

PILOT ROCK

Rockets soar past Irish for opening round victory

Holman nearly perfect in run-rule romp

By ERIK SKOPIL
East Oregonian

Rebecca Holman carried a perfect-game bid into the fifth inning, Pilot Rock moved the scoreboard seven times in the opening frame and the Rockets raced off to a 12-0 run-rule shortened Class 2A/1A opening round victory over Riddle Wednesday in Pilot Rock.

"When they've got a big lead I can relax," Pilot Rock coach Darin Fitzpatrick said.

Fitzpatrick didn't have much to sweat Wednesday. The third-seeded Rockets (23-2) plated seven of nine batters the first time through the lineup and then added five in the third to put their coach's mind at ease in a game that ended in less than an hour.

Bekah Roe, Bailey Weinke, Sara Weinke, and Jacie Wilson each scored twice. Roe and Sara Weinke drove in two runs apiece.

Holman, a junior right-handed pitcher,



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

After beating Riddle 12-0 in a state playoff game on Wednesday, Pilot Rock players Rebekka Holman, Kayla Deist, Abby Ward and their teammates adhered to tradition by dashing back and forth across the field with hands clasped to signify that they won together, not as individuals.

stifled the Irish (14-10) in five innings of nearly perfect ball. She retired 12 of 12 through four before Sarah Linton smacked a ball over substitute center fielder Shayla Walker's glove for a double.

"I was thinking about (the perfect game), and then I left a change-up over the middle and she got it," Holman said. "She waited

on it." Holman treated the double as a minor blip on the radar, sending the next three down in order on two groundouts and a strikeout to face just one over the minimum. She struck out six.

"Usually when I get on the mound, I'm nervous and shaking," she said. "But this

time, I guess I had it in me. I knew I could do it and I had my team as my back up."

Holman has already tossed one perfect game on the season. That came in a 10-0 win over Culver on April 24.

Bailey Weinke kept the no-hit bid intact in the fourth on one of a handful of athletic plays made by the senior catcher. After Roe, charged from third and dropped a Porscha Davis bloop, Weinke snagged the ball and threw a strike to first base to beat Davis for the second out of the fourth inning.

"I can't complain about anything," Fitzpatrick said. "We just need to keep the intensity up."

"We're all tuned up. We're hoping to make a good run. We're playing just one inning at a time and winning that."

This marks the second year in a row that the Rockets have beaten the Irish in the opening round of the state playoffs. Last year Pilot Rock won 7-3 at Riddle.

The next test will be sixth-seeded Knappa in a game played at Pilot Rock on Friday. Knappa defeated Prospect Charter 4-1 on Wednesday.

Not time has been set for first pitch. The Rockets beat the Loggers 3-1 at the Riverside tournament in Boardman on March 23.

PILOT ROCK 12, RIDDLE 0 (5 innings)

	R	H	E
RIDD	000	00	0
PRHS	705	0x	12

Chandler and Davis. R. Holman and B. Weinke. W — R. Holman. L — Chandler.
2B — Linton (RIDD); S. Weinke (PRHS); 3B — B. Roe (PRHS).

WESTON-MCEWEN

Lambert nearly no-hits Oakland, TigerScots advance

Weston-McEwen reaches state quarterfinals for second straight year

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

The Weston-McEwen TigerScots jumped out to an early lead and pitcher Jessica Lambert carried a no-hitter into the seventh inning of a 9-2 win over Oakland on Wednesday in the first round of the 2A/1A softball state playoffs.

Lambert struck out 15 batters and was also part of the TigerScots' early rally to give them a 3-0 lead in the first inning.

After Lambert put the Oakers down in order to open the game, Isabelle Dillow led the TigerScots off with a triple and scored on a sacrifice fly by Taylor Entze. Then Lambert reached on an error to set up Keegan Shepard's two-run home run to center field.

Those ended up being the only runs the TigerScots would need to move to a perfect 13-0 at Athena Memorial Field this season.

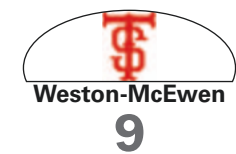
"This was a good team win where you got kids bringing their sticks and ... we made the plays that we needed to and (Lambert) swept the table pretty good so there wasn't a lot of plays that had to be made," said Weston-McEwen coach Jeff Griggs.

