

PENDLETON

T-Wolves rebound for split with Chukars

East Oregonian

The Timberwolves dropped yet another one-run game, but salvaged the double-header versus league-leading Treasure Valley with a late surge of their own in the second game to pick up a series split.

The Chukars (29-12, 17-5 East region) won the opener 2-1 on a Lane LaCrone solo shot in the top of the tenth inning. A five-run eighth inning helped overcome a three-run hole in game two to lift T-Wolves to a 6-3 win.

Blue Mountain (13-25, 5-17) received clutch hitting from Alex Storaci, who drove in a double to plate two in the eighth.

Eric Purcell through eight and 2/3 innings of three-hit ball in the opener, but took a hard-luck no-decision. Jonathan Boyer battled through seven innings before handing the ball off to his bullpen in the second game. The relief pitching held down the Chukar lineup for two shutout innings. Tyson Wicklander picked up the win.

Blue Mountain took the lead in the opener on a Colton Crow one-run single. Treasure Valley went on to score the game's final two runs. The Timberwolves returned the favor in the night's closer. They fell behind 3-0 in the opener before plating six in the final four innings.

Storaci finished the day 3-for-7 with two runs and two runs driven in.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
BMCC's Nolan Weber dives back to first base as Treasure Valley's Spencer Pollock waits for the throw in the second game of a doubleheader Wednesday in Pendleton.

Blue Mountain travels to Spokane on Saturday for a doubleheader.

(BMCC). 3B — T. Urbach (BMCC). HR _ L. Lacrone (TVCC).

TREASURE VALLEY 2, BLUE MOUNTAIN 1 (10 innings)										
Game one		R	H	E						
TVCC	000000 010	1	—	2	5				0	
BMCC	100000 000	1	—	1	5				3	
T. Lupton, T. Alexander (10) and Pollock: E. Purcell, B. Breshears (9) and J. Urbach. W — T. Lupton. L — B. Breshears. 2B — S. Pollock (TVCC), T. Leenknicht (TVCC), B. Serrano										

BLUE MOUNTAIN 6, TREASURE VALLEY 3										
Game two		R	H	E						
TVCC	300000 000	—	3	10	5					
BMCC	000001 05x	—	6	9	4					
D. Blackwell, T. McCarty (7), B. Cuttsforth (8) and T. Leenknicht: J. Boyer, T. Wicklander (8), M. Cline (9), T. Oldham (9) and J. Urbach. W — T. Wicklander. L — L. McCarty. 2B — A. Storaci (BMCC).										

MLB

Morrison, Mariners cruise past Rangers

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Logan Morrison thought he was just having tough luck at the plate this season.

An infield hit and a tiebreaking, two-run double down the right-field line against Wandy Rodriguez seemed to change things.

Morrison finished 4 for 5 to raise his batting average to .194 and back Felix Hernandez in the Seattle Mariners' 5-2 victory over the Texas Rangers on Wednesday night.

"I feel like I've had some tough (at-bats), but at the same time I've been swinging the bat better," Morrison said. "They found holes tonight."

Morrison also improved to 7 for 14 in his career against Rodriguez.

The Rangers kept the left-handed starter in to face the lefty-hitting Morrison with the bases loaded and one out in the fifth inning and Morrison hit a grounder that eluded the reach of first baseman Kyle Blanks and went into the right-field corner as two runs scored.

Morrison said he was thinking, "Don't get doubled up."

"It got through. Then they gave me a double and . ooh, I'll take it."

Rangers manager Jeff Banister wasn't so sure it was a double. On a night when Texas was charged with four errors, he thought they might have had another.

"That ball down the line,

that's a play we need to make," he said.

Blanks was making his first appearance with the Rangers after they purchased his contract from Triple-A Round Rock. Regular first baseman Mitch Moreland underwent elbow surgery earlier in the day.

Hernandez allowed five hits, two runs and one walk in 6 2-3 innings to improve to 4-0 for the first time since 2009. Hernandez threw a season-high 114 pitches. He is 14-21 against Texas in his career, but 2-0 in 2015.

"He didn't have his best stuff," Mariners manager Lloyd McClendon said. "Not even close. He gutted it out. He's a competitor. And got us through 6 2-3."

Fernando Rodney pitched a perfect ninth inning for his seventh save in eight opportunities. He saved all three games as the Mariners swept the series for their first three-game winning streak this season. Rodney has pitched in four straight games.

"I really wanted to stay away from him," McClendon said. "It is what it is."

Seattle's Nelson Cruz was 2 for 4, including his 10th home run to lead off the second inning. The homer went into the club level in left field, where only 19 homers have gone in 22 seasons. Cruz, a former Ranger, has hit three of those.

