

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2017

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1B

## HERMISTON

# Bulldogs get walk-off win in opener

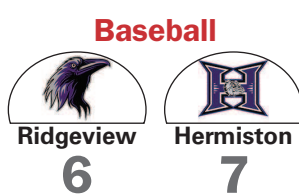
### Hermiston gets a 'good, team win' over Ridgeview

By ERIC SINGER  
East Oregonian

Representing the winning run in Tuesday's season-opener against Ridgeview, Hermiston senior Slade Gritz stepped off third base to take his lead, creeping up the baseline to get every inch that he could.

"I knew we needed to score there and as soon as I got an opportunity I was going to be hauling it as fast as I could," said Gritz.

Sophomore Jordan Ramirez was at the plate for Hermiston with two outs in the seventh inning, meaning Gritz represented Hermiston's last opportunity to win the game without going to extra innings. And as Ramirez evened the count at 2-2, Gritz kept waiting for a chance to sprint home.



And after Ridgeview pitcher Nolan Merritt fired that 2-2 pitch toward home plate, the opportunity finally came. The pitch squirted out of the glove of Ridgeview's catcher and rolled behind home plate, causing the catcher to have trouble locating the ball. And as soon as Gritz saw the ball squirt out of the glove, he was off, sprinting as hard and as fast as he could toward home plate where he finished off with a

head-first slide across the plate to give Hermiston the 7-6 win over Ridgeview on Tuesday afternoon at Armand Larive Middle School.

It is the first season-opening win for Hermiston since 2013, when the Bulldogs took down Oregon City by the same 7-6 score and have since lost two-straight openers to Ridgeview prior.

"It feels really good to get the dub," said Gritz, who went 0-3 with two runs scored at the plate. "The last few seasons we've kind of choked out of the gates and we

See BULLDOGS/2B

## PENDLETON

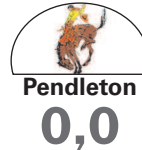
# Richards, Bucks shut out Falcons

Pendleton pitcher Lauren Richards winds up for a pitch early in Tuesday's game against Hanford at Steve Cary Field.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney



## Baseball



Pendleton 0, Southridge (WA) 12,9

excuses for his club after season-opening losses to Southridge (WA) on Tuesday.

The Buckaroos were unable to get much going on the road and struggled in losses of 12-0 and 9-0.

Pendleton's pitching staff had trouble locating the strike zone and finished in the low 50s for strike percentage.

Some untimely errors in the field made things worse, and Haguewood said the Suns were able to tack on runs in extended innings.

On offense the Bucks (0-2) were slow to start as well, and Wyatt Hull and Mason Perez combined for a no-hitter in the opener, which ended after the fifth inning.

Pendleton's plate approaches improved in the second game, but they still finished with just four hits on the day.

"A lot of these guys got their feet wet in varsity baseball today," Haguewood said. "We made progress throughout the games, but we expect our pitchers to throw strikes and our defense to make the plays behind them."

"Southridge is one of the best teams we'll play all season. Our plate approaches got better throughout the day, and you never like to start 0-2 but we've just got to keep battling. We'll be fine."

Daniel Naughton and Austin Zaugg were the starting pitchers for the Bucks and took the losses. Nick Bower batted 2-for-3 in Game 2, Hayden Villers was 1-for-1 and Jared Beveridge was 1-for-2 with a double.

Game 1  
PHS 000 00 - 0 0 2  
SHS 342 03 - 12 11 0  
D. Naughton, W. Morris (3), H. Villers (4), W. Hull, Mason Perez (3), W — Hull, L — Naughton.  
2B — J. Harvey, N. Weber (SHS), HR — M. Martin (SHS).

Game 2  
PHS 000000 0 - 0 4 4  
SHS 320031 X - 9 6 0  
A. Zaugg, T. Chichester (5), M. Martin, N. Grade (3), S. Midili (5), N. Vonornhausen (7), W — Martin, L — Zaugg.  
2B — J. Beveridge (PHS), 3B — A. Singceton (SHS).

