

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Some Bend High girls in quarantine

Eight days before the Bend High girls basketball team was set to tip-off its season against Ridgeview, a positive COVID-19 case within the team sent more than a dozen members of the program into quarantine, Bend High athletic director Lowell Norby said Wednesday.

When the Lava Bears practiced Wednesday afternoon, they had less than five players available out of the more than 30 players in the program. Several of the players, however, are still participating in spring sports.

"It's been a vicious roller coaster that I can't seem to get off of," said Bend High girls basketball coach Allison Gardner. "But we are still trying to stay positive."

Gardner is expecting her varsity players, who have already been in quarantine and unable to practice when it opened this week, back on Saturday.

The recent group to go into quarantine is the younger kids in the program that need the most development, said the Lava Bear coach.

Since the pandemic started, basketball has been one of the sports most affected by the health restrictions. Until guidelines changed and the Oregon Health Authority allowed basketball to be played, teams were only able to condition and do individual drills — scrimmaging was not allowed during that time.

Gardner said she is disappointed that after working through all the guidelines the past year, that many of the players will have to sit out some time while in quarantine.

"I have a pit in my stomach," said Gardner. "It is literally one day at a time."

—Bulletin staff report

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Lava Bear pitchers get fifth no-hitter

The Bend High softball pitching staff notched its fifth no-hitter of the season in Tuesday's 14-2 win over Redmond.

Four pitchers — Adisen Fisher, Raeann Nelson, Allison Parker and Gracie Goewey — combined for the no-hitter against the Panthers.

Fisher, Parker and Goewey each pitched a no-hitter during a three game stretch against Mountain View, Summit and The Dalles earlier this month. Parker also recorded a perfect game in the Lava Bears' 11-0 win over Hood River Valley on April 30. Fisher was perfect against Summit on May 6, another 11-0 win for Bend.

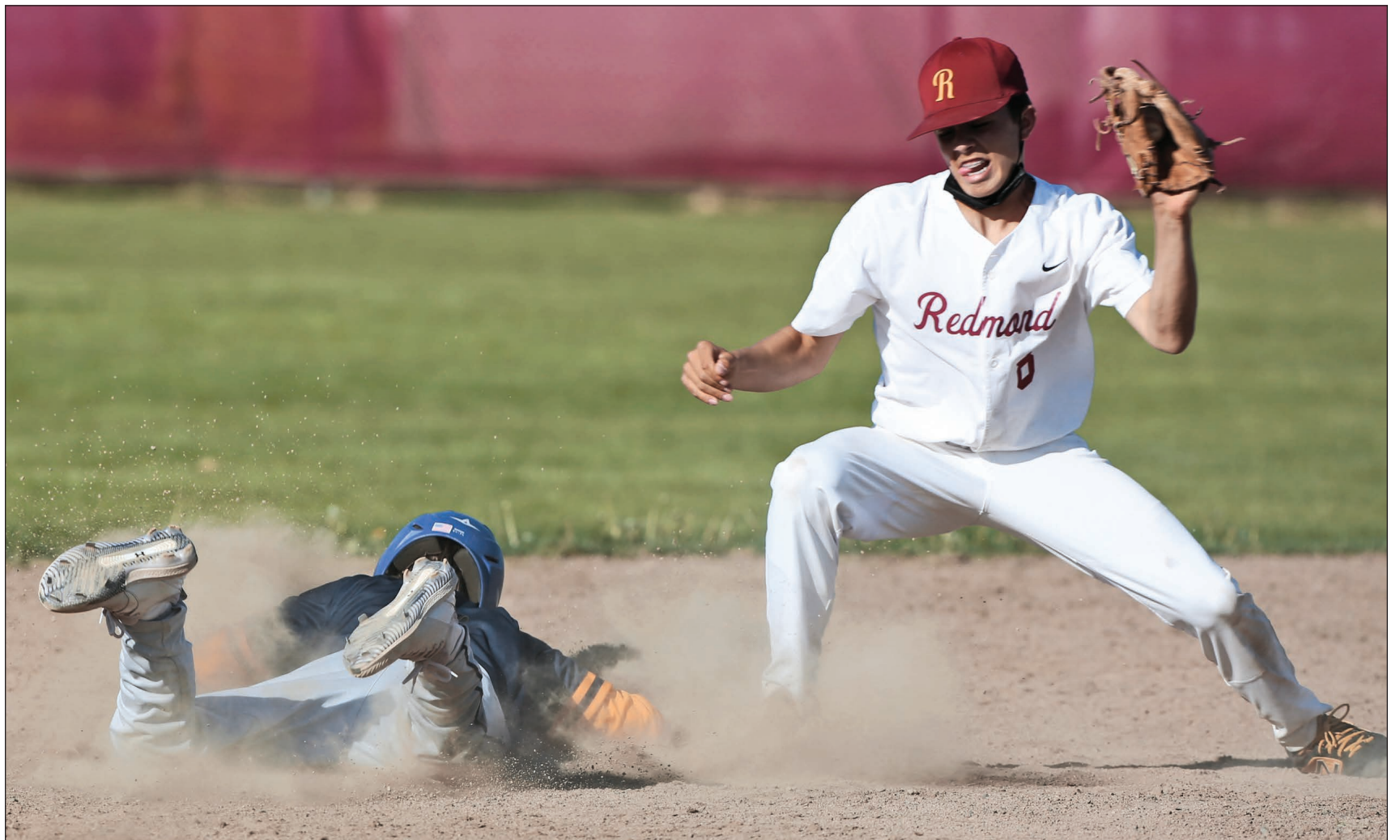
It has no doubt been a dominating season for the Lava Bear pitching staff. In its 12 games this season, the staff has allowed just 18 hits, and only one of the eight runs given up this season was earned.

