

Herald Sports



PREP ROUNDUP

BASEBALL

HERMISTON 14, KENNEWICK 11 — At Kennewick, Washington, Kody Moss hit a two-RBI single to put Hermiston on top during its eight-run rally in the fifth inning, and the Bulldogs never gave the lead back in Monday's non-league baseball game.

Kennewick challenged them in the bottom of the seventh and had bases loaded after a two-out walk.

A single brought one run in and the winning run to the plate, but Bulldogs reliever Jordan Ramirez got a fly ball that center fielder Joel Mendez hauled in for the final out.

Hermiston (4-5) went into the seventh inning up 11-10, and added three insurance runs when Wyatt Noland doubled to drive in Mendez, then Kaden Caldwell singled through the right side of the infield to score Noland and Slade Gritz.

Mendez went 3-for-5 with three RBI from his lead-off spot in the lineup and scored two runs. Noland (2 for 4) scored twice with two RBI, and Moss and Gritz also had two RBI.

Ramirez scored three runs and tossed the final two innings. He allowed one run on two hits and three walks.

Caden Schwirse got the win after coming in for starter Lucas Tolan in the third inning. Schwirse threw three complete allowing nine runs (eight earned) on seven hits and three walks.

UP NEXT

Hermiston opens Columbia River Conference play on Friday with a doubleheader at Hood River that starts at 4 p.m.

	R	H	E
HHS	110	180	3
KHS	003	430	1

W — C. Schwirse.

2B — S. Gritz, W. Noland (HHS); Sellers, Gee, Stevens (KHS).

SHERMAN 15-23, HEPPNER 0-4 — At Sherman, the Huskies showed why they are one of the top teams in Class 2A/1A, pelting Heppner pitching for 38 runs and 26 hits in a doubleheader sweep on Saturday afternoon.

On the other side, Heppner (1-7, 0-2 SD6) managed just nine hits on the day, with Coby Dougherty (2 for 5), Tyler Carter (2 for 3, RBI, double) and Wyatt Steagall (2 for 3, run) led Heppner's offense.

The Mustangs scored all of their runs in the second inning of Game 2, starting with Nik Dias Martins and Beau Wolters both drawing a bases-loaded hit-by-pitches and Kevin Smith a bases-loaded walk. Carter then finished off the scoring with a RBI single to right field to bring home Martin.

	R	H	E
HHS	000	00	—
SHS	067	2X	—

(HHS) K. Smith, K. Gibbs (3), W. Steagall (4). (SHS) Troutman, C. Homer (5). WP — Troutman, LP — Smith.

2B — Justesen, Winslow, Moe, Martin, Fields 2, Jones (SHS).

	R	H	E
HHS	040	00	—
SHS	074	9X	—

(HHS) W. Steagall, T. Jaca (2), Z. Glover (4), K. Wilkins (4). (SHS) Justesen, Martin (2), Shandy (4), Winslow (4). WP — Justesen, LP — W. Steagall.

2B — T. Carter (HHS); Winslow 2, Troutman, Fields, Homer (SHS).

STANFIELD 11-15, BURNS 0-5 — At Burns, Stanfield got its league season started the right way, sweeping Burns with wins of 11-0 and 15-5 on Friday afternoon.

In Game 1, Stanfield's (8-1, 2-0 EOL) offense collected 15 hits as eight of the nine starters had at least one hit. Dylan Grogan and Klay Jenson were lights out on the mound, throwing a combined six-inning no-hitter. Grogan struck out three in one inning, and Jenson struck out one and walked three in five innings.

In Game 2 it was more of the same for the offense as Stanfield scored nine of its

15 runs in the top of the first inning.

For the day, Grogan was the team's leading hitter with four hits, four runs and three RBI. Thylor Monkus added a team-high six runs scored and Tony Flores added three hits, two doubles and a team-high five RBI.

Flores struggled with command on the mound in Game 2, walking five and giving up four runs in two innings. Hunter Barnes came on for big innings allowing just two hits and one unearned run and Ryan Bailey pitched a scoreless seventh.

	R	H	E
SHS	302	015	—
BHS	000	000	—

(SHS) D. Grogan, K. Jenson (2) and T. Monkus. (BHS) Case, Tiller (6). WP — K. Jenson, LP — Case.

