

'Road Warriors' best Bonanza in playoffs

North Douglas softball team continues road trip into the quarterfinals

By Zach Silva
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The 1A/2A softball state playoffs has turned into a tour of Oregon for North Douglas.

“They started calling us the Road Warriors because we’re going to have to travel,” said North Douglas head coach Jesse Rice in a phone call from Burns last Thursday.

After losing to sixth-ranked Central Linn (26-4) in the league tournament championship game, the fifth-ranked Warriors (25-3), a team that had the best regular season league record, fell to the ninth seed in the state tournament. The top eight seeds in the state tournament, which secures at least one home playoff game, are reserved for league champions.

What this meant for the Warriors was – after a first round bye – the team was headed to Bonanza (17-10) for the second round of the state playoffs where they recorded a 12-7 victory and earned a spot in Friday’s quarterfinal (which came after *The Sentinel’s* press deadline).

“Basically we sat down and talked about how we travel well and you know, we don’t get too frustrated. We keep mentally focused and that’s what we talked about,” said Rice. “It doesn’t matter what field we’re on when we’re playing, we still have to do our job and take care of business. We’ve travelled a lot and we’ve been alright.”

After the four and a half hour trip to Bonanza, the Warriors started off strong from the start of the game against the Antlers with three runs in the first inning, including a pair of home runs from Riley Black and Nicki Derrick.

The hits kept coming and the North Douglas recorded three more runs in the third inning and six in the fourth inning to build-up a 12-0 lead. The team finished with 15 hits on the day including Derrick with three and Cyndi Dill and Morgan MacDonald each with two. The Warriors were feeling good.

“Actually, I think the problem was we felt too good about it,” said Rice. “We started to relax. We had it set where we could maybe end it in five (innings), 10-run them. The girls kind of relaxed and then (Bonanza) scored a couple of runs and then we panicked and we made some mistakes. And almost let them back in the ball game.”

A combination of the Warriors taking their collective foot off the gas and Bonanza stepping up saw the Antlers put

Editor’s note: Due to the Memorial Day Holiday, the sports section (that is normally printed on Mondays) was printed on Friday afternoon. This means that the results from the North Douglas baseball and softball state quarterfinals are not in this edition but will be in next week’s June 5 paper. To read about how the Warriors did, visit cgsentinel.com/sports.

North Douglas triumphs over Toledo



North Douglas pitcher Colter Anderson gets into his wind up on Wednesday in a playoff game against Toledo. Anderson finished with eight strikeouts as the team recorded a 4-0 victory to advance to the quarterfinals. PHOTO BY ZACH SILVA/CG SENTINEL

Warriors get home win and advance to the state quarterfinals

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It was Colter Anderson striking out eight and Brian Erickson finishing the game out on the mound. It was Cal Parks with a triple and Wyatt Beckham with a double. It was Koldan Frieze scoring two runs and batting in two teammates.

It was another team win for the seventh-ranked North Douglas (21-6) baseball team.

“The guys are playing pretty well right now, which is what you hope for at this time of the season. And we’ll keep going until they tell us we can’t,” said North Douglas head coach Jeff Davis after Wednesday’s 4-0 home playoff win over 10th-ranked Toledo (17-8). With the victory, the Warriors advance to the state quarterfinals against Monroe on Friday (after *The*

Sentinel’s press deadline).

It was Anderson having success early as he struck out seven of the first nine batters that he faced. With things rolling, Davis made the decision – knowing that if his pitchers went over 45 pitches that they would not be able to pitch on Friday because of the pitch count rule – to keep Anderson in.

“You’ve got to go get it and you worry about the next one after. You can script it however you want, but it doesn’t always go according to script,” said Davis who noted that the “pie-in-the-sky” scenario was to have both pitches stay under 45 pitches in a win.

With Anderson holding it down on the mound, the Warriors got on the scoreboard via aggressive base running from Koldan Frieze. After being walked, Frieze stole second and then third. A bad throw from home to third resulted in Frieze, who was a part of each North Douglas run throughout the game, bringing in the first run of the day.

In the third inning the bats came alive with two outs as Cal Parks blasted a shot to left field for a stand-up triple. On the next at-bat it was Frieze with a line-drive through the infield to score another run.

With the Warriors up a pair of runs, the Boomers, a team that starts no upper-classmen, attempted to put together a rally of its own. The fifth inning started with a Toledo ground-rule

double from Ashton Retherford for the team’s first hit of the game. While Retherford was then thrown out by Frieze as he attempted to steal third, it got the ball rolling for the Boomers as the team put together back-to-back hits to have runners on second and third with two outs.

With that, North Douglas brought in pitcher Brian Erickson.

“It’s more of an excite-

ment,” said Erickson on whether he is more excited or nervous going into that situation. “I’ve been told by some people that I play better under pressure because I know I’ve got to get my job done there. That’s what I did right there.”

After Erickson struck out the next batter to end the inning, the Warriors were then able to put together two more runs in the fifth

BASEBALL *see B2*



While playing shortstop, North Douglas’ Brian Erickson brings in a throw from catcher Koldan Frieze to tag out a Toledo runner who attempted to steal second base during a playoff game last Wednesday. PHOTO BY ZACH SILVA/CG

Middle school track wraps season at state meet

Area middle school teams find success at districts, state

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It was a successful final weeks of the season for the local middle school track and field teams.

For the middle schools of both Lincoln and North Douglas, the teams put together strong district meets and sent athletes to the state middle school

meet.

At the May 15 Willamette Valley Youth League district meet, the Lincoln boys finished first as a team while the girls took third at the varsity level.

The boys had first place finishes from Jaden Owens in the 3000 and javelin; Tyler Russell in the 100 and 200 hurdles; Brennen Murphy in high jump and long jump; Curtis Tucker in shot put; Myles Crandall in the 800 and the

4x100 relay team of Chase Cordin, Murphy, Russell and Owens. Blakely Herbert won the 100 hurdles on the girls’ side.

At the middle school state meet in Corvallis on Thursday May 23, Tucker went on to win the shot put state title with a throw of 45-11.50 feet. Russell took third in the hurdles in a time of 14.57.

Down the road, the North Douglas Middle School team also found

success. In the Little Fir League District Meet on May 8, the team had a number of first place finishes. For the boys, it was Logan Gant in the 800 and 1500; Trenton Rabuk in shot put; Ray Gerrard in discus and Cade Olds in javelin. For the girls, the team had first place finishes from Savannah Harkins in discus and javelin; Tabitha Baker in the 200; Jaylyn Hulsey in shot put and the 4x100 relay team

of Brooke McHaffie, Mia Piscopo, Gracie Parks and Baker.

Also at the meet, Elkton’s Rylee Williamson won the 800 and triple jump while teammate Siena Fluitt took first in long jump.

At the state meet, Gerrard won the discus state title with a throw of 133-09 feet. Rabuck took fourth in shot put while Harkins was seventh in discus.

Athletes of the Week



This week’s athletes of the week are the members of the U14 soccer teams that won the South Valley Athletic tournament on Saturday May 18. For more on the teams, turn to B3.



Members of the U14 championship winning team last Saturday. PHOTO C/O SMILEY GLENN