

SOFTBALL: Bulldogs ready to take on underdog role

Continued from 1B

“I feel like the pitching staff is throwing pretty well,” said Lyon. “We all kind of feed off each other, like we all try to do our best and if somebody’s in trouble we’re always there to help, always there to back each other up.”

The pitchers have had plenty of run support to work with and the Bucks are churning out 10 runs a game on average.

Alexis Morrison, Tatum Fell, Payton Hergert, Kalan McGlothlan and Feather Dick have each hit at least one home run this season.

“I think all the girls are going up with a good approach at the plate, looking for their pitch,” Cary said. “They’re not chasing bad pitches right now. I think we’re pretty comfortable at the plate right now and we’re swinging the bats well. And we want to keep that going.”

Pendleton unquestionably has the ability to extend its run atop the CRC, but knows it won’t be an easy task and every team must be seen as a threat to knock them from their perch.

“We have to go in thinking anything could happen, we could possibly lose,” said Lyon. “So we have to have high intensity and we have to play our best.”

“I think we’ll have some good competition,” said senior shortstop Ellie Richards. “But if we come out ready to play we should be good.”

HERMISTON (8-5)

The Hermiston Bulldogs like the feeling of being an underdog.

Coming off of a 2015 season that saw the Bulldogs come away victorious seven times overall and just once in conference play, the



In this April 12, 2014 file photo, Hermiston’s Taylor Betz pitches during a double-header with Wilsonville at Rocky Heights Elementary School.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

expectations were not high for this season. But under first-year coach Kate Greenough the Bulldogs have come together and worked hard to turn in better results already in 2016.

“The girls came together from the beginning and said ‘We’re going to get this done, whatever it takes we’ll do it’ and from a coaching standpoint, you can’t ask for a better attitude,” Greenough said. “The girls have been successful for the most part and it’s been great to see the girls’ growth and their confidence build so far.”

The Bulldogs have already surpassed their 2015 win total and sit at 8-5 overall heading into the start of league play on Saturday. Offense has been a big part of the early success as Hermiston has scored 105 total runs this season, or an average of more than seven per game.

One surprise on offense for Greenough and the Bulldogs has been senior

catcher Jaime

Hinkley, who has hit for a .529 clip with 13 runs scored, six doubles, and six RBI at the top of the Hermiston lineup.

“She’s one player I didn’t expect to take control of the game as much as she has this year,” Greenough said of Hinkley. “She runs the field from her catcher position and then gets it done in the lineup.”

Hermiston gets a tough draw out of the gates in the CRC hosting The Dalles Riverhawks, but know what their goals are heading into Saturday’s doubleheader.

“I think to go out and say ‘We want to win every game’ is a little unrealistic because there are four great teams and in softball anybody can win in any given day,” Greenough said. “I want to see us just play well in every game. The girls are successful and they can play with anybody, but I don’t think a lot of people expect a lot out of us.”

BASEBALL: Young ‘Dawgs ready

Continued from 1B

been feast or famine for the Pendleton Buckaroos. Despite bringing the second-best runs-per-game average into league play at 7.5, Pendleton has struggled to consistently produce.

The Bucks have five games in which they’ve scored at least 10 runs, but four in which they’ve scored two or fewer.

Leveling out and bringing smarter approaches to their plate appearances is one of the key the Bucks are concentrating on as they prepare for their league openers.

“We’ve had some games where we’ve had bad approaches, but we’ve been working on it at every practice and I think it’s getting better, and hopefully it works for league,” said senior infielder/pitcher Jack Peterson. “The biggest thing for us is we need to hit the ball.”

Pendleton’s last CRC title came in 2014, and the Bucks said getting that title back is one of their primary goals this season.

“Of course we feel like we have the best chance in the league to get it done,” said senior pitcher/catcher Quinn Cockburn. “We have a lot of returners and lot of experience.”

The only team averaging more runs a game this season than the Bucks is Hood River at 7.7 per. Next in line is The Dalles at 6.3. With Hermiston also averaging nearly five runs per game (4.6), the Bucks said they’re putting as much, if not more, emphasis on their defense as they are their hitting.

“We just have to keep playing defense because we’ll be fine hitting,” Cockburn said. “We’ll take care of business there, but we have to keep playing like we have on defense and if we can do that I think we’ll set ourselves up to have a good



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston’s Kody Moss runs down the first base line as Putnam catcher Jesse Countryman grabs the ball in the Bulldogs’ 7-6 win against the Kingsmen in the first game of a doubleheader Friday in Hermiston.

shot.”

Pendleton has committed just one error in its last two games, but has 21 on the season and is 0-3 in games with three or more errors.

Although the Bucks see the Eagles as their top competition for the CRC title, they know better than to count the Riverhawks or Bulldogs out this early in the game.

