



Courtesy Photo/Annette Moeller

District 3 Junior Softball Champions Wallowa Valley Cubs (L to R) Brianna Rouse, Iris Delury, Libby Fisher, Alex Rowley, Karly Baremore, Aimee Meyers, Cooper Nave, Sophie Moeller, Maci Marr, Liz Rowley, Abby Straight, Sydney Hopkins.

# LADY CUBS OFF TO STATE

Steve Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

The high school combined softball team may have given up the “Cubs” moniker at the insistence of the Enterprise School Board, but the girls junior all-stars softball team adopted the name and the success that goes with it.

The squad is headed to state after consecutive victories in District 3 all-stars championship play, culminating in a 5-4 thriller victory over Pilot Rock in the championship game.

The ladies started the tournament playing Hermiston on Saturday, June 22, and walked away with a five-inning, 17-0 victory their opponents to the west.

Aimee Meyers pitched for the Cubs, holding the opposition to a mere three hits while fanning eight.

“All in all, between the pitching and the hitting, it was a big team effort,” Coach Shane Kirkland said. “Everybody hit the ball. It was the best you could ask for.”

The squad played again on June 24, slaying La Grande, 21-11. Kirkland said the Cubs started slow, scoring only three runs over the first four innings while giving up four runs in the fourth inning and two more in the fifth.

The Cubs then exploded, and by the sixth, were one run short of 10-running hapless Hermiston.

See Softball, Page B2



Courtesy Photo

Wallowa Valley Cubs junior all-star photo. This photo was taken right after the Cubs won their first game against Hermiston in the District 3 softball tournament. The squad had left the dugout to have a team meeting with coach Shane Kirkland.

## New coach takes Junior softball to new heights

Steve Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

It’s been about a dozen years that Wallowa County’s junior softball girls are making a name for themselves in northeastern Oregon. The team is currently flying high at District 3 all-stars play in Hermiston.

Saturday, June 22, the girls administered a 17-0 shellacking to their Hermiston hosts. Pitcher Aimee Meyers threw the heat, striking out eight while allowing only three hits over the duration.

“All in all, between the pitching and the hitting, it was a big

team effort,” Coach Shane Kirkland said. “Everybody hit the ball, and it was about all you could ask for as a coach.”

He added that the team played conservatively and could have easily run the score up.

Monday, June 24, saw the ladies again on a rampage, thumping La Grande, 21-11.

“We started out slow, scoring only three runs in the first four

innings,” Kirkland said. “They give up four runs in the fourth and two runs in the fifth, and then the

**‘IT’S A GREAT BUNCH OF GIRLS AND A GREAT GROUP OF PARENTS. IT’S BEEN SUPER REWARDING, SUPER RELAXING, AND WE’RE SUPER EXCITED.’**

Coach Shane Kirkland

girls just absolutely turned it on.”

By the sixth inning, the ladies were just a run short of a 10-run rule victory.

“The girls showed a ton of maturity,” Kirkland said. “It was a very, very exciting game.”

The squad faced Pilot Rock for the District 3 championship game on Tuesday, June 25.

Coach Shane Kirkland noted it’s been about a dozen years since the county fielded a junior team. He said the team is very young. Most of the girls are “Majors” age, 12.

“It’s a great bunch of girls and a great group of parents,” Kirkland said. “It’s been super rewarding, super relaxing, and we’re super excited.”

“We’re a young, young team, and our first five games of the year, La Grande beat up on us almost every time we played them, and by the end of the year, we were beating everybody no matter where we went: Pilot Rock, La Grande, Hermiston. I mean the girls have just come together.”

“It’s been a good time,” Kirkland said.



**ADVERTISE TODAY!**  
in Wallowa County’s only newspaper!

Wallowa County  
**CHIEFTAIN**



Call Jennifer Cooney today at 541-426-4567 or 541-805-9630 to place your ad