

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2018

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1B

Prep roundup

Hermiston drops second game in tournament

Heppner baseball goes 1-1 against Vernonia, Echo softball bounces back to split day

East Oregonian

KEIZER — In Day 2 of the Volcano Stadium Tourney at Salem-Keizer Volcanoes Stadium, the Hermiston Bulldogs suffered another loss.

Instead of the 15-3 defeat Thursday, though, this loss would come by a lone run scored in the bottom of the seventh inning by Aloha.

It was a pitchers dual with Hermiston being the only one team to get one base with a hit. The efforts were from a lone batter, Wyatt Noland.

Noland went 2-for-3 on the day, and gave the Bulldogs (2-4) two good opportunities to get on board.

In the fourth, Noland doubled on a fly ball to center field but was left stranded. Again in the seventh as the leadoff hitter, Noland reached first on a ground ball to left field but Hermiston couldn't capitalize.

This left the Warriors one final chance in the bottom of the inning, and they took it.

After batters at the bottom and the top of Aloha's lineup reached base on errors, Travis Helm was intentionally walked. The next batter also got to first on a walk, which advanced all runners giving the Warriors the walk-off run.

Noland was given the loss after coming in for relief of Brylee Duffloth.

Hermiston will continue play Saturday with a doubleheader that will begin with a rematch against Aloha at 11:30 a.m. and a game versus McNary to follow.

	R	H	E
HERMISTON	0	0	2
ALOHA	1	1	0

HEPPNER 13-7, VERNONIA 11-22 — In Heppner, the Mustangs split a doubleheader with Vernonia on Friday.

Heppner took the first game by a narrow 13-11, and the Vernonia came back to take the second by a whopping 22-7. The win/loss moves the Mustangs to 4-6 overall as they enter their final three non-league matchups.

SOFTBALL

KENNEDY 14, ECHO 10 — In Echo's early road matchup at the Union Spring Bash, the Cougars battled back against the Kennedy Trojans but fell short and dropped the game 14-10.

Kennedy struck first in the opening inning to take an early 1-0 lead. But in the top of the third, Echo got on the board with two runs — first off a home run from Kendra Hart and the second from a RBI single off the bat of Amber Weems.

The brief 2-1 lead wouldn't be the first time the Cougars (2-2) held an advantage over the Trojans (3-2).

After Kennedy knocked in five runs in the bottom of the third, Echo

See **ROUNDUP/4B**

Pioneers fall short of sweep

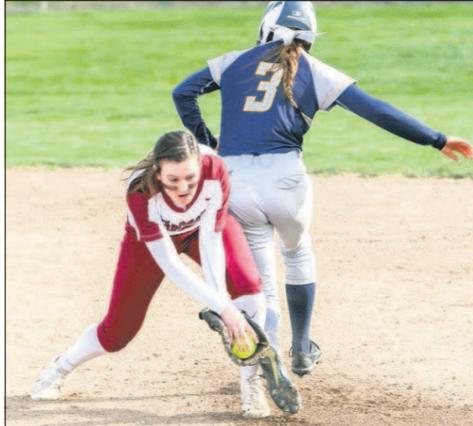


Staff photos by Kathy Aney

McKenna Yenson, of Mac-Hi, waits as to see whether Stayton pitcher Kelsie Walker will snag a line drive during Friday's non-league game against Stayton. The ball bounced off the mitt and Yenson made it home.



LEFT: Ashlyn Marly, of Mac-Hi, swings for the ball during Friday's non-league game against Stayton. RIGHT: Brittany Potts, of Mac-Hi, attempts to tag Stayton's Emily Campbell during Friday's non-league game. Potts made it safely to second base.



Mac-Hi defeats Stayton, falls to Rainier

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

MILTON-FREEWATER — The Mac-Hi softball team kicked off its annual spring break tournament on Friday at Yantis Park and the Pioneers ended the day with mixed results. The Pioneers began the day by gritting out a 6-5 victory over Stayton before ending the day with a marathon against Rainier where the visiting Columbians handed the Pioneers a 16-12 loss under the lights.