“Every game that we play is an important game,” said senior outfielder/pitcher Kai Quinn. “We’ve got to go game by game. You’ve got to come prepared in league every game. Playing each team four times, it’s tough to beat them each time like we want to do.”

HERMISTON (7-5)

For the Hermiston Bulldogs, the non-league schedule was a great learning experience for a young team.

The Bulldogs had to replace six starters from the 2015 squad, and many positions on the field and in the pitching rotation were up for grabs as the team tried to figure out their best contributors. After 12 games, Hermiston has figured that out and now looks to build some consistency and momentum as they head into the start of league play this weekend.

“We’ve had a tough

schedule, but I think we’ve competed well,” said Hermiston senior Tyler Sexton. “I don’t think we are where we want to be yet, but we definitely need to hit the ball better.”

Offense has been the inconsistency the team just hasn’t been able to shake so far, as Hermiston heads into the league opener with the lowest-scoring offense in the CRC averaging 4.6 runs per game. Bulldogs assistant John Christy emphasized that part of the game is where improvements need to happen if Hermiston wants to compete for the CRC title.

“I think it’s about consistent at-bats. We have you guys still trying to figure out what zone they hit consistently and whatnot, so if we can make solid contact and productive outs and maintain that philosophy we can be a solid team.”

Hermiston opens league play with a doubleheader against The Dalles on Saturday at Armand Larive Middle School which is the first step towards reaching their season goals of winning the CRC and something else that the senior players want almost as bad as the league crown.

“We definitely want to sweep Pendleton,” Sexton said with a smile.

PREPS: Pendleton tennis swept by The Dalles

Continued from 1B

ner-up Chase Snodgrass with a 79.

Hermiston’s lowest score came from Ander Lind, who tied for fifth with an 81.

Nelson said wind and rain made playing tough enough, and when intermittent hail began to fall conditions officially became miserable.

“So those were pretty amazing scores,” he said.

Pendleton’s next round is Monday at Tetherow Golf Club in Bend. Hermiston’s next action is Wednesday at Big River Golf Course in Umatilla.

Team Scores	
1, The Dalles	323
2, Pendleton	328
3, Kamiakin	333
4, Hermiston	350
5, Hanford	359
6, La Grande	372
7, Baker	374
8, Mac-Hi	383
Individual leaders	
1, Reilly Hegarty, Pendleton	78
T2, Chase Snodgrass, The Dalles	79
T2, Mike Legard, Kamiakin	79
4, Brayden Pulver, Pendleton	80
T5, Tyler Vasser, The Dalles	81
T5, Mark Felderman, The Dalles	81
T5, Ander Lind, Hermiston	81

Pendleton (328) — Reilly Hegarty, 78; Brayden Pulver, 80; Nathan Som, 85; Sam Kung, 85; Jared Geier 93.
Hermiston (350) — Anders Lind, 81; Kayden Meacham, 86; Dylan Martin, 89; Tyler Cameron, 94; Jared Thacker, 95.
Mac-Hi (383) — Riley Chester, 86; Evan Kain, 95; Kodi Leidenfrost, 100; Noah Wilson, 102; Armando Garcia, 109.

TENNIS

HOOD RIVER 4, HERMISTON 3 — At Hermiston, Cameron Meade and Race Latham came from behind to win in No. 1 doubles for the Bulldogs

boys on Thursday in a league match.

After Hood River’s Patrick Hamann and Sawyer Bogard took the first set 6-4, the Hermiston duo won the next two 6-2, 10-7.

“It was good because it gave them the kind of look they’ll see when they get to districts,” said Hermiston coach Shann West. “The atmosphere they played in was good. They had to come from behind and they were able to raise their game.”

Jacob Snell cruised in straight sets at No. 1 singles for Hermiston with a 6-1, 6-1 win over Will Ferrick as he raised his conference record to 3-0.

The final match of the day was rained out, but Hood River had already secured the team win on tiebreakers.

“They lost quite a few (players) last year and I was not expecting them being so strong, but they had a good lineup,” West said. “It was a good match for us to play.”

Hermiston was scheduled to play in the Tri-City Invite this weekend but it was canceled. Hermiston’s next game is Wednesday when it hosts The Dalles at 4 p.m.

Singles	
Jacob Snell (H) def. Will Ferrick 6-1, 6-1	
Cole Shepherd (HR) def. Aiden Prewitt 6-4, 1-6, 10-7	
Aldon Sova (HR) def. Valentino Whitesell 6-2, 6-0	
Hayden Sissna (H) v. Ron Rodriguez, rain out	
Doubles	
Cameron Meade/Race Latham (H) def. Patrick Hamann/Sawyer Bogard 4-6, 6-2, 10-7	

Hugo Sandoval/Arthur Finstad (HR) def. Skylar Grigg/Stefano Peiris 3-6, 5-7
Patrick Wicks/Thomas McCullough (H) def. Adam Harter/Luke Harter 6-2, 6-2
Simon Harsami/Soren Rajani (HR) def. Judah Jensen/Cobi Grigg, 6-1, 6-2

THE DALLES 4, PENDLETON 2 — At Pendleton, Jenna Senter and Brandie Brown earn come-from-behind victories for the Buckaroos girls tennis team on Thursday, but a doubles sweep earned the Riverhawks the team win.

