



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz

Kobe Fell runs to first base after bunting the ball on April 14.

Prospectors fall to Bulldogs

Baseball team takes lead in sixth inning but can't hold on

By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant Union/Prairie City Prospectors baseball team fought to the end but lost at home to the 4A Baker/Powder Valley Bulldogs, 14-10.

A combination of walks in the beginning and the end of the game by the Prospectors helped the Bulldogs come out on top on April 14.

"It was a tough one, but the kids rallied really well to take the lead in the sixth inning," said head coach Doug Sharp. "But our best pitchers in that last inning had a tough time finding the strike zone, and it's hard to defend a walk."

The Prospectors had a rough start in the beginning of the game as they gave up four runs, and the score was 5-2 by the end of the second inning.

The Prospectors continued into the third inning with Logan McCluskey pitching. The Bulldogs hit a ground ball back to McCluskey who recorded the first out in the top of the third.

The Prospectors brought in Cooper Peterson to pitch, and they secured the last two outs to close the inning.

In the bottom of the third, Peterson reached base on a single. Next up, AJ McKrola advanced Peterson to second base while being thrown out at first.



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Mason Morris pitches against the Baker/Powder Valley Bulldogs on April 14.

Peterson took it from there, stealing third and then later stealing home on a passed ball for a 5-3 score.

Mason Morris was tagged out to end the third.

In the top of the fourth inning, the Bulldogs managed to steal home for another run, 6-3. Morris had two strikeouts in the inning before the Prospectors caught a runner at first base for the last out.

In the bottom of the fourth, the Prospectors managed to get the bases loaded with Tanner Way on third, Parker Neault on second and Dylan Clark on first. An illegal pitch was called, walking McCluskey and

scoring Way to make it 6-4.

With the bases still loaded, Kobe Fell was up to bat and hit an RBI single, sending Neault home, 6-5. Peterson struck out to end the inning.

The Prospectors picked up steam again in the bottom of the sixth when they scored 5 runs to take the lead, 10-6. Clark had an RBI single, scoring Neault again. With the bases loaded, Declan Zwegardt smacked the ball into far right field for a double and two RBIs. Riddick Hutchinson got the last two RBIs of the inning.

Even with the momentum from the sixth inning, the Bulldogs came back in the seventh after multiple walks. In the last inning, the Prospectors had eight walks or hit batters, which shifted the lead over to the Bulldogs. The Bulldogs took the lead 14-10 to win the game.

Sharp said he was happy that the Prospectors continued to give it their all and stay focused to finish the game strong. Sharp said there was about a year and a half of experience lost since baseball was cancelled last year due to COVID-19. He also said two of their starters were absent for this game.

"No excuses, but they did a great job," Sharp said. "They didn't give up. After five runs in the bottom of the sixth you would think the game is over with, but they competed well and kept it up."

Games this week have been canceled because of COVID-19 concerns.

SHOOTING THE BREEZE Rattlesnake rhapsody

It is that time of year again when viperated tongues flick from spade shaped heads and emerge from their dens in search of food and the warmth of the sun. Yep, it is rattlesnake season.

The Western rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis*) is the indigenous species of rattler here in Oregon, but we are also home to the Northern Pacific rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis oregonus*) and the Great Basin rattlesnake (*Crotalus oregonus lutosus*). All are equally deadly and, therefore, dangerous. Pets, livestock and curious children are especially at risk as they move low to the ground and into the dark, tight places that these creatures prefer. They are often encountered in brush, along fence lines, near water and in rocky areas. I have even seen them crawling up trees. It is very worthwhile to be especially diligent in your goings about. Rattlesnakes can literally show up anywhere. In my experience the hotter the temperature, the more active these snakes become.

Whenever you see a snake, it's easy to startle, but knowing how to tell a snake from its markings can be especially useful if you can't see its head or its tail. The gopher snake (*Pituophis catenifer*), also called bull snake or blow snake, is frequently mistaken for a rattler due to their similar markings. They do bear a close resemblance at first glance but are typically much longer and slender in build in addition to having no rattles on their tail nor a heart-shaped head. These gopher snakes are not vipers, though, and frequently kill and eat rattlesnakes when the rodent hunt-

ing is poor, so they get a pass from me on that tenet alone.

It isn't always practical to carry a firearm day to day, but for those who can I feel a handgun with snake shot loads to be the best bet against these ambuscading leviathans. CCI makes shot loads for .22 LR, .22 WMR, .38/.357, 9mm Luger, .40 S&W, .44, and .45 Colt just to name a few. Shotguns, if handy, are also quite effective. I've occasionally used rifles ranging from .22 to .45-70 to dispatch these snakes since they were the weapon of opportunity. Shovels, axes or common garden tools like rakes or hoes can also be very effective. Usually the longer the handle, the better.

If you're of no mind to kill these poisonous snakes, avoid them at all costs. Rattlesnakes can spring twice their length in distance to strike and pump their venom, and they take very little encouragement to do so. Avoid the aforementioned areas and always look before you leap. Years ago a fella about my age in school was swimming across the John Day River and, reaching blindly up on the rocks on the opposite shore to pull himself out of the water, was bitten on the back of his hand by an obscured rattlesnake. Luckily he was able to get to help. If you are stricken, do not try — or have anyone else try — to suck out the poison. Please seek medical attention immediately.

How do you handle rattlesnakes? Write to us at shootingthebreezebme@gmail.com!

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Grant County Piecemakers Quilt Guild Update:
With the rising number of covid-19 cases and the uncertainty for the future months, we will not be having the Grant County Piecemakers Quilt Show for 2021. We feel that by postponing the QUILT SHOW till 2022 it would be better for our community and others. We would like to thank all who have supported our quilt guild and look forward to many more events to come.
The Grant County Piecemakers Quilt Guild is still planning on having the Quilts of Valor, August 21st, 2021 at 12:30 at Clyde Holiday State Park, just outside of Mt. Vernon Oregon. That will be the quilt giveaway for our Grant County veterans. With hosting this outside we feel this will be better for the people who are attending.
If you are interested in joining our Quilt Guild for some fun-filled sewing events, Please call: Ersela Dehiya at 541-620-4475 or visit our Facebook page Grant County Piecemakers Quilt Guild.

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Flower Box - Paint Night
Ages 13 & Up - 1 Session Class
Starts Thursday, May 13, 2021
DOUG'S MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR

Thank you to everyone, near and far, who gave their love and support to us through phone calls, hugs, prayers, donations, and fundraisers.
The loss of Bo, then our home to fire, has been overwhelming, but eased by all of you.
Special thanks to Paul and Loreen Cooper, Blue Mountain Hospice, Aaron and Judy Harris, Bruce and Jeanne Strange, Mitch and Jenny Mund, Brad and Julie Smith, Amanda Albrich, the Monument Fire Department, Tia Nation, Christy Howell, and all who showed up at the fire scene.
What a great community we live in!
The Lawrence Family
Lonnie, Roger, Blake, McKinzie, Josh, McKenna, Nick & Ally