Entze finished with four RBIs and hit a two-run home run in the sixth to cap Weston-McEwen's scoring. Entze (2 for 3), Dillow (2 for 4) and Megan Coffman (2 for 3) led a 10-hit day for Weston-McEwen (21-6), which built its lead to 9-0 before Oakland (15-10) pushed two across in the



Staff photo by Matt Entrup

Weston-McEwen's Jessica Lambert pitches against Oakland during the TigerScots' 9-2 win on Wednesday in the first round of the 2A/1A softball playoffs in Athena.



seventh. Chantel Hall broke up the no-hitter with a two-out single on a hard line drive to right field, then Shantina Rust hit a single to left field to end the shutout bid.

"We did give up a couple dings there at the end of the game but to put a lid on it that long was pretty good," Griggs said. "And maybe that's the coach's pitch calling too, maybe that's me not her."

"It happens sometimes, and you have to adjust pitches," said Lambert, who struck out the next batter to end the game.

The TigerScots advance to the state quarterfinals for the second year in a row, and Lambert said it wasn't someplace they would have pictured themselves after starting the league season with four losses to Union and Pilot Rock, which also won playoff games on Wednesday.

"It was kind of hard coming off of losses from Union and Pilot Rock in the beginning (of league play), and I think we just realized we needed to make a change. We were a pretty young team starting out, so just coming together as a team has made us blossom," Lambert said. "We're a different team than when we started and now we're ready to go on."

The No. 5 TigerScots will travel to No. 4 Bonanza for the quarterfinals, and while Lambert said it definitely helped to open the playoffs on their home field, she's confident the team can come away with a similar performance on Friday.

"Everyone's field has their little things and it's definitely nice to know your field personally," she said. "We've had games in Burns and other places and we've come away with wins, so I think we're definitely good on the road as well."

Bonanza beat No. 13 Reedsport 4-3 on Wednesday. The Antlers eliminated Weston-McEwen last season with a 2-1 win in the semifinals.

Friday's rematch will start at 2:30 p.m.

WESTON-MCEWEN 9, OAKLAND 2

	R	H	E
OHS	000000	2	2
WM	302103	X	9

Kylee Bean and Ariel Taylor. Jessica Lambert and Sydney Peal. W — Lambert. L — Bean.
2B — Isabelle Dillow, Megan Coffman (Weston-McEwen). 3B — Dillow (Weston-McEwen). HR — Keegan Shepard, Taylor Entze (Weston-McEwen).

ECHO

Cougars win school's first state playoff win

By SAM BARBEE
EO Media Group

In its first state playoff game in program history, the Echo Cougars took their time getting going.

But the Cougars went on to score four runs in the fourth inning and seven in the seventh and held off a desperate bottom of the seventh rally to hold off the Rogue River Chieftains 11-4 Wednesday after noon at Rogue River.

The ninth-ranked Cougars travels to Dayton for a 5 p.m. matchup with the top-ranked Pirates on Friday at 5 p.m.

Mackenzie Gonzales continued her tear, tossing seven solid innings notching eight strikeouts and allowing one earned run on just three hits. Not to outdo her self in the box, the sophomore went 2-for-4 with two runs scored, three RBIs and clubbed her second home run of the season. Monique Montoya added a couple of RBIs and Bailey Srofe, Jaime Christopher and Erika Parks had two hits each.

Parks took a hard tag to the face while trying to steal second and got a nasty cut on the inside of her lip and bloodying her nose. She "refused to come out," head coach Bryan Bailey said, and "the team fed off her determination." Srofe also made a spectacular diving catch on a line drive in the hole that also added to the Cougars' energy.

Echo committed three errors in the bottom of the seventh to essentially hand Rogue River three unearned runs.

"It was a great team win for our community and supporters," Bailey said.

ECHO 11, ROGUE RIVER 4

	R	H	E
EHS	000	400	7
RR	000	000	4

M. Gonzales and E. Parks; A. Sands and C. Hardy. 2B: E. Parks (EHS), M. Montoya (EHS), J. Pratt (RR). 3B: C. Curiel (EHS), C. Hardy (RR).

PHS SOFTBALL: Liberty next on tab for Buckaroos

Continued from 1B

Cole, against them in a 14-3 six-inning win at Steve Cary Field.

Pendleton hit four home runs, two each by Darian Lindsey and Payton Hergert, with Lindsey's second a three-run walk-off shot in the bottom of the sixth.

The senior third baseman was one of only two Bucks to record a hit off Cole their first time at the plate, but by the time Hergert hit her three-run homer in the fourth inning it was officially open season on the freshman right-hander.