He is tied with Boston's Hanley Ramirez for the major league lead this season.

HODGES: Faaeteete recommended as next coach

Continued from 1B

Even this past season, he was taking eight to 10 Advil per day just so he could stand and move around at practice. The doctor said Hodges has probably been dealing with arthritic hips since he was a teenager, and it was apparent that hip pain had been a part of Hodges life for 30 or 40 years.

"It's just in the last couple of months that it's really gotten progressively worse to the point where I'm in pain all the time," he said. "When it gets to the point where you can't sleep at night, and now you remember the times where you're not in pain, that's when you notice it."

After that visit, Hodges evaluated his priorities. He and his wife Tracy are raising their young granddaughter, Ava, and Hodges decided it was best for him and his family if he focus on his personal life.

"I've set a high standard for myself as a coach and I don't think that I can coach at the level I want to coach at in the level I'm in now," he said. "I've gotta get my health together and I've gotta take care of Ava."

One of his pupils is expected to take the reigns as next Bulldogs coach. David

Faaeteete, who has served as an assistant under Hodges the past seven years, has been recommended as the next head coach following a preliminary interview last Friday. He has already begun leading the team through spring drills, although nothing can be finalized until the next Hermiston School Board Directors meeting on May 11.

Faaeteete was a star defensive lineman at North Medford under Hodges before playing for the University of Oregon.

"I've known David since he was 14 years old," Hodges said. "I know him pretty well. Knowing what kind of person that he is, and everybody else knowing what kind of person he is, that makes everyone continue to be involved with what's going on. It was a natural, smart move. It was a smart move by the administration to continue to keep things going in the same direction because the players are going to be loyal to him, and he's going to garner a great amount of enthusiasm and people like him and he's smart and he's going to give his all to the program. You're just talking about a quality person who's going to take over and continue to lead on into a new era."

The feelings are mutual.

"He did things his way," Faaeteete said of his coaching mentor. "He never compromised his integrity for anyone or anything. He stuck to his guns. Once everyone bought in, they achieved and they were able to accomplish something no other football team has been able to do in Hermiston history."

"When you get to know him personally, you see he really lives what he preaches."

In the event Faaeteete is approved by the Hermiston School Board, Hodges will stay on as strength and conditioning coach. It allows him to stay around the sport and program he loves without the demands of being the head coach. He said it's important to allow the new coaching staff to solidify their own voice without "the shadow of Coach Hodges hovering over what's going on."

"They're all ready. They're battle-tested," Hodges said of the coaching staff. "They're championship-proved. They're all veterans now. They can handle the load and they can handle the work. It's time for this program to move on, and I'll be a good cheerleader."

Hodges first announced the news Wednesday afternoon during a radio interview with KOHU Hermiston's Erick Olson.

Prep Roundup

Grebs in top 10 at State Preview

East Oregonian

CORVALLIS — Pendleton sisters Shelby and Haley Greb each placed in the top 10 at the 2015 Girls State Preview at Trysting Tree Golf Course Tuesday in Corvallis.

With most of the major state players participating, Haley shot a 5-over 77 to place seventh, while Shelby turned in an 81 for tenth. Hermiston's Madison Welch was 13th with an 82.

Defending Class 6A state champion Gigi Stoll of Beaverton cruised through the course to win the event with a 67.

Summit won the team competition behind four top nine individual placers. Hermiston outdid their rival Buckaroos in the team competition with a seventh place finish. Pendleton took ninth. The Buckaroos brought just four golfers.

The Bulldogs found consistency behind Welch, with four players shooting between 100 and 120.

The course Corvallis golf course will host this year's state championships on May 18-19.

BOYS GOLF

HOOD RIVER — Reilly Hegarty and Brayden Pulver turned in identical winning scorecards to pace the Buckaroos a tournament win at the Hood River Invitational at Indian Creek GC.

The pair shot 40 on the front nine and 41 on the second to win with 9-over 81s. Hermiston's Zac Adams held a three stroke lead before the turn, but struggled on the back nine to place one stroke behind for third.

All five Buckaroos shot under 95 to lead the team to victory at the three-team tournament. Hermiston was 11 strokes back for second. The Dalles took third.

Hood River Invite										
Indian Creek GC, Hood River										
Par 72										
Team: 1, Pendleton 341; 2, Hermiston 352; 3, The Dalles 423; Hood River No score.										
Individual: T1, Reilly Hegart, Pendleton 81; T1, Brayden Pulver, PEN 81; 3, Zac Adams, Hermiston; 82, 4, Dan Kuechman, Hood River; 84; T5, Keegan Crafton, Herm; 87; T5, Chase Knochgrass, The Dalles; 87.										