Senter was down 8-4 in the third-set tiebreaker against The Dalles’ Robin Pashek but rallied for a 12-10 victory in No. 1 singles.

“That was a pretty intense match,” said Pendleton coach Rocky Dillenburg. “I notice that Robin is playing quite well this year so I was happy to see Jenna compete with her. She’s coming off a three-set loss to Katelyn Millard at Hermiston so it was a good comeback win for Jenna I thought.”

Brown also won her match at No. 2 singles by way of a 12-10 tiebreaker.

“She has been losing these tiebreakers and so it was nice to see her win one,” Dillenburg said.

Pendleton’s next match is Monday at Mac-Hi at 4 p.m.

Singles	
Jenna Senter (P) def. Robin Pashek 6-4, 5-7, 12-10	
Brandie Brown (P) def. Emma Smith 4-6, 6-4, 12-10	
Tiana Langston (T) def. Julia Livingston 6-4, 6-4	
Kayla Walker (P) v. Brittney Bernstein, rain out	
Doubles	

Joanna Wilson/Kiana Pielli (T) def. Jessie Patterson/Danae Smithm, 6-1, 6-0
Rebekah Kohlfarber/Allie Trujillo (T) def. Brooke Lapp/Gabby Cuthbert 6-1, 6-1
Maggie Cory/Cassie Vazquez (T) def. Heather Wilcox/Kesley Cartmell 6-3, 6-0

THE DALLES 4, PENDLETON 0 — At The Dalles, the Pendleton boys tennis team rushed to get in its league match against the Riverhawks on Thursday but still ended up soaked.

“It looked like it was going to rain right when we got there so the kids jumped off the bus and didn’t really warm up before they started playing,” said Pendleton coach Chris Holdman. “We were right on the verge of calling the match off but we kept them going. The balls were getting pretty heavy there towards the end soaking up all the water.”

That made a big difference for Pendleton’s players, who were struggling to adjust to the rain-weighted balls and hit into the net time and again.

The closest match was Henry Holdman’s loss at No. 1 singles which went to a third-set tiebreaker before Will Coy won 10-7.

Pendleton’s next match is Monday when it hosts Mac-Hi at 4 p.m.

Singles	
Will Coy (T) def. Henry Holdman 6-2, 3-6, 10-7	
Daniel Santillan (T) def. Peter Wallace 6-1, 6-1	
Alex Lopez (T) def. Silas Johnston 6-3, 6-2	
Doubles	
Omar Rodriguez/Jesus Barrajas (T) def. Easton Phelan/Donovan Costello 6-1, 6-3	

SCOREBOARD

Local Slate	
PREP BASEBALL	
Today	
Nyssa at Umatilla (DH), 1/3 p.m.	
Vale at Riverside (DH), 1/4 p.m.	
Mac-Hi at La Grande (DH), 2/4 p.m.	
Elgin at Stanfield (DH), 3/5 p.m.	
Saturday	
Irrigon at Dufur (DH), 11 a.m./1 p.m.	
Pilot Rock at Weston-McEwen, 11 a.m./1 p.m.	
Grant Union at Heppner (DH), 11 a.m./1 p.m.	
Pendleton at Hood River (DH), Noon/2 p.m.	
The Dalles at Hermiston (DH), Noon/2:30 p.m.	
PREP SOFTBALL	
Today	
Elgin at Echo (DH), 1/3 p.m.	
Nyssa at Umatilla (DH), 1/3 p.m.	
Vale at Riverside (DH), 1/3 p.m.	
Mac-Hi at La Grande (DH), 2/4 p.m.	
Saturday	
Culver at Pilot Rock (DH), 11 a.m./1 p.m.	
Irrigon at Union (DH), 11 a.m./1 p.m.	
Pendleton at Hood River (DH), Noon/2 p.m.	
The Dalles at Hermiston (DH), Noon/2 p.m.	
Burns at Heppner (DH), 1/3 p.m.	
PREP TRACK & FIELD	
Today	

Hermiston, Pendleton, Umatilla, Riverside, Pilot Rock, Irrigon, Ione, Stanfield, Echo at Green and Gold Invite (Pendleton), 3 p.m.	
Hermiston at Oregon Relays (Eugene), 3 p.m.	
Mac-Hi at Apple Blossom Invite (Hood River), 4 p.m.	
Saturday	
Pendleton, Umatilla at Pasco (Wash.) Invite, 9:30 a.m.	
Hermiston at Oregon Relays (Eugene), 10 a.m.	
PREP TENNIS	
Today	
Hermiston at Tri-City Invite (Pasco), TBD	
PREP LACROSSE	
Today	
Hermiston at Aloha, 8 p.m.	
Saturday	
Hermiston at Newberg, 1 p.m.	
PREP RUGBY	
Saturday	
Bend at East Oregon (boys), Noon	
Centennial at East Oregon (girls), 1:30 p.m.	
COLLEGE BASEBALL	
Saturday	
Blue Mountain at Spokane (DH), 1/4 p.m.	
COLLEGE SOFTBALL	
Today	
Blue Mountain at Spokane (DH), 2/4 p.m.	

