

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2017

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HERMISTON

Bulldogs pass trial run against Rams

Hermiston softball sweeps season series with Central Catholic

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

Hermiston will play each team in the four-team Columbia River Conference three times this season, and to get three wins in those situations is always a tough task.

So Bulldogs softball coach Kate Greenough said Saturday's doubleheader against Central Catholic was a good test for what the team will be facing in the CRC, as Hermiston had already played and beaten Central Catholic once prior at a spring break tournament on Mar. 28. After Saturday's two games were over,

Greenough's team passed its first test as the Bulldogs swept the Rams 6-4 and 5-3 on a windy day at Rocky Heights field.

The Bulldogs took two different paths to get both wins, leading the entire way in Game 1 and holding off a rally by the Rams, followed by a late come-from-behind win in Game 2.

"This was a great indication of how our league is laid out because it is really tough to beat the same team three times," Greenough said afterwards. "But the girls didn't stop fighting and didn't give up. We definitely had moments of inconsistency, but the ability to fight back and stay

Softball	
Central Cath.	Hermiston
4-3	6-5

in the game on these long days showed a lot of growth."

In Game 1, Hermiston (6-5) got to Central Catholic right away in the bottom of the first inning as the Bulldogs had four hits to help push across four runs for an early lead. After giving up two in the top of the second, Hermiston answered with two more in the third after a two-RBI triple by Kalei Smith for a 6-2 lead. But those were the last runs Hermiston scored in the game as its offense went ice cold after.

See BULLDOGS/2B



Hermiston's Ashley Cameron (9) coasts into home plate to score a run during the Bulldogs' softball doubleheader with Central Catholic on Saturday in Hermiston.

Staff photo by Eric Singer

Rugby: Salem 29, East Oregon 24



Jake Szumski, of the East Oregon Sasquatch rugby team, carries the ball as Salem's Isaac Vipperman gets ready to tackle during Saturday's game at Grecian Heights Park in Pendleton. Salem won 29-24 to drop the Sasquatch to 1-2 on the season. East Oregon will be hosting Three Rivers on Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

NBA

Vonleh's layup gives Blazers win

Portland rests stars against Spurs after securing playoff spot

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Noah Vonleh made a layup at the buzzer and the Portland Trail Blazers beat the San Antonio Spurs 99-98 on Monday night despite resting starters Damian Lillard and CJ McCollum.

Shabazz Napier scored a career-high 32 points for Portland, which won its third straight a day after Denver's loss to Oklahoma City gave the Blazers the eighth and final playoff spot in the West.

Kawhi Leonard led the Spurs with 18 points.

Portland took an 88-87 lead on Napier's 3-pointer before Bryn Forbes answered with a 3 for the Spurs. San Antonio extended the lead on Jonathon Simmons' dunk and Kyle Anderson's basket.

After Pat Connaughton's long jumper for Portland, Jake Layman dunked to narrow the



San Antonio
98



Portland
99

See BLAZERS/2B

Prep Roundup

Pendleton's Greb shoots six under for win at Indian Creek

Hermiston girls golf wins team title at Hood River tournament

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Pendleton senior Haley Greb shot six-under par to win Monday's tournament at Indian Creek Golf Course in Hood River.

Greb came in with a 66 to lead the Buckaroos girls' team, which was one short of a full lineup and so unable to win the team title.

That went to Hermiston with 429 score, and Hood River was second with 466.

The Dalles won the boys' team title with 325, Pendleton was second with 345 and Goldendale was third with 390.

Senior Nathan Som shot an 82 to finish in a three-way tie for second place, Brayden Pulver shot 84, Jared Geier had 89 and Trevor Reyes had 90 to complete the team score.

Other scores for Pendleton Monday were Seth Wood with 112, and Rylee Harris and Mckenzie McLeod each with 111.

UP NEXT

The Pendleton Invitational begins at noon on Thursday at Pendleton Country Club.

BEND INVITATIONAL — Hermiston's top four all shot below 90 and the Bulldogs took third as a team on Monday at Bend Country Club.

Summit won the title with a score of 318, Bend was second with 327 and Hermiston shot 341.

Jared Thacker's 84 over 18 holes was good enough for 10th, and Anders Lind and Tyler Cameron each shot 85. Kayden Meacham had 87 and fifth golfer Blue Blackhurst had a 99.

Bend's Rhett Pederson won the individual title with 72.

UP NEXT Hermiston will be at the Pendleton Invitational on Thursday.

BASEBALL

HERMISTON 14, KENNEWICK 11 — At Kennewick, Washington, Kody Moss hit a two-RBI single to put Hermiston on top during its eight-run rally in the fifth inning, and the Bulldogs never gave the lead back in Monday's non-league baseball game.

Kennewick challenged them in the bottom of the seventh and had bases

loaded after a two-out walk.

A single brought one run in and the winning run to the plate, but Bulldogs reliever Jordan Ramirez got a fly ball that center fielder Joel Mendez hauled in for the final out.

Hermiston (4-5) went into the seventh inning up 11-10, and added three insurance runs an RBI double by Wyatt Noland then a two-RBI single by Kaden Caldwell.

Mendez went 3-for-5 with three RBI from his lead-off spot in the lineup and scored two runs. Noland (2 for 4) scored twice with two RBI, and Moss and Gritz also had two RBI.

UP NEXT Hermiston opens Columbia River Conference play on Friday with a doubleheader at Hood River that starts at 4 p.m.

FROM SATURDAY SOFTBALL

MAC-HI 21-21, ONTARIO 11-8 — At Ontario, the offensive of the Mac-Hi softball team was on display again on Saturday afternoon

See PREPS/2B

MLB

Paxton gem lifts Seattle at home



Seattle Mariners starting pitcher James Paxton throws against the Houston Astros in the first inning of a baseball game, Monday in Seattle.

AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

Mariners rebound from ugly loss to win home opener

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

SEATTLE — James Paxton gave Seattle manager Scott Servais and the Mariners exactly the reset they needed after a horrid first week on the road.

"It's opening day, the first day of the season," Servais joked. "With what happened this last week, especially yesterday, we needed to bounce back. I felt strongly we would."

Paxton provided the fresh start, pitching seven innings of four-hit ball and leading the Mariners past the Houston Astros 6-0 on Monday in Seattle's home opener.

Paxton shut down Houston for the second time

Houston	Seattle
0	6

in a week, helping the Mariners rebound from Sunday's ugly ninth-inning collapse against the Angels when they gave up seven runs and lost 10-9. Paxton (1-0) kept Houston's offense silent long enough for Seattle's bats to wake up and finally convert with runners in scoring position. He struck out eight and walked two while pitching in Seattle's home opener for the second time in his career.

"I feel really confident in what I'm doing and focusing on the process of what I need to do out there ... and so far

getting the good results we need," Paxton said.

In 13 innings against the Astros this season, Paxton has not allowed a run and scattered six hits. Carlos Correa had Houston's first three hits on Monday — two of which didn't leave the infield — and Carlos Beltran added a single in the seventh inning to put two runners on with no outs. Paxton got Evan Gattis to foul out, struck out Marwin Gonzalez and got defensive help from Leonys Martin running down Josh Reddick's drive to cap the outing.

"I think he's gonna give the whole league a hard time if he has that kind of power and that kind of ability to land his breaking ball — See MARINERS/2B