

Siuslaw from 1B

into the second half of league play that starts on Friday.”

Cate Waggoner pitched the entire game to Adri Edwards and picked up 4 strikeouts for the day.

The Viks took the lead early in the game with 2 runs in the first inning to Junction City’s 1. Siuslaw picked up another run in the second while holding the Tigers scoreless at the plate, bringing the score to 3-1 over Junction City.

However, in the third inning the Vikings were unable to score while the Tigers managed to bring three runners across the plate for a 4-3 advantage

by the bottom of the inning.

The Vikings came back with 2 more runs in the fourth, with the Tigers scoring once — tying the game at 5-5 to end inning.

In the fifth, Junction City sent Siuslaw back to the field after a fruitless at bat, then eked out 1 run during their turn at the plate, taking a 6-5 lead heading into the sixth inning. Though the Lady Vikings were able to keep the Tigers from scoring in both the sixth and final innings, Siuslaw went scoreless as well — with Junction City holding on for a narrow 6-5 win.

Although they did not come out on top, the Viks had some strong individu-

al performances.

Bailey Overton scored 3 runs and had 1 RBI, hitting 3-for-5 and coming away with a single, a double and a home run.

According to O’Mara, “She is really starting to see the ball well and continues to be a staple part of the Viking offense.”

Hayden Muller had 2 put outs and hit 50 percent, picking up 2 singles and 1 run scored.

Lizbeth Garcia-Galvan also went 2-for-4 on the day, grabbing 2 RBIs off a pair of singles. On defense, Garcia-Galvan had 2 assists and 4 put outs.

Finally, on defense, Meika Shappell nailed an F5, 5-4 double play, catching a pop-fly foul at third

base, then relaying it to second base for the double play.

In all, the girls are improving with every game, said O’Mara, and were looking forward to last night’s (April 30) doubleheader at home against Cottage Grove (after press deadlines).

Baseball:

On the baseball diamond, Siuslaw gave up 5 runs to the Tigers in the first inning. Though they came back to score 2 runs in the bottom of the inning, the Viks had trouble coming back after that point.

“Avoiding the big [deficit] inning early will be a key come Friday [last

night], when we take on Cottage Grove,” explained coach Tom Shinn.

Both teams were scoreless in the second inning, but the Tigers scored 5 more runs by the end of the fourth. The Vikings, meanwhile, were unable to score any runs. After a scoreless fifth inning, Junction City brought 4 more runs across the plate in the sixth inning for a 13-2 lead over Siuslaw.

The Viks picked up 1 more run in at the bottom of the sixth but, unfortunately, they needed 2 more to allow the game to continue without ending due to the 10-run Mercy Rule.

The Tigers took the win in the sixth inning, 13-3. Despite the loss, the

Viks did well at the plate, but were unlucky when where the ball landed throughout the game.

“I thought we hit the ball well tonight,” said Shinn. “Eight hits is a season high for us. We had some balls that were well-hit that ended up right at Junction City players.”

Like the softball team, the baseball team took on Cottage Grove in a doubleheader last night (after press deadlines).

Their next games are at Elmira this Tuesday (May 4), with softball beginning at 5 p.m., and baseball playing a make-up doubleheader with the starting time TBD.

Mapleton from 1B

in the 3000 meters with a time of 11:45.61h.

Senior JJ Neece set a season record (SR) in the 100 meters, coming in third with a time of 11.84a. Neece also placed fifth in the shot put with a PR throw of 36-00.5, and in the triple jump with a leap of 37-03.

On the girls’ team, the

Sailors had three athletes who set PRs for shot put, including Emily Neece, who came in fifth with a throw of 26-07; Heather Wierichs, who finished sixth at 23-11.00; and Brier Shird, who placed eighth with a mark of 21-10.25.

Emily Neece and Wierichs also competed in the discus, throwing 61-03 and 49-04, respectively, for fifth and seventh

place. Shird set an SR in the 800 meters, coming in third with a time of 2:59.45h.

Also competing in the 800-meter race was Opal Burruss, who finished fourth and set a PR of 3:07.43h. Burruss also placed fourth in the 1500M, setting an SR of 6:06.58h, and went on to land second in the triple jump with a mark of 24-

08. The Sailors’ next meet is scheduled for Wednesday (May 5) at home. However, the number of spectators allowed will be determined in the coming days by the OSAA, based on Lane County’s move back into the “Extreme Risk” category yesterday (April 30).

