

Pleasant Hill records win in high-scoring contest

Yoncalla softball falls at home

By Zach Silva
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While there may have been a difference in the scorebooks recording the stats of the game, one thing was abundantly clear: a lot of runs were scored when the Yoncalla and Pleasant Hill softball teams met last Tuesday. The Yoncalla score book had the score down as a 30-16 Yoncalla loss while the official score on OSAA was listed as 26-14.

But regardless of the score, there was a shared feeling between the two sides about the nearly three-hour contest that saw a combined 41 batters walked.

"It was a brutal game," said Pleasant Hill head coach Jordan Goschie.

"It was a rough one," remarked Yoncalla head coach Shawn Garrett after the outing.

The visiting Billies (4-2) jumped on the Eagles (2-3) early scoring eight runs in the opening inning. Yoncalla responded with two runs of their own as they got the bases loaded. But the hits kept coming for Pleasant Hill as they led 22-4 going into the fourth inning.

"I thought we had good, quality at-bats. That was the biggest thing and our energy stayed high no matter what the score was," said Goschie. "Things we could improve on was base-running a little bit and cleaning up our errors. Other than that, it wasn't too bad."

Goschie was working to not run-up the score as she was stopping runners from getting extra bases and ended the third inning by intentionally sending a runner from third early – with the bases loaded – to record the final out of the inning.

"They didn't hang their heads. They would get upset if they struck out but they keep battling and I think they all realize they're learning," said Garrett. "As soon as the moment is over they're understanding that they're a better player today than they were yesterday."

The morale for both sides was further tested in the fourth inning as pitching changes led to an onslaught of walks. In the top of the inning, 10 straight batters were walked by Yoncalla which resulted in Goschie again sending runners early to end the inning. There were similar growing pains in the bottom of the inning with nine of 11 batters getting a free pass to first base.

In the bottom of the fifth the Yoncalla bats came alive as they continued to get on base and put together a string of seven runs together. Leading the way in the rally and the game was Yoncalla's Kiernyn Carnes who recorded a single and a triple while Tayla Swearingen had a pair of singles. Garrett saw the late hitting explosion as a place to start moving forward

EAGLES see B3

Reedsport holds off North Douglas



North Douglas junior Austin Frieze beats a throw home to score a run for the Warriors last Friday in a loss against sixth-ranked Reedsport.

Behind ace pitcher Dallas McGill, Brave score victory

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To end the non-league portion of the schedule, North Douglas was tasked with the best team they have seen this season: Reedsport. But it was the sixth-ranked Brave (6-1) working their way to a 6-2 road win over the Warriors (4-1) last Friday.

"First, to give them some credit, they're probably in the conversation to win a state title," said North Douglas head coach Jeff Davis. Adding, "We were a little nervous, we were a little tight because it's Reedsport."

Last season Reedsport made its way to the quarterfinals and the year before the team finished second at state. A cornerstone to both those seasons was junior pitcher Dallas McGill who, as a freshman, pitched six innings of the state championship game and was first team all-state a season ago.

With McGill getting the starting nod, he found success from the start striking out the first three North Douglas batters of the game. In five innings of work, McGill struck out nine batters and did not give up a hit.

"That's the way he throws," said Reedsport head coach Jason Lavigne about his ace. "Very controlled. And Tyler (Thornton who entered the game at pitcher in the sixth inning) – to pitch in these conditions and throw as many strikes as they did, that's tough. Their cleats were loaded and those guys threw a lot of strikes and it's tough. We've got a good pitching staff, pretty controlled, they run games pretty well."

For North Douglas, the team relied on a cast of pitchers for the game that included Brian Erickson, Colter Anderson, Waylon Beckham and Wyatt Beckham. The pitching crew struck out seven batters on the day and walked eight.

"We haven't walked seven guys all year long in four games and we walked sev-

en in two or three innings. That's mental stuff is really what it is. It has nothing to do with our physical skills," said Davis. "That being said, other than in the sixth inning, they really didn't hit the ball all that well. So in our mind, this would be the North Douglas spin on it, we pitch a little better, I think the defense was fine, it's a one, two run game and you play those last two innings differently."

In that pivotal sixth inning, the Brave were able to extend their lead scoring three runs all with two outs. Reedsport started a string of hits with ground rule double from Nick Glover, followed by a single to center from Griffin Lavigne and a triple from McGill that was compounded by a throwing error that took him home and gave the team a six-run advantage.

With McGill off the mound in the bottom of the inning, the Warriors were able to mount a rally of their own. Singles from Erickson and Austin Frieze got runners on base. After Koldan Frieze was walked, Wyatt Beckham had

bases loaded and was able to hit a grounder to third that resulted in a throwing error and a pair of runs being scored.

The three hits in the inning were North Douglas' only hits in the game. A pair of strikeouts ended the inning

with the bases still loaded.

"There were hits and some walks and we had base runners on in both the sixth and the seventh. Give it some time, we've only been at this for three weeks," said Davis.

WARRIORS see B3



A little rain couldn't slow Reedsport pitcher Dallas McGill. In five innings of work McGill struck out nine batters and gave up no hits.

Rain stalls start of season at Speedway



A race takes place at the Cottage Grove Speedway in previously sunny days. The season has been pushed back due to the wet track.

Second race of season cancelled due to weather

By Zach Silva
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While the sun was still shining, the track was too wet to start the racing season at the Cottage Grove Speedway.

"I know it's a beautiful day, unfortunately we needed more than today to be this way to get things dried out and race ready. The track and pits are still really wet," read a Facebook post from the Speedway last Saturday explaining the latest cancel-

lation. "Trust me I wish we were racing it's just not possible today. Hopefully the weather will cooperate soon and we can go racing!!!"

The cancellation was the second of the year as the season opener was cancelled on March 23 also due to poor weather conditions. Earlier this spring, Speedway general manager Heather Boyce noted that in sunny conditions the track can take a week to completely dry out.

While it is not an especially unusual for the weather to slow the start of the race season, those at the Speedway are still hopeful that sun is right around the corner to

get racing started.

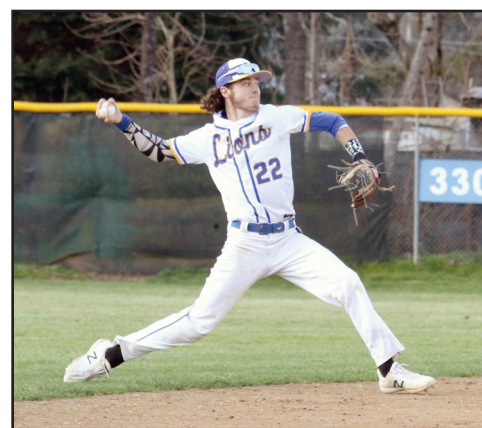
"Spring in Oregon can be beautiful or it can be wet and cold and unfortunately lately we have had a little too much of the wet and cold," said a recent Speedway post. "We are all so ready to go racing so let's keep our fingers crossed for a warm and DRY April so we can get back to having fun at Cottage Grove Speedway!!"

As of now, the Speedway has events scheduled for April 6, 13 and 20. To stay up to date with the latest weather news, check the Speedway's website cottagespeedway.com.

Athlete of the Week



This week's athlete of the week is Cottage Grove's Wyatt Sayles. Sayles helped the Lions go 2-1 over spring break. To read more about Cottage Grove baseball, turn to B2.



Cottage Grove senior Wyatt Sayles throws to first earlier this season. PHOTO C/O CGHS PHOTOGRAPHY