

Softball team features six from Warm Springs



Shirelle Adams



Angela Bellanger



Destry Begay



Kara Katchia



Merima Made



Whitley Ruiz

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

Six high school students from Warm Springs are taking their skills to the softball field this season.

Whitley Ruiz, an 18-year-old senior, has been playing softball since her freshman year.

She joins the varsity team as an outfield player this season.

"My favorite part is getting the girls out," she said.

After graduation, Ruiz said she plans to play softball in college.

"It's my last year playing," Ruiz said. "It's kind of scary. There's more competition out there in college."

Also playing for the varsity team is Shirelle Adams, a 17-year-old senior who plays right field.

"The best thing I like about it is batting," Adams said.

Plus, she added, "It's fun to

yell and cheer for our team."

Destry Begay, a 17-year-old junior, joins the team this season playing third base.

She's played softball for six years, and said she enjoys playing infield because of the amount of action.

"It's more intense," Begay explained. "You get to move a lot more; you get action."

Kara Katchia, a 16-year-old sophomore, will play first base this season.

She said her favorite part about softball is that it is a team sport.

In Katchia's opinion, "We have a really good team this year."

For the junior varsity team, Merima Made, a 15-year-old freshman, plays shortstop and pitcher.

"I like shortstop because you have to hustle after the ball," Made said.

She has been playing softball

since the fourth grade, and said one of the benefits is that the sport doesn't involve as much running as others. Plus, she said, "You get to play outside."

Joining Made is Angela Bellanger, a 15-year-old freshman who plays outfield and pitcher.

In Bellanger's opinion, "It's fun to play with all of these girls out here."

Bellanger started playing at a young age, and said the team is

what makes softball so enjoyable.

Next the girls will play a home game against Hermiston on April 14—junior varsity will begin at 1 p.m. and varsity at 2 p.m.

After that the teams will travel to The Dalles on April 21, Crook County on April 24, and Pendleton on April 28.

The final home game for the softball teams will be on May 10 against Mt. View at 4:30 p.m.

Root Feast Rodeo April 28

The Root Feast Jackpot Rodeo Family Fun Day will be Saturday, April 28 starting at noon at the Warm Springs Rodeo Arena.

Adult events include the wild horse race, wild ride with saddle, barrel racing. Youth events are the rescue race, the wild colt race, calf riding, and mutton busting.

Fun events for free are the women's boot

race, the calf scramble, and the stick horse race.

Entry dates are April 16-18 from 6 to 8 p.m. only. Entry phone number is 553-1208.

Walk in entry day of rodeo from 9 to 11 a.m. only. All entries must be paid by 11 a.m. on April 28, no exceptions.

Admission is \$3, under 3 years free.

Upcoming tournaments

The First Annual **Open Basketball Memorial Tournament** for Star Aranda is May 10-13 at the Wapato Gymnasium in Wapato, Wash. For information contact Chico at (509) 941-4046.

The Yakama Indian Rodeo Association's 50th Annual **Treaty Days All Indian Rodeo** is June 8-10 at White Swan, Wash. Free admis-

sion, everyone welcome. Ticket buys a chance to win a 2007 Dodge pickup. For rodeo information call Sheri Ray at (509) 480-7670 or Connie Adams at (509) 480-7671.

The **Omak All-Indian Bowling Tournament** is April 20-22 at Valley Lanes in Omak, Wash. For more information call Rich Tonasket at (509) 422-7564 (w) or (509) 826-5140 (h).

The **Kiutus Jim Mixed Doubles Memorial Pool Tournament** is April 13-15 at the Hideaway Restaurant and Tiny's Tavern in Wapato, Wash. Two men, two women teams, straight 8 ball, 100 percent payout. For information contact Farley Allen (509) 969-2543; or Martina Allen at work (509) 865-5121, ext. 6305.

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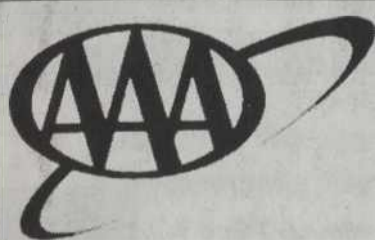
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