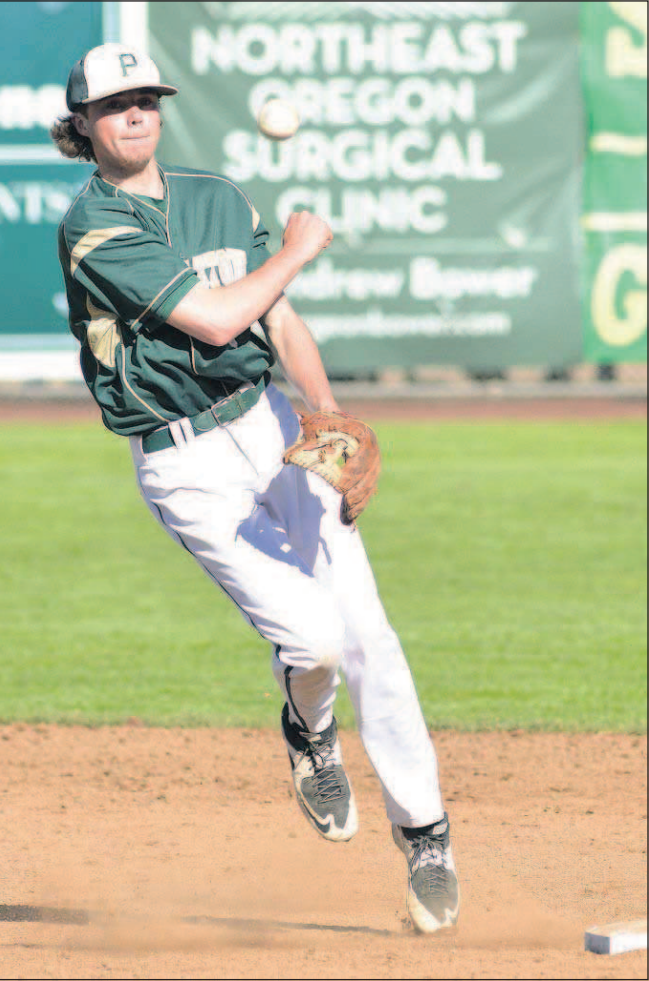


PENDLETON: Buckaroo bats break out of slump in fifth inning



Pendleton shortstop Wyatt Morris makes a throw to first base in the Bucks' 11-5 loss against Hood River on Tuesday in Pendleton.

Continued from 1B

(9-7) to 0-3 in the league standings after being swept by Hood River in a double-header on Saturday by a combined score of 14-2.

But Pendleton coach T.J. Haguewood said he is not too concerned with the subpar start.

“You don’t like to start 0-3, but the world’s not going to come crashing down,” he said. “We’ve kind of been hurting ourselves and against good teams that can be difficult to overcome. But we have some battlers in there that just need to continue to work.”

One reason for the Bucks’ decline has been the disappearance of the consistent hitting that the team produced early in the season. Over the past six games, Pendleton has scored just 17 runs for an average of less than three runs, while they scored 87 runs over the first 10 games for an 8.7 average.

“It’s certainly not from a lack of effort,” Haguewood said. “Hitting a baseball is one of the hardest things to

do in any sport. We’ve been practicing every day with pitch machines, cranking up velocity and the guys crush it. We just have to keep battling.”

Pendleton senior Kai Quinn, who finished Tuesday’s game 2-4 with two doubles, said that the team needs to have a better mindset when they step in the batters box.

“We need to not get so down on ourselves when we make a mistake or make an out ... and go to the plate with a good approach,” he said.

On Tuesday, the Buckaroos bats remained quiet through the first half of the game against Hood River starting pitcher Isaiah Enriquez. Enriquez allowed just two hits through the first four innings with five strikeouts to keep the Bucks at bay.

