

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2017

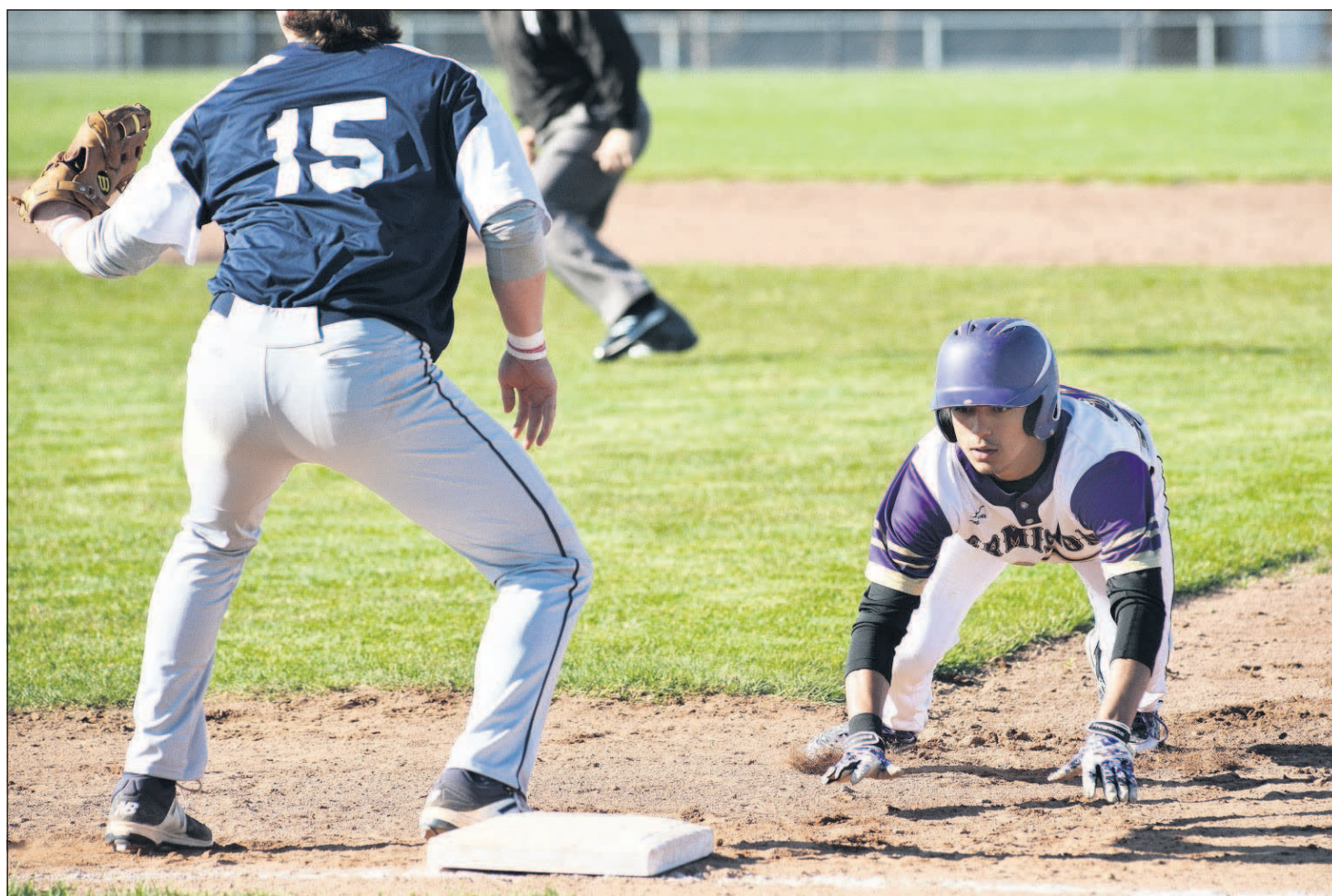
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1B

## HERMISTON

# Bulldogs get first league win

Hermiston's Jordan Ramirez dives back to first base as Hood River's Conner Coerper waits for the ball in the Bulldogs' 4-2 win against the Eagles on Tuesday in Hermiston.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

## Prep Roundup

# Bucks flatten 'Hawks

Pendleton softball gets eighth shutout to beat The Dalles

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Alexi Brehaut and Kalan McGlothan hit home runs, and Lauren Richards allowed just two hits from the circle as Pendleton steamrolled The Dalles 12-0 in five innings on Tuesday in a Columbia River Conference softball game.