Against Stayton, the Pioneers (5-2) wasted no time at all in getting runs on the board against the Eagles (1-4) as they took a 3-0 lead after the first inning. Rachael Lyon led off the game with a single and then Ashlyn Marly and Graci Bullock worked walks to load the bases with zero outs. That brought Faith Kelly to the plate, and Kelly unloaded a double into the right-center field gap to score Lyon and Marly. Jessica Burks then had an RBI groundout to score Bullock.

Stayton picked up a run in the third inning, and then the Pioneers added on in the top of the fourth. Sevin Birdwell and McKenna Yensen earned their way on base for the Pioneers and then came across to score on a pair of Stayton errors to make it a 5-1 lead. However, the Eagles got to Pioneer pitcher McKenna Stallings in the bottom half of the fourth as Stallings walked three batters and recorded an error to help the Eagles score four runs to tie the game at 5-5.

The Pioneers then came right back in the fifth inning with a leadoff walk by Courtney Cain and two batters later, Brittany Potts ripped a single up the middle to bring home the go-ahead run for a 6-5 Mac-Hi lead. After the inning, Stallings was lifted for the lefty-thrower Sydney Earls after Stallings allowed five runs on five hits with four strikeouts and three walks in four innings in the circle.

And the change to Earls in the circle proved to be the right move for Mac-Hi coach Nicole Christian, as Earls struck out five batters and allowed only two baserunners in the final three frames to earn the win.

Potts was the only Pioneer hitter to record multiple hits against the Eagles as she went 2-for-4 with an RBI, while five other Pioneers picked up one hit each and six players scored a run.

See **PIONEERS/4B**

Nurkic, new father Lillard lead Blazers over Clippers



AP Photo/Steve Dykes

Los Angeles Clippers guard Tyrone Wallace, right, drives to the basket on Portland Trail Blazers guard CJ McCollum, left, during the first half of Friday's game in Portland.

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Jusuf Nurkic had 21 points and 12 rebounds, new father Damian Lillard added 17 points and 11 assists, and the Portland Trail Blazers held off the Los Angeles Clippers 105-96 on Friday night.

Rookie Zach Collins came off the bench with a career-high 15 points for the Blazers, who were hurt in the third quarter when Ed Davis rolled his right ankle and left the game.

The loss snapped a three-game winning streak for the Clippers, who were just outside the playoff picture in the West with six games left. Lou Williams led Los Angeles with 23 points.

After trailing by as many as 23 points in the third quarter, the Clippers got within 92-80 early in the fourth, prompting Lillard to return to the game. Los Angeles narrowed the gap again to 102-94 with just under a minute left but Pat Connaughton answered for the Blazers with a 3-pointer on the other end.

Portland remains in third place in the West, coming off a 2-1 road trip that ended with a 108-103 loss at Memphis on Wednesday night. But the Blazers played that game without Lillard, who was awaiting the birth of his first child. Damian Lillard Jr. was born Thursday morning.

"I don't think there's any way to describe it. It's a different level,

See **BLAZERS/4B**

Sports shorts

Eubanks declares for NBA draft, hires agent

Oregon State junior forward **Drew Eubanks** has announced he will declare for the NBA draft and hire an agent, ending his college career.

Eubanks, a 6-foot-10 big man from Troutdale, made the announcement through Oregon State on Friday.

Eubanks averaged 13.2 points and 6.8 rebounds this past season while starting all 32 games. He finishes his OSU career as one of the school's all-time leading shot-blockers. He's third on the career blocks list with 163 and fourth in field goal percentage at .598.



HEAVEN SENT

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Who needs "One Shining Moment" when you've got **Sister Jean**? The 98-year-old nun who has become the face of this most-inspiring NCAA Tournament held court on Good Friday in one of the best-attended news conferences ever at the Final Four.

Hundreds of reporters and cameramen jammed in, elbow-to-elbow, in an interview room that would normally draw two dozen journalists for a player.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1968 — The American League's new franchise in Seattle chooses Pilots as its nickname.

1975 — UCLA beats Kentucky 92-85 for its 10th NCAA basketball title under head coach John Wooden. Wooden finishes with a 620-147 career record after announcing his retirement two days earlier.

1995 — Major league baseball players end their strike when Federal judge Sonia Sotomayor of U.S. District Court in Manhattan rules against the owners in the labor dispute.

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