eight runs in the first inning on two hits. Three runs were earned with wild pitches, passed balls, steals and four Umatilla errors accounting for the rest.

"We put the ball in play a lot," said assistant coach Geoff Hayward.

The second game was a 7-1 victory with Rylie Hayward and Gus Ramsden combining for the win. Hayward started and pitched 4 1/3 while Ramsden stepped in for the save, pitching the final 2 2/3 innings. Hayward struck out six, giv-

ing up two hits, while Ramsden struck out eight.

ing up two hits, while Ramsden struck out eight. Offense scattered five hits with Bathke and Hayward contributing an RBI each.

Coach Ramsden said Burns used four pitchers in the game. "They couldn't stop us," he said. "We took it to their pitching staff." Wallowa Valley ended the season with a 11-3 league record and 18-5 overall and ranked fifth in the state.

The team will play the winner of a May 15 playoff game between Irrigon and Vale for district May 18.

Softball

The Wallowa Valley Cubs combined team split four games for the week, crushing Burns 14-1 and 19-0 in a May 8 doubleheader. Lexie Gasset went the distance for the win in the first game while Madison Plew did the same in the second game. The first game featured Josie Scott taking her first pitch of the game over the

fence for a grand slam. The Cubs traveled to John Day for a doubleheader against fifth-ranked Grant Union May 11. The Cubs nearly stole the show, losing 9-7 after jumping out to a 6-0 lead they held until the fourth inning.

Gasset started the first game, pitching 3 2/3 innings, allowing five hits seven runs with six earned. Plew came on in relief and took the loss as the game was tied on her entrance. She pitched 2 2/3 innings giving up two hits and two runs, one earned. The Cubs committed five errors, although coach Gary Gasset said most of them didn't do damage.

The hit squad saw Scott going 2 for 4 while Jessie Teeney was 2 for 4 with a double and an RBI. Plew was 2 for 4 with two RBIs, including a home run.

"Their coach told me that this was the best contest they've had all year," Gasset said. "We scored four runs in the first inning before they knew what happened. They were good, and I was happy with the way they played most of the game."

The second game was a bit of letdown with the Cubs falling 11-1. Gasset attributed the loss to the energy expended in the first game. The Cubs managed three hits.

Scott was 2 for 2 with a home run while Rachel Frolander had a hit. Plew lost the second game, pitching three innings and giving up six hits and seven earned runs. Gasset came on in relief, giving up four hits and four runs with three earned.

The Cubs ended the regular season in third place with a 4-4 league record and 7-9 overall.

STATE

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Other Lady Outlaws racked up a raft of first- and second-place finishes. Kyla Hook took first in the 1500 M and 3000 M events. Karli Bedard added two seconds — 300m Hurdles and high jump and helped the 4x400 Relay team to a first place finish. Dezaria Bathke, Eliza Irish and Riley Gray were also part of that team.

Gray also posted a second in the 400 M and Moncrief added a second in the 200 M. The girls finished second in district behind Grant Union.

Adding points for the Outlaws were Shane Lund, first in the 100 M with a personal record of 11.58, James Madsen, first in the 200 M with a personal record 23.77 and another first in the 400 M. Foster Hobbs finished second in the 200 M.

The Enterprise 4x400 Relay team of Madsen, Even, Lund and Hobbs added a first-place finish.



James Madsen and Shane Lund share a moment of revelry on the medal stand for their efforts as half of the Enterprise 4x100 Relay team.

Blaze Lepper and Ethan Burns finished first and second in the shot put; Burns with a personal record 42-10 throw. Burns also finished first in the javelin. Dylan Marr added a

first in high jump. The boys finished first in districts.

"It was an exceptional day," Moody added. "The conditions weren't that exceptional,

but did better than expected anyway."

Rain and wind pelted the athletes throughout the day.

State competition is May 17-18 in Eugene.

Time to hit the course and have some golfing fun tee time

Let's have a little fun here. Forget the politics, the stock market and anything else that boggles your mind. Take some time out of your busy schedule and play a little golf at Alpine Meadows. Relax. Drive, chip and putt the morning or afternoon away. You'll feel rejuvenated.

If you're one of the lucky ones to have already played this spring, you know how lovely the course is. The same willows everyone curses when the wind blows are in full bud.

Sunlight coming through the transparent tree branches creates a serene beauty along Trout Creek and the 9-hole course. Take a moment out of your game to breathe it in.

The greens crew, consisting of Greg Oveson, Mac Huff and Triston Beck, has been working steady since early April getting the course ready for play. With volunteer help, they've been able to keep fairways, rough and tee boxes mowed to golfers' satisfaction.

Also, the clubhouse looks spiffy. Cheryl Kooch and Julie Sears put in lots of time, effort and energy to get pro shop and cafe/bar ready for opening day. Thanks to the gals who helped in the housecleaning.

Although the ladies held their first meeting of the year last week (first morning meeting) with President Ernestine Kilgore, they've been busy since April with golf course projects. Nancy Huff undertook a hefty project in refinishing the tee box signs.

With the help of six gals they sanded, stained, painted and varnished (60 hours collectively) 16 signs. Also, Judy Ables and Nancy Huff did some spring cleaning on the No. 1 tee box flower beds, and the two of them have been working with Mysha Oveson, web administrator, in linking Alpine Meadows with restaurants, motels and B&B's in the county. Check out golfalpinemeadows.com

As Cheryl Kooch reiterated at the ladies meeting, "Volunteers are the backbone of our organization. We wouldn't have a golf course without those who offer their services so readily."

Open Skins began play May 2. The game is open to men and women with a \$10 entry.

Know your golf etiquette. Ask for a pamphlet at clubhouse with a list of game rules.

Thanks to Sitting Bull Enterprises for volunteering their dump trailer to haul off tree debris.

Rochelle Danielson writes a weekly golf column for the Chieftain.

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Student of the Week

Annie Story/Courtney Bailey
JOSEPH CHARTER SCHOOL

The staff and administration would like to congratulate Co-Valedictorians, Ann Story and Courtney Bailey as Joseph Charter School's students of the week. Ann will be attending the University of San Diego where she will major in Business Administration and Courtney is going to Oregon State University where she will major in Environmental Studies. Both of these students are amazing young women and we wish them the best of luck with their endeavors.

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The Student of the Week is chosen for academic achievement and community involvement. Students are selected by the administrators of their respective schools.

uTIPS

This Week's athlete of the week is Joseph Charter School student TJ Grote. The JCS junior competes in the pole vault for the school's track team.

At the 1A-4 District track championships Grote walked away with first place after a vault of 11 feet, earning a trip to state.

Grote, 17, also competes in basketball and football, loves snowmobiling and participates in FFA. He holds a 3.9 GPA and is a member of the National Honors Society.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Race Schedule

May 19th Season Opener
30th

June 13th
20th (make-up day for bad weather)
27th

Aug. 8th
15th
29th

Sept. 8th Final Race

Contact:
541-263-1450 or
541-377-6721

WCBRA
Wallowa County Barrel Racing Association