

Lady Viks pick up first win, roll into league play

By NED HICKSON
Siuslaw News

The Lady Vikings softball team emerged from spring break with its first win, hammering 5A opponent Ashland in a 9-2 rout during the Battle at the Beach softball tournament in Newport on March 27.

After a short break over Easter weekend, Siuslaw was back on the diamond for a doubleheader last Tuesday at Jefferson High School.

Originally scheduled for a

single game, the match-up was turned into a two-game series due to predictions of rainy weather for last night's doubleheader at Siuslaw.

Against the 3A Lions, the Lady Viks came up empty, losing both games in five innings, 15-2 and 13-5.

This Tuesday, April 10, Siuslaw (1-7) will open the Far West League season at home against Marshfield (4-4).

First pitch will go out at 5 p.m.

Viking baseball enters league on two-win roll

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After capping a three-game loss at Newport that included a salt-in-the-wound bus breakdown in the final stretch of spring break, the Viking baseball team was running on all cylinders last Tuesday against the Jefferson Lions.

In the opener, senior Evan Teter was a force from the mound and at the plate, helping lead the Viks' rally from a 5-run deficit to a 9-8 victory.

Teter came into the fourth inning and held the Lions to a single hit and single run in

relief, then smacking a two-run double in the seventh inning for both the game tying — and winning — runs.

Teter was 2-for-5 with 4 RBIs, helping to spark a series of 6 runs between the sixth and seventh innings that included scoring from Jared Northrop and Gabe Simington.

Northrop went 2-for-4 with 2 runs scored and a pair of stolen bases; Simington was 3-got-4 with 1 run scored; Tanner Wilson scored twice for the Vikings.

"Confidence from that first game carried over," said Siuslaw coach Thomas Shinn,

who explained that the momentum provided the team with a more aggressive mindset at the plate in game two.

In the nightcap, sophomore Caleb Hennessee struck out nine while throwing a complete game. At the plate, he went 2-for-3, with a double, triple 2 RBIs and 2 runs scored.

Adding to the Viks' offensive firepower were sophomore Zach Stinger with 3 runs scored and 3 RBIs, freshman Elijah Blankenship with 2 RBIs, and Wilson, who had a double and 2 runs scored.

"We took advantage of some aggressive baserunning,"

added Shinn, whose team stole 10 bases in the match-up. "Our defense also played very well, with only one error."

Yesterday's scheduled doubleheader with Jefferson was canceled due to predictions of rain, with one of those games moved to earlier in the week during last Tuesday's doubleheader.

This Tuesday, Siuslaw will begin the Far West League season on the road at Marshfield, beginning at 5 p.m.

Next Friday, April 13, the Pirates will travel to Florence for a doubleheader hosted by Siuslaw, beginning at 3 p.m.

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be hampered by the direction of the wind; is it at your back or against your chest?

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In the spring of 1970, Warrenton High School reinstated baseball while I was a senior. I traded in my track spikes for cleats.

It was a wet spring.

Since we were playing a non-league schedule, our rained out games were not rescheduled. Ultimately, we played just five of the 20 games that had been scheduled.

In 1977, I became the varsity baseball coach at Siuslaw High School. I learned early to plan an indoor and an outdoor practice schedule to be prepared in the event of rain.

The indoor practice required more equipment to improve skills. As a result, I decided to add two indoor pitching mounds and two additional batting cages.

The pitching mounds were necessary to simulate the raised outdoor mounds for pitching workouts. Eventually, hardballs were replaced with safer "soft" balls after too many dings on the bleachers and doors; not all throws were accurate.

Playing in the wind is a challenge. We played our games on the field below the Florence Events Center. The field was protected from the wind unless a fly ball was hit; balls hit higher than the hill would often change directions.

In fact, on one occasion, a fly ball called for by our first

baseman landed two feet fair from the third base line.

If you plan on watching high school or the dozens of games being played at Miller Park this spring, dress warm. It has been more than 15 years since my youngest daughter played at Miller Park. But this past Monday, I watched my grandson play T-ball there as a new generation of my family begins spring sports.

It is still windy and cold. There's a reason it has the nickname "Chiller Park."

But there's plenty of family fun to keep you warm.

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BEST BETS FOR FISHING

- Water conditions are almost perfect in the lower Rogue River and lots of winter steelhead are being caught.

- Fishing on the Necanicum, North Fork Nehalem, upper Nestucca, Salmonberry, Trask (North and South forks) and Wilson (North and South Forks) rivers all closed April 1.

- Bull trout fishing has been good on Lake Billy Chinook.

- The Shevlin and Prineville Youth Fishing Ponds have been stocked and most kids are out of school for spring break.

- There will be some bonus, unscheduled trout stocking in Trojan Pond (4,000), St. Louis Pond #6 (3,000) and Progress Lake (2,000).

SIUSLAW RIVER: Steelhead

Winter steelhead fishing has improved. Casting spinners, drifting bait or using a bobber and jig can be effective.

BE ALERT TO FISHING REGULATION CHANGES

Fishing regulations can change during the season, especially during popular salmon seasons. To stay on top of the changes, click the yellow "alert" button at the top of the home and Fishing landing pages. You also can check for any regulation updates at the top of each zone of the Recreation Report. (Columbia River spring Chinook seasons at www.myodfw.com/recreation-report/fishing-report/columbia-zone)

SPRING CHINOOK

Some anglers wait all year for spring Chinook season, and reports of early fish being caught are coming in from the lower Columbia, North Umpqua and lower Rogue rivers. To follow any in-season regulation changes on the Columbia River, check out the regulation update section at the top of the Columbia Zone of the Recreation Report.