

Senior Spotlight

THERE'S NO PLATE LIKE HOME

Colville's Justin Berg reflects on a lifetime spent playing baseball and finding where he belongs

Taylor Newquist
Statesman-Examiner

Colville senior Justin Berg lived in a lot of places before finding his home in Stevens County, but all along he knew where he really belonged -- on a baseball field.

To Berg, the sport means everything.

"I've devoted so much time over the years, missed out on so many things just so I could play," He said. "The relationship I've had with my dad because of it. It's one of the few things that I really feel at home. I've lived in four different states, spent time in others and the baseball field is the one thing that is consistent."

"It's one of the few times I feel natural doing something and confident. It's something that I don't want to be done and something I'm trying everything I can to keep going."

Berg moved from small towns in Oregon, Montana and Kansas before landing in the second biggest place he'd ever lived -- Colville.

From sixth grade, Berg has been playing baseball with his current senior class and he's loved every minute of it.

"It was the first place I'd like to say everyone genuinely enjoyed me being there," Berg said of moving to Colville. "People around here were really quick right off the bat to enjoy your presence. They welcome you so well."

Berg made his mark on Colville's baseball program, seeing playing time since his freshman year and being an integral part of last year's team that was the best in Indian history, reaching the final four. This year, Berg was set to be the No. 1 pitcher and was poised to have the best season of his life after playing fall ball and training all winter long.

"You're sitting there all winter and you're just edging to get going," Berg said. "You feel like you're about to have the best year of your life and then it's all postponed until late April to early May at the luckiest ... I'm just hopeful

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Photo by Taylor Newquist

Colville senior Justin Berg poses in front of the Indians' scoreboard at Hofstetter Field last Wednesday. Berg had seen varsity playing time since his freshman season and is a returning all-league pitcher, who is poised to find his way onto a college roster.



Throwing fear to the wayside

Kettle Falls' Mary Sauvola builds confidence through sports, sets off for a journey into unknown waters

Taylor Newquist
Statesman-Examiner

Kettle Falls senior Mary Sauvola may appear shy from the outside, but she's no stranger to taking on challenges.

Growing up Sauvola played a mixed bag of sports, going from T-ball to soccer, dance in middle school, and even being the lone Kettle Falls girls wrestler last winter, where she tallied two pins in the consolation bracket of the district 7/9 tournament. Through all the sports, track always stuck with one event in particular -- javelin.

As a sophomore, Sauvola made state for the first time and placed No. 14 in javelin with a 86-foot 9-inch mark. As a

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Photo by Taylor Newquist

Kettle Falls senior Mary Sauvola poses at the Bulldog's track last Wednesday. Sauvola will attend the University of Hawaii Pacific next fall.



Running to her own tune

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Photo by Taylor Newquist

Kettle Falls senior Sarah Johnson poses at KFHS last Thursday. Johnson often sang the national anthem to start sporting events, even before one of her own races at state.



Photo by Taylor Newquist

Chewelah senior Lily Kirry poses at the Cougar's track last Wenesday. Kirry has won state track titles in both the 1A and 2B classifications.

The Cougar's champ

Chewelah's Lily Kirry has four state titles, she's just getting started

Taylor Newquist
Statesman-Examiner

Chewelah senior Lily Kirry heard about track from her aunts and uncles and started in camps as early as fifth grade.

In middle school, she never placed less than third place in any individual event she entered, from the

100-meter dash, 200-meter dash, 800-meters, 100-meter hurdles, javelin, triple jump and high jump.

A heptathlete was in the making, even if she didn't know it yet.

She began training in the hurdles with high schoolers, which would become her focal event, winning a 300 hurdle state title, adding two

second places and winning two 100 hurdle state titles. Before rising to the top of the podium, the hurdles were a little intimidating.

"It's a mental game," Kirry said. "Both literally and figuratively just get over it. You have to get over the concept of jumping and once I did it,

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