

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017

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1B

Women's College Basketball

Ducks can't deny Huskies

UConn routs Oregon, heads to 10th straight Final Four

By DOUG FEINBERG
Associated Press

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. — Everything UConn lost to graduation made another Final Four even more special for Geno Auriemma and his Huskies.

Napheesa Collier scored 28 points, Gabby Williams had 25 and the Huskies advanced to the national semifinals for the 10th straight year with a 90-52 victory against Oregon on Monday night.

"There were a lot of question marks going into the season and maybe they didn't have any in their own minds," Auriemma said. "They seemed to answer every single one of those questions. They deserve to be in the Final Four. They earned it."

See UCONN ADVANCES/3B



Monday Prep Roundup

Buckaroos win two

Berhaut powers Pendleton at tournament

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Alexi Berhaut hit two home runs, one of them a grand slam, and Pendleton softball opened the Spring Break Challenge with wins over Putnam and Forest Grove on Monday at Hood View Park in Happy Valley.

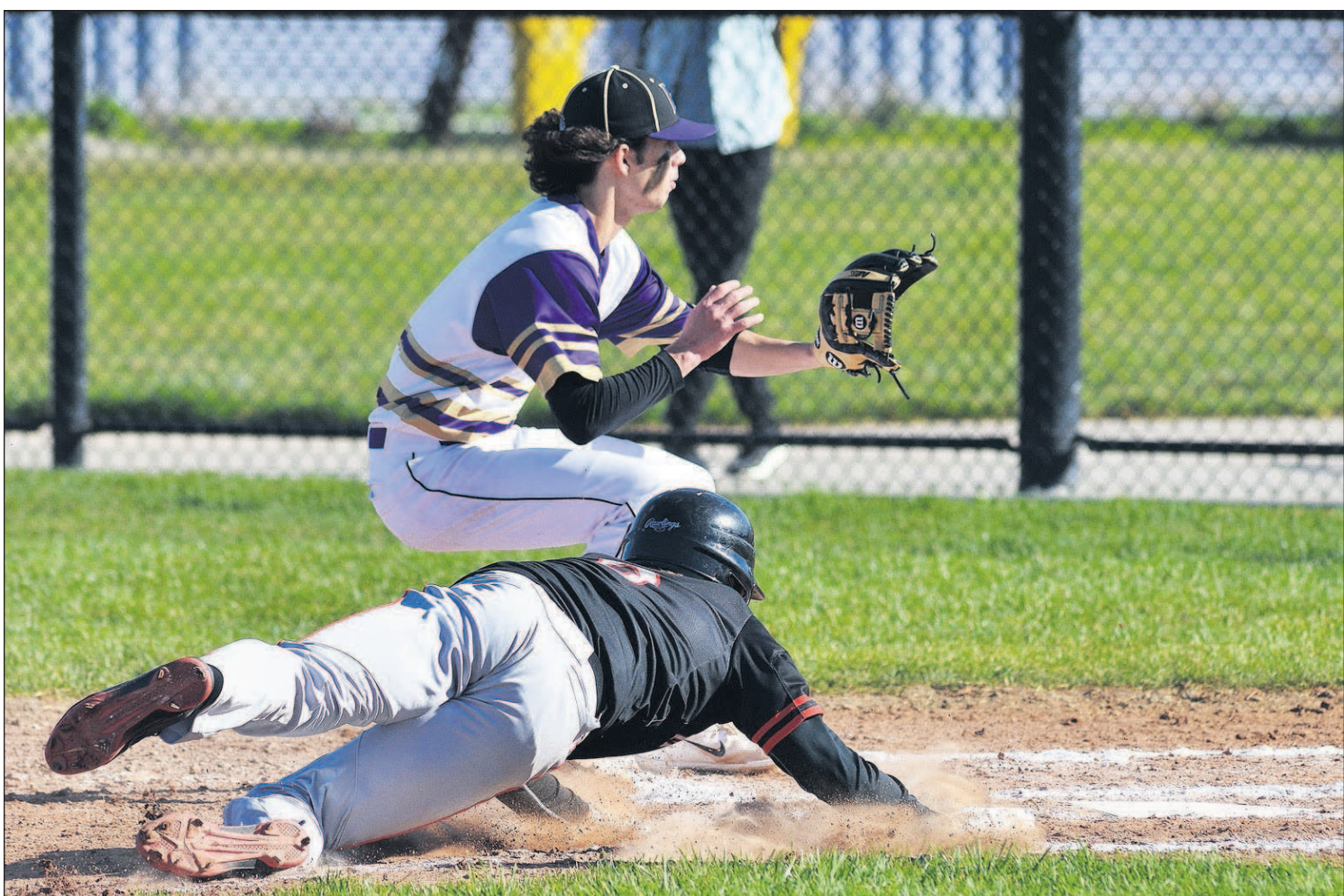
Berhaut clubbed a solo shot in the Buckaroos' 6-2 win over Putnam, which featured an 11-strikeout performance from Lauren Richards in the circle, then repeated the act with the bases loaded to help her own cause in a 7-2 win over Forest Grove.