Meanwhile, the Hood River bats came out in full force from the get-go. The Eagles drew first blood in the first inning when cleanup hitter Kellan Duffy crushed a long home run to straight away center field to give his

team the early 2-0 advantage. Hood River piled on in the second inning behind a three-run home run that was crushed over the right field fence from Skyler Hunter to put Hood River up 5-0. The Eagles then followed up that output with a four-run inning in the third, as five batters stepped to the plate and two runs came across to score before the first out was recorded and eventually pushing the lead to 9-0.

But in the fifth inning, Pendleton’s offense finally showed some life. Following a lead-off double from Ryan Russell and then back-to-back outs, Morris drilled an RBI single into left field to put the Bucks on the board for the first time. Pendleton got three more hits with two outs to push across two more runs in the inning and head to the sixth trailing 9-3.

Then in the sixth, Pendleton quickly had two baserunners on following a double by James Bradt and a single by Russell. Both runners came across to score in the inning on wild pitches to cut the lead to 9-5.

“I liked the way we

competed in the second half of this game,” Haguewood said. “We came out of a little funk and I think we’re building towards something better now. The boys’ backs were against the wall and they could have folded but they battled and put pressure on them.”

But that was as close as Pendleton would get, as Hood River added two runs in the seventh inning to seal their 11-5 win.

Nick Lani started on the mound for Pendleton and allowed nine runs (six earned) and seven hits over three innings. Daniel Naughton and James Bradt both pitched two innings in relief, allowing two runs between them.

Pendleton will look to turn things around on Saturday when they travel to The Dalles for a double-header starting at Noon.

			R	H	E
HRV	234000	2	—	11	10
PHS	000032	0	—	5	10
Enriquez, Duffy (5), Hunter (7) and Cameron, Lani and Cockburn, Naughton (4), Bradt (6) and Russell. W — Enriquez, L — Lani. 2B — Hunter, Harvey (HRV). Quinn 2, Russell, Bradt (PHS). HR — Duffy, Hunter (HRV).					

SOFTBALL: Buckaroos look to regroup on Saturday at The Dalles

Continued from 1B

and we could do it, but I guess today just wasn’t our day,” said Pendleton third baseman Kalan McGlothan.

McGlothan was the one Buckaroo that was able to get to McNerney regularly, though, and went 3 for 3 with a solo home run that made it 3-2 in the sixth inning. Her first single was on a bunt in the second inning during Pendleton’s other scoring at-bat.

Payton Hergert led them off with a single, followed by bunt singles from McGlothan and Rylee Gentner to load the bases. Then Kiersten Murphy hit into a fielder’s choice at third that scored Hergert for a 1-0 lead.

Madi Parker drew a walk to reload the bases, but a fielder’s choice at home plate and a pop-up to third base ended the threat with the bases full.

Murphy had to pitch out of jams in the first two innings, but made that 1-0 lead last through five innings while striking out four, walking two and allowing just two hits.

Things fell apart for Murphy quickly in the sixth inning, though, as Zoe Munn and McNerney led off with



Pendleton softball players greet Kalan McGlothan after her home run Tuesday during a Columbia River Conference game

singles through the left side of the infield. A line drive back to Murphy accounted for the first out, but then a double steal moved both runners into scoring position for Emily Curtis. She brought them in with a hard line drive to right field for a 2-1 lead.

“The last game we kind

of struggled with our hitting but today I really felt like we came out and we knew we needed to hit, and so we did,” Curtis said. “Since we didn’t win on Saturday we knew we needed to win this game and we came out really strong I think.”

Janessa Castaneda then hit a double to the wall in

right-center to score Curtis and end Murphy’s outing.

Lauren Richards came on in relief and struck out five of the six batters she faced, but the damage had been done.

McGlothan’s drive over the wall in left field was the team’s only hit the rest of the game.

“I was just trying to get on base. Hard hit, get on base and help the team score,” she said. “I can usually feel it. Sometimes it’s iffy, but I felt that one.”

Pendleton was retired in order in the first, third, fifth and seventh innings.

