OREGON: Lead reaches 42

Continued from 1B

ment, the Ducks used their overwhelming athleticism to quickly build a double-digit lead and never allowed the Crusaders to sniff a potential 16-seed upset. Boucher slammed a trio of lob dunks in the first 12 minutes and the expected blowout quickly developed.

It's played out just as Oregon coach Dana Altman hoped, taking control early and allowing his stars a chance to rest in the second half. No one for Oregon played more than 26 minutes and Boucher was on the floor for just 17 minutes.

"We came out and set the tone early and never really let them get into the game. That's a tribute to the guys for getting themselves ready," Altman said.

Altman was worried about the Ducks being tight in the opening stages, given the attention that came with the No. 1 seed, a Pac-12 tournament title and a long win streak. Any nerves didn't last long. Oregon scored the first seven points before Boucher's dunking display, using his 6-foot-10 frame to slam a pair of lobs from Brooks and one from Cook.

Oregon led by as many as 19 in the first half and led by as many as 42 in the second half. Most of Oregon's starters were on the bench resting with more than 10 minutes remaining in the second half, including Cook who got showered with water after a deflected pass knocked a cup out of his hand. Cook also grabbed 13 rebounds as Oregon dominated the backboard holding a 44-28 advantage.

Robert Champion led Holy Cross (15-20) with 22 points off the bench, but the Crusaders played tentative from the start and never put any worry into Oregon. Holy Cross was perhaps the biggest surprise to make the NCAA Tournament field after winning the Patriot League championship as the No. 9 seed by winning four straight road games and knocking of Lehigh in the title game. The Crusaders knocked off Southern in the First Four for their first NCAA victory since 1953 and the right to face Oregon.

But the difference in athleticism was evident immediately. Leading scorer Malachi Alexander finished with 10 points on 3 of 9 shooting but it was all difficult. Even late in the second half when it appeared Alexander had an open layup the long arms of Oregon's defenders were there to reject the shot.

"They just made us uncomfortable on offense," Alexander said.

WAIT ANOTHER YEAR

Holy Cross coach Bill Carmody was an assistant when Princeton nearly stunned Georgetown in 1989 as a No. 16 seed. The wait for a No. 16 seed to beat a No. 1 seed will have to wait another year as Holy Cross was the last shot for 2016.

"We're disappointed we didn't give a better account of ourselves. Oregon had something to do with that," Carmody said.

HERMISTON

Pitching, defense leads to sweep

Hermiston baseball wins two against Central Catholic

Baseball

Central Cath. 1-1 | Hermiston 2-4

By SAM BARBEE
East Oregonian

The Hermiston Bulldogs swept the 6A Central Catholic Rams in a pair of varsity baseball games Friday evening at Armand Larive Middle School.

The Bulldogs put together a couple of impressive pitching and defensive performances, only knocking nine hits and scoring just six runs, but only allowing two runs in the process. Hermiston beat the Rams 2-1 behind five strong innings from Tyler Sexton and a clutch double in the sixth from Daniel Gossler, and won 4-1 behind four strong innings from Chase Root.

"I'd love to see more hits in a game," coach Lance Hawkins. "But like I said, two wins from Central Catholic, I'll take that any day."

Hawkins called the sweep a team win because of the contributions from many. Sexton was good in the first game, and Slade Gritz came in to slam the door. Gossler's RBI double in the bottom of the sixth game Hermiston all the cushion it would need.

Hermiston jumped on Central Catholic early in the nightcap, getting three runs in the first two innings. Hayden Edmiston had a triple that turned into a home run on a bad throw from right field.

"We learned, the last three games, (that) I think when we think we pitch well, which I anticipate, and we play good defense, I think we can play with anybody," Hermiston coach Lance Hawkins said. "I see this team scoring some more runs down the road once we get used to live pitching, and I think tomorrow we'll double right back and get in an even better groove."

Hermiston hosts Roosevelt today for a doubleheader starting at noon.