TUESDAY'S BASEBALL

PILOT ROCK 11, UNION 2 — At Union, the Rockets broke open a tie ball game with big sixth and seventh innings of to cruise to victory in Tuesday's non-league contest with the Bobcats.

Knotted at two a piece, Pilot Rock (11-7) plated four runners in the sixth and five more in the seventh. Chris Weinke and Bryson Pierce helped key the surge with two-run scoring hits. Both finished with three RBIS, Weinke was 3-for-4 and also scored three runs.

PILOT ROCK 11, UNION 2										
PR	100014	5	—	11	11	3				
UNI	000200	0	—	2	6	1				
L. Thieme, M. Hiatt (5), J. Pierce (7) and D. Fritz. Graves, Masteas (7) and Loftis. W — M. Hiatt. L — Graves. 2B — R. Campbell (PR); C. Weinke (PR); J. Willingham (PR); Houck (UNI) 2; Masteas (UNI).										

RIVALRY: Bulldogs need to shore up pitching

Continued from 1B

Dalles.

Hermiston seemed primed to enter with similar momentum against Hood River on Tuesday. They led throughout before dropping a wild one in extra innings that extended their slump.

While the Buckaroos struggles begin at the plate, the Bulldogs have been on the opposite side. They've allowed 10 runs or more in three of four losses. Tuesday's 19 runs was a new watermark for runs allowed this season.

Junior pitcher RJ Robles has been strong on the mound in both of his CRC starts, allowing four runs in 11 innings on the mound, and owns the only league win.

The struggle has been in finding other dependable arms. Tyler Sexton, Chase Root and Jay Lindeman have each started, but with inconsistent results.

First pitch for Friday's doubleheader will be at 4 p.m.

BLAZERS: Aldridge's future in question

Continued from 1B

digits.

The Grizzlies hit seven of their first nine shots in taking a 12-point lead in the opening minutes. The Blazers were missing shots and turning the ball over, but Lillard, who missed his first four shots, had nine points in helping the Blazers tie it at 20 at the end of the first quarter.

Memphis missed 13 of its first 17 shots in the second quarter but took a 46-39 lead into halftime after finishing the quarter with no point guard on the floor, letting Lee and Carter handle the ball.

The Blazers erased Memphis' 13-point lead in the third with a 22-6 run as McCollum hit six of his seven shots in the quarter, including four of five beyond the arc. His fourth gave Portland its biggest lead in the quarter at 61-58, though Memphis led 68-66 at the end of the third.

TIP-INS

Trail Blazers: Portland now has lost its last five Game 5s. ... Aldridge, a free agent this summer, was 37 of 112 in this series. ... McCollum tied a Blazers' franchise record in the playoffs with four 3s in a quarter. He also became the first player in Portland history to score 15 or more off the bench in three straight playoff games since Mychal Thompson in April 1985. But he started the fourth 1 of 6.

SCOREBOARD

Correction: Hermiston's Ashley Moser hit a three-run home run in Saturday's first game at Hood River Valley. She also scored runs on a double in the second game.

Local State

PREP BASEBALL

Friday
Heppner at Pilot Rock, 11 a.m.
Nyssa at Stanfield (DH), 1 p.m.
Riverside at Umatilla (DH), 1 p.m.
Pendleton at Hermiston (DH) 4 p.m.

Saturday
Irrigon at Weston-McEwen, 11 a.m.
La Grande at Mac-Hi (DH), Noon

PREP SOFTBALL

Thursday
Weston-McEwen at Echo, 4:30 p.m.
Friday
Nyssa at Echo (DH), 1 p.m.
Riverside at Umatilla (DH), 1 p.m.
Pendleton at Hermiston (DH), 3 p.m.

Saturday
Culver at Weston-McEwen (DH), 11 a.m.
Irrigon at Pilot Rock (DH), 11 a.m.
La Grande at Mac-Hi (DH), Noon

PREP TRACK AND FIELD

Friday
Heppner at Grant Union Invite (Grant Union), 10 a.m.
Saturday
Hermiston at 2015 Strandberg, 9 a.m.
Umatilla at Lake Washington Invite (Lake Washington), 9:30 a.m.
Pendleton, Mac-Hi at Heinz Invite (Ontario), 11 a.m.
Riverside, Weston-McEwen, Pilot Rock at Jo-High Invite (Joseph), 1 p.m.

PREP BOYSTENNIS

Thursday
Ione at Condon/Wheeler, 4:30 p.m.
Mac-Hi at Riverside, 4 p.m.

