

Sports

Lady Braves take first softball loss to Scappoose after two wins

Banks High softball team lost their first league game April 15, at Scappoose, 7-6, to put their record at 2-1 in league, 8-2 overall.

"We let one slip away," said head coach Jerry Mettee. "It will be interesting to see how we respond in the future. When we seize control of the game we must come right out and shut the other team down."

The Braves scored one in the second inning, on a single by Terri Maller, a double by Sheri Lewis, and a RBI single from Kelly Stewart to score Lewis. Maller had been thrown out at the plate trying to tag from third on one batter earlier, which proved to be a big play since Scappoose won by a single run.

Going into the bottom of the seventh Banks led 6-3. Scappoose loaded the bases. Fresh pitcher Katie Martinez got a 2-0 count on the next batter who then hit a line drive to left field. Stewart dove for the ball, but it went to the fence to score all four for the win.

"Never fault effort, Kelly made a great dive...the ball

just got through," said Mettee.

Banks scored six runs on 13 hits and one Scappoose error. Emily Hedrick pitched six and one-third innings; Martinez picked up the loss. The Braves committed two errors in the field.

The Braves came back at the last minute to beat St. Helens 3-2, in Banks, April 13.

"Our pitching and great team defense kept us in a position to come back and win," said Mettee.

The score was 2-1 St. Helens going into the bottom of the seventh. Carrie Bayless singled, moved to second on a fielder's choice, then Mandy Fishback and Maller each delivered clutch two-out doubles, scoring two for the win.

"The girls never gave in," said Mettee. "Confidence and belief came through for us."

Martinez pitched three innings, giving up two runs (one unearned). Headrick took over in the fourth and shut St. Helens down, striking out nine of the 14 batters she faced.

Banks scored three runs on nine hits and three St. Helens

errors.

The Braves conquered Astoria on their own diamond April 12 in a decisive 12-0 win to open league play.

"Getting the first league game is always an important step, the girls came out aggressive and really hit the ball well," said Mettee. "We are playing confident softball; good pitching, solid defense, and aggressive offense."

Banks scored in the first on

a Fishback single and a two-out RBI double by Lewis, then added to their lead in the third with a lead-off double by Melissa Olsen, Rosie Strassel's RBI double and an RBI single by Maller.

The Braves scored four more in the fifth and 10-run Astoria in the sixth with a two RBI triple by Lewis and an RBI single by Stewart.

All nine of Banks' ladies hit at least once, scoring 12 runs

on 18 hits, three walks and three Astoria errors. Strassel hit four-of-four with one RBI; Val Duyck (3 of 3), Maller (3 of 4), and Lewis (2 of 3) each had two RBIs.

Headrick pitched all six innings to pick up the win, her fourth, with no losses, three saves and an ERA of 0.62.

The ladies will host Clatskanie April 22 and Astoria for a double header April 29, both beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Wakefield, Estes lead BHS track teams

Banks High School track teams gave impressive showings at the Clatskanie Invitational, April 17; the girls claimed their second team victory in a row and the boys finished second, just 14 points behind Valley Catholic.

Girls team scores: Banks 118, Valley Catholic 109.5, Nestucca 101.5, Ilwaco 89, Warrenton 51, Clatskanie 44, Vernonia 40, North Clackamas Christian 30, Knappa 26, Neah-Kah-Nie 8.

Stephanie Vandehey placed first in the 3000 meters, and second in the 1500, both "season bests" for her.

Dasha Wakefield came in second in the high jump, 100 meter dash and 300m hurdles.

Kristi Rifenburg took second in the 400 and 800 meter races, topping her best performance of the season. Kendra Robinson's 15' long jump and the 1600 relay team complete the list of second place finishers.

Lindsay Schmidlin gave her finest performance of the season, placing third in the long jump and fourth in the high jump.

Boys team scores: Valley Catholic 117, Banks 103.5, Nestucca 99, Knappa 92, Ilwaco 57, Warrenton 48, Neah-Kah-Nie 38, Clatskanie 30, Vernonia 24, North Clackamas Christian 7.

Luke Estes led the team with a first place finish in the triple jump and second places in the 100/110 hurdles and 300m hurdles. His time in the high hurdles and triple jump distance were both personal bests.

Tim Kutter and Keith Crawshaw added team points with their third place finishes in the 200m and 400m races, respectively. Crawshaw's was a personal record.

Luke Ellis sailed to third place in high jump and triple-jumps.

The teams enjoyed their new track facilities April 14 when they hosted Nestucca, Portland Christian and Woodburn; the girls won and the boys took second place by just one point.

"The girls won for the first time," said Frank. "I'm proud of them, and the boys too. All the kids do well and work hard."

Team Standings: Girls: Banks 98, Nestucca 89.5, Woodburn 61.5, Portland Christian 9; Boys: Woodburn 72,

Banks 71, Portland Christian 61, Nestucca 50.

Wakefield turned in her usual stellar performance, capturing first place in three events, a significant contribution to her team's sweep of 10 of the 17 events. She won in 100 meters, high jump, and pole vault.

Vandehey breezed to victories in the 1500 and 3000 and Rifenburg broke the tape in both the 400 and 800 meter races.

Rounding out the ladies' victory column were Sarah Riggle in the low hurdles, Schmidlin's 14' 8-1/2" long jump, and the 1600 m. relay team of Riggle, Rifenburg, Robinson and Deanna Liesegang.

On the boys side, Ellis led the team with three first place finishes in the high jump, long jump and triple jump.

Leo Smith (discus, 111.7), Jeff Larson (3000m, 10:43.84) and Kutter (200m, 24.11) contributed four points each to the team score by taking second place.

The teams will host Vernonia and Valley Catholic April 27 at 3:30 p.m.

Braves record good despite loss

Banks High varsity baseball team travelled to St. Helens April 13 and were 10-run in the fifth, 11-1.

"Our pitchers did a great job of throwing strikes, we allowed only three bases on balls," said Gerlinger. "Defensively we did not help our pitchers out.

The Braves opened league play April 6 at Astoria and boosted their overall record to 7 wins and one loss when they clinched the six inning victory, 12 -0.

The Braves hosted their league opener April 6, against Astoria, and won 7-6.

"I feel we were a little 'tight' at the beginning of the game. The kids know the importance of league games and that may have affected us early on," said Gerlinger.

The Braves will play at Clatskanie April 23 before hosting Rainier April 27 at 4:30 p.m., followed by a double header April 30 at Astoria.

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