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## Volcanoes take series opener from Spokane

BY HERB SWETT  
*Of the Keizertimes*

The Volcanoes invaded Spokane on Monday, July 1, starting a three-game series with a 7-5 win over an Indians team that was leading the Northwest League in batting and slugging averages, runs, and runs batted in.

Leading the Salem-Keizer attack were Franklin Labour, who hit two solo home runs, and newcomer Brandon Martorano, who hit three singles and scored a run. Luis Moreno, despite yielding five runs in his five innings as a starter, struck out six and got the win for a 2-0 record. Ben Madison had his first save.

The Indians started the scoring with two first-inning runs. Ryan Anderson struck out but reached first base after catcher Martorano dropped the third strike. Tanner Gardner got Anderson home with a triple to center field and scored on a ground out by Tyler Ricumstrick.

Labour led off the Volcano second with his first homer of the game. Harrison Freed doubled to left center and went to third base on an error that put Martorano on first. Tyler Flores walked to load the bases, and a walk to Simon Whiteman sent Freed home.

Juan Castillo relieved starter Zak Kent and walked Whiteman to force Freed home. Roby walked, forcing Martorano home. Those three runs caused by bases on balls gave the Volcanoes a 3-2 lead.

In the bottom of the second, Jonah McReynolds singled to left and went to third as Starling Joseph doubled to left. Blaine Crim drove in McReynolds with a ground out, and another ground out by Christian Inoa scored Joseph. Spokane had a 4-3 lead.

Labour's second homer, his seventh of the season, led off the Salem-Keizer third to tie the score.

John Matthews, who was to become the losing pitcher with an 0-1 record, took the mound in the fourth. He hit newcomer Alex Canario, who went to third as Sean Roby singled to right center. Freed doubled to left, driving in Canario and Roby. Salem-Keizer was ahead 6-4. Nick Laio came in to pitch with two out and struck out Martorano.

Spokane cut the Volcano lead in the fourth with a solo homer by David Garcia.

In the top of the eighth, Whiteman walked and reached second on his seventh steal of the season. He scored the last run of the game as second baseman Kenen Irizarry missed a throw, with the ball going into right field.

Madison pitched the eighth and ninth innings to get the save.

**Wednesday, June 26:  
Volcanoes 5, Hillsboro 3**

This Salem-Keizer comeback win tied the Volcanoes with the Hillsboro visitors for the top of the Southern Division.

The Hops scored two runs in the first inning and one in the second before the Volcanoes got their first run in the third. Salem-Keizer tied the score with two runs in the sixth and added a run in the seventh and again in the eighth.

Volcanoes newcomer Harrison Freed provided the sixth inning runs by hitting a home run with Sean Roby on base. Roby, Franklin Labour, and Tyler Flores had two hits each for Salem-Keizer. The Volcanoes outthit the Hops 9-6, and Hillsboro



Volcanoes pitcher Jesus Ozoria got his second victory of the season on Thursday, June 27 against the Hillsboro Hops.

made three errors to none for Salem-Keizer.

Yoel Veras was the winning pitcher in relief with a 1-0 record. Israel Cruz had his second save. The loss went to reliever Erin Baldwin for a record of 0-1.

**Thursday, June 27: Volcanoes 4, Hillsboro 2**

The Volcanoes not only won the three-game series with this one, but also gained sole possession of first place in the division.

Salem-Keizer led all the

way, with starting pitcher Jesus Ozoria getting his second win against no losses and closer Bryce Tucker getting into the save column. Adrian Del Moral, who started for the Hops, took the loss for a 1-1 record.

The biggest inning for the Volcanoes was the two-run first. A single by Ricardo Genoves drove in Harrison Freed and Franklin Labour. In the second, Sean Roby scored as Genoves grounded out. Freed's home run in the fifth, his second, provided the

fourth run.

In the Hillsboro sixth, Steven Leyton singled David Garza home and then eventually scored on a single by Tristin English.

**Friday, June 28: Boise 7, Volcanoes 6 (10 innings)**

It took 10 innings for the Boise hosts to win their first 2019 game against Salem-Keizer — the Volcanoes swept a three-game series with the Hawks to open the season.

The Volcanoes were trail-

ing 3-1 in the eighth inning when they scored their first run as an error got Franklin Labour home. The Hawks made it tougher in the bottom of the eighth, with Daniel Cope singling Aaron Schunk home and a double by Zach Hall scoring Yorvis Torrealba.

In the top of the ninth, Ricardo Genoves hit a home run with Harrison Freed and Labour on base. Then Tyler Flores homered to put the

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## Walling commits to Oregon State

BY MATT RAWLINGS  
*Of the Keizertimes*

McNary linebacker Junior Walling, who will be a senior this fall, has received nearly a dozen offers from Division I schools over the last 14 months. And on Thursday, June 13, Walling made the decision on where he wants to continue his career as a student-athlete.

In a two-minute video posted on his Twitter account, Walling revealed that he has committed to Oregon State University to play college football.

Walling has been an Oregon State fan for his entire life — in large-part due to the fact that his father, Jason, was a tight end and defensive end for the Beavers from 1990-92. So being able to play in Corvallis is a dream come true for him.

"It feels amazing to know that I will be a Beaver. I grew up dreaming that one day I would be able to play at Reser Stadium," Walling said.

Walling is the number two in-state recruit and the 14th-ranked inside linebacker in the country according to 247Sports.com

He had offers Army, Air Force, Princeton, Yale, Georgetown, Brown, Cornell, Colum-

bia, Eastern Washington and Utah in addition to his offer from Oregon State.

But after all the offers and college visits, Walling was 100 percent sure of where he wanted to go.

"I felt like this was the best time to make my decision because I was confident that there wasn't anything that was going to change my thinking. I feel incredibly fortunate to have had the opportunities I did in this process, but when it came down to it I just knew where I belonged and wanted to make the decision prior to my senior season," Walling said.

In his approach to the recruiting process, Walling broke down his decision into three categories. He wanted to have a solid connection with the coaching staff, he wanted to attend a place that met his academic needs — Walling is a 4.0 student — and he wanted to be at a place that was a good fit socially.

"I wanted to make sure I felt like I connected with the coaches and had the ability to be successful in the program. I also wanted to make sure that the school had an engineering

program, as that is what I will be focusing my education around. Then, of course, it was important to me to be comfortable with where I would be living for the next four to five years of my life," Walling said. "After my family and I visited more than 15 campuses, it was very clear to me that OSU was where I belonged."

Walling will be joining a program and a defense that has seen its share of struggles in recent years. In 2018, the Oregon State defense allowed more than 536 yards and 45 points per game — both were the worst marks in the Pac-12 Conference. The Beavers also have a 9-39 record over the past four seasons, including a 2-10 record last year in their first season under head coach Jonathan Smith.

However, Walling is excited to be a part of the rebuild process once he gets to Corvallis.

"I am extremely excited to be part of what Coach Smith and the coaching staff are doing at OSU and I am confident that we will rebuild this program," Walling said.

While he is looking forward to join the Beavers in 2020, Walling still has big expectations for his final season at McNary.

"I am really excited about my last year as a Celtic and am looking forward to defending our league title and making a run in the state playoffs," Walling said.



McNary's Junior Walling was a first-team all-Mountain Valley Conference selection as a linebacker and running back in 2018. Walling will be playing college football for the Oregon State Beavers in 2020.