



## 'Foot on the throttle'

*After Walker's no-hitter, HRV looks to leagues with great expectations*

By **MIKE WEBER**  
For the News

Following a stellar preseason baseball schedule, the Hood River Valley High School Eagles are now focusing on the Columbia River Conference season and the team feels confident that they'll be league title contenders this year.

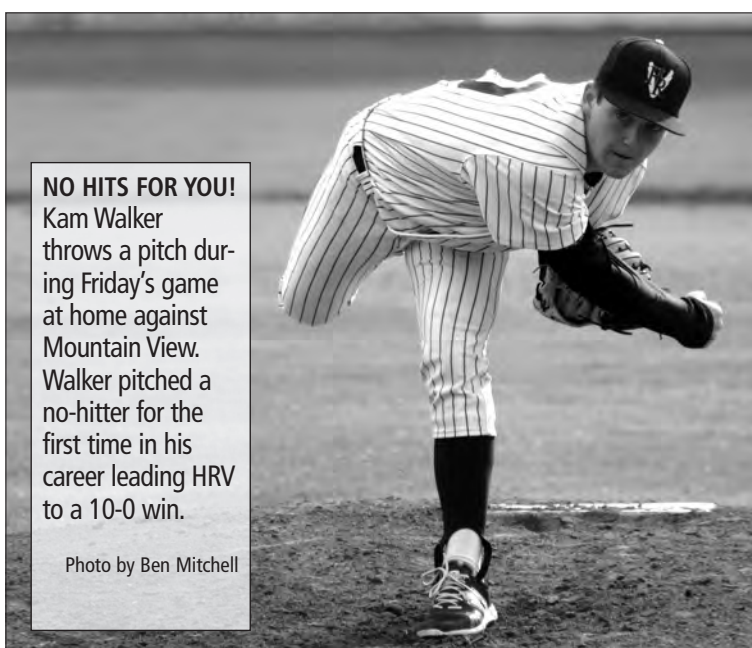
Senior pitcher Kam Walker tossed a no-hitter to help lead the No. 8-ranked Eagles (8-5) to a 10-0 home win Friday over the Mountain View Cougars (3-7). It was the final nonleague contest for coach Erich Harjo's Eagles, who begin CRC play Saturday versus the Pendleton Buckaroos (4-9), who are ranked 14th as of Tuesday morning. The noon doubleheader at Pendleton High School marks the beginning of a 12-game league schedule that concludes May 15.

"I think our guys are really excited about the oppor-

tunity they have to possibly win the league title this year," said Harjo. "We've worked extremely hard to get our pitchers primed and ready to go. If our pitching continues to be as good as it has been then we'll be in position to win lots of league games this year. Everything is looking much better for us now than it has in previous years."

In the one-sided contest versus Mountain View, the Eagles played spectacular in every aspect of the game, and dominating it from start-to-finish. HRV jumped in front 4-0 in the first inning as Willie Ishizaka's two-RBI single and Ryan Ward's RBI single helped provide the Eagle with the early momentum. HRV batted around its lineup while sending all nine batters to the plate in the opening frame.

See *EAGLES*, Page A8



**NO HITS FOR YOU!**  
Kam Walker throws a pitch during Friday's game at home against Mountain View. Walker pitched a no-hitter for the first time in his career leading HRV to a 10-0 win.

Photo by Ben Mitchell

# FitzSimons, Bergemann: Nat'l Champs

*Hood River's Tucker FitzSimons and Hannah Bergemann once again grab national titles at Copper Mt.*

By **CORY ROESELER**  
For the News

Hood River skiers Hannah Bergemann and Tucker FitzSimons both won USASA gold at the United States of America Snowboard and Freeski Association Nationals last week at Copper Mountain, Colo. For Bergemann, defending national titles in women's 14-up rail jam and women's 16-18 slopestyle meant that she now claims a total of six national wins in the various USASA freeski disciplines, including halfpipe and skiercross.