Kila Solomon (2 for 3) also went yard against Forest Grove (3-4), hers a three-run

See PREPS/2B

HERMISTON

Bulldogs split with Cougars



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston pitcher Brylee Duffloth waits for the ball as Mountain View's Carson Corrigan (5) steals home in a non-league baseball game against the Cougars on Monday in Hermiston. Hermiston won 7-6.

Hermiston avoids doubleheader sweep with walk-off hit

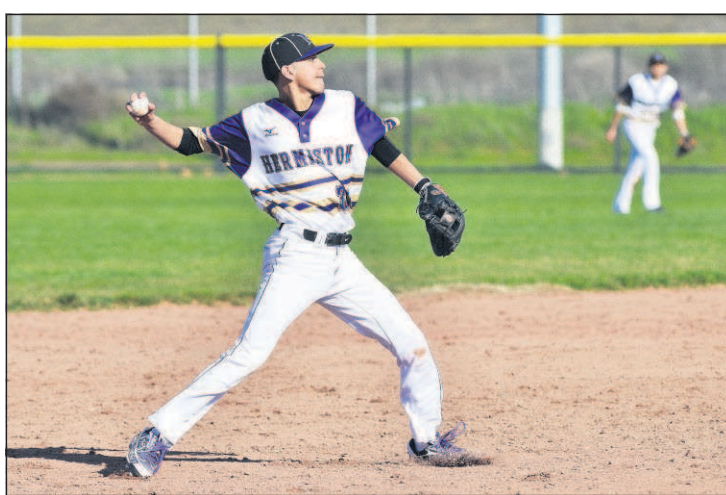
By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

The Hermiston baseball team gathered at Armand Larive ball park on Monday, hoping begin its spring break with a pair of wins as it hosted Mountain View for an afternoon doubleheader.

However, the Bulldogs played sloppy in the first game, resulting in a 13-2 defeat and then stared at a 5-0 deficit after three complete innings of the second game, resulting in the pre-game hope shifting to uneasiness. And before Hermiston came to bat in the fourth inning, senior Slade Gritz saw his teammates' body language and realized he needed to step up and say something.

"I called everyone together in the dugout and said 'We're not going to lose two to this team,'" Gritz recalled. "We have to figure it out and start putting the ball in play."

The meeting worked for the Bulldogs, as Hermiston began to chip away at the Mountain View lead and ended up winning the game 7-6 on a walk-off single by



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston's Jordan Ramirez throws the ball to first base in the Bulldogs' 7-6 win against Mountain View on Monday in Hermiston.

Gritz to split the doubleheader. Gritz came to the plate with the bases loaded and one out inning while tied at 6-6, and on the first pitch he ripped a hit up into the wind that carried it over the Mountain View outfielder's head for the win.

Mountain View (2-4) had intentionally walked Lukas Tolan to bring Gritz to the plate to make

it a force out at home plate, which made Gritz determined to end the game with a win for his team. "I remember as soon as they (Mountain View) said they're going to put (Lukas) on 1 I thought 'Well, they messed up,'" said Gritz, who finished 2 for 3 with three RBI in Game 2. "I just knew I needed to get my job done and he (the pitcher) threw



a fastball right down the middle, made a mistake and I capitalized on it."