With less than two weeks left in the season, the 11-1 Lava Bears have a pair of games against Mountain View on Thursday and Friday.

—Bulletin staff report

PREP BASEBALL

Panthers get signature win



Redmond's Colton Horner (8) attempts to tag Bend's Cole Young during the Panthers' 10-9 victory on Tuesday in Redmond.

Photos by Dean Guernsey/Bulletin

Young Redmond team finds groove in upset of Bend High

BY BRIAN RATHBONE

The Bulletin

REDMOND — With the spring season winding down to its final few days, Redmond baseball had been looking for a win.

Not just any win, rather a win that could vault the program forward, according to Panthers coach Stan Manley.

That signature victory came Tuesday afternoon at Redmond High School in a 10-9 triumph over Bend High, a team that entered the game as one of Central Oregon's hottest teams, having won its previous six games.

"Bend is always one of those teams that you need to go to somewhere," said senior Isaac Er-

hardt, who had three hits and three RBIs in the win. "I think this win is going to help the rest of the season."

For a team entering the game with only three victories in 10 games, the Panthers (4-7 overall) were loose — cracking jokes and enjoying the sunny spring day.

"I felt like today we were having fun," said junior Brenden Eberle, whose three-run home run punctuated the five-run opening inning for the Panthers.

"I was like, I hope that leaves because I don't know if I can hit one any farther," Eberle said of his home run. "My approach was to hit the first pitch fastballs — I just took a good hack at it."

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Redmond's Brenden Eberle celebrates with teammates during the Panthers' 10-9 win over Bend High on Tuesday in Redmond.

BASKETBALL

WNBA tips off 25th season Friday

BY DOUG FEINBERG

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK — The WNBA will tip off its 25th season on Friday after an eventful offseason that was full of player movement, including Candace Parker returning home to Chicago.

The former league MVP headed home after playing her entire 13-year career in Los Angeles since being drafted by the Sparks in 2008.

"I'm so excited to be home and I say that from the bottom of my heart," Parker said. "I didn't realize how amazing the Chicagoland area was with basketball in general until I went out in the world and I saw how truly special and how they really embrace their homegrown talent."

The 12 teams were also heading home this season after playing last year in a bubble in Florida because of the coronavirus pandemic. While attendance will be limited, teams will play in their home markets.

"We're working with the players' association and teams to create a plan to safely conduct our season amid this pandemic," WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert said. "We're excited about the ability to return to our home markets, so we'll be in our 12 arenas. But we know we need to stay vigilant to



Seattle Storm forward Breanna Stewart (30) gets between Las Vegas Aces center A'ja Wilson (22) and forward Cierra Burdick (11) during Game 3 of the WNBA Finals in Bradenton, Florida, in October. The WNBA will tip off its 25th season on Friday.

Chris O'Meara/AP file

minimize risk as much as possible."

The defending champion Seattle Storm, led by Sue Bird and Breanna Stewart, won't be playing at their home arena, which is undergoing renovations this summer, instead competing at the Angel of the Winds Arena in Everett, Washington. The Storm played seven games there in 2019, going 6-1.

They'll open their season on Saturday in a Finals rematch against the Las Vegas Aces.

The Aces also made a huge move in the offseason signing free agent point guard Chelsea Gray. Reigning league MVP A'ja Wilson will be the only starter returning from last season's Finals run. Liz Cambage is back after being medically excused from last season because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Kelsey Plum is healthy after tearing her Achilles tendon before the start of last season.

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BASEBALL | COMMENTARY

MLB to PDX effort gets boost with A's news

But now it needs a champion

BY JOHN CANZANO • The Oregonian

The whale investors backing the Portland Diamond Project must have been stoked with the big news on Tuesday. The Oakland A's have reportedly received permission to explore relocation options should the crumbling plans for their latest ballpark continue to disintegrate.

Portland's group is well organized, says it's well funded and very much thinks it's in play as an option. In fact, I asked Craig Cheek, founder of the effort to bring Major League Baseball to Oregon exactly that on Tuesday night.

Is Portland in play for the A's? Really? Even with the city's brand trading at all-time lows?

"I won't comment on another MLB team's plans for obvious reasons," Cheek said, "but this is what we've been planning for."

As Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm." Or better yet, as legendary A's philosopher Rickey Henderson once said, "Nothing's impossible for Rickey. You don't have enough fingers and toes to count out Rickey?"

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