

Prep Roundup

Rockets hold off Huskies

Pilot Rock gets three scoreless innings of relief from Pierce

East Oregonian

PILOT ROCK — Edmund McCall drove in Jake Brickley in the bottom of the fourth for the go-ahead run and Bryson Pierce pitched three innings of scoreless relief as the Pilot Rock baseball team hung on for a 3-2 win over Sherman on Friday in non-league action.

Levi Thieme picked up the win on the mound lasting four innings and striking out seven. He allowed two earned runs on five hits.

Sherman (7-2) scored first when Brett Troutman singled in Jacob Justesen in the top of the third, but Pilot Rock (10-1) answered with two runs in the bottom of the inning.

Damon Ward took a pitch to the body to give the Rockets a runner right off the bat and, after a sacrifice by McCall moved him over, scored on a double by Chris Weinke. Following another out, Thieme then singled to drive in Weinke.

A sacrifice fly by Treve Martin plated Wyatt Stutzman in the top of the fourth to tie the game at 2-2, but once again the Rockets answered.

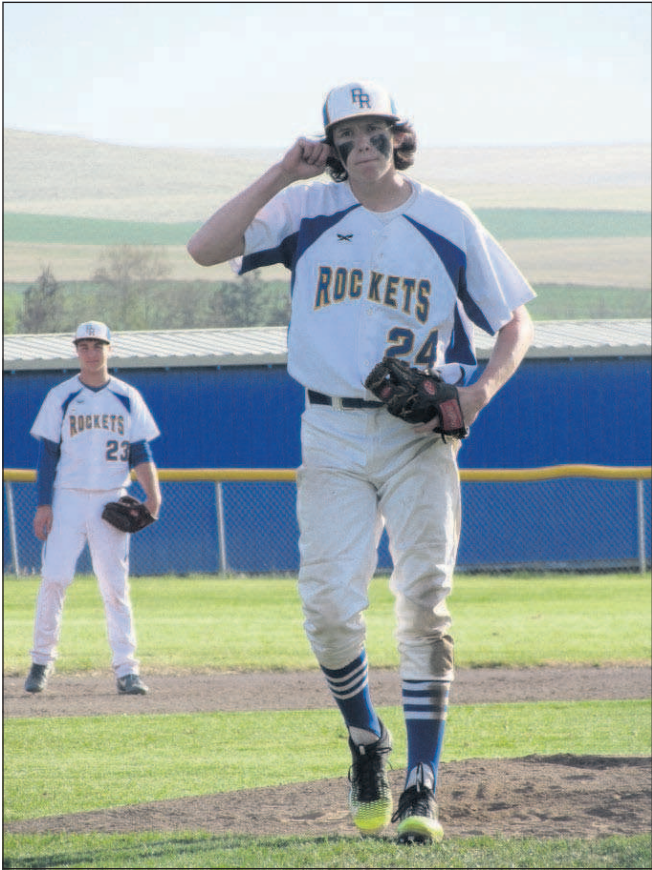
After bases-loaded fielder’s choice eliminated the lead runner, McCall hit another sacrifice to bring in Brickley.

Pierce then allowed just two more hits in the game and struck out two.

Up next for Pilot Rock is the start of District 7 play. They host Weston-McEwen at 4 p.m.

SHS	001100	0	—	2	7	0
PRHS	002100	X	—	3	5	1

B. Troutman, L. Thieme, B. Pierce (5) and C. Weinke, W. — Thieme, L. — Troutman. S. — Pierce.
2B — W. Stutzman, J. Justesen 2, M.



Contributed photo courtesy of Lela Thieme

Pilot Rock relief pitcher Bryson Pierce steps off the mound after throwing a pitch Friday in the Rockets' 3-2 win over Sherman in Pilot Rock.

Winslow (SHS). C. Weinke (PRHS).

STANFIELD 4-6, BURNS 3-7 — At Stanfield, the Stanfield Tigers plated the winning run in the bottom of the seventh to take their opener against Burns 4-3 on Friday in non-league play, but couldn’t complete the comeback in the night cap and dropped their first game of the season 7-6.

In Game 1, after taking a 3-0 lead in the first two innings the Tigers (12-1) couldn’t stop the Hilanders (6-5) from tying the score with one run in each the fifth, sixth and seventh despite solid pitching outings from starter Dylan Grogan and reliever Ryan Bailey.

