

Viks from 1B

hitting couldn't find a rhythm and we really struggled."

Siuslaw, which only has two seniors on its roster — Tanner Wilson of Mapleton and Evan Teter of Florence — fielded only underclassmen in the game.

The Lancers, by comparison, recognized seven seniors in their final home game.

With Teter out following a knee injury against North Bend the previous week, the Viks brought up JV players freshman Brandon Heckathorn and junior Jordan Taniguchi to flesh out the line-up.

Taniguchi was fresh from his first appearance on the mound a week earlier at North Bend, where he threw 1 1/3 innings, striking out 3 and nabbing a put out at first base.

However, Monday night Siuslaw rotated junior Caleb Hennessee, sophomore Jared Northrop and freshman Dalton Stinger on the mound, but defensive errors caused problems for the Vikings.

"The mental mistakes on top of the errors caused our pitchers to have to throw too many pitches and try to be too careful around the [strike] zone," said Shinn.

The Viks' only hit of the game came off the bat of junior Tim Lowder, on a single in the top of the fifth inning before the game ended due to the 10-run rule.

Thursday, the Lancers completed the sweep in back-to-back 5-inning wins, 10-0 and 19-3.

Wilson had the night's biggest hit, smacking a triple during his final at bat in the bottom of the fifth inning to cap his high school career.

Teter, the team's only other senior, was out of the line-up due to his injury.

The Viks end the season 2-13 in league and fifth place overall.



NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

Siuslaw coach Thomas Shinn hands the ball to junior Tim Lowder who came in for relief in game two of Thursday's doubleheader against South Umpqua.



NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

Siuslaw junior Alyssa Richards stretches to make the catch for an out at first base Monday.

Siuslaw from 1B

Siuslaw sophomore Nina Aaron struck out 4 batters, with 9 of the Lancer's 15 runs unearned.

South Umpqua pitcher Tayah Kelley, a junior, held Siuslaw to two hits — both from Smith — and struck out 8. Kelley also connected for a solo home run on the third pitch of the game.

"The tone was set [on that] out-of-the-park home run," O'Mara said.

Thursday, South Umpqua completed the sweep of Siuslaw to end the season.

Little from 1B

Brown, taught our class the game of fast-pitch softball. He arranged for us to play four games against other junior high schools. We won all the games and challenged the high school freshmen to play us; we beat them three-out-of-four games and became confident enough to challenge the sophomores.

We lost all four games but three were decided in the last inning. It was around this time the "King and His Court" were traveling around the country challenging local softball teams to try and beat them.

Eddie Feigner, the king, and three other players challenged all comers to play against them using nine players. Eddie was so fast and deceptive most players never even touched the ball.

Unlike the Harlem Globetrotters, who traveled with their only opponents and played against them every game, The King and His Court played any team who chal-

lenged them.

During an exhibition game in 1964, the King struck out Willie Mays, Roberto Clemente, Brooks Robinson, Willie McCovey, Maurie Wills and Harmon Killebrew; all were future MLB Hall of Fame members. He threw over 100 mph and could strike out people blindfolded, behind his back, from second base and between his legs.

I personally would not bat against a blindfolded pitcher throwing 100 mph.

My early experience with Siuslaw softball occurred in the early 1990s when then-athletic director Pete Vavich asked me if I could umpire the afternoon girls JV softball game against Elmira.

I agreed and took up my position behind the catcher on the south field of Miller Park. The new softball complex had not been built. When the Elmira pitcher threw her first pitch, it was in the catcher's glove before I realized it.

I called a strike.

A fan behind me yelled

"Little! You didn't even see that pitch!"

I replied, "Probably not, but if the catcher's mitt is in the strike zone and does not move, I will be calling many pitches strikes."

Elmira would win two state titles in the next three years and its freshman pitcher with the last name of Cook would go on and pitch four years as an Oregon Duck.

Another change for safety has been with batting helmets. All softball players are required to have a face mask attached to their batting helmets. The growing number of pitchers learning to throw faster — combined with the rise ball that has become a staple of many successful pitchers — has put batters at more risk of being struck higher on their bodies.

The chest protectors have also undergone a transformation over the years.

All these are needed because a softball are not soft.

Free from 1B

ODFW's Weekly Recreation Report, which is updated every Wednesday.

Oregon State Parks are also free to visit on June 2-3, with day-use parking fees waived

both days and free camping on Saturday, June 2 (an \$8 reservation is required to guarantee a camping spot).

ODFW and partners are also hosting a number of fishing events around the state.

Volunteer angler education instructors will be loaning out

fishing gear and giving tips on how to catch and clean fish at most events.

For more details and contact information for these events, visit www.myodfw.com/articles/2018-free-fishing-days-and-events.

the spotlight

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