2B — B. Woods, H. Barnes, T. Flores (SHS).

	R	H	E
SHS	900	120	3
BHS	130	100	0

(SHS) T. Flores, H. Barnes (3), R. Bailey (7) and T. Monkus. (BHS) Goss, Nyburg (1), Zamora (6). WP — T. Flores, LP — Goss.

2B — R. Bailey, T. Flores, D. Grogan (SHS).

Knights stymie Vikings

Rice, Harrington combine for no-hitter to win EOL opener

UMATILLA — Austin Rice and Brady Harrington combined for a no-hitter and then Harrington came in to pitch the final two innings of a combined shutout with Johnny Phillips in the night cap to sweep Umatilla 13-0 in five innings in both games on Friday.

It was the Eastern Oregon League opener for both teams.

Rice struck out 10 and walked two while taking a no-hitter through four before Harrington finished out the last frame in Game 1.

Tanner Mills went 3 for 3 at the plate with five RBIs, and Rice scored four runs while going 2 for 3 with one RBI.

Phillips gave Irrigon (9-0, 2-0 EOL) another strong start in Game 2 and allowed just two hits over three full innings while striking out six and walking one. Harrington allowed no hits and struck out four in two innings of relief.

Rice had another big game at the plate going 2 for 3 with three runs and one RBI.

	R	H	E
IHS	243	40	—
UHS	000	00	—

A. Rice, B. Harrington (5), D. Soto, U. Garcia (3), W. — Rice, L. — Soto.

	R	H	E
IHS	461	11	—
UHS	000	00	—

J. Phillips, B. Harrington (4), C. Sampson, S. Cranston (2), W. — Phillips, L. — Sampson.

2B — A. Rice, 3B — A. Rice.

NYSSA 17-2, RIVERSIDE 2-9 — At Boardman, the Riverside Pirates split a doubleheader with the Nyssa Bulldogs to open up league play on Friday, falling 17-2 in Game 1 before rebounding 9-2 in Game 2 for the Pirates' first win of the season.

Riverside (1-8, 1-1 EOL) was carried on offense by Aramis Corpus on offense, as he tallied four hits on the day with a double and a pair of RBIs. Along with Corpus in Game 2, Riverside's Andrew Martinez and Andrew Sorenson each had two hits apiece.

"It was fun to win again," Riverside coach Clair Costello said. "I think they (Nyssa) took us for granted and we got a couple runs and kept the pedal down. It's a big win, and in league is a big deal."

UP NEXT

Riverside will host Vale on Friday for a doubleheader at 1 p.m.

	R	H	E
NHS	153	80	—
RHS	000	11	—

(NHS) B. Thompson, E. Cleaver (5) and B. Cleaver. (RHS) A. Corpus, Martinez (4), Calvillo (4) and Bither.

	R	H	E
NHS	000	200	0
RHS	013	005	X

(NHS) Gonzalez, E. Cleaver (4) and B. Cleaver. (RHS) Calvillo, Corpus (5) and Bither.

2B — A. Corpus (RHS), HR — Gonzalez (NHS).