Tony Flores started the Tigers off in the seventh with a walk, and Bailey followed with a single before a ball off the bat of Grogan slipped through the legs of Burns’ shortstop to allow Flores to score the walk-off winning

run. Bailey, Flores and Damien Curiel were all 2 for 3 for Stanfield in that game.

In Game 2, the teams traded leads with Burns jumping ahead for the last time with three runs in the sixth inning. Stanfield scored two in the seventh on consecutive one-out hits with Grogan’s double followed by a triple by Brody Woods and a single by Makiah Blankenship, but Sherman retired the next two batters to strand the tying run at second.

Grogan was 2 for 4 and added a two-run home run in the first inning.

Stanfield’s next game is Tuesday at Tri-Cities Prep starting at 5 p.m.

Game 1				R	H	E
BHS	000011	1	—	3	5	4
SHS	120000	1	—	4	7	2

J. Lewellen, Z. McDonald (6). D. Grogan, R. Bailey (7). W. — Bailey, L. — McDonald.

Game 2				R	H	E
BHS	040003	0	—	7	6	4
SHS	210010	2	—	6	7	1

T. Reid, Z. McDonald (5). T. Flores, B.

Woods (4). W. — McDonald, L. — Woods. 2B — T. Hueckman, T. Reid (BHS); D. Grogan (SHS). 3B — B. Woods (SHS). HR — D. Grogan (SHS).

SOFTBALL

ECHO 3-10, BURNS 7-6 — At Echo, Alyssa Ray struck out 10 and Monique Montoya went 2 for 3 with two doubles and three RBI to lead the offense as the Cougars jumped out early and held on for a non-league win in the second half of their doubleheader on Friday.

Erika Parks added two RBI for Echo (8-3), which led 8-0 after scoring in each of the first four innings, and Jamie Christopher and Samantha McQuown each added two hits.

Nine Echo players touched home plate in the balanced win.

In Game 1, Burns scored five runs in the top of the eighth to beat Echo in extras.

Gonzalez pitched the entire way and struck out 11 but gave up seven runs (four earned) on nine hits and one walk.

Cheyenne Hilliard went 3 for 5 with two doubles at the plate and Kenzie Blankenship and Hannah McCarty added two hits each.

Echo play at Heppner today at 11 a.m.

Game 1				R	H	E
BHS	011000	05	—	7	9	3
EHS	001100	01	—	3	10	4

A. Sutcliffe, M. Gonzales and E. Parks, W. — Sutcliffe, L. — Gonzales.
2B — C. Hilliard (EHS). HR — A. Sutcliffe (BHS).

Game 2				R	H	E
BHS	000024	0	—	6	9	4
EHS	132202	X	—	10	10	2

A. Sutcliffe, C. Feist (3). A. Ray and E. Parks, W. — Ray, L. — Sutcliffe.
2B — C. Feist, S. Peasley, M. Skunkcap (BHS); C. Hilliard, J. Christopher, M. Montoya 2 (EHS). 3B — E. Parks (EHS).

GOLF

PENDLETON — The Pendleton junior varisty girls picked up their first tournament win in coach Terry Prouse’s tenure at Pendleton Country Club on Friday.

Deshon Dick paced the team with a 105 and the Bucks turned in a 458 that beat out second-place Hermiston (496).

La Grande’s Trinity McCarthy won medalist honors with an 89.

Griffey takes center stage for M’s home opener

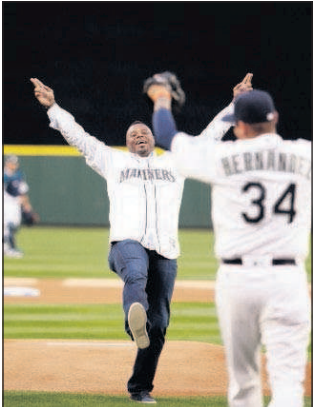
By TIM BOOTH
AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — For the past few months Ken Griffey Jr. has played a lot of golf and tried to avoid thinking or talking about his Hall of Fame induction.

Just the way Griffey would like it.

“For me, it’s trying to dodge things and not get caught up,” Griffey said. “I’ve got a great support network of friends and family who don’t come to my house to talk about Hall of Fame stuff.”

