

HODGEN: Sweek comes up clutch in relief

Continued from 1B

win over Mead, or grinding out two walk-off wins over Redmond.

"We have a good group of guys that just won't quit," Field said. "We have good work ethic, so we're not going to roll over easily in a game. We're going to keep pushing and we're not going to let one run, two runs or 12 runs beat us."

Redmond scored its other run in the top of the first inning, where the Panthers recorded three hits against Zander, who started on the mound for Hodgen, and pushed across a run on a fielder's choice. But the home team answered the run in the bottom half of the inning. Curtis Simons and Ty Beers both reached base with singles, and then Quinn Doherty uncorked a towering double over the left fielder's head, scoring Simons. Beers then scored on a groundout from Chris Large to put Hodgen in front 2-1.

The score would remain the same until the seventh inning, as McKague and Zander were locked into a pitcher's duel. McKague set down 15 straight Hodgen batters at one point, not allowing a baserunner until the sixth inning on Doherty's second double of the game. Zander allowed five hits from the second to sixth innings, but did not allow a run in that span as he pitched to contact and had a lot of help from his defense behind him.

Zander finished 6 1/3 innings in the game, allowing nine hits with two strikeouts but only one earned run.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

First baseman Quinn Doherty, of Hodgen Distributing, fields a ground ball during Saturday's Ashlee Hodgen Memorial Tournament at Bob White Field.

"It felt great," Zander said of his outing. "My coaches have been talking to me about pitching in the tournament, asking how I'm feeling. I knew they were going to get me in this morning after the game, they told me I was starting on the mound. I was just so happy and ready to go."

Zander was lifted in the seventh after allowing a hit and two errors brought the tying run across and put the go-ahead run for Redmond on third with only one out. Tanner Sweek came on in relief and picked up Zander, getting a strikeout and a groundout to end the threat.

"That was nice," Zander said. "Good part on Tanner, he's worked hard throughout the year and to come

in like that was unbelievable. He picked me up when I couldn't get it done and it worked out."

Zander then picked up a lead-off single to left to start the seventh and was moved over to second on a perfectly executed sacrifice bunt from Rudy Esparza. That brought Field to the plate and set up the game-winning hit.

HOW THEY GOT THERE

On Saturday, Hodgen finished up group play with a 8-7 walk-off win over Redmond and a 19-1 win over Mead (WA). Against Redmond, Hodgen trailed 6-2 after five innings, but a three-run double by Rudy Esparza and a RBI double from Field tied the game at 6-6. Then after Redmond

took a one-run lead in the seventh, Justin Duso tied the game with an RBI single to left, and then Esparza singled to center to score the game-winning run.

"I'm extremely proud of them, not quitting even though we were down five runs at one point in the game," Hodgen head coach Wes Armstrong said. "For them to battle back, chip away and win each inning, that's awesome."

Then against Mead, Hodgen pumped out 12 hits and worked seven walks to score its 19 runs. Esparza led the team with a perfect 3-for-3 game with three runs and two RBI, Field was 2-for-4 with a double and four RBI, Ryan Stahl was 2-for-3 with four runs and three RBI and Chris Large was 2-for-3 with five RBI. Matt Demianew pitched a five-inning complete game and allowed only one run with three strikeouts.

And Sunday morning, Hodgen punched its ticket to the tournament championship game with a 6-2 win over The Dalles. Large powered the team with a complete game on the mound, striking out nine and allowing only four hits and one earned run. Simons was 3-for-3 at the plate with two doubles and four RBI, Beers was 2-for-3 with two doubles and Esparza was 2-for-2.

CHAMPIONSHIP					
	R	H	E		
RED	100	000	1	-	2 9 0
HGD	200	000	1	-	3 6 3

(R) A. McKague and A. Carter. (H) T. Zander, T. Sweek (7) and R. Esparza. W — Sweek, L — McKague.
2B — C. Browning (RED); Q. Doherty 2 (HGD).

East Oregonian reporter Alexis Mansanarez contributed to this story.



AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

Seattle Mariners' Nelson Cruz, right, hugs teammate Kyle Seager after Cruz hit a two-run home run to score Jean Segura during the first inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels.

MARINERS: Overcame Trout's 2 homer game

Continued from 1B

cia said he wanted the right-handed-hitting Blash in the lineup to face Seattle lefties LeBlanc and Marco Gonzales. Blash was hitting .324 with 18 homers for Salt Lake this season.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Angels: 1B Jeffry Marte was lifted for pinch-hitter Jose Miguel Fernandez in the fourth after bruising his left wrist in a collision with Dee Gordon at first base. ... Scioscia said SS Andrelton Simmons (ankle) is throwing and hitting off a tee, but not running yet. ... P/OF Shohei Ohtani began daily therapy on his right elbow UCL sprain Sunday and will be re-evaluated in about three weeks, Scioscia said.

Mariners: RHP Nick Vincent (groin) threw a bullpen and will head out on a rehabilitation assign-

ment later this week, according to manager Scott Servais. ... C Chris Herrmann (oblique) took on-field batting practice and is scheduled to begin a rehab assignment this week. ... RHP Juan Nicasio (knee) received a cortisone shot in his knee and played catch.

