

Lady Vikings hold league's fifth-place spot at 2-5

BY NED HICKSON
Siuslaw News

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On Tuesday, the Lady Viking softball team took on the Far West League's only winless team at Douglas High school, where the Lady Trojans (2-12) managed to pick up their first win of the season, 8-1.

The loss for Siuslaw came on the heels of two narrow wins against Brookings-Harbor the previous week, during which the Lady Viks rallied in



NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

Siuslaw junior Alyssa Richards readies herself for a sprint to home plate from third base.

come-from-behind wins, 15-14 and 13-12, losing a 16-5 nightcap game with the Bruins last Friday.

Yesterday, Siuslaw hosted the Trojans for a rematch doubleheader (after press deadlines) for a chance at redemption and shot at fourth place.

Tuesday, the Lady Viks will be on the road at North Bend (5-2) before hosting the Bulldogs this Friday at 3 and 5 p.m., weather permitting.

STEP presentation to be all about crab, shellfish

ODFW shellfish biologist Liz Perotti will be the guest speaker Wednesday night at the Florence Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) meeting, where she will talk about the lifestyle of Dungeness crab and their many shellfish cousins.

Perotti will explain how and where to catch crab, and when and where the best places are to dig clams. She'll also provide basic biology of clams and crab,

regulations and management, the tools and tricks of the trade for clamming and crabbing, and a few maps showing where to go for different clams and crab in south and mid-coast estuaries.

The STEP meeting is held in the back room of the Elks Club on the first Wednesday of every month, at 7 p.m.

Meetings are open to the public.

Viks from 1B

the fourth inning, where Hennessee helped keep Douglas off the scoreboard from the pitcher's mound.

"Caleb didn't have it clicking early," Siuslaw coach Thomas Shinn said of Hennessee's first few innings, during which the Trojans scored 6 runs, "but he came back and pitched well."

The Trojans went scoreless in the fifth inning as well, with Siuslaw bringing home another run to stay within two, 4-6, heading into the sixth inning.

After two runs were scored by Douglas, freshman Dalton Stinger came in for relief on the mound and "...kept us right in there and threw well," said Shinn. "Dalton is continuing to

grow."

Down 8-4, the Viks held the Trojans scoreless in the top of the seventh and went to work at the plate in the bottom of the inning, where Simington and Hennessee brought home a pair of runs before the rally ended in a narrow 8-6 loss.

Simington had two doubles and 1 run scored, and Hennessee accounted for a double and 2 RBIs.

On the mound, Hennessee gave up 7 earned runs on 8 hits and 6 walks while striking out 3 in 4 1/3 innings. Dalton threw for 2 2/3 innings, allowing 1 run on 3 hits and 3 strikeouts.

"We were a little more aggressive later in the game," Shinn said of the team's performance, which put Siuslaw at 2-5 in the Far West League (4-11 overall), a

record he attributes in part to Siuslaw's relative inexperience at the varsity level. "I hate using that excuse, but it's our youth. We need to be more clear with our younger players."

Of the Viks' 11-man line-up, seven are either freshman or sophomores, with Wilson and Evan Teter the only seniors on the roster.

That same afternoon, North Bend continued undefeated (6-0) in the Far West with a 3-0 shutout at Brookings-Harbor, and South Umpqua handed Marshfield (1-6) its sixth loss with a 9-2 victory over the Pirates.

Yesterday, the Viks were scheduled for a doubleheader on the road at Douglas (after press deadlines).

Tuesday, Siuslaw will host North Bend, beginning at 5 p.m.

Little from 1B

This allowed the breakaway player a better chance to score a goal. There were no scoreboards or scores being kept ... well, except in my head.

Sorry, it's a lifetime habit I cannot break.

The entire south half of Miller Park was filled with various sizes of soccer fields. Families were camped next to fields with chairs and snacks for players and family members alike.

Volunteer adults did a good job keeping the games moving. Naturally, there were few disputes on whether a ball was out of bounds or a goal scored, but the players looked to be having fun.

Soccer requires a minimum

of equipment. All that is needed is large field, a goal net, a uniform and a soccer ball. To save money, many school districts are beginning to add soccer to their sports programs. The brain injury headlines regarding football continue to make parents fearful of allowing their children to play football.

Then again, they may have failed to read about concussions in soccer as a growing concern. If you have never felt a soccer ball, it is hard. A kicked ball traveling yards in the air to be headed into a goal creates a collision similar to helmet on helmet.

My guess is that head protection in soccer may be required in the future.

Ultimately, there is a need for a variety of sport activities

in schools because not all students fit the mold for any one sport; multiple team sports allow for more choices.

And any time you can keep children active and occupied with a physical activity, it's a good thing. However, I do believe there is a limit to the competitive balance in smaller schools because of the limited number of athletes to pull from. When the best athletes are spread over a number of sports in the same season, teams in those sports will be affected.

Though I'm not — and probably never will be — a soccer fan, I will gladly watch and cheer for my grandchildren no matter the sport they choose to play.

Even if it is "futbol."

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