Griffey was back in Seattle on Friday night to throw out the ceremonial first pitch before the Mariners’ home opener against Oakland. It was the first of a few times Griffey will be honored this season by the



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

Former Seattle Mariners player Ken Griffey Jr., left, throws out the ceremonial first pitch before the Mariners home-opener as on Friday in Seattle.

Mariners in recognition of becoming the first player in franchise history voted into the Hall of Fame. He’ll be feted during a weekend-long

celebration in early August when his No. 24 number is officially retired by the club.

Griffey was voted to the Hall of Fame in January with the highest percentage of the vote in history — 99.3 percent of the ballots included his name, and he was only left off three ballots. He will join late announcer Dave Niehaus as the only two individuals associated with the Mariners in Cooperstown.

“It was a very easy decision for me to put on a Mariners hat to go into the Hall of Fame,” Griffey said. “That wasn’t even a question.”

Griffey was the capper to Seattle’s pregame ceremonies for the home opener. The Mariners unveiled a “Countdown to Cooperstown” in right-center

field of Safeco Field with 107 days remaining until the induction ceremony. Griffey stood in front of the mound and threw out the first pitch to Seattle’s Felix Hernandez, mimicking the Mariners ace by kissing the inside of both wrists and throwing his arms in the air. Griffey then ran over to exchange hugs the sons of the late Dave Henderson, who was honored with a moment of silence before the game.

While Griffey has tried to avoid any of the hoopla associated with his induction, he has given some thought to his speech. He also said representatives from the Hall of Fame came to his home in Florida to get a few mementos from his personal collection to be used in Cooperstown.

Mariners drop home opener



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

Seattle Mariners’ Adam Lind swings and misses as he strikes out to end the baseball game, in front of Oakland Athletics catcher Stephen Vogt on Friday, April 8, 2016, in Seattle. Oakland won 3-2.

Ninth-inning home run by Coughlan lifts Athletics

By TIM BOOTH
AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE — Chris Coughlan hit a solo home run with one out in the top of the ninth inning off closer Steve Cishek to give the Oakland Athletics a 3-2 win over the Mariners on Friday night in Seattle’s home opener.

The largest regular season crowd in Safeco Field history — 47,065 — watched to-be Hall of Famer Ken Griffey Jr. throw out the ceremonial first pitch. Then they saw the Mariners new closer give up a long ball in the ninth.

Coughlan turned on a 1-2 pitch on the inside corner from Cishek (0-1) and lined it down the right field line for his first homer of the season and the first run allowed by Seattle’s bullpen.

Josh Reddick also homered for Oakland, which took a 2-0 lead before Seattle rallied thanks to a solo home run from Dae-Ho Lee.

Sean Doolittle (1-1) pitched the eighth inning and Ryan Madson worked the ninth for his second save. Four Oakland relievers combined to throw 4 2/3 scoreless innings in relief of starter Eric Surkamp.

Coughlan also had an RBI single in the fourth inning to score Danny Valencia with Oakland’s first run. Reddick’s homer with two outs in the fifth off Seattle starter Taijuan Walker was his first of the year.

Seattle got all of its offense in the fifth inning against Surkamp, highlighted by Lee’s home run to deep center field. Lee became the seventh Mariners player in team history whose first major league hit was a home run. The last was Japanese catcher Kenji Johjima in 2006. Lee won the backup

first baseman job in spring training in part because of his propensity for the long ball in the past — Lee hit 98 home runs combined over the past four seasons playing in Japan.

Surkamp was called up from the minors after Oakland’s rotation got shuffled following Felix Doubront’s elbow sprain in his final spring training start and Sonny Gray being scratched from the season opener due to food poisoning. Surkamp allowed only two hits

through four innings before finding trouble in the fifth, starting with Lee’s homer. Leonys Martin was hit by an 0-2 pitch and later scored on Ketel Marte’s sacrifice fly, but the A’s escaped the jam when reliever Fernando Rodriguez got Nelson Cruz to ground into a double play with runners on the corners.

Walker threw six solid innings, giving up two runs on seven hits and striking out four in his season debut.

TRAINERS ROOM

Athletics: Reddick was partially given the day off. Rather than playing the outfield, Reddick was the A’s DH after his back bothered him following Thursday’s loss to the White Sox.