UP NEXT

Angels: Jaime Barria (5-1) will be recalled from Triple-A to face Seattle on Tuesday. The 21-year-old right-hander has a 2.48 ERA in seven big league starts this season and will make his first career start against the Mariners.

Mariners: RHP Mike Leake (6-3) will make his 14th start of the season and second against the Angels. He's 3-0 with a 2.79 ERA, 24 strikeouts and two walks in his last six outings.

BULLDOGS: 'We just have to work hard and hopefully get better over summer'

Continued from 1B

put in difficult positions this summer while still learning the game. For everyone that returns in the spring, they will be facing a new league with even tougher teams.

It's a challenge they don't take lightly, but also one Ramirez is confident that with enough experience under their belt, they will be able to take on bravely.

"We're young," Ramirez said. "We just have to work hard and hopefully get better through the summer. We haven't done well, but at the end of the summer we'll get there. At the start of the season we'll be ready for the Washington league."

The tournament, holding games at both Bob White Field and BMCC's home field, gives Hermiston a taste of what the Tri-City schools will bring to the diamond next year, and also pits them against tough Oregon programs that proved hard to defeat Sunday.

Hermiston opened Saturday with an early wake-up call, a 9 a.m. matchup against The Dalles. After jumping to an early 5-0 lead after two innings, Hermiston held on for a 7-3 win. Ramirez threw 109 pitches in six innings of work, earning the win after surrendering three runs on 10 hits while striking out six batters and walking one.

"We just came focused and we were ready to play," Ramirez said of the first outing.

For Moore, it was the offense that shined, and that carried the team to another early lead in Game 2.

"We hit the ball and that's what it came down to," he said. "We hit the ball again (in Game 2) but it was just right at people. Baseball is a funny game, you can hit the ball soft and balls can fall in, you can hit the balls at people and get outs but you know, we won Game 1, which was huge and we're getting there, but our boys are starting to get tired."

After three innings, Hermiston was up 3-2 over Pasco. Trevor Wagner started on the mound, pitching for the first time in over a year, Moore recalls.

But the visitors from Tri-Cities didn't stay down for long. After a three-run sixth inning, Pasco put up 10 runs in the seventh to jump to a commanding 15-3 lead. Hermiston answered with a pair of runs in the bottom of the frame to help cut the deficit, but it wasn't enough to catch up to their hit-happy opponents.

"It's a good character builder," Moore said. "You always hear kids not wanting to practice and just wanting to play. Well, now we are playing and they are starting to figure out what happens if you have to play every day."

Hermiston looked to bounce back on the final day of competition, and went toe-to-toe with Redmond in its first of two games.

After grabbing an early 1-0 lead heading into the sec-

ond inning from an Ethin Randolph RBI single, Hermiston would tally only two more ones in the third and fifth inning before breaking out with a late two-run rally in the bottom of the seventh.

While the Bulldogs were waiting for their bats to catch fire, Redmond was not only cutting its deficit but stretching its lead with a run in each of the second-seventh innings.

The 6-5 loss came despite Hermiston's best efforts, and the Bulldogs would have to turn around for its eighth game in a week to close out the tournament.

The Dalles got revenge with a 15-3 win that enforced the 10-run rule and cut the game short after five innings of play.

The Dalles quickly got out to a 6-0 lead after the first inning and starting pitcher Josh Johnson kept Hermiston's offense at bay for the most part. Johnson allowed just three runs off four hits before Dallas Serfaler came

in for relief in the fourth inning. Serfaler surrendered just one hit but it was Johnson who was awarded the win.

The Bulldogs used three different pitchers to try and stop a streaking Dalles offense, which scored at least two runs each of the five innings, but it was Kelson Robertson who was given the loss after three innings of work. Robertson gave up 10 runs on nine hits while striking out one batter and walking one.

SATURDAY'S LEADERS

Hermiston racked up eight extra base hits in its two games. Noland recorded a double in Game 1 and turned around to hit one of two triples in Game 2 to finish 2-for-4 on the day. Ramirez finished the day 3-for-6 at the plate with a double in the second outing.

In Game 1, Tick and Checho Rosales both had good at-bats. Tick Rosales went 2-for-3 with 3 RBI and

scored twice himself while Checho Rosales hit 2-for-4 with an RBI and also scoring once.

SUNDAY'S LEADERS

The bats were flying early for the Bulldogs, who scored five runs of nine hits in the first of two games. Lead-off hitter Trevor Wagner had one of the team's best performances in its first appearance. Wagner finished Game 1 3-for-4 while scoring three times. Landon Jones, who didn't play Saturday, came back with 2 RBI for Hermiston and also hitting 3-for-4 and scoring once himself. Randolph recorded the other 2 RBI against Redmond, and finished 2-for-4 at the plate.

In the Game 2, only four Bulldogs recorded hits with Randolph going a perfect 2-for-2. Jone, Tick Rosales and Seth Prewitt each recorded one hit.

Contact Alexis at amanansanarez@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4542. Follow her on Twitter @almansanarez.

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