Hermiston (2-2) was the ones making the mistakes in the first game, as the Bulldogs tallied six errors defensively while the pitchers put 12 Cougars on base via a walk and hit-by-pitches. And at the plate, Hermiston managed just four hits, two of which came within the first two at-bats of the game.

The Bulldogs were playing for the first time in 13 days, though Hermiston coach Lance Hawkins said that he hoped that having a break would allow the Bulldogs to be roaring and ready to go instead of showing rust.

"We work really hard in practice and when I don't see any of that hard work paying off,

See BULLDOGS/2B



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Adrian Renner, of Stanfield, slides into second base ahead of the ball as Weston-McEwen's Travis Hendley waits for the throw Saturday during their high school baseball game in Stanfield.

Saturday Prep Roundup

Tigers sweep TigerScots

Stanfield's Grogan, Bailey combine for perfect game

East Oregonian

STANFIELD — The Stanfield Tigers welcomed the Weston-McEwen TigerScots to Madigan Field for a doubleheader on Saturday and sent the TigerScots back to Athena with a pair of losses.

In Game 1, Stanfield's Dylan Grogan and Ryan Bailey combined to throw a five-inning, perfect game on the mound and the Tiger

(4-1) bats backed them up well for a 13-0 victory. Grogan started the game and tossed 58 pitches in four complete innings, striking out 11 TigerScots while Bailey threw a perfect fifth inning with one strikeout.

In Game 2, Weston-McEwen battled throughout the early stages of the game, but the combination of Stanfield's offense and own defensive miscues led to a 12-run fourth inning to lead Stanfield to an 18-4 victory.

The Tigers offense belted 25 hits between the two games and seven of the starters had at least two hits. Tony Flores had perhaps the most productive day going 5 for 8 with three

See SATURDAY PREPS/2B

Sports shorts

Jeanie Buss to control Lakers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A battle over control of the Los Angeles Lakers is over after an agreement was reached to have Jeanie Buss serve as controlling owner of the storied NBA franchise for the rest of her life, making permanent the arrangement her late father and longtime Lakers owner Jerry Buss said in his will that he wanted.



Buss

The agreement was filed in Los Angeles Superior Court on Monday and states that Jim and Johnny Buss have agreed that their sister will serve as the controlling owner. The filing ends weeks of uncertainty about control of the Lakers as the franchise tries to put several losing seasons behind it.

Earlier this month, Jeanie Buss went to court seeking an order to control the team after her brothers called for a board meeting that she interpreted as a challenge to her power.

"We're sick and tired of just being pawns. Putting up with 13 years of bad football, embarrassing football and we stayed loyal to this team. When they needed something to hang their hat on, it was us who was there. For the team now to turn the corner and look to skip town, it's just devastating."

— Rob Rivera

Black Hole fan club president on the NFL owners' decision to approve a move to Las Vegas by the Oakland Raiders. **MORE ON 3B**

Beavers baseball ranked No. 1

Oregon State is No. 1 in the nation this week, according to D1Baseball.com, Baseball America and the USA Today coaches poll. The Beavers swept visiting Arizona last week and improved to 20-1, while Louisville, which was No. 1 according to some last week, dropped a couple of games and slipped to 21-2. The coaches gave 30 of 31 first-place votes this week to OSU. The Beavers received 774 points to lead No. 2-ranked Texas Tech (22-4), which got 724 points. Louisville, which drew the other first-place vote, was third with 718 points. Arizona (16-7) went from sixth to 11th. Stanfield (13-6), which will play host to Oregon State this weekend for three games, is 14th. OSU went from second to first in the Baseball America rankings, with Louisville dropping a notch to No. 2. TCU is third, Arizona 13th and Stanford 15th.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1939 — The barnstorming Renaissance Five beat the NBL champion Oshkosh All-Stars 34-25 to win the first annual World Professional Basketball Tournament in Chicago. Accounts of the game make no mention that the Rens are all black and the All-Stars all white.

1982 — Louisiana Tech downs Cheaney State 76-62 in the NCAA's first women's basketball championship.

1992 — Christian Laettner hits a 15-foot turnaround jumper at the buzzer to give defending champion Duke a 104-103 overtime victory over Kentucky in the Elite 8.

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