

Maturity strongpoint for Mustang baseball

By Ashley Conklin

A mix of veterans and some young talent could be the right combination for Heppner's baseball team this season as they look to improve on last season's 6-12 league and overall record that left the Mustangs tied for fifth place in the seven team Columbia Basin Conference Eastern Division.

Nine lettermen return from last season to give first-year skipper Steve Wicks a nucleus to build around.

"Maturity will be a strong point of our team as we have five to six seniors to look to for leadership," Wicks said.

Leading the Mustangs will be seniors Troy Hyatt on the mound and David Pedro, last season's (Most Valuable Player,) at the plate. Hyatt had a 3-7 record a year ago with one save and will be Heppner's number one pitcher. When not pitching, Wicks will use Hyatt at either catcher or right field.

Pedro was a second team all-division selection last season on the strength of a .296 batting average, 2 home runs, and 15 runs scored. Pedro will start in centerfield for the Mustangs.

Other senior returners who will start include John Kenny in left field, Bob Riehl behind the plate, and Joe Taylor at third base.

Both Kenny and Riehl can hit for power as evident by their 280 averages last season and Kenny, who pounded out a team-high 13 runs batted in.

Junior Scott Davis, who hit .293 a year ago, started at second last year, but could give way to sophomore Dick Devin this season. Davis will also be a designated hitter this season.

Other returning lettermen are junior Mark Fishburn, who will again start at first base, and sophomore Craig Angell, who led the pitching staff with a 3-3 record last year.

Angell and Devin also give the Mustangs a promising look for the future along with freshman Russell Britt who has the shortstop position nailed down.

In right field, Wicks is looking at Angell and senior Kevin Curmutt, a letterman two years ago, along with Hyatt.

Also seeing action on the mound this year with Angell and Hyatt will be Britt and Fishburn.

"I think we can have a fairly good season provided our pitching holds up," Wicks pointed out. "We are low in numbers though and team depth is a weak point."

With the addition of sophomore Jeff Rauch and freshmen Eric Connor, Slater Mitchell, and Casey Pedro, Heppner will have 15 players on the roster this season.

"Our main goal this season is to be competitive with the other teams in the league and finish in the upper division," Wicks said. "I think we'll be pretty competitive."

Riverside, the state runner-up a

year ago, behind pitcher John Klenert, looks strong in the East along with Stanfield, the second place team in the East a year ago. Pilot Rock and Umatilla may also be strong, especially the Rockets of Pilot Rock who have been young in the past but not anymore.

The Western Division should again be between state power Wahtonka and Condon. The Blue Devils were second to Wahtonka last season and will be looking to the Miller brothers, seniors Scott and Steve and junior Mike, to lead in to the good things they did in basketball (Class "B" state champs).

However, the league races are only divisional affairs, meaning Heppner will not face Wahtonka and Condon unless it gets to the playoffs, something that hasn't happened in the last 15 years.

The Mustangs will open their season today with a 1 p.m. game in Pendleton against the Pendleton junior varsity. Heppner starts league play next Tuesday with a 4 p.m. contest at Echo.

"The players we have out are willing to work and put a lot of hours in to make themselves better baseball players," Wicks said, "which is what you have to have to have a good team."

Five letterwinning golfers return to team

By Ashley Conklin

First-year head golf coach John Edmundson will have two returning boys lettermen and three returning girls letter winners as the Heppner golf teams prepare for the opening match of the season next Monday as they travel to Hermiston for a 3 p.m. match between Hermiston, LaGrande, and DeSales of Walla Walla. Tee off time will be 3 p.m. Edmundson will take only the two teams top players to Hermiston.

Returning this season are the two medalists of last season's team—junior Dan Struthers on the boys side and junior Sheila Piper on the girls side. Other returners include senior Carl Martin for the boys team and senior Sofi Struthers and sophomore Benji Pearson for the girls team.

Edmundson is pleased with the turnout of the two squads which numbers 16 for the boys team and eight for the girls.

"The general depth and overall commitment of our golfers is excellent," he said. "We have many young, inexperienced players but depending on how much work they get they could develop quite well."

The boys team will be out to improve on last season's sixth place finish out of seven teams at the district tournament while the girls were eighth out of nine teams a year ago.

"We have no illusions as to be district or state champs but we want to play well in our regular season matches and measure up to our potential," Edmundson said. "In

order to do that we have to work hard and make an effort every time out."

While neither team looks to threaten for a state berth, Edmundson points out that certain individuals will have a shot at a state berth.