"We've been facing a lot of outside pitchers and she was hitting us inside, and we weren't used to that," said Hergert, who was 0 for 2 before tagging Cole in her final two at-bats. "And she was pitching us some rise balls, so once we figured it out we definitely caught up to it."

Lindsey finished 3 for 3 at the plate with two walks and five runs, and said Cole unwittingly was playing right to the Bucks' strength.

"Normally the pitchers know that we're better on the inside so they keep us on the outside corner," she said. "At first she jammed us all, and then we started hitting her and she tried going outside a lot more."

The Bucks finished with 15 hits, boosted by Ellie Richards (3 for 4), Alexis Morrison (2 for 3) and Tiah Grass (2 for 4).

But even though No. 2 Pendleton (20-7) walked away with its fourth run-rule win in its last



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pendleton's Darian Lindsey slides around Central's Ryanne Huffman while stealing second base in the Bucks' 14-3 win against the Panthers on Wednesday in Pendleton.

six games, it wasn't without some early tension as No. 15 Central (18-10) jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning.

Ryanne Huffman hit a double to start the game, and Kyra Noon, Kylie Nash and Cole all added singles as Pendleton's infield tried to settle in.

"We could have lost our calm those first couple of innings where they got ahead, they played a little bit of small ball with us, and they're very good at it and we didn't handle it very well," said Pendleton coach Tim Cary. "But we kept our composure, didn't get frazzled."

Pendleton cut the lead in half during its at-bat. Lindsey sneaked a single down the

third-base line to lead off Pendleton's first, then stole second and scored on Ellie Richards' single.

"I think it was good because we needed to get the first-game jitters out of the way, the first-inning errors," she said. "Our girls came back from the errors really well, too. I thought it was good."

Central added another run in the second when Noon led off with a single and scored on another error, but Pendleton pitcher Kiersten Murphy stranded two with a strikeout and Central only got one base runner the rest of the game.

Murphy finished with three strikeouts, no walks, but gave up most of her seven hits early. "I'll be honest, I think she

was flat the first couple of innings, I think she would admit that as well, but to her credit, she battled through the tough times and she beared down and she got it done," Cary said.

Lindsey led off the third with her first home run, then Pendleton took the lead on back-to-back RBI doubles by Tiah Grass and Lauren Richards. Grass drove in Ellie Richards, who had reached on a single.

"It took us a few innings to get going but once we got the bats going we really started relaxing and feeling a whole lot better about what was going on," Cary said. "I thought our girls did a very good job of having a good approach at the plate, of choosing their pitches wisely early in the count."

The Bucks added four in the fourth and three each in the fifth and sixth to eliminate the Panthers from postseason play.

Pendleton moves on to the quarterfinals where they'll again play host against No. 10 Liberty on Friday. The Bucks beat the Falcons 4-1 in Pendleton in last season's quarterfinals.

Liberty beat No. 7 Eagle Point 6-1 in the first round.

Friday's game time had not been determined by press time.

PENDLETON 14, CENTRAL 3 (6 innings)

	R	H	E
CHS	201000	3	7
PHS	103433	14	15

Erin Cole and Kylie Nash. Kiersten Murphy and Mykal Weissenfluh. W — Murphy. L — Cole.
2B — Ryanne Huffman (Central); Alexis Morrison, Lauren Richards, Tiah Grass 2 (Pendleton). HR — Darian Lindsey 2, Payton Hergert 2 (Pendleton).

BRIEFS

Girls basketball camp approaching

HERMISTON — The Hermiston girls basketball camp will take place at Hermiston High school June 8-10.

Third through eighth graders will receive instruction from the high school, middle school coaches, as well as members of the high school team. Camp will run 9 a.m. to noon all three days.

Cost of camp is \$65. Checks should be made payable to Hermiston High Schools Girls Basketball. Registration is encouraged before June 1, but late registration will pay same fee.

Registration forms are available at ever school in the district, as well as City Hall.

Pendleton to premier 3 on 3 tournament

PENDLETON — The first annual Round Up City Bucket Bash 3 on 3 basketball tournament will kick off June 20-21 in downtown Pendleton.

The tournament will provide competition to youth and adult players. Youth participants will be charged \$90 if registration is post-marked by June 1 and \$100 if by June 11. Adult player registration is \$110 by first day and \$120 by second.

More information can be found at www.pendletonparksandrec.com or by calling 541-276-8100.