Richards struck out 12 and walked none to give Pendleton (15-2, 3-0 CRC) its eighth shutout of the season and second straight 12-0 win over The Dalles (1-14, 0-3).

"She throws like that and she'll be very very tough to beat," said Pendleton coach Tim Cary. "She had great command of all her pitches and did a great job."

Pendleton fell short of Cary's goal of 10 hits a game by three, but also used some smart plate approaches to earn seven walks, and were hit by pitches twice to keep the base paths busy.

McGlothan's home run broke things wide open in the second inning as it came with bases loaded and gave the Bucks a 7-0 lead.

Brehaut hit a three-run shot in the fifth, and also hit a double to finish 2 for 3.

UP NEXT  
Pendleton hosts Hood River for a doubleheader on Saturday starting at noon.

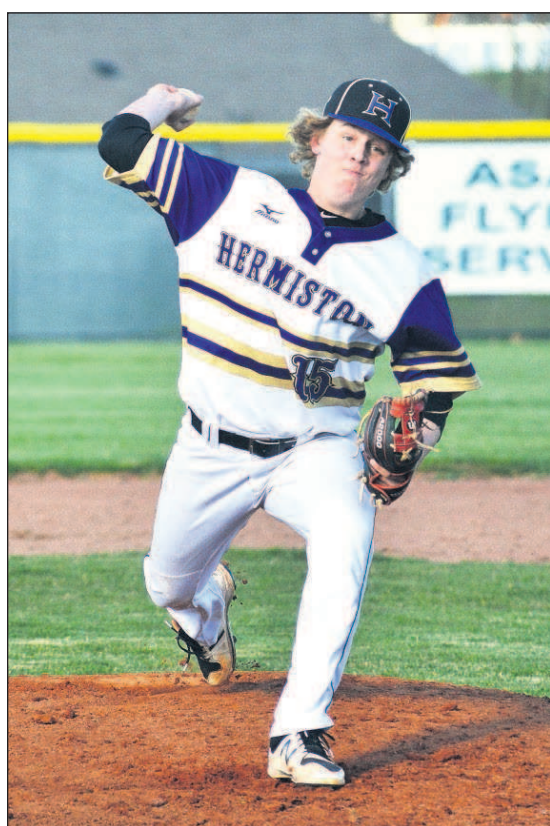
(5 innings)	P	R	H	E
Pendleton	360	03	12	7 0
The Dalles	000	00	0	2 1

L. Richards and K. Solomon. B. LeBreton, S. Watson (3) and E. Weir. W — Richards. L — LeBreton.  
2B — Ki. McGlothan, A. Brehaut (PHS). HR — Ka. McGlothan, A. Brehaut (PHS).

See PREPS/2B

## Hermiston gets efficient pitching to put away Hood River

By ERIC SINGER  
East Oregonian



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston's Caden Schwirse throws from the mound in the Bulldogs' 4-2 win against Hood River Valley on Tuesday in Hermiston.

With an inexperienced pitching staff, the Hermiston baseball team has had its fair share of growing pains this season.

The majority of Hermiston's pitchers had never thrown a varsity inning prior to this season, which meant a lot of learning what it takes to be successful at that level. The biggest thing that has plagued the Bulldogs so far is inefficiency on the mound, often times falling below 50 percent strikes thrown which results in a high number of walks, hit-by-pitches and extra bases to runners.

But on Tuesday afternoon at Armand Larive ballpark, two of the younger pitchers gave coach Lance Hawkins something to smile about. Junior righty Caden Schwirse gave the Bulldogs five solid innings from the start and sophomore Jordan Ramirez threw two scoreless innings to save a 4-2 Bulldogs victory over the Hood River Valley Eagles.

Schwirse, making his fourth appearance on the mound this season, allowed six hits with two runs and one earned to go along with three strikeouts. He was very efficient as well, only walking two and throwing 74 pitches in his five innings and he threw just over 54 percent strikes.

"I don't want to just give away free runs," Schwirse said of his efficiency. "I wanted to make them put the ball in play and see what my defense could do."

Schwirse's only runs allowed came in the fourth inning when seven Eagles came to the plate. Three Eagles reached via hit and one walked, with the runs scoring on an RBI single by Lucas Viuhkola and on a Hermiston (7-9, 1-2 CRC) fielding error. He worked out of a few jams as well, stranding two runners in the first and working around a leadoff double in the third inning.

"Great pitching. I mean great pitching today," Hawkins added. "It helps when you're around the plate with your pitches. We weren't falling behind and when you're up early you can go with a second or a third pitch, and I think the guys did a good job of competing on the mound and that's what we need."