“It’s just one of those days. (McNerney) threw

very well against us on Saturday, threw very well against us today, and Hood River played a little bit better than we did today and they deserved to win,” said Pendleton coach Tim Cary. “I thought a number of girls hit the ball hard, just right at people. We’ve just got to keep doing what we’re doing and things will fall into place.”

Pendleton’s players, particularly seniors, were taking the loss a little harder as it ruined the team goal of an undefeated CRC season.

“We take a loss pretty hard, which is good. It means we want it,” Cary said. “Maybe we want it too bad sometimes and we tighten up and we press too hard, and it maybe kind of showed a little bit toward the end right there. Maybe we were just trying too hard instead of just relaxing and playing ball and letting it all happen.”

Pendleton’s next game is Saturday when it begins a three-game series against The Dalles with a double-header.

			R	H	E
HRV	000003	0	—	3	7
PHS	010001	0	—	2	5
H. McNerney and Z. Munn. K. Murphy, L. Richards (6) and R. Gentner. W — McNerney. L — Murphy. 2B — J. Castaneda (HRV). HR — K. McGlothan (PHS).					

PREPS: Riverhawks hand Bulldogs first league loss of season on Tuesday

Continued from 1B

Hermiston (9-6, 2-1) tied the score in the fifth when R.J. Robles was hit by a pitch, advanced to third on consecutive sacrifices and scored on a single by Daniel Gossler.

Then in the sixth, Lukas Tolan drew a walk to start off and Mitch Good ran in his place. Good stole second, moved to third on a sacrifice and scored on an error.

Robles tacked on the final run in the seventh when he scored from second on a Tyler Sexton single. Robles reached on a single and went 3 for 3 with two runs and two steals to lead the offense.

“We’re pretty much a grinding type of team and we’re going to battle until we get an opportunity, and the kids took advantage today,” Christy said.

The Bulldogs had chances to score earlier in the game but couldn’t come through, and head coach Lance Hawkins said the team’s ability to fight through that part of the game and stay positive played a big part in the win.

Hermiston will host Hood River in a double-header on Saturday starting at noon at Armand Larive Middle School.

0 (5 innings) — At Irrigon, Knights starting pitcher Austin Rice gave up one hit in four innings and Irrigon sent 13 batters to the plate during an eight-run second inning in Tuesday’s District 6 baseball game.

Adrian Roa and Lino Covarrubia started the big inning off with singles, Covarrubia’s on a bunt. Roa made it to third on a Culver error and then stole home before Hayden White doubled in Covarrubia to make it 2-0.

Irrigon (7-4, 2-1 SD6) had eight hits and a walk during the rally and Culver (5-6, 1-2) helped it along with two errors.

Big games at the plate for Irrigon came from Zach Henrichs (3 for 4, 2 runs, 2 RBI), Nate Verley (3 for 4, 1 run), White (2 for 3, 3 RBI, 1 run), and Roa (2 for 3, 2 RBI, 2 runs).

Rice struck out nine and walked three and didn’t allow a runner past first base, an effort catcher Cougar Kroske aided with a pickoff at second in the fourth inning.

White retired Culver in order in the fifth.

Irrigon plays at Culver in a doubleheader at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

Jimmy Patrick hit back-to-back home run in the top of the first inning and the TigerScots never trailed in Tuesday’s high-scoring non-league game.

Patrick added a three-run home run in the second inning and pitched the first two innings as well. He was 3 for 5 with six RBI and three runs.

Shaw Broncheau went 2 for 2 with three runs and three RBI, and Roff and Brett Speed each drove two runs as well for Weston-McEwen (11-3).

Sherman’s Bradley Moe hit a two-run home run to cut the lead to 9-5 in the third inning and the Huskies (9-4) pulled within 9-6 on a Jacob Justeson double in the fourth. The TigerScots answered, though, and scored six runs on four walks, two hit batsmen, a wild pitch and two hits in the fifth. One of the hits was a two-RBI double by Patrick.

