

Prep Baseball

# Pendleton claws back for split

Bucks win game two on bases-loaded walk

By ERIK SKOPIK  
East Oregonian

Even under bright skies, Pendleton appeared to be in for a dark Columbia River Conference opening Saturday.

The Buckaroos couldn't make contact with Hood River Valley's ace in the opener, losing 5-1, and after the first seven Eagle batters reached base to begin game two, a sweep seemed inevitable.

But, the Bucks strung together enough quality at-bats to hang around in the closing game before a four-run sixth inning rally salvaged a league split, winning 9-8 going away.

"I'm proud of the kids for the way they battled back, and it's a pretty good win for us," Pendleton coach Greg Whitten said of snaring the victory.

The split keeps the Buckaroos (5-10, 1-1 CRC) on even footing in league play, as Hermiston and The Dalles each took a game from the other in their opening double dip.

Washington State pledge Ryan Ward was fantastic for Hood River Valley (9-6, 1-1 CRC) on the mound in the opener. He struck out 13 batters switching between a high-velocity fastball and a wicked breaking ball. Just four Buckaroos reached on his watch, and after a pair of crooked inning in the fourth and fifth, the Eagles were never in jeopardy of losing.

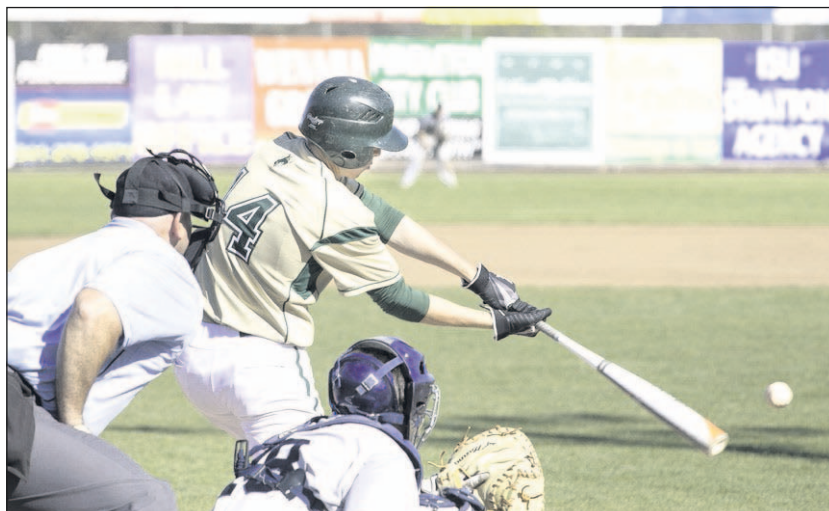
"He was throwing fast," said Buckaroo shortstop Caden Smith, who went 0-for-3 with a strikeout against Ward in the opener. "He had some off-speed that was pretty good. There was no way to really tell what he was going to pitch and when we did it was phoom."

The action came back to Pendleton's speed in the muddled second game.

Pendleton starter Quinn Cockburn was erratic to open the game, putting the Bucks in a 4-0 hole following a three-run Kellan Duffy bomb to right field. Cockburn filled the bases following the homer, still with no one out, but two nifty defensive plays left the damage at four runs.

Thankfully for the Bucks, Patrick Harvey, the Eagles second game starter, was no Ward.

The Buckaroos got three runs off of the junior right-hander in the



James Bradt, of Pendleton, gets a hit Saturday in a bases loaded situation against Hood River at Bob White Field.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Baseball



Pendleton  
1, 9



Hood River  
5, 8

bottom half of the opening frame, and the score evened up twice before Pendleton took the lead for good in the bottom of the sixth on a bases-loaded Zack Myers walk.

With Devon Roe, Smith and Brandon Hergert already on base, Myers, a senior catcher, was content to let the bat rest on his shoulder and watch Eagle reliever Kam Walker pump four consecutive balls wide of the plate and into catcher Andrew Roberts mitt.

"They were all pretty far off the plate," said Myers, who didn't consider a swing on any of the offerings. "They were all high, outside and at least six inches off the plate each pitch."

The bases-loaded walk gave the Buckaroos their first lead of the game, and after Wyatt Morris retired the bottom of the HRV lineup in order, their first win of Columbia River Conference Play.

