

Vikings rally to keep alive against hard-hitting Pirates

BY ZEAHNA YOUNG
SIUSLAW NEWS

On Tuesday (April 20), the Vikings hosted Marshfield's baseball team and, despite having a difficult time getting started, Siuslaw fought until the end of the seventh inning to stay in the game and not be shut out — or be sent home early.

According to coach Tom Shin, "We struggled at the plate early."

Starting on the mound was Isaac Garza, who threw to Jason Garcia.

The Viks were unable to score in the first four innings of the game, allowing the Pirates multiple runs in each. Clay Kramer relieved Garza but, by the end of the fourth inning, Marshfield was up 12-0 and threatening to end game early due to the 10-run mercy rule.

At the bottom of the fifth, the Pirates had

scored another run, putting them up 13-0, which meant the Viks needed 4 runs in their next at bat for the game to continue.

Fortunately, Marshfield had a pitching change during Siuslaw's turn at the plate, which worked in favor of the Vikings.

"In the fifth inning with the pitching change by Marshfield," said Shinn, "we started putting the ball in play, and they made a few misplays — of which we took advantage."

After this point, the Vikings seemed to fight with new vigor, scoring 4 runs in the inning, and just enough to keep the game going.

In the sixth inning, each time scored once but, in the final inning of the game, despite bringing in Elijah Blankenship as the team's final relief pitcher, the Pirates came away with 6 runs to Siuslaw's 2, bringing the final score to



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Siuslaw senior Dalton Stinger attempts to stop a third-base steal by Marshfield during last Tuesday's game against the Pirates.

20-7. Notably, Ian Sissel went

2-for-4 at the plate with 2 RBIs and 1 run scored.

Kramer, who pitched innings three through six,

picked up 1 strikeout, hit 2-for-3 and had 2 runs.

"I was pleased with the resiliency of the team. Being down big in the fifth inning, it would have been really easy to give in. But the men worked themselves back into the game."

The Vikings faced Marist away for a double-header last night (after press deadlines).

Their next game is at home on Tuesday (April 27) against Junction City beginning at 5 p.m.

Current guidelines state that Siuslaw High School may no longer accept visiting fans for baseball. JV baseball tickets will be limited to two tickets per player. Varsity tickets will still be attained while supplies last on Hometown ticketing (<https://www.siuslaw.k12.or.us/o/siuslaw-high-school/page/siuslaw-on-line-ticketing>).

Little from 1B

with "later," it could mean in five minutes, five hours or five days. Unless we add a more specific time to our "Later," we leave them in limbo.

As for my answer to Miles, I went immediately outside though I could have said "After I finish this

one chapter in my book."

I recently took a fall on my front lawn injuring my right shoulder — so, I am glad I threw passes to him when I did because now it may be some time before I throw footballs, whiffle balls for batting practice, or play basketball with any of my grandchildren.

However, I do see — in the near future — a back-

yard batting cage with a protective screen to keep me safe from line drives up the middle.

For many of us, our active athletic days become fewer with age. As an aging athlete, I will do the best I can to help my grandchildren learn sport skills. I will be helped by advanced technology and equipment that will help me help them.

In 2004, I put my coaching clipboard away. My children were all in the capable hands of Siuslaw High School coaches. When I took a chair to my SMS basketball practice, I knew the MS fatigue was preventing me from coaching in the manner I was accustomed to coaching. So, I retired from coaching everywhere except at my

house with my grandchildren.

Fifteen years later, I try to engage in activities with my grandchildren. On a good day for me, it is outside. Or it will be inside playing board games, reading stories, doing puzzles or just watch them play in the backyard.

It is more fun to watch them play than to have

them tell you what they did while playing.

You will know when you have said "Later" too often. It will be when they stop asking for you to join them. I am delaying my use of "Later" for as long as possible.

I hope to have many more years of them asking for me to throw some passes.

SHS from 1B

Loomis had a Personal Record (PR) in the shot put with a throw of 39-07, as well as top throws in both the discus and javelin, with marks of 125-08 and 149-07, respectively.

Another standout performance for the day was had by junior Camp Lacouture, who won first place in the pole vault with a PR of 12-06.

"The pole vault is so tough because there is so much timing involved, and it's constantly changing because of wind conditions, pole sizes, ability and how you execute each trial," Johnson said. "So, for Camp to come in and PR in his first opportunity, he beat a pretty good field and had good looks at 13 feet — which would make our top 10 list of all time. I think you're going to see some good things from Camp over the course of the year, and he had a great Long Jump, too."