Mariners: Seattle manager Scott Servais said he plans to split outfield and DH with Franklin Gutierrez if the Mariners face left-handed pitchers on consecutive days. Gutierrez was the DH on Friday and expected to play right field on Saturday.

UP NEXT

Athletics: Rich Hill (0-1) gets his second start after going on opening day because Sonny Gray was scratched due to food poisoning.

Mariners: Nathan Karns makes his Seattle debut after being acquired in an offseason trade with Tampa Bay.

Jimmie Johnson certainly knows way to Victory Lane in Texas

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP Sports Writer

FORT WORTH, Texas — Jimmie Johnson certainly knows his way to Victory Lane at Texas Motor Speedway.

Already with two wins this season, Johnson is back in Texas, where he has won the last three NASCAR Sprint Cup races and five of the last seven.

“It’s just this race track. I think tracks with an older surface; the bumper it is, the more tire wear, it’s just a condition that plays into our wheelhouse,” Johnson said. “And we’ve hit on some things here over the last few trips and it consistently works for us and it continues to put speed and longevity in the car.”

But Johnson has never had to come from so far back in the field to win at the high-banked, 1 1/2-mile track. Johnson will start 11th on Saturday night in the Duck Commander 500.

Johnson started eighth or better in all six of his victories at Texas. In the 30 previous races there, only six of the winners qualified worse than 10th, and the last was 11 races ago in 2010.

Still, Johnson has dominated in his No. 48 Chevrolet at Texas, where his record six Sprint Cup wins are twice as many as the next closest driver — Carl Edwards, the polesitter. Johnson has led 1,023 laps and has 19 top-10 finishes, both records at the track starting its 20th season of racing.

Matt Kenseth also has been impressive in Texas, matching Johnson’s mark with 13 top-five finishes and second to Johnson in top-10 finishes (17), laps led (834) and average finish (9.46).

Asked what he has noticed about Johnson’s success in the Lone Star State, Kenseth responded that the biggest thing is that the six-time Sprint Cup champion is pretty good everywhere.



AP Photo/Larry Pappke

Jimmie Johnson talks to a crew member during practice for the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Texas Motor Speedway on Friday, April 8, 2016.

“He’s not too much of a slouch anywhere that I can really think of,” Kenseth said. “Nothing really stands out special to here, really to me.”

Kenseth is 14th in points this season, with his lone top-10 finish coming in the only race that he didn’t lead any laps.

Kenseth missed Texas last fall while serving the first of his two-race suspension for

intentionally wrecking Joey Logano the previous week. Before that, Kenseth had consecutive finishes of 23rd and 25th there, and his wins were back in 2002 and the 2011 spring race.

“Haven’t done too well here in recent history, but before that it’s always been a good track for us,” said Kenseth, who will start ninth. “I like the challenge of the different ends of the

race track that are different and the worn out pavement. I think the low aero package is going to be different.”

UNDER THE LIGHTS: Joey Logano, who will start second, said there is “nothing big” about making the transition to the racing at night for the first time this season. “Obviously, the mornings are a lot more relaxed than what it is if you were racing at one or two o’clock, so obviously that changes it a little bit,” he said. “But it’s like you have a night schedule and a daytime schedule for races as a driver as your prep stuff.”

STUFFED GOAT: Lil’ Dale was a Nubian goat born in Florida in 2002 with a white No. 3 marking on its otherwise brown fur that resembled the “3” made famous by the late Dale Earnhardt. The goat that died last year will be immortalized at Texas Motor Speedway. TMS President Eddie Gossage struck an undisclosed deal with the

goat’s owner to bring it back to Texas for permanent display after taxidermy. The goat was revealed Friday, with Gossage saying Lil’ Dale will serve as “part mascot,” part good-luck charm” at the track.

ON THE POLE: Edwards is the seventh different polesitter in seven Cup races this season. Edwards has three wins at Texas, the last when he swept the 2008 races, but none of those victories were from the pole. Edwards and Johnson are the only drivers with more than two Cup wins at Texas.

KURT’S CREW CHIEF: Tony Gibson, crew chief for driver Kurt Busch, is expected to be on top of the No. 41 Chevrolet pit box Saturday night after missing the first two days of racing weekend. Stewart-Haas Racing said Gibson stayed home in North Carolina to care for his wife, who is dealing with an unspecified illness.