"I don't think that was the game-winning play," Myers said of his go-ahead walk that plated Roe. "If (Kyler) wouldn't have made that catch that would've been two more runs. That would've made it a hell of a lot harder. I feel like that was the game winner. The walk definitely helped I guess."

Myers was referring to an acrobatic diving catch center fielder Kyler Lunny made in the top of the fourth inning. The lunging play came with two outs and HRV's Kam Walker prepared to charge on contact from second base.

"I was just on auto pilot," Lunny said. "The adrenaline was pumping and it just fell right in my glove. The umpire said to send it in to ESPN if

anybody had it." "That was SportsCenter material," Whitten said in agreement with the man in blue. "That's one of the best high school catches I've ever seen."

The highlight-worthy catch didn't overshadow a dismal defensive day for the longtime Buckaroo skipper, though. The Buckaroos took the split despite committing nine errors in two games — including six in the game two win. The defensive gaffes were wide-spread: outfielders dropped fly balls, infielders overthrew first base-man.

"I just can't figure it out. We do something in every game to shoot ourselves in the foot," Whitten said.

The poor play didn't make life easy on starters Cockburn or Brady Smith, who allowed 11 runs, but only 7 that were earned.

"Our pitching staff isn't good enough to give team five and six outs an inning," Whitten said. "If we do that we're going to have a tough time winning."

Smith followed up his hitless opening game with a three-hit second game that included two doubles and a pair of RBIs. Morris scored four runs, Lunny two.

Pendleton travels to Hood River Valley on Tuesday for a single game. First pitch is set for 4:30 p.m.

HOOD RIVER VALLEY 5, PENDLETON 1				
Game one	R	H	E	
HRV	100220	0	-	5 6 1
PEN	000100	0	-	1 3 3

Ryan Ward and Adam Cameron. Brady Smith, Brandon Hergert (5) and Quinn Cockburn, Zack Myers (6).  
W — R. Ward. L — B. Smith.

PENDLETON 9, HOOD RIVER VALLEY 5				
Game two	R	H	E	
HRV	410120	0	-	8 10 0
PEN	302004	x	-	9 9 6

Patrick Harvey, Kam Walker (6) and A. Cameron, A. Roberts (4), Q. Cockburn, Wyatt Morris (6) and Z. Myers. W — W. Morris. L — K. Walker.  
2B — Jack Peterson (PEN); Caden Smith (PEN) 2. HR — Kellan Duffy (HRV).

Prep Baseball

# Stanfield Tigers slide past Valiants

By SAM BARBEE  
EO Media Group

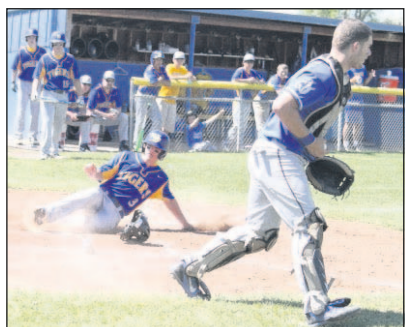
The start of the 2015 baseball campaign wasn't friendly to the Stanfield Tigers. Expected to compete for a league and perhaps state title, the Tigers started off the season with a stumble.

The talented but young club lost its first three games by a combined score of 28-12, including a 10-0 drubbing by Cashmere (WA) on March 21. Since that day, Stanfield (9-3) is 9-0 and has won those games by an average of 9.5 runs, and most recently a 7-2 win over 4A Valley Catholic on Saturday in Stanfield.

So what's caused the quick turnaround? Pitching, says head coach Bryan Johnson.

"Our pitching has been pretty solid," he said. "You're going to win a lot of games if your pitching's good. The competition has probably dropped off a little bit, those first three teams were solid. But I think we've faced pretty good teams, I think. The pitching's been consistent, and I think that's the biggest thing. A lot of guys who can throw strikes and we keep arms fresh that way."

It was Dylan Grogan's turn on the hill, and he turned in an impressive performance despite a week full of illness and arm soreness. The soph-



Stanfield's Ryan Bailey (3) slides into home for Stanfield's fifth run in a 7-2 win over 4A Valley Catholic on Saturday in Stanfield. After losing its first three, Stanfield has won nine straight.

