

Broken leg in first game sidelines Banks softball team catcher

A freak accident in the first game of a softball doubleheader March 27 at The Dalles contributed to Banks' 3-1 loss.

Lady Brave catcher, Jessica Cunningham, suffered a broken leg while blocking the plate. The Dalles' runner slid in hard and Cunningham was doing her job, which Sara Riggle now fills in her absence.

"Jessica has been doing a

great job learning the catcher position and her injury is a setback for us," said head coach Jerry Metee. "She's a great kid, we will miss her. I am sure Sara will rise to the occasion."

Banks scored their run in the third, on a single by Heidi Cherney and a double from Terri Maller.

Katie Martinez pitched for the Lady Braves, giving up only

two walks. All three of The Dalles' runs were unearned.

Banks and The Dalles each had five hits, but the Lady Braves' two errors made the difference.

The Dalles shut out Banks in game two, 2-0.

Anita Orlowski pitched a good game, giving up only

three hits, and two walks.

Cherney and Maller, both solid and consistent at the plate for Banks, recorded the Lady Braves' only two hits in the contest.

"We have improved each time out," said Metee. "We need to eliminate mistakes leading to scoring opportunities for the other team."

A doubleheader was scheduled for March 23 but rain halted the first game, against Riverside, in the fifth inning.

Banks led until the fourth inning, when they allowed Riverside five runs and lost control of the game. The final score was 7-5.

Orlowski knocked Banks' first two runs home in the first inning. Riggie matched her in the third. In the fifth, Val Duyck made it across the plate on a double by Riggie.

Upcoming home games: April 6 vs. Seaside; April 13 vs. Scappoose.

Banks girls dance to another win

For the second year in a row, the Banks High School dance team won the 2A/3A Small Schools Division title at the OSAA-U.S. Bank State Championships, held March 21 and 22 at Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

Banks danced past teams from Colton, Astoria, Cascade and Marist in the event, which also included 4A competition.

Sixty-one teams with several hundred dancers drew a capacity crowd, according to OSAA officials.

Girls golf improving

Banks' girls golf team competed at the Tillamook Scramble March 17. Each of the four schools entered two three-member teams. Combined team scores decided the final placings of Seaside 82, Tillamook 84, Taft 94, Banks 100.

"The girls' scores show much improvement over last year," said coach Joanne Vandehy. "It's early in the season; they have practiced but played only one round of competition."

Upcoming competition: includes April 2 vs. Astoria/Tillamook @ Tillamook, 1 p.m.; April 6 vs. Seaside @ Quail Valley, 2 p.m.; April 13 @ Astoria, 2 p.m.

Braves struggling in pre-season

Banks' Braves lost at home to Warrenton's Warriors March 27, 8-0.

Ben Torres pitched four innings for the Braves, and kept the Warriors scoreless for three. Trask Rogers relieved Torres, and Robbie Stenlund pitched the seventh. Banks committed only two errors and allowed seven hits.

"Torres' change-up had some hitters off balance," said head coach Jim Gerlinger. "He had excellent control and speed."

Banks hosted North Marion March 26 and lost 15-1.

Stenlund drew a walk and went to second on a wild pitch. Brian Ackerman moved him to third on a fielder's choice and Abel Lau's single knocked Stenlund home.

The Braves, working from a lead or tie until the seventh inning, were narrowly beaten at home by Sherwood on March 24, 4-3.

"Defensively we're coming

along," said Gerlinger. "Our goal is to keep errors down to two and we've been doing that. Our pitching looks good, but we need to find a way to score more runs."

In the second, Nick Gilbert hit a double, Trevor Binkley grounded out to second to advance Gilbert to third. Stenlund walked, then stole second base. Rogers singled to score Gilbert, and Lau came through with another RBI base-hit to put Stenlund across the plate and the Braves up 2-0.

Sherwood tied it up in the fifth, and the sixth ended in a 3-3 tie. Sherwood added run number four in the seventh and the Braves couldn't answer it.

Banks suffered two losses to start their season. March 19th, in Banks, LaSalle won 13-1 in five innings. The Braves travelled to Yamhill Carlton for an 11-2 loss March 17th.

Upcoming home games: April 3 vs. Clatskanie, April 9 vs. St. Helens.

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Banks volunteers needed for SOLV clean-up

volunteers are being sought to help April 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., to help with the SOLV (Stop Oregon's Litter and Vandalism) clean up of an illegal dump-site near Sellers Road that is potentially harmful to the drinking water of Banks. Volunteers are needed to

clean up plastic and paper products, tires, appliances and two cars. People with tow trucks and winches are especially needed.

Anyone who can help is asked to call Carl Ness, chairman of the Banks Watershed Committee, at 671-9212.

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