

BLOWOUT

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lowed just two runs on two hits.

"I had to change my windup a little bit, but (the blow to my shoulder) affected my hitting mostly," Brock said. "(My shoulder) loosened up a little bit (by) the middle (of the game)."

She also commented on how the team had her back.

"The offense really gave me relief, and I know that when they pick me up and hit it lets me relax and get to (doing) what I know how to do in the circle," she said.

La Grande added a run in the fourth when Gooderham tripled and scored on a wild pitch, then threatened to end the game in the fifth when it scored three times. Gooderham was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded to force in a run, and Jayce Seavert lined a two-run double off the center field fence, giving the Tigers an

11-2 edge.

Alaina Carson ended the game in the sixth with an RBI single.

La Grande's offense, once it adjusted to the slower speed of Mazama pitcher Kennedy Lease, finished with 13 hits, all after the second inning.

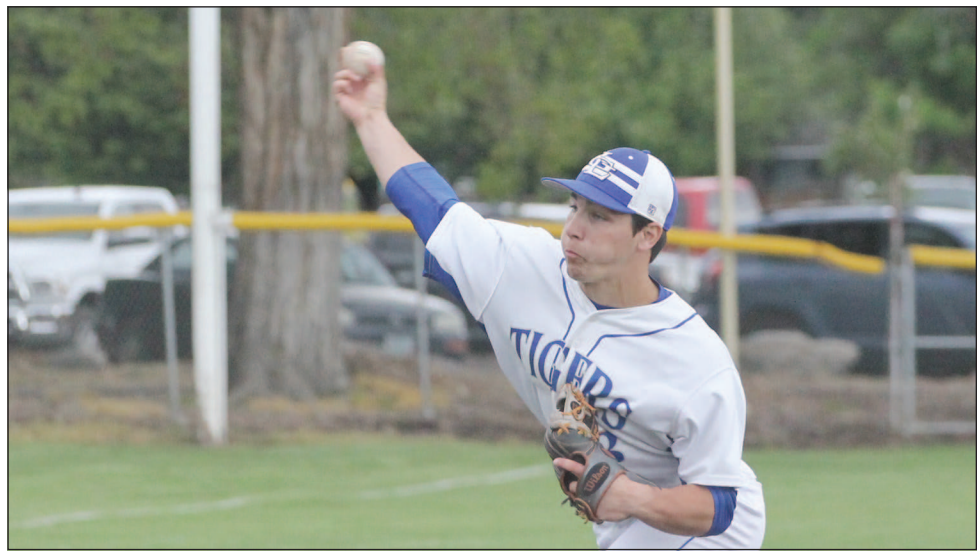
Hafer said the team spent the early part of the week preparing for the slower pitching.

"We've been working on contact points, adjustments and (pitch) speed," she said. "It's just muscle memory. You just focus on getting on base and hitting the ball."

Bowen turned in a perfect 3-for-3 day at the plate, and Carson, Gooderham and Grace Neer each had two hits.

"It helps us to keep our momentum up," Hafer said of the team's potency from top to bottom. "We know everybody can hit."

The Tigers (21-1 overall) host Sweet Home in the quarterfinals at 3:30 p.m. today. ■



Ronald Bond/The Observer

La Grande's Parker Robinson struck out 14 batters during Wednesday's game.

LHS

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strike out Colton Smith. The Tigers then elected to intentionally walk Aiden Tyler, who to that point was the only Husky to make solid contact against Robinson and who hadn't struck out.

Thorpe followed with a double to center field for the fateful first hit to send home Luttmner, and Tyler eventually came around to score on a wild pitch.

"We had an opportunity to intentionally walk a guy in the seventh (and) their kid comes up with a clutch hit. That's the game, that's the way it goes, (but) it doesn't make it any easier," McKinley said. He later added that he felt the

intentional walk "statistically was the right thing to do. The Thorpe kid and then the next two after him were guys we wanted to try to attack."

La Grande, which itself had only three hits against Smith, the Huskies' ace, opened the bottom of the seventh with an Isaac Zamora single. He was thrown out at second when Logan Paustian hit into a fielder's choice, and Brody Kincade hit a rope to left field that was run down by Dawson Armstrong. Smith finished off the contest with a strikeout.