Game 1					R	H	E
C-C	100	000	0	—	1	1	1
HHS	010	001	X	—	2	5	3

Muskat, Scardina and McNeal; T. Sexton, S. Gritz (6) and K. Caldwell. W — Sexton. L — Muskat. W — S. Gritz (HHS). L — Scardina (C-C).
2B — D. Gossler (HHS).

Game 2					R	H	E
C-C	000	010	0	—	1	7	2
HHS	210	010	0	—	4	4	0

Blair and Farrah. C. Root, K. Moss (5) and S. Gritz. W — C. Root (HHS). L — Blair (C-C).
3B — H. Edmiston (HHS).

BRIEFLY

Hermiston adult softball leagues looking for teams

HERMISTON — The Hermiston Parks and Recreation department is looking for teams to sign up for its Let's Play Ball! Adult Softball League.

To be eligible to play, you must be 18-year-old or older, and there is no limit on roster sizes. Team captains must register all of the teams' players by May 6.

The league will run from May until July with games taking place during evening hours during weekdays.

Team fees for both the Men's league and Competitive Coed are $450, while the recreational league is $390.

— East Oregonian

BUCKS:

Continued from 1B

strikeouts. Jack Peterson and Nick Lani each pitched in relief, with Lani tossing three innings and tallying four strikeouts.

After holding a 7-1 lead heading into the bottom of the fifth inning, Hanford struck for four runs to get within a 7-5 deficit.

But behind an RBI single from Morris and a throwing error from Hanford's pitcher, the Buckaroos added two runs in the sixth inning to take a four-run lead that they would hold till the end.

In game two of the doubleheader, the Buckaroos had a great performance on the mound by Morris spoiled by some defensive lapses and some timely hitting by the Falcons. Morris finished the game with six hits and three runs (zero earned) over five innings pitched, and actually had a shutout until that fifth inning.

The Buckaroos had just taken a lead — and scored the first runs of the game for either team — in the top of the fifth, when they got an RBI double from Morris and an RBI single from Bradt to grab a 2-0 advantage.

But in the bottom of the inning, an error by Peterson allowed the first batter to reach base. Then following a strikeout, the Falcons picked up three hits in their next four at-bats to get on the board and eventually take a 3-2 lead.

"The errors are hurting us so far," Haguewood said. "But some of it is typical early-season mistakes, which we know what we have to do to get better."

After Hanford added a run to make it 4-2 heading to the top of the seventh inning, the Buckaroos went in order in the order to close out the loss.

Pendleton will next host Roseburg on Monday for a doubleheader at Bob White Field starting at Noon.

Game 1					R	H	E
PHS	022	032	0	—	9	8	2
HHS	001	040	0	—	5	7	4

Bradt, Peterson (4), Lani (5) and Naughton. Sutey, Darnell (6). W — Bradt, L — Sutey.
2B — Cockburn, Roe (PHS); Sands (HHS).
3B — Cockburn (PHS)

Game 2					R	H	E
PHS	000	020	0	—	2	2	3
HHS	000	031	X	—	4	7	1

Morris, Correa (6), and Russell. Nix, Sarkowski (5). W — Nix, L — Morris.
2B — Morris (PHS).

HERMISTON: Naylor double gives Bulldogs edge in capper

Continued from 1B

Hermiston's 10-3 loss to Ridgeview earlier this week, when the Ravens scored four unearned runs in the first inning.

Friday, it was the Falcons' turn to hand the opposition outs, giving Hermiston ample opportunities to score runs, which it did consistently. Hermiston turned a Falcon error into a run three separate times over the course of the doubleheader.

"That's what happened on Tuesday, but it was the other way around," Greenough said. "We gave away outs, and they scored runs. So, today it was our turn. But we didn't stop. We didn't just score on those errors."

Hermiston's offense was led by Mikayla Kopacz who was 5 for 6 with a double, a homer, three RBI's and three runs scored. Breyanna Naylor added a 3-for-5 day with a double, three RBI and two runs scored.