The teams meet back up again on Saturday for a doubleheader in Athena that starts at 11 a.m.

with two outs to lift the Rangers over the Mustangs in a District 6 baseball game on Tuesday.

Heppner (1-7, 0-1 SD6) took the lead in the fourth and fifth innings, but Dufur (4-9, 2-2) responded to tie it back up each time.

Patrick Collins hit a two-run home run to make it a 3-2 Heppner lead in the fourth inning. It was his only hit, however, he was hit by two pitches and scored three times.

Beau Wolters went 2 for 3 with three RBI and a run for Heppner.

McLaughlin scored three times for Dufur and Connor Uhalde was 2 for 3 with two runs. Kolbe Bales didn’t have a hit but drove in three runs.

The teams meet again in Heppner on Saturday for a doubleheader starting at 11 a.m.

to the plate before recording the first out. A pair of singles by Jaime Hinkley and Becca Engelbrecht mixed with a Riverhawk error loaded the bases for cleanup hitter Ellery Jones who unloaded them with a three-run double. But from that point on, the next 13 Bulldogs were retired in order as Riverhawk pitcher Maddy Bradford found her groove.

Hinkley went 2-5 at the plate with two singles and one run scored, while Jones finished 2-4 with those three RBI.

Hermiston next hosts Hood River (8-8, 1-2) on Saturday for a doubleheader starting at Noon.

			R	H	E
HHS	300000	0	—	3	7
TDS	001404	X	—	9	8
Almaguer, Betz, and Hinkley. M. Bradford and Helyer. W — Bradford, L — Almaguer. 2B — Jones (HHS).					

PILOT ROCK 9, BURNS 1 — At Pilot Rock, four players combined for 14 of Pilot Rock’s 15 hits and Tehya Ostrom struck out six in the circle for a complete-game win in District 6 softball on Tuesday.

Bekah Roe and Ostrom were both 4 for 4 at the plate, Rhyanne Oates was 3 for 3 and Madison Dave was 3 for 4 as the Rockets (12-1, 4-0 SD6) won their eighth game in a row.

Pilot Rock’s other hit was a solo home run by Sara Weinke that made it 5-0 in the fifth inning.

The Rockets play at Burns (10-3, 3-1) in a twin bill on Saturday. First pitch is scheduled for 1 p.m.

			R	H	E
BHS	010000	0	—	1	8
PR	102114	X	—	9	15
A. Sutcliffe and S. Peasley. T. Ostrom and R. Oates. W — Ostrom. L — Sutcliffe. 2B — M. Dave, S. Roe, R. Oates (PR). HR — S. Weinke (PR).					

WALLA WALLA 2, MAC-HI 0 — At Milton-Freewater, three Walla Walla pitchers allowed a combined two hits to earn a non-league shutout win over the Pioneers on Tuesday.

Both of those hits came off reliever Brandi Schoessler, who also got the win after the Blue Devils scored once each in the fifth and sixth innings.

Sydney Richwine and Brooke Kralman had Mac-Hi’s only hits. The Pioneers stranded eight runners in the game but didn’t get a runner past second until the seventh inning.

The Pioneers (13-4) had bases loaded with two outs when Walla Walla followed an error with a walk and a hit batter, but Shannon Carter hit a pop-up to third base to end the game.

Mac-Hi’s next games are at Baker on Saturday in a doubleheader starting at noon.

			R	H	E
WW	000011	0	—	2	8
M-H	000000	0	—	0	2
K. Coleman, B. Schoessler (4), Conklin (7), M. Copeland and J. Lesko. W — Schoessler. L — Copeland. 2B — L. Hoe, B. Schoessler, Tonn (WW).					

			R	H	E
HHS	000011	1	—	3	6
TD	001000	0	—	1	6
C. Root and S. Gritz. B. Bate and P. Klindt. W — Root. L — Bate.					

WESTON-MCEWEN 18, SHERMAN 9 — At Moro, Vince Roff and