On the offensive side of things for the Bulldogs, the bats were kept relatively quiet by Eagle pitching. Hermiston registered five hits spread in the first and third innings, and had four innings where the team was retired in order.

But in the first inning, back-to-back singles by Ramirez and Wyatt Noland plus a walk by Lukas Tolan loaded the bases. Slade Gritz

See BULLDOGS/2B

CRC	Hood River	Hermiston
	2	4

## Flores taking his talents to college, signs with Blue Mountain

### Hermiston guard stays close to home for college hoops

By MATT ENTRUP  
East Oregonian

When Hermiston senior Chance Flores stepped off the court following a 65-50 loss to Parkrose in the 5A boys basketball play-in round, he knew nothing more than he wasn't ready for it to end.

Injuries during his junior and senior seasons had assured Flores and his

17-points-per-game average had flown under the radar of collegiate coaches and recruiters. That could have been that. But Flores, a 6-foot-1 guard who also averaged 5.7 rebounds, 3.5 steals and 3.2 assists his senior season, had been dreaming of playing college basketball since the sixth grade and wasn't ready to leave it there.

"Someone one time told me, 'Don't quit something until you're forced to,'" he said of some words of advice from Hermiston's Dennis Stefani, a former assistant with the boys' program and the Bulldogs' girls JV head coach. "He told me that a long time ago and it just stuck with me."

With the assistance of Hermiston

head coach Casey Arstein, he compiled his best highlights and started sending them out. One of the first programs Flores contacted was Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton, and when head coach Gavin Burt returned his interest Flores said he didn't expand his search much further.

On Monday Flores officially brought his short search for a college landing spot to a close when he signed a National Letter of Intent to join the BMCC Timberwolves in the fall.

Surrounded by family, friends and teammates during a ceremony at Hermiston High, Flores said there were two people he especially needed to thank for

See FLORES/2B



Contributed photo courtesy of Hermiston Athletics

Chance Flores, second from right, signs his National Letter of Intent with Blue Mountain CC men's basketball on Monday at a ceremony at Hermiston High. Also shown are Flores' parents, his older brother C.J. (standing), and his HHS coach Casey Arstein (far right).

## Sports shorts

### Another Duck leaves for NBA

EUGENE (AP) — Oregon junior forward Jordan Bell has become the latest Ducks player to declare for the NBA Draft.

Bell made his announcement on Tuesday on the website riselongbeach.com. The Long Beach, California, native says he plans to hire an agent, which would end his eligibility.

Bell joins Dillon Brooks and Tyler Dorsey, who both have also declared for the draft since the end of the season.

"Oregon has become my home. I've gained lifelong friends and made unforgettable memories here," Bell wrote. "After talking it over with my family and friends, I have decided now is the best time for me to pursue my dream of playing in the NBA."

Bell averaged a career-high 10.9 points and 8.8 rebounds a game this season. Oregon finished 33-6, setting a program record for wins.



Bell

"There is a passion I have and we have as Latinos because we love to have fun, we love to show our joy on the field ... the pitcher can strike you out four times in a game so we like to show our joy when we hit that one home run. Baseball is fun. It's exciting. It's a game."

— Yasiel Puig

The Los Angeles Dodger wrote an article on MLB.com about his motivations for things such as adding a bat-flip after home runs, something that has angered MLB pitchers.

### Pirates outfielder suspended 80 games for PED use

NEW YORK (AP) — Pittsburgh Pirates All-Star outfielder Starling Marte has been suspended 80 games by MLB after testing positive for a performance-enhancing drug.

The league said Tuesday that Marte tested positive for the steroid Nandrolone. He will be eligible to return in mid-July.

Marte was an All-Star for the first time in his career in 2016 and moved from left field to center field in the offseason after winning his second Gold Glove. The 28-year-old from the Dominican Republic is hitting .241 with two home runs and seven RBIs this season.

Under the league's drug agreement, Marte is ineligible for the 2017 postseason if the Pirates were able to advance.



Marte

## THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1897 — John J. McDermott wins the first Boston Marathon in 2 hours, 55 minutes, 10 seconds.

1991 — Evander Holyfield successfully defends his heavyweight title with a unanimous 12-round decision over 42-year-old challenger George Foreman in Atlantic City, N.J.

1998 — Chicago's Michael Jordan scores 44 points to lead the Bulls over the Knicks, 111-109, in the final game of the regular season, securing his record 10th NBA scoring title with a 28.7 average.

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