Sam Barbee photo

omore righty tossed the first four innings and allowed one unearned run on three hits, whiffed five and walked three. Klay Jenson earned the save in relief, tossing the final three innings, allowing one earned on two hits, struck out three and walked none.

Grogan only ever encountered any trouble in the first inning when he walked, hit a batter then allowed a sharp single to center to load the bases. After Valiant sophomore third baseman Alex Tranquill worked a 12-pitch at-bat that ended in a swinging strikeout, Makoa Nakamura trotted home on a passed ball to put Val-

ley Catholic ahead 1-0. The first pitch after the run, Grogan got Jakob Pruitt to pound one into the ground right in front of his battery mate Thyler Monkus, who made the easy throw to first to wiggle out of the jam.

"You gotta be able to deal with that adversity," Johnson said of Grogan's first inning. "It's competing. You gotta be able to compete. He battles."

Grogan was also the leading force at the plate. Of Stanfield's four hits, Grogan had two of them, including the only extra base hit of the afternoon — a leadoff double in the bottom of the second. Though Stanfield had just four hits, Tiger hitters worked seven walks, partly because Valley Catholic was playing its third game in three days, and partly because Stanfield's hitters were patient. Those walks, especially late in the game, were crucial to securing the go-ahead and insurance runs late in the game.

Stanfield plays Tuesday at Irrigon at 4 p.m., and the doubleheader against Vale on Friday is set to start at 1 p.m.

STANFIELD 7, VALLEY CATHOLIC 2				
VC	R	H	E	
VC	100010	0	-	2 5 3
SHS	011032	x	-	7 4 1

T. Magenheimer, A. Tranquill, B. Robbins and J. Pruitt; D. Grogan, K. Jenson and T. Monkus.  
2B: D. Grogan (SHS).

Prep Softball

# The Dalles sweeps Hermiston in league opener

By SAM BARBEE  
EO Media Group

The Hermiston softball team's league-opening doubleheader in The Dalles was full of heart-break.

The Riverhawks swept the Bulldogs 6-5 and 5-4 on Saturday, with the first loss coming on a walk-off home run, and the Bulldogs (6-9, 0-2) left the bases loaded down 5-4 in the top of the second game.

"The conversation we had with our team (after the games) was there are the positives to take away," head coach Kylee Lete said. "Yeah, we came up short both times, but look at the seventh inning. You had an opportunity to quit and you didn't. You battled to the

last pitch."

In the opener, Hermiston seemed to be fully in control. The Bulldogs plated three in the first inning, capped by a two-run shot off the bat of third baseman Ellery Jones. In the third, Mikayla Kopacz, who was 5-for-6 on the day, doubled and Abi Drotzmann followed with her secondinger of the year to put Hermiston up 5-1.

But the Riverhawks got a run in the bottom of the seventh and went single, double, home run while down 5-2 to take the improbable come-from-behind victory.

In the nightcap, Hermiston found

Softball



The Dalles  
6, 5



Hermiston  
5, 4

itself trailing. Though they scored runs consistently, highlighted by Kalene Wheeler's two-run single, the Bulldogs were down 5-3 heading into the top of the seventh. The Bulldogs had the bases loaded with two outs, but a harmless pop-up to the shortstop completed the sweep for The Dalles.

"There were positives to take away," Lete said. "We just gotta go back to the drawing board on Monday."

Hermiston completes its home-and-home series with The Dalles on Tuesday at Rocky Heights Elementary School. First pitch is scheduled for 4 p.m.

Prep Roundup

# Rockets, Mustangs sweep league twin bills

East Oregonian

PILOT ROCK — Justin Willingham only had one hit in Saturday's league doubleheader, but it was big one.

The Pilot Rock senior smacked a grand slam during the Rockets' nine-run fourth inning in Game 2, and Pilot Rock earned a sweep over Irrigon by scores of 5-2 and 14-11.

Mike Hiatt (3 for 4), Braydon Postma (2 for 4) and Chris Weinke (2 for 4) each bolstered Game 2's production with two RBIs for Pilot Rock (-6, 4-0 SD6), which has won five games in a row.

Jacob Pierce allowed 11 earned runs on nine Irrigon hits, but also struck out seven and earned the win. Levi Thieme allowed no runs off two hits in the last two innings for the save.

