

Wallowa Valley All-Stars finish as runner-up

By **JEFF BUDLONG**
Wallowa County Chieftain

BURNS — The Wallowa Valley All-Stars had a performance to remember over the Fourth of July Weekend. It didn't end in the title it wanted, but did create memories that will not fade any time soon for the players, coaches or fans.

Competing against larger towns with more players to draw from, Wallowa Valley earned runner-up honors at the District 3 Little League Tournament in Burns. The

All-Stars finished 3-2 falling to Hermiston 4-2 in the championship game on Friday, July 1.

The team, made up of 11- and 12-year-olds from Enterprise, Joseph and Wallowa, started strong posting a 15-3 win over Harney County and a 13-3 victory over the Baker Americans in five innings. The All-Stars would suffer their first setback in the semifinals as a 2-1 game in the fifth inning became a 9-1 loss, but Wallowa Valley responded by cruising in an elimination game 10-0



Contributed Photo

Back row, from left, coach Mike Beachy, Caleb Beachy, Tilden Botts, Quinn Staniford, Kooper Grover, Kolton Butterfield, Blaine Fisher, Henry Frasch and coach Kalah Grover. Front row, from left, manager Donnie Rynearson, Colton Castillja, Austin Butterfield, Caleb Taggart, Tyler Rynearson, Brandon Yanke and Wade Williams.

in five innings over Harney County.

The victory set up a championship rematch against Hermiston on Friday. The game was tight throughout as Hermiston was able to pull out the 4-2 victory. Wallowa Valley fell behind 2-0

in the first inning and could not complete the comeback.

"It was really close and it was a matter of a couple of passed balls and a couple of runs," Wallowa Valley coach Donnie Rynearson said. "We left runners in scoring position and they are a good

team. The boys hung tough with a bigger town. It could have gone either way."

Rynearson credited the entire team for its effort in a tournament Wallowa Valley had not made a run like this in for decades.

"It has been many years

since I can remember a team having success like this in this tournament," he said. "The difference in this team was the pitching. We got great pitching efforts."

Rynearson said the effort of Tilden Botts against Hermiston in the first game, Brandon Yanke against Baker and Blaine Fisher was impressive. Kolton Butterfield pitched a complete game against Harney County and Kooper Grover was strong against Hermiston.

"If you take those five kids, and you take out the big inning against Hermiston in the fifth inning of the first game, those boys only allowed 11 runs in five games," Rynearson said.

The Wallowa Valley team was made up of Caleb Beachy, Tilden Botts, Quinn Staniford, Kooper Grover, Kolton Butterfield, Blaine Fisher, Henry Frasch, Colton Castillja, Austin Butterfield, Caleb Taggart, Tyler Rynearson, Brandon Yanke and Wade Williams. Rynearson was the manager and Kalah Grover and Mike Beachy were assistant coaches.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

LANE TANZEY

Wallowa's Lane Tanzey tied for fifth place in the 1A varsity boys division of the Oregon State High School Clay Target League State Tournament. Tanzey had a perfect score of 50 in the first session, and followed with 46 in the second session. In fact, Tanzey was perfect in his first three runs with 25 out of 25 targets in each before hitting 21 in the final run.

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5 Outlaws earn all-state level honors

By **RONALD BOND**
For The Observer

ENTERPRISE — Five members of the Wallowa Valley softball team received recognition at the all-state level after helping the Outlaws to a 20-win season and a spot in the Class 3A state quarterfinals.

Leading the way in the all-state awards was sophomore Sophie Moeller, who was honored as a second-team infielder. Moeller, the team's primary leadoff hitter, posted a .474 batting

average in league play with a home run, 12 RBIs and 20 runs scored.

Making the third team as an infielder was Cooper Nave. Nave, also a sophomore, hit .559 with three home runs, 15 RBIs and 15 runs scored. She hit all three of her home runs in league play in one day during a doubleheader sweep of Nyssa.

Three additional players, including two senior leaders for Wallowa Valley, earned honorable mention. Rilyn Kirkland, the Outlaws'

catcher, hit .537 in league and belted two home runs, scored 20 times and tallied 25 RBIs.

Aimee Meyers, as an infielder, was also tabbed honorable mention. In league, the sophomore hit .531 with 13 RBIs and 15 runs scored.

And in the pitcher's circle, senior Liz Rowley posted a strong season, especially in league play. Rowley finished league play with a record of 6-1 and an ERA of 1.44. She allowed just 18 hits in 39 innings,

walked 15 batters and struck out 61.

The five players were instrumental in the Outlaws completed one of the best seasons in the last decade. Wallowa Valley posted an overall record of 20-8, including 10-2 in league play, and won the program's first playoff game since 2014 with a 9-7 opening-round win over Dayton. The team recorded eight shutouts and half of its eight losses were to the teams who met in the 3A state title game — Burns and Yamhill Carlton.

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Weed of month is yellow starthistle

Wallowa Resources

ENTERPRISE — As part of the Wallowa County Vegetation Department and Weed Board's ongoing education efforts, in conjunction with Wallowa Resources, the Chieftain features a noxious weed each month that is on the county's list of noxious and invasive weeds.

This month's noxious weed is yellow starthistle.

What: It is an annual plant that typically grows 1 to 3 feet tall, has grayish-green color leaves that are up to 3 feet long at the lower part of the plant and much shorter at the upper portion of the plant. It has solitary, bright yellow flowers with sharp spines that show up from May to October.

Where: Yellow starthistle is found in rangeland, pastures, waste areas and along roadsides. It can grow in various soil types. It is typically found in dry, hot climates on southern aspects with well-drained soils. In Wallowa County, it is abun-



Wallowa Resources/Contributed Photo

Yellow starthistle is one of the noxious weeds Wallowa County is trying to eradicate.

dant in the Imnaha, Joseph Creek, Grande Ronde and Snake River Canyons and smaller sites have been found on the Zumwalt Prairie and near Lostine.

Dangers: It is damaging to grazing areas due to the fact that it forms dense infestations, depleting soil

moisture and reduces forage.

How you can help: If you find yellow starthistle either on your property or while out and about, take note of the location. You can contact our Wallowa Canyonlands Partnership Program Manager Joe Sims at 541-426-8053 ext.61.

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