Vikings from 1B

shot put. She’s knocking at the door for sure.”

Osbon also placed first in the javelin after clearing 95-07.

“She got some good attempts and had a good series,” said Johnson.

This week, members of the boys’ team pushed themselves to try out new events, which proved to work in their favor overall. “We have a lot of kids on the boys’ team,” said Johnson. “We have some depth and we had a few events we didn’t have a lot of kids participating in. The way track and field works, the events that are sometimes more difficult to pull off athletically are the ones people don’t gravitate toward.”

As an example, Johnson said every track coach has a hard time getting kids to do the high hurdles and the 300-meter hurdles. “The high hurdles for the boys are 39 inches; that’s tough to navigate, especially if you’re not tall. And then the 300 hurdles — it’s just really grueling. So, it’s hard to get kids to do those things.”

In addition to the increased difficulty of certain events such as hurdles, some of the events stand out for the reason that they require specialized techniques that would otherwise not be learned naturally by an athlete in any other sport.

“The triple jump is not anything you do on the playground when you’re a little kid,” noted Johnson. “Everybody runs and jumps — like the long jump — and everybody throws things. But the triple jump is something that you don’t really do athletically.”

On Monday, Johnson spoke with the boys team about how it has a chance to be competitive enough to win the district championship. But to do that requires an all-hands-on-deck type of approach, with athletes doing events that wouldn’t normally do.

“Coach Ulrich, Coach Perry and I just said, ‘We’ve won league championships before, and we’ll win again. But this is your guys’ only chance

and, if we’re going to win, it’s going to take people to volunteer to do things that are outside their comfort zone.”

Triple jump was one such event that the Vikings had nobody compete in prior to Tuesday; however, the league currently has no standout athletes in this competition.

“So, we challenged the boys [and said], ‘You need to learn how to triple jump today, let’s go!’” explained Johnson. “Six boys did it, and Camp Lacouture jumped first place with a 37-11, and James Smith got third jumping 35-01. That’s from never doing it before, trying it one day and the next day coming into the meet and attempting it.”

“Little things like that make us way more competitive as a team, so hats off to the guys that tried.”

Rhys Fleming, Liam McClellan, Owen Garneau and Talin Loomis were among the other athletes who competed in the triple jump to help their team set new records, each coming away with a PR. Meanwhile, Lucian Murphy competed in the 110HH and the 300-meter hurdles, setting a PR for the 110HH

at 21.79a. “Coaches have a vision,” said Johnson, “and sometimes it’s hard to get 15-year-old kids to understand what that vision is. But on Tuesday, we definitely felt like the boys were dialed into the process and were willing to do what they could do to make us more competitive. It was a great day.”

Also setting PRs and placing first for the boys were Jaxson Jensen in the 400 meters (54.86a) and Samuel Ulrich in the 1500 meters (4:20.16a)

On the track, the girls had some very notable performances as well. Brea Blankenship won the 1500 Meters with a time of 5:07.73.

“Brea had a great meet,” said Johnson. “It’s such a short season and with COVID restrictions. We’re used to going to these meets with 25 teams, but now we’re going to meets with three teams. And for distance runners, there’s a short window of time when they’re fit enough to run fast.”

But as Johnson pointed out, many are coming off of a state championship cross country season rather than basketball — so

they’re in great shape. Still, to transition from a 5K to an 800-meter run is not easy.

“We haven’t done a ton of 800-meters specific work yet, which it’s Brea’s specialty. So, she jumped into the 1500 with really nobody else to run with — and she just ran lights out.”

In addition to Blankenship, Gracie Freudenthal took first in the 400-meter race with a PR of 1:04.54a, and Rylee Colton took second in the 800 meters.

The girls also took first place in the 4x400 relay, with Blankenship, Colton, Jane Lacouture and Freudenthal finishing with a time of 4:35.66a.

The Vikings held the Sky-Em League Showcase meet at home on yesterday (After press deadlines). Their next meet is Tuesday (May 4) at Newport High School, where they will compete against Newport and Philomath starting at 3:30 p.m.

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