

SOFTBALL: Defensive miscue opens up game for Bucks

Continued from 1B

For the start of the second game, momentum was actually on Hermiston’s side. The Bulldogs (11-7 overall, 4-4 CRC) got out to an early 1-0 lead after Sydney Stefani’s grounder caused the Bucks (18-1, 8-0) to make one of their only two errors on the day, which in turn gave Amanda Barron enough time to score. It was Hermiston’s only run of the day, and gave the Bulldogs a chance to snap a Pendleton win streak that dates back to the 2013-14 season.

“The first four innings they came out working hard,” Hermiston head coach Kate Greenough said.

It wasn’t until the end of the fourth that the Bulldogs started to tire, and by then Pendleton had already knotted the score at one run apiece.

Lauren Richards hit an RBI double in the bottom of the frame to tie the game at 1-1 and on the Bucks next offensive appearance, the two home runs put them up for good.

Pendleton scored six more times in the bottom of the fifth to enforce the 10-run rule and end the game early — Elli Nirschl, Sami Spriet, Aspen Garton, Solomon and Richards all contributed.

The Bucks have rarely trailed all year, and often take an early lead in the first inning with at least one run on the board. But all 11 runs in Game 2 and more than half of the runs in Game 1 came in and after the third frame.

“We always feel that if you don’t get it the first time, don’t worry,” Cary said. “We’re a good hitting team, we’re going to start piling these hits together here pretty quick and sure enough we did.

“That’s just kind of our theme this year, let’s just keep swinging it and good things will happen here sooner or later.”

It was that patience that helped Pendleton breakout in the first game. After a 1-2-3 frame from both Hermiston’s pitcher, Janelle Almaguer, and Pendleton’s Richards — who was in the circle both games pitching a combined 10 innings — it seemed as if it was going to



Hermiston catcher Bailee Noland puts out Josie Wilson, of Pendleton, during Friday’s game against Hermiston at Steve Cary Field.

be a pitcher’s duel instead of the usual hitting frenzy.

But a defensive miscue from the Bulldogs in the second inning opened up the game for the Bucks, and Pendleton never looked back.

“It did get everything started right there,” Cary said. “That was a huge play.”

With 1 out and the bases loaded, Nirschl

stepped up to the plate. It was the junior center fielder’s first at bat and she was quickly behind the count. Cary didn’t signal the known bunter and on an 0-2 pitch, Nirschl in fact bunted.

Cary added that her speed and athleticism often makes defenses work a little harder which can result in a passed ball, which is

what happened against the Bulldogs. The error cleared the bases and gave the Bucks a lead they would never relinquish.

Richards and Garton added to the run total that inning, and before the game could reach the bottom of the fifth it was already over. Carissa Cooley hit a two-RBI single in the third and five more Bucks would bring in runs in the bottom of the fourth. The six-run frame was highlighted by RBI doubles from Richards and Solomon.

Richards offensive performance was matched with a solid outing in the circle. She pitched a shutout in Game 1 surrendering only three hits while striking out seven and walking three. In Game 2, Richards allowed one run of two hits, striking out three and walking none.

Janelle Almaguer started and finished Game 1 for Hermiston and was handed the loss after giving up eight runs on 10 hits, striking out one and walking four. Balice Noland threw a complete game the second time around and was only able to strike out one batter while walking one, giving up 11 runs and 14 hits in the process.

UP NEXT

Hermiston will play a rescheduled double-header on the road Saturday, and return to town to host Pendleton for a doubleheader Tuesday at Rocky Heights Elementary.

Game 1				R	H	E
HHS	00000X	X	—	0	3	3
PHS	0626XX	X	—	14	12	0
(H) Ja. Almaguer, P. Dufloth (4), Ja. Almaguer (4), (P) L. Richards. W — Richards, L — Almaguer. 2B: S. Stefani (H); L. Richards 2, R. Garton, K. Solomon (P).						

Game 2				R	H	E
HHS	00100X	X	—	1	2	2
PHS	00146X	X	—	11	14	3
(H) B. Noland, (P) L. Richards. W — Richards, L — Noland. HR: Ka. McGlothlin, K. Solomon (P). 2B: A. Cameron (H); L. Richards 2, R. Garton (P).						

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BASEBALL: Tolan notches second complete game of season

Continued from 1B

effort from Lukas Tolan and Pendleton won the second game 13-3 in five innings behind a solid complete game from Chris Large.

Tolan’s complete game was his second of the season for the Bulldogs (7-13 overall, 3-5 Columbia River Conference), with his first in a non-league matchup against Heritage (WA) on April 6. Though he admitted afterward that Friday’s was a bit more meaningful coming against the rival Buckaroos (12-8, 6-2).