Lacouture placed second in the long jump with another PR at 19-00.

In addition to Loomis and Lacouture's efforts on the field, the boys team ex-

celled on the track. Sophomore Sam Ulrich, who ran his first high school race this week, took first place in the 1500 meters with a time of 4:29.75a.

Also running in the first meet of his high school career was sophomore Hunter Pettersen, who placed first in the 100 meters.

"Hunter is just a tough guy," said Johnson. "We threw him on two relays, and he was on the winning team in the four-by-four [relay], and he also ran a great leg in the four-by-one [relay], so he's exciting. It's kind of refreshing; he's someone who we saw last year as having potential, but then to see him grow a year and come back is pretty exciting."

For not having run their first year of high school due to last school year's season being canceled as a result of the pandemic, Ulrich and Pettersen are already proving to be strong competitors to watch for on the Vikings' team in the future.

On the girls' side, Andrea Osbon matched Loomis's throws win-for-win, also placing first in all three throwing events for the Lady Viks.



ZEAHNA YOUNG/SIUSLAW NEWS

Siuslaw's Camp Lacouture warms up on the javelin runway. Lacouture threw 137-08 for third place. He also won the pole vault with a PR of 12-6.

"Andrea Osbon also had a great day," said Johnson.

So far, Osbon holds season records for all three events, with a 37-06 in the shot put, a mark of 99-11 in the discus and a 100-00 throw in the javelin.

On the track, Rylee Colton had a great day in the 1500 meters. "She and Brea [Blankenship] both ran well," noted Johnson,

"but Rylee had a big PR with a 5:13.42a, her fastest time ever. She just continues to ride the momentum that she created for herself during the cross country season."

Colton and Blankenship came in second and third, respectively, with Blankenship clocking a time of 5:15.05a.

The girls' team also

won the 4x400 relay, with Blankenship, Colton, Corduroy Holbrook and Gracie Freudenthal defeating

Bandon and Elmira with a time of 4:30.00a.

"Gracie and Brea were on a team that ran 4:07 last year," explained Johnson, "which was one of our fastest times in school history. So, they bring back some experience, but then Rylee and Corduroy Holbrook had never run in a high school four-by-four."

Freudenthal also placed first in the 100-meter dash and 300-meter hurdles, coming in with times of 18.30a and 55.07a, respectively.

In all, it was a successful first event coming off of a record-winning cross country season for Johnson's Vikings.

Yesterday (April 23), Siuslaw hosted the Central Coast Invitational (after press deadlines). The Vikings' next meet is this Tuesday (April 27) at Cottage Grove. Events begin at 4 p.m.

Sailors from 1B

Mapleton senior JJ Neece is one of the Sailors' top all-around athletes, with his training on the football field last season translating into his performance on the track and field Wednesday.

In Javelin, Neece came in first, throwing 151-11. Neece also placed first in the triple jump (38-5.5) as well as coming in second in the 100-meter race with a time of 11.8.

Junior Joe Shepard, the only other member of Mapleton's boys team, also had outstanding performances, taking first place in the 1500M with a

PR of 5:02.9h. Shepard also placed second in the 800M with another PR of 2:29.8h.

On the field, Shepard took second in the triple jump behind Neece with a PR leap of 38-3 and was third in the long jump with a PR of 18-1.

The girls team also performed well on both track and field, coming in third overall with 67 points in the team scoring. Triangle Lake scored 127 point for first place overall, followed by Yoncalla in second with 74 points.

On the field, senior Heather Wierichs set two PRs in the meet, placing third in the shot put at 23-6, and landing a sixth-

place throw in the discus at 54-7.

Sophomore Emily Neece also had two PRs, finishing second in shot put (26-6) and third in discus with a 61-3.)

Also on the field was junior Opal Burruss, who set a PR in the triple jump after a leap of 24-10.5. Burruss also had a stand-out performance in the 1500 meters with in first-place time of 6:14.0h. She also set a PR in the 800 meters to place second in 3:13.0h.

Junior Brier Shird took first in the 800-meter race for the Sailors, finishing in 3:09.0h. Shird also took second in the long jump at 12-9.75.

In this first meet, coach Burruss said he was pleased with his athletes' performances, specifically with Shepard and Opal's performances in the 1500M.

"Joe and Opal both did a great job in the 1500. They both ran pace for the majority of the race, then took control on the last lap."

Mapleton's next meet is this Wednesday (April 28) at Pleasant Hill. Events begin at 3 p.m.

(View complete results online at www.athletic.net)

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