Smith, who himself struck out seven and walked one, commended Robinson on his effort. Robinson said Smith told

him postgame that he had been the only pitcher in his prep career to strike him out three times in a game.

Robinson and Payton Cooper were the only other La Grande batters to get a hit off Smith, who kept the Tigers off balance.

"He threw his curveball well. When he threw his fastball we should have jumped on it," Robinson said.

The loss ends the Tigers' season with an overall record of 15-9. La Grande, though, loses just three seniors from a young squad.

"We just didn't get it done at the plate. Sometimes that's how baseball goes. Now we can only look onto next year," Robinson said. ■

ROUNDUP

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The Outlaws' offense clicked as it scored 11 runs, getting two hits apiece from Aisya Salim, Ella Anderson, Claire Farwell and Lexie Gasset. Liz Rowley drove in a pair of runs, and both Samantha McFarland and Salim scored twice.

Gasset gave up 11 runs in seven innings, but five were unearned. She allowed 12 hits, walked two and struck out three.

The loss brings an end to Enterprise's season at 14-10 overall, and the team does lose five seniors from the squad.

UNION/COVE SOFTBALL HANDS RARE EARLY PLAYOFF LOSS

The Union/Cove Ladycats softball team suffered a rare loss in its first game of the 2A/1A state playoffs, falling at home Wednesday to the Glide Wildcats in the second round of the playoffs, 6-3.

The last time the program was eliminated from the playoffs in its first game was in 2007, a 2-1 road loss to Nestucca.

The visiting Wildcats, who had won a first-round game Monday to

meet the Ladycats — who had a first-round bye — jumped out to a quick 3-0 lead on RBI doubles by Jordan Williams and Emily Michel and a sacrifice fly by Ruby Livingston, all in the first inning, and the lead reached 4-0 in the third on Livingston's double.

Union/Cove broke through in the bottom of the third when Kaylin Nowak scored on an error, but the margin grew to 6-1 in the sixth with Jazmine Rams' two-run single.

Union/Cove added a Kylie Marriott RBI double in the sixth and an RBI single

by Nowak in the seventh, but the rally fell short.

Nowak had the most success at the plate against Williams, who was also Glide's starting pitcher, going 3-for-4 on the day. The Ladycats did have eight hits, but left eight batters on base.

Union/Cove pitcher Callie Glenn settled in after the first inning to strike out six batters and walk one in seven innings. Like Union/Cove, Glide had eight hits.

The Ladycats, who have no seniors on their roster, finish the season with an overall record of 16-7. ■

EASTERN

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time of 9:14.67.

Paige Dodd is also in range to grab an all-American award, as the junior is fifth through day one of the women's heptathlon, according to the EOU website. So far Dodd has recorded marks of 14.83 seconds in the 100 hurdles, 5 feet 2-1/4 in the high jump, 35 feet 0-1/4 in the shot put and 26.78 in the 200 hurdles for a score of 2,879 points through four disciplines. She is currently 198 points behind the leader, Kamberlyn Lamer of Dakota Wesleyan.

Eastern's Olivia Lane is in 15th in the heptathlon with 2,613 points. She has posted marks of 15.58 in the 100 hurdles, 4 feet 10-1/2 in the high jump, 32 feet 9 in the shot put and 27.05 in the 200.

Katie Emerson (1:06.41) and Haley White (1:07.46), were 16th and 17th, respectively, in the preliminaries of the 400 hurdles, and White, Kinnah Rhodes, Jolley and Elizabeth Herbes were 18th in the prelims of the 4x100 relay in 48.25.

On the men's side, Lane Inwards took third in the preliminaries of the 1,500 in a time of 3:58.71 to coast into the finals.

In the javelin, EOU's trio of throwers took 10th, 19th and 20th. Jakob Sandhagen led the way for Eastern with a distance of 195 feet 11, Moses McAninch followed at 188 feet 11, and Dawson Kennon had a throw of 185 feet 3.

The Mountaineers continue action today and Saturday. ■

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