

Siuslaw from 1B

fourth inning, and also scored a run in the fifth.

But in the top of the sixth, the Bulldogs struck again, adding 4 runs for a 13-2 lead that poised them for a six-inning, 10-run rule win.

The Viks attempted their own two-out rally in an effort to stave off an early loss as junior Gabe Simington, senior outfielder Tanner Wilson and sophomore Caleb Hennessee connected to keep the threat alive.

But North Bend was able to leave the inning unscathed for a 13-2 win in six innings.

Simington was 3-for-3 with 2 RBIs and a double. Wilson had a double and Hennessee was 1-for-3 on the day.

That same afternoon, the Lady Viks took on 7th-ranked North Bend, which claimed its eighth-consecutive win after a 22-2 defeat of Siuslaw.

Heading into last night's doubleheader re-match with the Lady Bulldogs (after press deadlines), Siuslaw was in a three-way tie with Brookings-Harbor

and Marshfield for third place at 4-6.

The Viking boys were on the road last night for a doubleheader at the 'Dawg's house.

Monday, the Lady Viks will host their final home game of the season, against South Umpqua, beginning at 5 p.m.

The boys will be on the road against the Lancers before returning home for their final home stand Thursday in a doubleheader against South Umpqua; the girls will play at South Umpqua. Both double-headers begin at 3 p.m.



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Siuslaw junior Tim Lowder delivers a strike against North Bend. Lowder was one of three pitchers to take the mound for Siuslaw in Tuesday's game against the 9-0 Bulldogs.

Little from 1B

Average (ERA). I was voted Most Valuable Pitcher my senior year, yet my baseball experience was limited solely to

pitching. I had little knowledge of most other aspects of baseball.

Yes, pitching is a key ingredient for success, but without defense and hitting, pitchers would need to throw a shut out every game.

So, in order to be ready for the 1978 baseball season I attended baseball clinics in the fall and winter of 1977. During the clinics, I realized how unrealistic it is for one

coach to cover all the fundamental skills in baseball.

Each infielder has specific skills different than other infielders; each outfielder requires individual skills similar to other outfielders but with a different angle of the ball off the bat.



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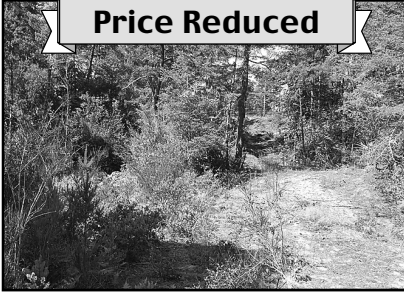
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Catchers need special skills for handling a pitched ball. Only multiple repetitions of drills will enable the players to become proficient over time.

Can one coach successfully accomplish all this?

When I was hired they expected me to do it. When I took the job, I expected to do it.

I never had an at bat for the Pacific University Boxers, yet I needed to learn how to teach my players how to hit. I went to a hitting clinic at Lewis and Clark College in Portland; I watched and listened to Rod Carew of the Minnesota Twins explain and demonstrate his hitting theory.

Carew stated that left-handed batters had advantages not afforded right handed hitters. With that in mind, all four of my children were placed on the left side of the plate.

In order to cover as many skills necessary for success, I had pitching and hitting drills at 6:15 a.m. in the gym.

Throwing from the gym floor altered the release point of the pitcher, so I built indoor pitching mounds to simulate the outdoor mounds. While the pitchers and catchers worked out, the other players were hitting from one of four hitting stations.

During afternoon practices, I assigned players for specific drills. While I was focused on one drill, players would work position-specific drills. The full potential of any baseball team can rarely be reached under the direction of one coach.

My first two teams at Siuslaw had the talent for a Far West League Title.

If only...

The Far West League title usually ran through Reedsport and Brookings. My first two teams placed third each year.

I could not help but notice two assistant coaches coaching the first- and third-base sides while their head coach remained in the dugout.

I coached third and a reserve player coached at first base. I worked hard to make Siuslaw baseball competitive, and it's a tradition that continues today.

The Siuslaw baseball and softball seasons are well underway, so go root for the Vikings at either venue. Your support makes all that hard work mean even more for players and coaches alike.