Irrigon (7-4, 2-2) saw early leads evaporate in both losses, and led 7-3 after two innings in Game 2. Hayden White (3 for 4), Alan Blackman (2 for 4) and Fredy Vera (2 for 4) led them at the plate while Vera, Austin Rice and Nate Gumbert each drove in a pair of runs.

Hiatt pitched a complete game for Pilot Rock in the opener, allowing two earned run on eight hits and striking out seven while walking two.

Rice also went the distance for Irrigon, and struck out nine but allowed five earned runs on four hits. He walked six.

Irrigon hosts Stanfield for a non-league game on Tuesday at 4 p.m. Pilot Rock's next games are Saturday, April 25 at Weston-McEwen in a league doubleheader that starts at 11 a.m.

PILOT ROCK 5, IRRIGON 2

Game 1	R	H	E	
IHS	110000	0	-	2 8 0
PRHS	302000	x	-	5 4 0

Austin Rice and Cougar Kroske. Mike Hiatt and Dillon Fritz. W — Hiatt. L — Rice.  
2B — Fredy Vera, Rice (Irrigon); Fritz (Pilot Rock).

PILOT ROCK 14, IRRIGON 11

Game 2	R	H	E	
IHS	520130	0	-	11 11 1
PRHS	300911	x	-	14 12 0

Jonny Phillips, Fredy Vera (4) and Cougar Kroske. Jacob Pierce, Levi Thieme (6) and Dillon Fritz. W — Pierce. L — Vera. S — Thieme.  
2B — Jacob Pierce, Bryson Pierce, Chris Weinke 2 (Pilot Rock). HR — Justin Willingham (Pilot Rock).

HEPPNER 9-10, WESTON-MCEWEN 2-7

At Athena, the Mustangs snapped a four-game skid for their first two wins in Special District 6 on Saturday.

Pat Collins and C.J. Kindle pitched complete games and Zach Irons swung a timely bat to lead Heppner (4-5, 2-2 SD6).

Irons was just 2 for 6 on the day, but drove in a team-high five runs. Collins (3 for 5) and Will Lutchter (3 for 5) also had RBIs in both games.

Collins limited the Tiger-Scots (3-12, 0-4 SD6) to one hit in the opener and gave up one earned, struck out two and walked three.

Sutter Ball went the whole way on the mound in opposition, but his defense made six errors behind him. He gave up no earned runs on four hits, struck out six and walked two.

Kindle fanned 11 Tiger-Scots in Game 2, walked six and gave up five earned runs on four hits. Hunter Sater had a three-run double to highlight Weston-McEwen's hitting.

Travis Hendley threw the first six innings for Weston-McEwen, surrendering seven earned runs on 10 hits, five walks and three strikeouts.

Heppner hosts Irrigon next Saturday for a twin bill starting at 11 a.m.

Weston-McEwen will try for its first league wins when it hosts Pilot Rock, also on Saturday at 11 a.m.

HEPPNER 9, WESTON-MCEWEN 2

Game 1	R	H	E	
HHS	200034	0	-	9 4 2
WM	100001	0	-	2 1 6

Pat Collins and Weston Putman. Sutter Ball and Cedric Hall. W — Collins. L — Ball.  
2B — Ball (Weston-McEwen).

HEPPNER 10, WESTON-MCEWEN 7

Game 2	R	H	E	
HHS	140005	0	-	10 10 4
WM	122000	2	-	7 4 4

C.J. Kindle and Weston Putman. Travis Hendley, Hunter Sater (7) and Cedric Hall. W — Kindle. L — Hendley.  
2B — Sater, Brendan Dearing (Weston-McEwen).

SOFTBALL

HEPPNER 1-4, CULVER 2-1

At Heppner, the Heppner Mustangs and Culver Bulldogs split their Special District 6 doubleheader on Saturday, each team earning its first league win in the process.

Culver (4-11, 1-5 SD6) started the day with a 2-1 win in nine innings as Heppner (3-12, 1-5) stranded runners on

second base in both the eighth and ninth innings.

Meranda Lemmon and Onna DeLoach gave Heppner a 4-0 lead early in Game 2 and each finished with two RBIs.