See PREPS/2B

# Pendleton softball opens at home with win over Hanford

By MATT ENTRUP  
East Oregonian

For the third straight season the Buckaroos opened the season against the Hanford Falcons, and for the third straight season Pendleton opened with a win.

Junior Lauren Richards threw the first six innings of a combined one-hit shutout and sophomore Kirah McGlothan went 2-for-2 at the plate with an RBI triple as the Bucks manufactured five runs off four hits for the 5-0 win on Tuesday at Steve Cary Field.

Richards, making her first opening-day start, struck out five of the first nine batters she faced and didn't



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Kirah McGlothan, of Pendleton, slides into third base during Tuesday's game against Hanford at Steve Cary Field.

allow a runner past second base. She finished with six strikeouts, one hit, a pair of walks and one hit batter. "It felt like it was the first game,"

Richards said. "We do have a lot of hope for our season, I think we just needed to get that first game kind of out of there. ... I don't get nervous

often, but I set high expectations for myself so I did get a little nervous at the beginning."

Pendleton coach Tim Cary was pleased with the outcome.

"I thought Lauren did a great job hitting her spots, and she always does," he said. "She had command of her pitches, worked the ball in, worked the ball out. I thought she took charge of the whole game did exactly what she needed to do."

Junior Alexi Brehaut kept the shutout intact in the seventh with a strikeout and a walk.

Both pitchers were able to rely on a steady defense, which reserved its only error for the first play of the game. Richards came through for her defense to make up for it, and got two strikeouts and a grounder back to the circle to strand the runner.

Like the Falcons (0-1), the Bucks (1-0) put their lead-off runner on

See BUCKS/2B

## Sports shorts

### Cavs anticipating Love's return

CLEVELAND (AP) — Cleveland Cavaliers general manager David Griffin anticipates forward Kevin Love will return during the team's trip that begins Saturday.

Love had surgery on his left knee Feb. 14. The defending NBA champions are 7-6 since he was injured and have been plagued by defensive and rebounding issues without the four-time All-Star.

Love is having his best season since joining the Cavaliers in 2014, averaging 20 points and 11.1 rebounds. Cleveland was outbounded 52-38 in Sunday's loss to Houston.

Griffin said Love participated in 3-on-3 drills Tuesday and the team will monitor how he responds before deciding on the next step. The nine-year veteran posted a photo of his uniform hanging in his locker before the Cavaliers' game against the Detroit Pistons.



Love

"I want Trail Blazers fans and friends to know I'm doing well and in the process of getting better. My family and I appreciate the prayers and well-wishes for my recovery. I'm improving every day."

— Cliff Robinson

Former Portland Trail Blazers star forward announced that he remains hospitalized after suffering a minor brain hemorrhage last week. Robinson is being treated at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center in Portland.

### Capitals snap losing streak, beat Wild 4-2

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alex Ovechkin ended the longest goal-scoring drought of his career as the Washington Capitals held on to beat the Minnesota Wild 4-2 Tuesday night and snap a season-worst four-game losing streak.

Ovechkin hadn't scored in 10 games or had an even-strength goal in 18 before firing a one-timer by league save percentage leader Devan Dubnyk in the second period. Ovechkin's 28th goal of the season came 1 second after a power play expired.

Nate Schmidt, Evgeny Kuznetsov and Jay Beagle also scored for the NHL-leading Capitals, who recaptured sole possession of first in the Metropolitan Division.

Goaltender Braden Holtby put on a show, stopping 32 of 34 shots as the Capitals moved two points up on the Pittsburgh Penguins.



## THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1869 — The Cincinnati Red Stockings, the first pro baseball team, is organized by George Ellard and Harry Wright.

1997 — North Carolina's Dean Smith becomes the career victory leader when the Tar Heels beat Colorado 73-56. Smith, with 877 victories, passes Kentucky legend Adolph Rupp.

2014 — Cal Poly defeats Cal State Northridge 61-59 for Big West Tournament men's championship. Cal Poly (13-19) becomes the third team in the last three years to qualify for the NCAA Tournament with a losing record.

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