

# Vegas top Jets to take series lead

By W.G. RAMIREZ  
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Jonathan Marchessault scored two goals — including an empty-netter in the closing seconds — to lead the Vegas Golden Knights to a 4-2 victory over the Winnipeg Jets in Game 3 of the Western Conference final Wednesday night.

Vegas took a 2-1 series lead and is now two wins from advancing to the Stanley Cup final. The Golden Knights improved to 5-1 at home in the playoffs, and host Game 4 on Friday night.

James Neal and Alex Tuch also scored for Vegas, while Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 33 shots.

Mark Scheifele scored

both of Winnipeg's goals and has a playoff-leading 14 goals in 15 postseason games. Connor Hellebuyck had 26 saves for the Jets, who arrived in Las Vegas having outscored their opposition 23-15 in road games during the playoffs.

Marchessault scored his seventh goal of the playoffs just 35 seconds into the game as he took a pass from Brayden McNabb and went forehand-backhand to slip the puck past Hellebuyck, giving the Golden Knights a 1-0 lead.

Scheifele tied it with a double-deflection off his stick and calf that went past Fleury. But 12 seconds later, Neal answered when Hellebuyck misplayed the puck behind his net and Erik

Haula dished a perfect pass, giving the Knights a 2-1 lead.

Tuch notched his fifth goal of the playoffs to push the lead to 3-1 after Neal fed him with a nifty pass from behind the net.

Scheifele netted his second goal of the game just 18 seconds into the third period to cut Vegas' lead to one, but Winnipeg couldn't overcome the Golden Knights' speed and execution, despite outplaying them over the final 20 minutes.

Fleury, who bounced back after a loss in Game 1 to stop 30 of 31 shots in Game 2, made several huge saves late in the game to persevere Vegas' lead. After stonewalling Tyler Myers' breakaway attempt with

11:50 left in the game, he stymied Scheifele's back-to-back shot with 9:30 remaining. Less than two minutes later, he smothered the puck with a slew of players piled near the crease.

Winnipeg pulled Hellebuyck with 1:03 left, but Marchessault's empty-netter with 3 seconds left sealed the win.

The Jets had scored a power play goal in 11 of the 13 playoff games in which they had a man advantage, but was 0 for 2 with a man advantage.

Winnipeg hadn't lost back-to-back games during the playoffs. The last time it dropped consecutive games was a three-game losing streak (0-2-1) from Mar. 10-13.

# AWARDS: Bucks Cary is coach of the year

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aroos' lone second team player.

Hermiston had five all-conference picks, with Stefani and sophomore utility Bailee Noland (.368 avg., 3 HR) being the two first teamers. On second team is sophomore infielder Ashley Cameron (.355 avg., 9 runs), sophomore outfielder Daisy Maddox (.375 avg., 3 HR) and sophomore utility Janelle Almaguer (.966 fielding percentage, 34 1/3 innings pitched).

Pendleton coach Tim Cary was the Coach of the Year with Pendleton locking up the conference championship.

### All-CRC Softball

Co-Player of the Year — Haylee Baker, Hood River Valley, jr.; Sydney Stefani, Hermiston, jr.  
Co-Pitcher of the Year — Lauren Richards, Pendleton, sr.; Hannah McNeerney, Hood River Valley, sr.  
Coach of the Year — Tim Cary, Pendleton

**First Team**  
Pitcher — Lauren Richards, Pendleton, sr.; Hannah McNeerney, HRV, sr.  
Catcher — Kila Solomon, Pendleton, jr.; Zoe Munn, HRV, sr.

Infield — Alexi Brehaut, Pendleton, sr.; Sydney Stefani, Hermiston, jr.; Kalan McGlothan, Pendleton, sr.; Aspen Garton, Pendleton, jr.; Lizzie Vweeky, HRV, jr.

Outfield — Kirah McGlothan, Pendleton, jr.; Haylee Baker, HRV, jr.; Lauren Decker, HRV, jr.; Kathryn Bradford, The Dalles, sr.

Utility — Bailee Noland, Hermiston, soph.; Sami Spriet, Pendleton, soph.  
Designated Player — Emilie Ellifritz, HRV, jr.

**Second Team**  
Pitcher — Bailey LeBreton, The Dalles, jr.

Catcher — Maddie Trout, The Dalles, jr.  
Infield — Ashley Cameron, Hermiston, so.; Kaylin Winans, HRV, sr.; Rylee Genter, Pendleton, sr.; Jodi Thomasian, The Dalles, sr.; Lauren Belanger, The Dalles, so.

Outfield — Daisy Maddox, Hermiston, so.; Emma Weir, The Dalles, sr.  
Utility — Janelle Almaguer, Hermiston, so.; Makenzie Chambers, HRV, so.; Kylee Hoyman, The Dalles, so.