Lemmon pitched both games for Heppner, holding Culver to six hits on the day.

Heppner's next game is a non-league contest on Tuesday at Echo at 4 p.m.

CULVER 2, HEPPNER 1 (9 innings)				
Game 1	R	H	E	
CHS	000100	000	-	2 3 2
HHS	010000	001	-	1 4 5

J. Harrison and T. Berry. Meranda Lemmon and Taylor Hamby. W — Harrison. L — Lemmon.  
2B — Lemmon, Onna DeLoach (Heppner).

HEPPNER 4, CULVER 1				
Game 2	R	H	E	
CHS	000100	0	-	1 3 5
HHS	103000	x	-	4 4 2

C. Aldred and T. Berry. Meranda Lemmon and Taylor Hamby. W — Lemmon. L — Aldred.  
2B — Onna DeLoach (Heppner).

IRRIGON 11-10, BURNS 16-6

At Irrigon, the Knights had their 10-game winning streak snapped when the Highlanders topped them 16-11 in a wild opener to a Special District 6 dust-up on Saturday, but Irrigon got revenge by handing Burns its first league loss 10-6 in the second game.

League newcomer Burns (8-6, 5-1 SD6) scattered 25 hits around the park to win Game 1 despite a 10-2 lead held by Irrigon after one inning. Burns pitcher Carli Feist walked 11 Knights, but was supported by good defense during the comeback.

"We couldn't hit a gap to save our lives," said Irrigon coach Dave Cooley.

The Knights (11-2, 5-1) solved that issue in the second game to pull even with Burns at second place in SD6.

Cassandra Fleming hit an inside-the-park grand slam to put the Knights up 5-0 in the second inning and Irrigon never trailed.

"It was just a shot to the right-field fence and she just cleared the bases," Cooley said of the speedy sophomore. "The girls said after she came in that they could see smoke coming off her cleats."

Mya Chapman held Burns to eight hits and didn't allow a run until the bottom of the third after Irrigon had extended its lead to 8-0.

BURNS 16, IRRIGON 11

Game 1	R	H	E	
BHS	257001	0	-	16 25 1
IHS	(10)00000	1	-	11 9 2

Carli Feist and Shealyne Peasley. Julia Garza, Kendra Roberts (3), Mya Chapman (5) and Lily Mills. W — Feist. L — Roberts.  
2B — Peasley, Shelli Sims (Burns); Kelsie Stewart, Beatriz Aguilera (Irrigon). 3B — Sims, Feist (Burns).

IRRIGON 10, BURNS 6

Game 2	R	H	E	
IHS	143011	0	-	10 9 0
BHS	004000	2	-	6 8 0

Mya Chapman and Kelly McLaughlin. Carli Feist and Shealyne Peasley. W — Chapman. L — Feist.  
HR — Cassandra Fleming (Irrigon).

TRACK & FIELD

BOARDMAN — Riverside senior Justyce Smith and Stanfield senior Hunter Braithwaite each won three events on Saturday at the Columbia River Invitational track meet on Saturday.

Braithwaite had a personal record to win javelin with a throw of 131 feet, 1 inch, and also won the long jump (19-5) and 400-meter dash (54.57).

Smith won the 100 (13.24), 200 (27.07) and long jump (17-0.5). Her marks in the 200 and long jump were season bests.

The Heppner boys and Helix girls each placed second as a team.

For the Grizzlies it was a close second, as Helix finished with 101 points to Imbler's 109.

The Grizzlies were paced by 10 top-three finishes and four event wins. Lucy Case (1,500 meters) and Bethany Newton (3,000) won their races in a strong day for Helix's distance runner that also saw Macey Tullis place second in the 800.

Tegan Jackson won the shot put (32-6.25) and was second in the discus (91-4), and both relay teams set season-best times with the 4x400 team rounding out Helix's wins with a time of 4:46.16.

Heppner's boys only had six top-three finishes as Enterprise loaded the podium for 183 points. The Mustangs finished a distant second with 79 and Stanfield was third with 58.5.

Kaden Clark won the 200-meter dash (23.90) and was second in the 100 (12.07).

Other local event winners were Stanfield's Larissa Castellanos in girls' discus (93-10) and Payton Wright in boys' pole vault (9-0).