Blue Mountain at North Idaho (DH), 2/4 p.m.	
Hockey	
NHL PLAYOFFS	
FIRST ROUND	
Thursday’s Games	
N.Y. Islanders 5, Florida 4	
Washington 2, Philadelphia 0	
Dallas 4, Minnesota 0	
San Jose 4, Los Angeles 3	
Today’s Games	
Detroit at Tampa bay, 4 p.m. (Tampa Bay leads 1-0)	
N.Y. Islanders at Florida, 4:30 p.m. (Islanders lead 1-0)	
Chicago at St. Louis, 5 p.m. (St. Louis leads 1-0)	
Nashville at Anaheim, 7:30 p.m.	
Baseball	
MLB	
AMERICAN LEAGUE	
Thursday’s Games	
Detroit 7, Pittsburgh 4	
Chicago White Sox 3, Minnesota 1	
Cleveland 6, Tampa Bay 0	
Toronto 4, N.Y. Yankees 2	
Texas 6, Baltimore 3	
Kansas City 6, Houston 2	
Today’s Games	
Seattle at N.Y. Yankees, 4:05 p.m.	
Chicago White Sox at Tampa Bay 4:10 p.m.	

N.Y. Mets at Cleveland, 4:10 p.m.	
Toronto at Boston, 4:10 p.m.	
Baltimore at Texas, 5:05 p.m.	
Detroit at Houston, 5:10 p.m.	
L.A. Angels at Minnesota, 5:10 p.m.	
Kansas City at Oakland, 7:05 p.m.	
NATIONAL LEAGUE	
Thursday’s Games	
Detroit 7, Pittsburgh 4	
Philadelphia 3, San Diego 0	
St. Louis 7, Milwaukee 0	
Colorado 11, San Francisco 6	
Washington 6, Atlanta 2	
Chicago Cubs 8, Cincinnati 1	
L.A. Dodgers 5, Arizona 2	
Today’s Games	
Colorado at Chicago Cubs, 11:20 a.m.	
Milwaukee at Pittsburgh, 4:05 p.m.	
Washington at Philadelphia, 4:05 p.m.	
Atlanta at Miami, 4:10 p.m.	
Cincinnati at St. Louis, 5:15 p.m.	
San Francisco at L.A. Dodgers, 7:10 p.m.	
Arizona at San Diego, 7:40 p.m.	
Soccer	
MLS	
Today’s Games	
Los Angeles at Houston, 4 p.m.	
Saturday’s Games	
Montreal at Chicago, 2 p.m.	
Toronto FC at D.C. United, 2 p.m.	
New York City FC at Columbus, 4:30 p.m.	
New York at Colorado, 6 p.m.	
Philadelphia at Seattle, 7 p.m.	
Vancouver at Real Salt Lake, 7 p.m.	
San Jose at Portland, 7:30 p.m.	

Athlete of the Week

Twenty questions with Hermiston’s R.J. Robles

East Oregonian: Favorite sports team?
R.J. Robles: I like the Mariners and New Orleans Saints
Favorite athlete?
Derek Jeter and Felix Hernandez
Favorite memory at Hermiston?
Just being a part of this team, and the perfect game was nice.
Favorite TV show?
Ridiculousness
Celebrity Crush?
Megan Fox
Favorite music genre?
I like all kinds of music
Xbox or Playstation?
Plastation
Favorite video game?
Call of Duty
Favorite restaurant?
Miner’s Drive-In in Yakima, Wash.

Favorite restaurant in Hermiston?
La Palma
Favorite candy bar?
Butterfinger
Coca-Cola or Pepsi?
Coke
Favorite family recipe?
Our jerkey
Favorite class in school?
PE
Dream vacation spot?
Hawaii
Favorite color?
Red
Favorite sport?
Baseball
Sporting event bucket list?
Go to Yankee Stadium
How long have you played baseball?
Since I was able to walk
Biggest influence on your life?
My whole family

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

R.J. Robles

Hermiston Senior, Baseball Pitcher

Robles paced his Bulldogs to an 11-0 win over Parkrose on Friday by throwing a perfect game, striking out 13 of the 15 batters that he faced.

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