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Volcanoes offense explodes against Tri-City



Salem-Keizer catcher Brandon Martorano flexes with Kwan Atkins after hitting a solo home run in the Volcanoes 11-2 victory over Tri-City on Monday, July 29.

BY HERB SWETT
Of the Keizertimes

An 11-2 victory opened the Volcanoes' home series with the Tri-City Dust Devils on Monday, July 29.

After Salem-Keizer scored a run in the first inning and one in the second, the visiting Dust Devils tied the score in the top of the fourth. But Salem-Keizer scored seven runs in the fifth inning to break the game wide open.

The first run of the game came on a solo home run by Alex Canario over the right field fence. In the second inning, Beicker Mendoza was hit by a pitch from Connor Lehman and Jeff Houghtby followed with a double to right. A throwing error by right fielder Matthew Acosta allowed Mendoza to score.

In the Tri-City fourth, starting pitcher Conner Nurse walked Jonny Homza and Carlos Luis homered over the right field wall to tie the score.

The Volcanoes added a run in the bottom of the fourth. Jason Reynolds had just taken over the mound, and Brandon Martorano led off with a homer to right field.

Nurse went 4.2 innings before Jordan Scott replaced him and retired the final batter of the top of the fifth.

Hunter Bishop started the fifth-inning rally with an infield single. He stole second base and a wild pitch moved him to second. Canario walked and Franklin Labour was hit by a pitch to load the bases. Tyler Fitzgerald doubled to left, driving in Bishop and Canario and moving Labour to third base. After striking out Martorano on a 3-2 pitch, Reynolds walked Kwan Adkins and Labour scored on a passed ball.

Felix Minjares came in to pitch. Mendoza singled to right center, scoring Fitzgerald. Houghtby homered to right center, driving in Adkins and Mendoza.

In the Volcano eighth, Houghtby hit a one-out infield single. He moved to second as Carter Aldrete walked, and the runners advanced on a wild pitch by Jake Sims.

Houghtby went 3-for-4, driving in three runs and scoring two.

Scott won his first game against no losses. Reynolds was the losing pitcher at 1-3.

"The guys made good swing decisions and hit the pitches," Volcano manager Mark Hallberg said.

The attendance was 1,606.

**Wednesday, July 24:
Hillsboro 4, Volcanoes 1**

Salem-Keizer had a 1-0 lead halfway through this second game of a road series until Hillsboro scored twice in the bottom of the fifth inning.

The Hops held the Volcanoes to six hits and had nine themselves, including Kristian Robinson's ninth home run of the season, a solo shot in the seventh.

The Volcanoes' one run came in the third inning, when a single by Yorlis Rodriguez sent Harrison Freed home.

Deyni Olivero was the winning pitcher in relief with a 5-1 record. Bryan Menendez had his seventh save. Conner Nurse, who started for the Volcanoes, lost his first game against no wins.

**Thursday, July 25:
Volcanoes 2, Hillsboro 0**

Please see SKV Page B4

Money down the drain

The Army Corps of Engineers plans to spend up to half a billion dollars to build a water-mixing tower and fish enhancement project at Detroit Dam. Is it a waste of tax money?

How much is \$500,000,000? It's a number us average mortals have a hard time getting a grip on. If you earned a dollar a second, it would take nearly 16 years to amass that much money — at \$86,400 a day. All that money, and it likely won't solve the problem of declining salmon and steelhead runs on the North Santiam River. In fact, it might make it worse.

Some blame the dam for blocking many miles of spawning grounds. It is, for sure, one of the problems, but the dam is here to stay. We had robust returns of fish for 35 years after the dam was built, so there must be other reasons for the declining fish runs. Let's look at those.

The wild fish policy was put in place in 1999. Hatchery production, put in place as mitigation for the dam, has been reduced. The native fish have decreased during this time.

Predators such as sea lions cormorants and caspian terns proliferated in record numbers since protections were put in place. The sea lions consume up to 40 percent of Columbia River springers and have almost wiped out the winter steelhead staging at Willamette Falls for their journey upstream. Predator birds kill up to 25 million salmon and steelhead smolts to heading for the ocean.

The rising temperatures of the Willamette leads to diseases in both adult and returning fish and outgoing smolts. The only dam on

the system capable of releasing cold water to help cool the Willamette is Detroit Dam. Let that sink in for a bit.

So what will help the fish? We have no control over the cyclical ocean conditions that are a big factor. We need to control the predators and return them to historic population numbers. We also need to greatly increase hatchery production, especially the spring Chinook. Their carcasses after spawning and dying provide an invaluable food source for juvenile salmon and winter steelhead. Without an abundant salmon run, the ecosystem breaks down. Man has caused this and without hatchery mitigation, the fish will disappear.

Finally, we need to quit arguing about who is going to catch the last fish and pointing fingers at each other. All the fish advocates need to join together as one voice. That hasn't happened as yet.

So, what about the expensive mixing tower at Detroit Dam. It needs to be abandoned. A similar project on the Lower Deschutes at Round Butte has not worked as promised. Instead, it has degraded the water quality below the dam and it appears to be a mad scientist's experiment with PGE customers' money. There have been nothing but negative effects, thus far, on one of the nation's greatest fisheries.

Let's hope the Corps finds a better way to spend all that money on the Santiam and use some common sense for a change. Increase hatchery productions using state-of-the-art science and help improve habitat below the dam.

In return for a change in policy, we'll have more fish coming up the river instead of tax dollars being flushed down the river.



Casting about

by JIM TAYLOR



The Holiday swim team celebrates their second straight All-City Meet title.

Submitted

Holiday takes All-City crown

BY MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

With an overall team score of 485, the Holiday swim team ran away with the All-City championship for the second straight year on Saturday, July 27.

The Holiday girls led the charge, scoring 292 of the overall points, with Ava Privratsky and Audrea Guevara winning three events apiece. Privratsky was victorious in the individual medley, freestyle and butterfly in the 8-and-under division. Guevara, on the other hand, took home titles in the breaststroke, free and IM in the 11-12 division.

Bella Beard also won multiple events for Holiday, winning the 15-18 back and breast events.

Laureli Hicks (6-U free), Kyra Norstrom (13-14 free), Emery Lowe (11-12 back), Eva Folsom (6-U breast) and Maggie Gerig (8-U breast) all picked up individual wins for the Holiday girls.

Holiday girls also won four out of the 11 relay races, which made a big difference on the scoreboard — relay wins are worth 10 points while individual victories are worth seven.

Holiday's boys team put up 193 points in the meet, with Renaldo Guevara

claiming a trio of wins in the 8-U breast, free and IM. Nate Reed also took home three victories in the 6-U division (free, fly, breast).

Jack McCarty and Noah Williams won two events apiece for Holiday. Williams took the 9-10 fly and breast, while McCarty won the 15-18 back and breast.

Additionally, Joshua Grossman (11-12 fly) and Landon Perry (8-U back) each chipped in with an individual win apiece.

Northwood took second in the combined team scores with 391 points, but actually

Please see ALL-CITY Page B2