Friday
Hermiston at Bend Tournament, TBD
Umatilla at Ione, Noon

Saturday
Hermiston at Bend Tournament, TBD
Sherman County vs. Stanfield, 4:30 p.m.

Friday

PREP GIRLS TENNIS

Thursday
Pendleton at Hermiston, 4 p.m.

Mac-Hi at Riverside, 4 p.m.
Ione at Condon/Wheeler, 4:30 p.m.

Friday
Hermiston at Bend Tournament, TBD
Umatilla at Ione, Noon

Saturday
Hermiston at Bend Tournament, TBD
Sherman County vs. Stanfield, 4:30 p.m.

PREP BOYS GOLF

Thursday
Heppner at Willow Creek (Heppner), 3 p.m.

Friday
Nixyaawii, Heppner, Echo at Buffalo Peak (Union), 11 a.m.

PREP GIRLS GOLF

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Heppner at Willow Creek (Heppner), 3 p.m.

Friday
Nixyaawii, Heppner, Echo at Buffalo Peak (Union), 11 a.m.

PREP RUGBY

Saturday
Sasquatch at Grecian Heights Park, 1 p.m.

PREP LACROSSE

Saturday
Mt. View at Hermiston, 3 p.m.

Sunday
Bend at Hermiston, 1 p.m.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Saturday
Blue Mountain at Spokane (DH), 1 p.m.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Friday
Spokane at Blue Mountain (DH), 2 p.m.

COLLEGE TRACK AND FIELD

Saturday
Eastern Oregon at Border Clash (Boise), TBA

Basketball

NBA Playoffs

FIRST ROUND
(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)
Wednesday, April 29
Atlanta 107, Brooklyn 97, Atlanta leads series 3-2
Memphis 99, Portland 93, Memphis wins series 4-1
Thursday, April 30
Chicago at Milwaukee, 4 p.m.

L.A. Clippers at San Antonio, 6:30 p.m.

Hockey

NHL Playoffs

FIRST ROUND
Wednesday, April 29
Tampa Bay 2, Detroit 0, Tampa Bay wins series 4-3

SECOND ROUND
(Best-of-7)
Thursday, April 30
Washington at N.Y. Rangers, 4:30 p.m.

Calgary at Anaheim, 7 p.m.

Friday, May 1
Tampa Bay at Montreal, 4 p.m.
Minnesota at Chicago, 6:30 p.m.

WHL Playoffs

THIRD ROUND
Conference Finals
(Best-of-7)
Wednesday, Apr. 29
Brandon 8 Calgary 3, (Brandon leads series 3-1)

Kelowna 3 Portland 2, (Series tied 2-2)
Friday, May 1
Calgary at Brandon, 4:30 p.m.
Portland at Kelowna, 8:05 p.m.

Baseball

MLB

American League East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	13	9	.591	—
Boston	12	10	.545	1
Tampa Bay	12	10	.545	1
Baltimore	10	10	.500	2
Toronto	10	12	.455	3

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	15	7	.682	—
Kansas City	14	7	.667	½
Chicago	8	10	.444	5
Minnesota	9	12	.429	5½
Cleveland	7	13	.350	7

West Division

Houston	14	7	.667	—
Los Angeles	10	11	.476	4
Seattle	10	11	.476	4
Oakland	9	13	.409	5½
Texas	7	14	.333	7

Wednesday's Games
Tampa Bay 3, N.Y. Yankees 2, 13 innings

Detroit 10, Minnesota 7
Baltimore 8, Chicago White Sox 2
Houston 7, San Diego 2
Cleveland 7, Kansas City 5
Boston 4, Toronto 1
Seattle 5, Texas 2
L.A. Angels 6, Oakland 3
Thursday's Games
L.A. Angels (Richards 1-1) at Oakland (Chavez 0-1), 12:35 p.m.
Toronto (Da.Norris 1-1) at Cleveland (House 0-3), 4:10 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Sale 2-0) at Minnesota (May 1-1), 5:10 p.m.
Detroit (Simon 4-0) at Kansas City (D.Duffy 1-0), 5:10 p.m.
Seattle (Paxton 0-2) at Houston (Feldman 2-2), 5:10 p.m.

National League

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	15	7	.682	—
Atlanta	10	11	.476	4½
Miami	12	8	.600	2
Washington	9	13	.409	6
Philadelphia	8	14	.364	7

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	14	6	.700	—
Chicago	12	8	.600	2
Pittsburgh	12	10	.545	3
Cincinnati	10	11	.476	4½
Milwaukee	5	17	.227	10
West Division				