Down 2-0 early in the opener, Kopacz led off the second with a single, and Julissa Almaguer followed with a walk. Naylor singled to load the bases and Alex Barton walked to bring in Kopacz. Kiersten Miller reached on an error, scoring Almaguer. Then Kylie Hinkley singled, driving in Naylor. After Jamie Hinkley popped up, Becca Englebrecht walked home Barton and Sydney Stefani singled in Miller, then Kopacz hit a three-run shot, putting the Bulldogs in full control up 8-2.

Hermiston got its ninth in the fifth when Naylor singled and scored on a Jamie Hinkley single.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston sophomore Amando Barron slides into the tag from Liberty sophomore Abby McCarthy at home plate in the Bulldogs 9-2 win against Liberty in the first game of a doubleheader Friday in Hermiston.

In the nightcap, it was decidedly more even, but Hermiston still was able to capitalize on Falcon mistakes. Three errors at third base alone cost Liberty, and Hermiston used those mistakes to score runs.

Jamie Hinkley led off the bottom of the first with a single, moved to second on a sacrifice bunt from Englebrecht, moved to third when Almaguer reached on the first error by the Liberty third baseman, then scored when Kopacz doubled. Almaguer scored on the play, as well, giving Hermiston an early 2-0 lead.

Liberty, though, didn't go away this time. The Falcons got one in the second, when Angelica Colbert singled and scored on a passed ball. Liberty got three more off nightcap starter Naylor, one of which was helped by a Hermiston error. Naylor also walked three batters in the frame as her control waned. Liberty led 5-4 after heading to the home half.

There, Naylor made up. With the bases loaded and one out, Naylor ripped a line drive into right center, easily plating Jamie Hinkley from third and Kopacz from second. Barton scored when the center fielder misplayed the ball.

"It got me up there more, even though I wasn't doing very well pitching," Naylor said. "The confidence from my hitting when that happened made me feel better and made me mood go straight up from what it was after pitching."

The game was called after the fifth due to darkness.

In addition to capitalizing on mistakes, Hermiston continues to mention its collective attitude and family-like atmosphere, something which was missing in previous editions. Greenough said her players are finally starting to trust one another. Naylor said the new togetherness just makes everything better.

"It felt like we played more as a team than we had in the past," Naylor said. "To be able to play more as a team and feel like a family, it feels a lot more amazing."

Hermiston is off until March 21, when it participates in the Putnam Spring Break Bash. Opponents and game times are yet to be determined.

"We're walking into that thinking we can beat anybody," Greenough said. "My expectations are very high for them. They are working very hard to meet those standards."

Game 1					R	H	E
LHS	110	000	0	—	2	10	3
HHS	080	010	X	—	9	8	0

Cundell and McCarthy. J. Almaguer and J. Hinkley. W — Almaguer. L — Cundell.
2B — Cundell (LHS). HR — M. Kopacz (HHS).

Game 2				R	H	E
LHS	013	00	—	4	5	5
HHS	203	1X	—	6	8	1

Cundell and McCarthy. B. Naylor, J. Almaguer (4) and E. Weems, J. Hinkley. W — Naylor. L — Cundell.
2B — M. Kopacz, B. Naylor (HHS).

BUCKAROOS: Richards takes no-hitter into fifth inning of Game 2

Continued from 1B

being ahead of the game," she said. "Even though it's not preferable, I think it's good to kind of know to work from behind so you kind of stay persistent."

Facing their first deficit of the season, the Bucks were definitely persistent in dismantling the Braves.

Two fielding errors and a passed ball put Kamiakin up 2-0 with just one out in the game, and Madi Dilger's single to shallow right field made it 3-0 before the Bucks could get out of the inning.

"We had a few miscues, probably came out a little flat," said Pendleton coach Tim Cary. "I don't know if we jut weren't ready to go or we weren't loose, I'm not sure what the deal is. Definitely not a good start but on the positive side of that is I'm glad to see us have to fight from behind because at some point in the season you have to face some adversity and learn how deal with that, and we didn't get our heads down."

