

RODEO: Has grown into 18-stop tour

Continued from 1B

Briggs's win was especially impressive, considering it was his first public ride since the 16-year-old aspiring bull rider from Days Creek was hospitalized with burns over 70 percent of his body following an accident last year.

"This guy's a stud," Parsons said, calling his comeback "absolutely amazing" after doctors weren't even sure he would live.

Mattox said he started the tour in 2009 after retiring and it has grown into an 18-stop tour around the Pacific Northwest. The invitation-only event gives

cowboys a challenge in the off-season and gives up-and-coming junior bull riders a chance to shine.

"It's a very family-oriented show," Mattox said. "It's targeted to families. We want them to all come out together."

Bull riding events wouldn't be possible without the bullfighters who rush in to keep the bull distracted and the cowboy safe after a ride, and during the evening's performance Parsons and rodeo clown Clint "Wolfey" Selvester made several references to cowboys trying to impress several retired bullfighters in the crowd and behind the

scenes, including Hermiston legend Donny Griggs.

"One of the greatest bullfighters in the world, now pulling gates right here in Hermiston, Oregon," Parsons said.

The evening also featured a special Cinco de Mayo appearance of Charreada, the Mexican-style bull riding where the goal is for cowboys to stay on until the bull stops bucking and then dismount and land on their feet.

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Staff photo by Jade McDowell

Justin Houston completes one of the only successful rides of the night at the Hermiston stop of the Challenge of Champions tour at EOTEC on Saturday.

ROUNDUP: Rockets baseball notch eighth and ninth straight wins with sweep

Continued from 1B

The second and final round picks back up on Tuesday at the Pendleton Country Club.

BASEBALL

The Pilot Rock baseball team notched its eighth and ninth straight wins with a doubleheader sweep of the Weston-McEwen Tiger-Scots on Saturday, winning 11-6 and 8-2.

The Rockets (14-2 overall, 9-1 Special District 6) had several offensive standouts on the day, with Levi Thieme leading the way with six hits in seven at-bats including a double and six runs scored. Bryson Pierce notched three hits total, all of the extra-base variety, with a home run and two doubles and five RBI. Chris Weinke added a triple in the opener and Cade Munkers doubled and had three RBI in the second game.

Pierce earned the win on the mound in the opener with no hits and three runs (all unearned) over four innings with 11 strikeouts. Weinke

got the win in the second game with seven strikeouts in four innings while allowing two hits and two runs.

For the TigerScots (4-16, 2-8) Parker Munck had two hits with a double and two runs to start the day, and Travis Hendley had two hits to end the day. Brett Speed and Dylan Cain both doubled.

ONTARIO 11-10, MAC-HI 1-0 — At Ontario, Tiger pitchers Adan Hawker and Seth Forsyth combined to shut down the Mac-Hi offense in a doubleheader on Saturday, with Ontario winning 11-1 and 10-0.

Hawker earned the win in the opener and pitched five innings while allowing three hits and one run with six strikeouts. Forsyth dominated the Pioneers' (6-14 overall, 0-10 Greater Oregon League) hitters in the second game, striking out 12 batters in five innings while allowing just one hit. Forsyth also had four hits with two triples and four runs scored.

For the Pioneers, their only run of the day came in the top of the first inning of the opener. Rudy Esparza

reached base on an error and Jesus Vela followed up with a double to left to score Esparza for a 1-0 lead at the time. The Pioneers trailed only 3-1 after three innings, but then defensive miscues got the best of them as six errors in the inning allowed eight Tigers (13-9, 6-4) to score to seal the win for the home team.

In Game 2, Mac-Hi's only hit came in the second inning on a single by Anthony Hardesty. The only other Pioneer to reach base in the game was Jesse Berry on a dropped third strike in the fourth.

HEPPNER 11-15, DUFUR 5-5 — At Heppner, the Mustangs wrapped up their season on Saturday with a doubleheader sweep of the Dufur Rangers, winning 11-5 and 15-5.

The Mustangs finish the season with a 8-12 overall record and a 3-6 mark in Special District 6 play.

SOFTBALL

MAC-HI 2-6, ONTARIO 1-4 — At Milton-Freewater,

the Mac-Hi Pioneers picked up a pair of league victories on Saturday with a doubleheader sweep of Ontario 2-1 and 6-4 at Yantis Park.

Game 1 was a pitchers' duel between Mac-Hi's McKenna Stallings and Ontario's Lexie Navarette, with Stallings earning the upper hand. Stallings allowed her only run in the top of the first inning and finished with seven strikeouts and two hits allowed in seven innings. The Pioneers got to Navarette in the fifth on an RBI double from Kiley Reichert to score McKenna Yensen to tie the game at 1-1, and then took the 2-1 lead in the fifth when Rachael Lyon doubled and then scored on an Ontario error.

In the second game, the score was tied at 2-2 in the bottom of second when Lyon's RBI triple and a RBI double from Graci Bullock put the Pioneers in front for good. A solo homer from Ashlyn Marly in the fifth and an RBI groundout by Brittany Wells in the sixth provided some insurance runs.

Sydney Earls earned the win after allowing only six hits and two earned runs in seven innings.

PILOT ROCK 11-24, HEPPNER 1-14 — At Pilot Rock, the Rockets finished off the season sweep of the Heppner Mustangs as the home team won 11-1 and 24-14 in Saturday's doubleheader.

The Rockets (17-2 overall, 9-1 Special District 6) will wrap up the regular season next Saturday when it hosts rival Union for a doubleheader. The Mustangs (7-11, 2-8) host Irrigon for a non-league game on Tuesday afternoon before finishing the season at Culver next Saturday.

TENNIS

4A/3A/2A/1A DISTRICT 4 SUB-DISTRICTS — The Weston-McEwen girls and Mac-Hi boys earned sub-district championships on Saturday at the Tri-Cities Court Club on Saturday.

The TigerScots won with 44 points, followed by Sher-

man and Mac-Hi with 18, Stanfield (12), Helix (9) and Ione (4). The Mac-Hi boys won with 45 points, followed up by Umatilla (23), Riverside (18), Weston-McEwen (10) and Helix (9).

In girls singles, Weston-McEwen's Johanna Albert finished first with Janelle Martinez in second and Helix's Lynne Roberts in third. The TigerScots also got the top spot in doubles with Mary Bagdon/Christina Swafford, teammates Samantha Ford/Hannah McIntyre were third and Stanfield's Amanda Carillo/Brianna Cornejo fourth.

In boys singles, Mac-Hi's Deazen Zerba was first over Umatilla's Gio Armenta in second, Helix's Cody Dunn in third and Umatilla's Junior Coria in fourth. For doubles, Riverside's Jose Sanchez/Christian Reyes finished first followed by Mac-Hi's trio of teams Julian Villegas/Francisco Robledo, Dylan Quist/Alexis Perez and Kristofer Carillo/Alexis Pio.

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