"If Dan Struthers continues to improve he has a good shot at competing at state," Edmundson said. "He played quite a bit in the off-season and his play thus far shows that."

The boys team will also be bolstered by returning junior varsity players Bert Cason (senior), Jim Clark (junior), Jeff Devin (junior), J.J. Shaw (sophomore), and Will Welborn (sophomore).

"On the girls side both Sofi and Sheila are good players and they will be supported by Benji Pearson and Nance Taylor," Edmundson said.

Pearson played at district last season as a freshman while Taylor,

another sophomore, was a junior varsity player a year ago.

"At this point we need to focus on both individual and team improvement," continued Edmundson. "We got an early start this season and it's particularly important to get an early start with our young golfers, he said."

Added to the boys team this season will be sophomores Bret Akesson, Will Martin, Jess Osmin, and Brent Temple and freshmen Terry Chinen, Phil Estberg, Mike Gorman, Tom Kenny and Jon Kindle.

Rounding out the girls roster will be junior Tanna Campbell and freshmen Kelly McLaughlin, Mary Osmin and Teri Piper.

Golf pro Charlie Rawlins and the general membership of the Willow Creek Country Club have provided valuable assistance, Edmundson concluded.

Garden Bugs plan clean up day

The Lexington Garden Bugs met for a regular meeting at the home of Donna Papineau. Those present were Ruth Robinson, Annetta Padberg, Eula Bloodsworth, Luella Taylor, Margie Ball, Marie Steagall, Lois Allyn, Delta Huber, Kathy Tellechea and the hostess.

Club members discussed the fair and decided to continue the award for the most entries in the flower show. Garden Bugs will have a booth again this year and will help with the flower show.

A committee went to the city council meeting and the council agreed to help plan a "clean up Lexington" campaign. The exact dates

will be announced soon. The members will be working in Friendship Park off and on now, cleaning, weeding and planting, getting it ready for spring.

Most of the meeting was taken up planning a year book. Kathy Tellechea designed the cover. Members will discuss herbs, rock gardens, do's-n-dont's of watering, biological insect control, house plants from food items and primroses during the coming year. Club members have planned trips to the mountains to identify Wild Flowers and to the Blossom Festival in Hood River.

The first "Yard of the Month" will be chosen the first week in April.

Door prize was won by Eula Bloodsworth.

Garden Bugs will meet at Annetta Padberg's on April 2. Delta Huber will be discussing herbs.

Teachers invited to demonstration of computers in music education

Music teachers wishing to learn more about the role of computers in music education are invited to a free demonstration Thursday, April 2, at Blue Mountain Community College.

The demonstration will feature MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface), which is a communication link between one electronic instrument, or computer, to another. The system has revolutionized the recording and performing industries and is now being adapted to teaching curricula.

Mike Horsfall of The Day Music Company in Portland, will present the information session from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Persons interested in attending should call the Continuing Education office at the college, 276-1260, extension 290.

Thinclads perform well in Willamette relays

By Ashley Conklin

In a meet full of fine performers and performances, Heppner's boys track team themselves got some fine performances at the 37th annual Willamette Relays in Salem last Saturday.

Leading the way was Wayne Wilgers who tied for first in the Class "A" high jump with a leap of 6-2. Wilgers' first place effort also would have won both the Class "AAA" and Class "AA" competitions.

Gene Lancaster also garnered a first by winning the Class "A" novice shot put at 40-10½. Lancaster's put was the second best Class "A" heave of the day and put him eighth all-time on the Heppner High School list.

Lancaster was also fourth in the novice discus with a toss of 96-9.

Jason Dougherty set a new HHS junior class record with a time of :44.6 in the 330 yard intermediate hurdles. Dougherty's converted time

of :44.3 breaks the previous junior class record of :45.2 set by Chris McLaughlin in 1985.

In the Class "A" long jump Ashley Conklin placed fourth with a leap of 19-2¼.

Bryan Padberg competed in the Statesman Mile where he placed seventh in 4:39.9. Padberg was the only Class "A" runner in the field and competed against Class "AAA" and "AA" runners who had been training all year compared to only two weeks of training for Padberg.

Freshman Dean Munkers began his prep career by competing in the novice shot put, discus, and javelin.

"We had some pretty good performances for the first time out," head coach Dale Conklin said.


Heppner will travel to Milton-Freewater next Tuesday for a triangular meet with Elgin and MacHi starting at 2:30 p.m.

Next Saturday Heppner will travel to Condon for the Condon Invitational. Field events start at 11 a.m.

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