For FitzSimons, the men's 14-up rail jam victory represented sweet payoff for a year of hard work in training up on Mt. Hood. Bergemann, FitzSimons and a handful of others from Hood River represented the Mt. Hood Series, one of 31 regions participating in the world's largest freestyle ski event, measured by number of participants. Trey Roeseler placed seventh (of 75 competitors) in the men's 13-15 slopestyle qualifier round, which advanced him to the finals in a highly-competitive talent pool in that discipline.

Bergemann's rail jam runs featured a back-swap on the down-rail early, a 270-out (of the single-kink) and a switch-lip-on to the down-rail later in the heat, all of which sealed the win against the nation's best 14-up women. In slopestyle, an unfortunate injury closed the course for much of the morning, and the girls were denied valuable practice runs on competition day. Going in cold, Bergemann opted to go with a conservative run that omitted her big 540 spins. Instead, her 360s on the 30-50 foot big-side jumps placed her decisively ahead of No. 2 and fellow Mt. Hood Series competitor, Mahlee Petri. Bergemann's score of 75.75 placed her so far ahead of the other girls, she wished she'd competed in the open women category, for which cash prizes are awarded.

FitzSimons demonstrated his characteristic razor-sharp switch-ups, two-pretz-two, and precision "tranny" rail slides to claim rail jam victory in a 14-up men's final heat stacked with talent. He had progressed with new tricks and disciplined execution while others succumbed to a testosterone-driven huck-fest. Many in the 14-up final heat decided to hike up above the standard start line and try high-risk, disaster 450-on (to steel rails) in hopes of getting lucky with more than just incidental contact with the far end of a rail. FitzSimons stuck to his game plan. He executed well and impressed the judges enough to earn the win with technical dominance.

On Tuesday, FitzSimons capped his Nationals performance with a finals-qualifying slope style run that included a switch-up over a 7-foot tall rooftop rail, followed by a switch 7 to switch 10 combination.

Roeseler improvised his USASA slopestyle finals jump run after coming off the rail section "regular." He'd intended to exit the rails switch (backward), and the judges frown on reverts (changing ski orientation while actually skiing). The improvised 9 (hundred)-to-switch-7 (20) combo resulted in a fall, but he recovered with a scrappy switch 5 to 9 run in the second round, enough to finish 10th in the 13-15 men's slopestyle finale. In addition to slopestyle, Roeseler competed in the halfpipe and rail jam events in which he finished 11th and 28th, respectively.

Hood River locals Sammy Stevenson, Ollie Stevenson, Jackson West, and Myles Taylor also competed at USASA Freeski Nationals. Ollie Stevenson placed 17th, Sammy Stevenson placed 20th, West placed 29th, and Taylor placed 35th in the men's 13-15 slopestyle event. West overcame a painful fall in the 10-13 boy's rail jam final heat to continue on and finish seventh out of 36 in that event.

Both Bergemann and FitzSimons participated on the HRVHS Freestyle Ski Team this year and both were Oregon State High School Champions in multiple events. Both work at 2nd Wind Sports in Hood River. Currently an HRV senior, Bergemann plans to attend Western Washington University in Bellingham, Wash., next fall.



Photo by Michael FitzSimons

**TUCKER FITZSIMONS AND HANNAH BERGEMANN** show off their hardware after their wins at the USASA National Championships last week in Copper Mountain, Colo.



**MASON BLOOMSTER**

## ALL-STATE HONORS

Horizon Christian Hawks boys basketball team players Mason Bloomster and Jared Davis recently received All-State honors from the 1A Oregon Basketball Coaches Association for their performance this past season. Bloomster, a senior, was named First Team All State, while Davis, also a senior, was named Second Team. Davis and Bloomster were both instrumental in leading the Hawks through a remarkable season in which they were ranked No. 1 in 1A, finished with a 27-4 record, a 14-0 league record, and third in the state tournament.

File photos by Adam Lapierre



**JARED DAVIS**