# SOFTBALL: Richards finishes with nine strikeouts

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the circle, who gave up two more runs in the fourth on an error and a RBI single by Kalan McGlothan as the Buckaroos took a 5-0 lead.

Pendleton put the game away in the seventh with a solo home run by Kalan McGlothan and a RBI single by Kila Solomon.

"For the most part, we're pretty happy," Christian said. "We didn't get blown out of the water, and we were right there with them for four or five innings. But they're No. 1 in the state for a reason, and it's good for us to realize 'Hey, we're right there with them.' We just have to make a few adjustments and we're good to go."

Richards was throwing a no-hitter for the Buckaroos until Mac-Hi's Courtney Cain jumped on a 0-1 thigh-high pitch and crushed it off the scoreboard in center field for a solo home run. It broke up the no-hitter and shutout for the Richards and the Buckaroos, who only allowed two more baserunners after that over the final two-plus innings.

The Pendleton right hander finished with nine strikeouts with only three hits and two walks allowed, though she did pitch into a three-ball count in nine of her 24 batters faced and threw 105 pitches in her seven innings. She was able to escape most of those situations, retiring seven of the nine batters, but Cary noted



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

**Pendleton's Kirah McGlothan catches a foul ball down the first base line in the Bucks' 7-1 win against Mac-Hi on Wednesday in Milton-Freewater.**

that pitch count and pitch sequence has been a season-long conversation with Richards, and it will continue to be throughout the postseason as the Bucks need her at her best if they hope to win another state title.

"It's something we address quite a bit," he said. "Obviously we want to get

up 0-1 on every single batter and then if you go 1-1 that third pitch is so important not to go 2-1 ... as soon as you fall behind 2-1 you think 'Shoot, I've got to throw a strike on this pitch' and you tend to nibble or give them a hittable pitch down the middle.

"It is a concern (with Richards), but she's such a

battler and a competitor that she gets it done."

Both teams now have a week of preparation before their respective first round playoff games at home on May 23, where Mac-Hi draws in as the No. 5 seed in the 4A bracket and Pendleton will be the No. 1 seed in 5A. Christian said the Pioneers will continue to work on fundamentals in practice, but she mainly wants her team to just play their best and have fun.

"It's all about them (the players)," she said. "They just need to execute and get that confidence back."

Meanwhile, Cary's message for his team until then is simple: to not take any team for granted.

"Just because we're the No. 1 team and we're going to play a 16-seed doesn't mean anything," Cary said. "As far as we're concerned everyone is a No. 1 seed because everyone is going to come out and play their best game against us and we have to play our best game against them."

"So we'll just clean up some little things and get ready to play our best games of the year right now."

	P	H	S	R	H	E
PHS	003200	2	-	7	12	0
M-H	000010	0	-	1	3	4

(P) L. Richards and K. Solomon. (M) M. Stallings, S. Earls (3), G. Bullock (6) and A. Marly. W — Richards, L — Stallings.  
2B — L. Richards, A. Garton (PHS). HR — K. McGlothan (PHS); C. Cain (M-H).

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# BENNETT: Credits classmates and teammates with her success.

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Helix's co-op, said she was a bit disappointed that her TigerScot teammates couldn't attend, but she was ecstatic her classmates were there to support her.

"If it wasn't for my classmates and teammates from other sports, I wouldn't be where I'm at today," she said.

For the past four seasons Bennett was a two-sport standout at Helix playing volleyball and basketball, but she developed her love for softball as a key part of the TigerScots' team. She worked into the starting lineup at shortstop and proved to be a good bat in the middle of the lineup. Bennett hit .439 with four home runs and 24 RBI as a sophomore and .297 with seven homers and 25 RBI as a junior, earning second team all-district honors.

She only saw limited action as a senior, but went 6-for-14 (.428 average) with two doubles, three RBI and five runs in four games. Though her senior year did not go the way

she had hoped as a young TigerScots team stumbled to a 6-14 overall record, Bennett says she has no regrets.

"My team was still upbeat and happy and we still had a lot of fun," she said. "We just had a never-give-up attitude and just went out and had fun with who we had, knowing it was a young team. I definitely enjoyed my senior year, though wish we could've had a little more success, but I was grateful to play with them."

Bennett will be the fourth Umatilla County transplant on the College of Idaho softball roster next spring, joining Mac-Hi graduates Collette Robert, Mallory Copeland and Micha Fortune. Bennett said she played with Copeland and Fortune on a travel softball team in junior high, and is excited to play with them again.

Contact Eric at [esinger@eastoregonian.com](mailto:esinger@eastoregonian.com) or 541-966-0839. Follow him on Twitter @ByEricSinger.

"My team was still upbeat and happy and we still had a lot of fun," — Chamayne Bennet, Helix student

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