

Change is Good!

BY DOUG FETTIG

In a year when the Tualatin Timberwolves moved into what is arguably the deepest baseball conference in the state, the Wolves had six players honored by the Three Rivers Conference. Coached by Adam Strachan and his outstanding staff, including Eric Wadsworth (who is in the final year of a 23 year coaching career), the Wolves ended the regular season ranked 11th in the OSAA power rankings, sporting a 17-9 regular season record.

Leading the Wolves into the playoffs and recognized by the conference for their stellar regular season play are:

Senior Jacob Bennett - *Three Rivers Player of the Year*
Senior Karter Cook - *Three Rivers Pitcher of the Year*, **Senior Tanner Marsh** - *Three Rivers All First Team Infield*, **Junior Chase Anderson** - *Three Rivers Second Team Outfield*, **Senior Trevor Reese** - *Three Rivers Second Team Infield*, **Junior Jesse Chick** - *Three Rivers Honorable Mention Designated Hitter*.

Three of the seniors have committed to playing baseball in college, with Jacob Bennett headed to University of Oregon in Eugene, Karter Cook committed to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, and Tanner Marsh headed to Corban University in Salem.

Including in the honorees accomplishments are:

Jesse Chick - *A team leading 24 RBI's in 25 games and a .338 batting average, culminating with a grand slam against rival Tigard*, **Trevor Reese** - *a .444 on base percentage and a .329 batting average, including 13 runs scored*, **Chase Anderson** - *A fielding percentage of 1.000, along with a team leading 25 runs scored*, **Tanner Marsh** - *The team leader in OPS of 1.053, on base percentage of .528, and doubles with 8*, **Karter Cook** - *A team leading ERA of 1.27, including 93 strikeouts in 58 innings and a record of 9 wins and 1 loss, as well as a batting average of .355*, **Jacob Bennett** - *An ERA of 1.50, including 85 strikeouts in 60.2 innings and 7 wins, along with the team lead with batting average of .390 and 32 hits.*

The individual recognition is greatly appreciated by these young



L-R, Senior Karter Cook - Three Rivers Pitcher of the Year, Senior Tanner Marsh - Three Rivers All First Team Infield and Senior Jacob Bennett - Three Rivers Player of the Year.

men, but the entire Wolves team knew that their ultimate goal was a collective one - a state title.

The Wolves took the first step, handily defeating the Wilson Trojans in the 1st round of the OSAA playoffs. However, they fell just short in the round of 16, losing to West Linn.

Even though they fell short of their ultimate goal, this pack of Wolves achieved true success- they created a special brotherhood and many incredible memories that they will never forget.

I asked Coach Eric Wadsworth why he was going to walk away from coaching baseball and here is his response: **JC**

"I simply want to watch Reilly grow up the next two years. She is a golfer during the spring and I want to enjoy this time with her. I have learned after all these seasons that you just don't get time back. She'll be off to college in two years and I don't want to miss this experience.

I may bounce back into the game later... you never know



what the future holds. I may explore other professional endeavors as well. I started my career in 1992 at Centennial HS in Gresham. We experienced great success during the 1990's. In 1997 all eight seniors went on to play college or professional baseball. That was a very special bunch of kids

because I was with them for four years. We were ranked #1 and lost to Tom Campbell and the Tigard Tigers in the first round (16 teams in those days) of the state playoffs. I've experience great success and satisfaction of winning and the agony of defeat several times. This year is no different, but in the end the experience added value to all our lives. It will make us stronger in the long run.

Over the years the parents and coaching staff have been great to work with, but the kids really make it all worth

the effort. I will truly miss the kids. They are the ones who have made my career worthwhile. I have had the great fortune of being around some outstanding talent during the past 23 years. I've coached 60 kids who have gone on to play college or professional baseball. It's been a real thrill to have been around such great kids and families over the years. I will really miss the day-to-day connection with the players. It has been my purpose to make every player on the team feel valued... not just the best players. My hope is that I have had as much impact on each player's life as they have had on mine. It's been a FUN ride."



- Wads



PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Jacob Bennett & Emily Sorem!

Jacob Bennet and Emily Sorem (softball) both received the Gatorade Baseball Player of the Year. This is a great achievement for them both individually as well as a great honor for Tualatin High School's Baseball/Softball Program. They are the the first players in the history of Tualatin High School to receive this award.