The senior right-hander allowed only three hits in the game with the two runs, while striking out five and walking three. He gave up one run in the first and a run in the third on a RBI double from Pendleton’s Nick Bower to get the Bulldogs in a 2-0 hole. However from that point on, Tolan allowed only two baserunners over the final four innings and allowed the Bulldog bats to rally.

“I just kept doing my job and doing what I needed to do,” Tolan said. “And I had faith in our team that we were going to battle back like we’ve done all year.”

Hermiston tied the game in the fifth when Daniel Gossler scored on a single from Joel Mendez and a Pendleton error, and later Mendez

scored on a sacrifice fly from Wyatt Noland. Then in the seventh, Jordan Ramirez hit a two-out double off of Pendleton’s Daniel Naughton, stole third and then scored on another Pendleton error to give the Bulldogs the 3-2 lead.

“I wanted a fastball down the pipe so I could drive it, but then he (Naughton) gave me a little curveball so I just sat there, trusted my hands, and then hit it,” Ramirez said of his hit. “And then when I noticed Naughton was focused on the hitter, I took off (for third) and saw the ball roll away and coach Moore said ‘Go’ so I just sprinted home.”

Naughton took the loss after allowing the winning run in his only inning of work. Ryan Russell threw a solid five innings for the Bucks, allowing two runs and five hits.

However in the second game, Pendleton’s pitching with Large was better and his offense backed him up with 10 hits and 13 runs.

Large, a junior right-hander, allowed only four hits, one walk and three runs in five innings while striking out six. Large had a shutout going until he started to run out of gas a bit in the fifth, where he allowed two singles and a three-run home run by Noland.

“Chris was coasting there for



Hermiston’s Lukas Tolan winds up for a pitch during the first of two games against Pendleton on Friday at Bob White Field.

a while,” Pendleton coach T.J. Haguewood said. “He was strike one to almost every guy, he was mixing pitches up well.”

Pendleton’s offense picked up its pitcher in the first inning, when Avery Deutz ripped a double to left field that scored two runs for a 2-0 lead. Then in the second, Justin Duso hit a sacrifice fly RBI and both Naughton and Russell

hit run-scoring singles to boost the Buckaroos’ lead to 6-0.

In the third it was Bower’s turn, as he hit a two-RBI single to pad the lead to 8-0.

Finally in the fourth, a bases-loaded walk by Brett Swanson scored a run and then Gabe Umbarger ended the scoring by crushing a fastball over the right field fence for a grand slam home run.

“It felt great,” a smiling Umbarger said of his homer. “I was just trying to stay behind the ball, get backspin up the middle, and he (Hermiston pitcher Garron Anderson) threw one in and I just dropped the bat head to it and put a hurting on it so that was good. It looked good ... I thought I hit it a little bit off the end of the bat, but I saw it going and after I rounded first and saw it was out I was pumped.”

Umbarger finished the game 3-for-4 at the plate with three runs scored to go with his home run. It was a much-needed performance for Pendleton’s sweet-swinging leadoff hitter who had been in a 2-for-19 slump prior to Game 2.

“He’s a gamer,” Haguewood said of Umbarger. “He’s our catlyst at the top of the order and he has been struggling a bit for him, but

he’s still been getting on base at times. ... We’ve seen him pop some out in batting practice and it was good to see a bases-loaded grand slam for his first bomb, that’s pretty exciting.”

Now both teams will have a few days to fine tune some things before reconvening back at Moore’s new home ballpark in Hermiston on Tuesday afternoon as the Bulldogs continue to battle for a playoff spot and the Buckaroos battle for a league title.

“To come here to the Bob and get a win is huge for our morale,” Moore said. “We control our destiny from here on out and hopefully we can string a couple wins together.”

Game 1				R	H	E
HHS	000020	1	—	3	6	1
PHS	101000	0	—	2	3	2
(H) L. Tolan and W. Noland, (P) R. Russell, R. Stahl (6), D. Naughton (7) and J. Duso. W — Tolan, L — Naughton. 2B — J. Ramirez (HHS); N. Bower (PHS).						

Game 2			R	H	E
HHS	000 03	—	3	4	1
PHS	242 5X	—	13	10	1

(H) C. Schwirze, B. Dufloth (3), G. Anderson (4) and W. Noland. (P) C. Large and J. Duso. W — Large, L — Schwirze.

2B — A. Deutz, T. Zander (PHS). HR — W. Noland (HHS); G. Umbarger (PHS).

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