See **ROUNDUP, A11**

GRITZ PROVIDES LATE-GAME MAGIC

Hermiston senior records second walk-off hit as Bulldogs split

By **ERIC SINGER**
Staff Writer

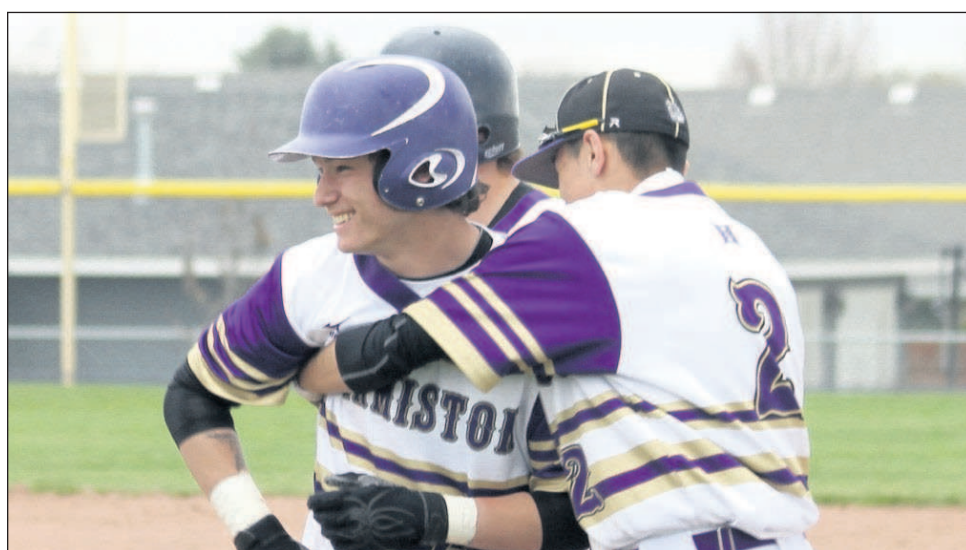
Slade Gritz has made a new name for himself this baseball season and it's Mr. Clutch.

With Hermiston and Heritage (WA) tied at 11-11 in the bottom of the seventh inning, the Bulldog senior catcher hit a one-out chopper past the Timberwolf shortstop and into left field, bringing home Lukas Tolan for a walk-off win in Game 1 of Friday's doubleheader at Armand Larive ball park.

It was Gritz's second game-winning hit of the season, and third overall contribution to a Hermiston (5-7) walk-off win, after scoring the winning run on a walk-off wild pitch in the Bulldog's season opener.

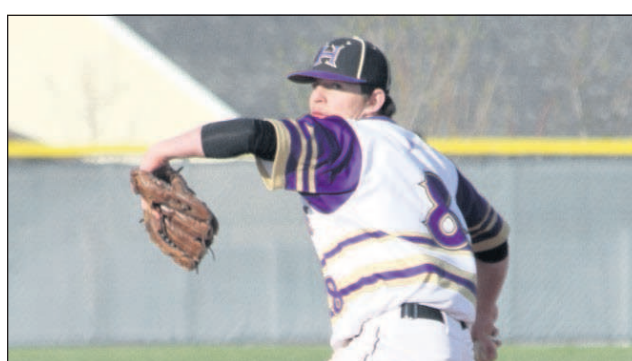
So with those two previous game-winning contributions in his back pocket, Gritz said he stepped to the plate in the seventh looking at his teammate standing on second base and expected something good to happen.

"I just know I need to get a job done every time I go up there and if I'm the one that's got to do it, then I'll gladly do it," Gritz said. "I'm not trying to steal anything from



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC SINGER

Hermiston's Slade Gritz is congratulated at first base by teammate Joel Mendez (2) after driving in the game-winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning in the first game of a baseball doubleheader against Heritage on Friday in Hermiston. Hermiston won 12-11.



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC SINGER

Hermiston's Andrew James delivers a pitch during the second game of a baseball doubleheader against Heritage on Friday in Hermiston.

my teammates, I wouldn't mind somebody else to hit a winning run, but I'm definitely not complaining about it, I'll take it for sure."

Just prior to Gritz's heroics at the plate, sophomore Wyatt Noland had his own heroics on the pitching mound. Heritage

had scored three runs in the top of the inning to tie the game at 11-11 and had the go-ahead run at second base with only one out. Noland came on in relief of Kody Moss, and threw just one pitch and induced a 5-4-3 double play to end the threat and the inning to set up the win.

"We always talk to the guys that they're one pitch away," Hawkins said of the situation. "And playing good defense, it helps a guy a lot and there the guy rolls over on the pitch and we're out of it just like that. That was huge."

Overall, Game 1 was an offensive showcase for Hermiston as the Bulldogs put up season highs with 12 runs and 17 hits. Gritz finished with four hits in Game 1 with a double and an RBI and added two more hits in Game 2 to finish off a terrific day at the plate.

"He's usually a dead-pull hitter and today he hit it up the middle and good things happened," Hermiston coach Lance Hawkins said. "He gets in those

See **BULLDOGS, A11**

Dawgs pass test against Rams

Hermiston sweeps doubleheader with Central Catholic

By **ERIC SINGER**
Staff Writer

Being in the four-team Columbia River Conference, Hermiston has to play each team three times and to get three wins in those situations is always a tough task.

