

Elks open baseball season at Glendale after short prep time

By JON STINNETT
FOR THE SENTINEL

There's been plenty of on-field activity for several members of Elkton's baseball team this spring.

Early on, though, not much of that action has involved baseball.

On Tuesday, April 13, the Elks kicked off their season with a trip to Glendale to take on the Pirates. The trip came mere days after Elkton played its last six-man football game, a 66-39 rout of Eddyville Charter School.

The two teams share players, as you'd imagine, meaning that some of them switched sports rather abruptly.

"That makes it pretty tough," said Elks Manager Devin Luzier. "There are a lot of kids that haven't had a chance to get their arms in shape — and Glendale's a good team."

The Elks looked like a team that hadn't had much time to get ready against the Pirates, and they'd go on to drop their season-opener, 17-0.

The game provided the first chance that many of

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— Devin Luzier, Elks Manager

Elkton's players had to field grounders this season, and they hadn't hit live batting practice either.

In fact, practicing much at all has been a complicated affair.

Their school has been constructing a new

grade-school gym, which wiped out the baseball field. The plan — to construct a baseball field at the site of the football field — was placed on hold when the football season was pushed back to this spring, Luzier said. "It's been a rough start

for everybody, and it's hard to get caught up, but the kids have a good attitude, so I know we'll be fine," he said, adding that he was more than encouraged by the turnout of 18 players this year, which was enough to add a junior varsity team.

The Elks will be led by Cooper Peters and Jayce Clevenger, two seniors and solid players he expects to handle the bulk of the team's pitching duties.

Luzier was set to begin his career as the Elks' manager last spring, when Covid-19 changed

everyone's plans. He'd served as an assistant the previous three years.

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Tuesday, Elkton traveled to Roseburg to take on Umpqua Valley Christian Tuesday (after press deadlines) and is in Creswell this afternoon to take on the Bulldogs at 4:30 p.m.

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