Pendleton went down in order during its first at-bat, but came out settled in the second and quickly retired the Braves.

Payton Hergert got the comeback started with single to lead off the bottom of the second, and later scored on a passed ball for the Bucks' first run. Kalan McGlothan and Tatum Fell each drew walks and Murphy scored them both with a sacrifice to right field that tied the score at 3-all.

Then after stranding a pair of Braves in a scoreless top of the third, the Bucks batted around and scored six runs with two outs during a seven-hit, nine-run bottom of the third.

Pendleton pitcher Kiersten Murphy pitches in early innings during the first of two games against Kamiakin Friday at Steve Cary Field.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Morrison popped out to pitcher Andria Skeels to open the at-bat, but Lauren and Ellie Richards each followed with singles to right field before Hergert broke the tie with a run-scoring double off the fence in center. Ellie Richards and Hergert then scored on back-to-back passed balls to make it 6-3.

"I thought the girls did a nice job on the bases, taking the extra bases on passed balls, wild pitches, reading balls in the gap off the bat very well," Cary said.

Skeels picked up the second out before getting pulled, but reliever Taylor Nevills inherited two runners that Murphy promptly drove in with a double to the gap in right-center.

Murphy, who went 2 for 2, said she's been working a lot on her hitting.

"I get cut short in practice a little bit just because I've got to go pitch, but we stay after practice a lot to hit," she said. "I like being able to do both, take my anger out on one or the other."

A walk then put two on for Morrison, who hit a low fly over the fence in center for an 11-3 lead.

"We know when we go up there we have an approach and we know what we want to hit, and we know that if our pitch isn't coming then we don't swing at it," she said. "I'm just trying to make solid contact, honestly, and when it goes over the fence it just makes it that much better."

Two more singles separated by a walk, then a wild pitch capped the scoring in the frame, and three more runs in the fourth put the Bucks past the 10-run mercy threshold.

"That was the big emphasis this game, if we get a lead let's not relax, let's keep it going," Cary said. "And we did that so I was pleased with that. … We battled back on top and stayed on top so that was good for us."

Hergert finished 3 for 4 with one RBI and two runs, Lauren Richards went 3 for 5 with one RBI and two runs, and Ellie Richards was 2 for 3 with one RBI and one run. Morrison, Fell and McGlothan also scored twice.

Gracie Lyon pitched the final inning and gave up one unearned run on one hit. Murphy finished with three strikeouts, no walks, and gave up three unearned runs on three hits.

Lauren Richards then pitched the second half of the doubleheader as Pendleton cruised. Richards had a no-hitter going into the fifth but finished with a line of two hits, no walks and five strikeouts.

"She really had command of her pitches and threw really well tonight," Cary said.

Richards also went 2 for 2 at the plate, but Pendleton didn't get many pitches to swing at. Kamiakin's Cassidy Rowe and Nevills combined to walk four batters and hit another seven.

"Their pitching just absolutely ran out," Cary said. "Actually it was a pretty clean game, just a lot of walks and hit batters."

Ellie Richards and Murphy each added doubles as the Bucks finished with just four total hits.

Pendleton's next games will be Monday as they begin play at the Rex Putnam Tournament at Hood View Park in Happy Valley. They'll play Century at noon and Oregon City at 4 p.m.

Game 1					R	H	E
KHS	300	01		—	4	4	6
PHS	039	3X		—	15	12	6

A. Skeels, T. Nevills (3) and B. Whitecotton. K. Murphy, G. Lyon (5) and K. Solomon. W — Murphy. L — Skeels.
2B — P. Hergert, K. Murphy, E. Richards (PHS). HR — A. Morrison (PHS).

Game 2					R	H	E
KHS	000	00		—	0	2	0
PHS	421	4X		—	11	4	0

C. Rowe, T. Nevills and A. Wood. L. Richards and K. Solomon. W — Richards. L — Rowe