So Hermiston coach Kate Greenough said that Saturday's doubleheader against Central Catholic was a good test for what the Bulldogs will be facing in the CRC, as Hermiston had already played, and beaten, Central Catholic once prior to a spring break tournament on March 28. And after the two games were passed, Greenough's team passed its first test as the Bulldogs swept the Rams, 6-4 and 5-3, on a windy day at Rocky Heights field.

The Bulldogs took two different paths to get both wins, leading the entire way in Game 1 and holding off a late rally by the Rams, followed by a late come-from-behind win in Game 2.

"This was a great indication of how our league is laid out because it is really tough to beat the same team three times," Greenough said afterwards. "But the girls didn't stop fighting and didn't give up. We definitely had moments of inconsistency, but the ability to fight back and stay in the game on these long days showed a lot of growth."

In Game 1, Hermiston (6-5) got to Central Catholic right away in the bottom of the first as the Bulldogs had four hits to help push across four runs for an early lead. After giving up two in the top of the second, Hermiston answered with two more in the third after a two-RBI triple by Kalei



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC SINGER

Hermiston's Kalei Smith (3) slides safely into third base as coach Kate Greenough looks on after hitting a triple during Saturday's doubleheader with Central Catholic in Hermiston.

Smith for a 6-2 lead. But those were the last runs Hermiston scored in the game as its offense went ice cold.

Central Catholic (4-6) started chipping away and threatened in the seventh. Back-to-back singles plated a run for the Rams to make it 6-3 and then another single brought the go-ahead run to the plate with only one out. However, freshman pitcher Janelle Almaguer slammed the door shut with two straight fly outs to pick up the one-inning save on Hermiston's win.

Julissa Almaguer started that game in the circle and gave up 10 hits, three runs and one walk with five strikeouts in six-plus innings.

Then in Game 2, Hermiston struck first again as Sydney Stefani led off the game with a single, advanced around the bases and came across to score on a wild pitch for a 1-0 lead. Central Catholic took its first lead of the afternoon in the third inning behind a two-out, three-run home run that was blasted to straightaway center field by Kimberly Pulido off of Bulldog pitcher Janelle Almaguer to put the Rams up, 3-1.

The home run was an

impressive one, as Pulido's shot was hit straight into the wind stream that was traveling straight towards home plate. The wind affected plenty of fly balls in the game, mostly turning hard-hit balls into infield fly outs for both sides.

But that was all the offense the Rams would get. The freshman righty thrower was very impressive in the game, allowing six hits and one walk with one strikeout, mostly pitching to contact and getting 12 of the 21 outs via groundballs.

"Her giving up the homer was kind of a bummer, but her fight the rest of the game was huge," Greenough said of Almaguer. "Even right after, she went after the next batter and got out of the inning. She didn't give up there, which is sometimes rare for a freshman and I commend her for that."

Hermiston finally got an offensive rally going in the sixth inning, when Julissa Almaguer led off with a walk and then stole second base with ease. Two batters later, Ashley Cameron hit a towering fly ball into left field that got pushed around by the wind and fell in behind the left fielder for a double, scoring Almaguer to

tie the game.

Then Janelle Almaguer put the Bulldogs on top with a hard-hit double over the left fielder's head to bring in Cameron.

Janelle Almaguer then scored from second on a throwing error from Central Catholic for the game's final run.

Before that sixth inning, Hermiston had just four hits in the four previous innings, though one Bulldog said that being the third time through the lineup they were finally seeing the pitches better.

"I feel like we were seeing the pitches more and placing the ball where we needed to be," said Cameron, who finished the day with three hits, three runs scored and three RBI. "We kept fighting in that game just trying to come back and finally got some hits when we needed them."

	R	H	E
CCH	020	100	1
HHS	402	000	X

WP — Ju. Almaguer, LP — M. McDonald.

2B — K. Pulido (CCH); S. Stefani, E. Jones (HHS). 3B — K. Smith (HHS).

	R	H	E
CCH	003	000	0
HHS	100	103	X

WP — Ja. Almaguer, LP — K. Pulido.

2B — A. Cameron 2, Ja. Almaguer (HHS). HR — K. Pulido (CCH).

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