



Kyra Whitford recounts a story about her daughter, Alisa, while in front of the new outfield sign and wearing her daughter's softball jersey.

**WHITFORD**

*continued from B1*

Simons, who taught and coached Alisa, then talked with her mother and sister, Sarah Stinchcomb, about it and then went to the school board and got approval to re-name the field.

"What's really special about it is knowing that people still really think about her. The impact that she left. That she passed away in 2009 and people are still really thinking about her because she left that much of an impact on people around her," said Stinchcomb. "That you know, they want to honor her and continue to keep honoring her. So it's definitely very special."

Sunday at Alisa Whitford Memorial Field, members of the 1996 championship softball team and other community members took turns sharing their memories of Whitford.

The time she argued with her coach in the state championship game if they should walk the other team's best hitter; the time the coaches agreed to have their heads shaved if the team won the state title (a promise they didn't think they would have to fulfill); how on seemingly any Sunday during her season, the team's rest day, she would call her

coach and ask him to come to the field so she could practice her pitching.

"She was one of those people that everybody loved. Because she gave everything all the time," said assistant coach of the 1996 team, Jim Russell.

After years of not having a softball team at Yoncalla, interest from Whitford and friends got the program restarted during her freshman year. The team didn't win a game in their first season but were able to win a handful of games her sophomore year.

Junior year, Russell and head coach Mike Bendele, took over the program. The former baseball coaches who had never coached softball, relieved Simons, who was also head volleyball and basketball coach in addition to athletic director and math teacher, from the job.

After making the playoffs the year before, the 1996 team had high expectations heading into the season. The team then lost their first two games of the year before rattling off 25 straight to win the state title behind Whitford on the mound.

"When I first thought about the cleats and the smile she had, course it brought tears to my eyes," said Bendele. "It's emotional because we're all supposed to be gone before our kids are."

**CG SOFTBALL**

*continued from B1*

ing. Even when people say you can't, that means you've got to fight a little bit harder to prove them wrong," she said.

"The mentality is that we're just as good as any other team. We just have to prove it to ourselves

and we've just got keep pushing and not give up and show them."

On Friday, the Lions hosted Sweet Home in a double-header and lost 18-1 and 15-0.

Tuesday, in the final game of the season, the Lions played Sutherlin (The game occurred after our print deadline, look for results in next week's paper.)



Cottage Grove's Kate Johns safely dives into home to score a run last Tuesday.

**N. DOUGLAS**

*continued from B1*

watched them go by and those were the perfect pitch. So we're going to have to focus on not letting that first one get past us and put us in a hole when we're up to bat," said Rice.

"But other than that, I thought we played really well. Defensively, we did really well both games. Just didn't get that clutch hit when we needed it."

With two weeks of league play left

in the season, the Warriors now sit in third place two games back from Monroe and one game back from Oakland. This week the team faces Yoncalla/Elkton, who have won one game in league play, before taking on the eighth ranked Oakers in the final three-game series of the season.

"But if we can win out we're still going to be walking into league playoff

in a good spot. A really good spot. And that's what we want and I think we can get that," said Rice. "We're getting better every day... I feel really good about the rest of the season, actually, after today."

**STANDINGS:**

**Sky-Em Baseball: Team League Overall**

Junction City	12-2	18-5
Sweet Home	10-4	14-7
Sisters	8-5	14-8
Sutherlin	6-8	12-11
Cottage Grove	5-9	8-15
Elmira	0-13	3-17

**Sky-Em Softball: Team League Overall**

Junction City	14-0	21-1
Elmira	11-3	20-4
Sweet Home	9-5	16-7
Sutherlin	5-9	11-11
Cottage Grove	2-12	4-16
Sisters	1-13	2-20

**2A/1A SD3 Baseball: Team League Overall**

Monroe (2A)	11-1	14-5
Oakland (2A)	9-3	11-7
Oakridge (2A)	8-4	11-6
N. Douglas (1A)	8-4	11-9
Elk/Yonc (1A)	6-6	8-8
Lowell (1A)	3-12	3-15
Mohawk (1A)	0-15	0-19

**2A/1A SD3 Softball: Team League Overall**

Monroe (2A)	11-1	12-4
Oakland (2A)	10-2	13-5
N. Douglas (1A)	9-3	14-6
Lowell (1A)	9-6	9-11
Oakridge (2A)	3-9	3-13
Mohawk (1A)	2-13	2-16
Yonc/Elkton (1A)	1-11	3-15

*Standings as of 5/7*

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5/10 Sky-Em Track and Field Districts (Day One) @ Sisters	5/9 4:00 p.m. Baseball vs. Sutherlin (JV)	5/11 2:00 p.m. Baseball vs. North Douglas	5/11 2:00 p.m. Baseball vs. North Douglas
5/12 Sky-Em Track and Field Districts (Day Two) @ Sisters	5/11 2:00 p.m. Baseball @ Elkton/Yoncalla	2:00 p.m. Softball vs. North Douglas	2:00 p.m. Softball vs. North Douglas
	2:00 p.m. Softball @ Yoncalla/Elkton	4:30 p.m. Baseball vs. North Douglas	4:30 p.m. Softball vs. North Douglas
	4:30 p.m. Baseball @ Elkton/Yoncalla	5/12 Yoncalla Track Districts @ Lost River	5/12 Yoncalla Track Districts @ Lost River
	4:30 p.m. Softball 2 Yoncalla/Elkton	Elkton Track Districts @ Sutherlin	Elkton Track Districts @ Sutherlin
	5/12 Track Districts @ Lost River	5/14 4:30 p.m. Baseball @ Oakridge	5/14 4:30 p.m. Softball @ Oakridge
	Elkton		
	5/14 4:30 p.m. Baseball @ Oakland		
	4:30 p.m. Softball @ Oakland		

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