

Blue Mountain softball scores first wins of the season

BMCC baseball splits DH with Treasure Valley

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

On Wednesday afternoon, the Blue Mountain softball team took home their first two wins of the season. The Timberwolves defeated their Yakima Valley hosts 7-4, and 10-6 in Northwest Athletic Conference action.

Blue Mountain was ahead 4-3 after two innings in game one, but returned with three more runs in the fourth inning to give themselves some distance.

“We got off the bus and played strong, but let up after those first two innings,” said coach Steve Richards. “It was a good thing to see after a long bus ride. We went flat for a few innings, but came back to finish strong.”

In game one, Kayleigh Hibbard was 1 for 5, but scored two runs. Jesslyn Kriebs was 2 for 4 with three RBIs, and Faith McQueen hit 3 for 4 with three runs driven in. Ashley Hill also scored two runs of her own.

Hibbard also struck out seven Yaks across all seven innings in game one, and walked five.

“She puts the ball in some good spots,” Richards said of Hibbard. “Our shortstop and second baseman have good games when she’s pitching. She makes it easy to get those ground outs.”

Game two didn’t get off to such a quick start for the Timberwolves. Trailing 3-0 for over half the game, it wouldn’t be until the top of the fifth when they would mount a comeback.

“I feel like we let our foot off the pedal for a little bit,” Richards said. “It took them four innings to get going, but they finally did.”

Pendleton native Tatum Fell got the rally started with a double in the fifth inning. She would score two runs and an RBI to put the Timberwolves on the scoreboard.

From there, the Timberwolves would score three more runs before the inning was up, six more in the top of the sixth, and one more in the seventh for good measure.

Hibbard ended game two batting 3 for 5 with two runs and four RBIs. Fell would score two runs and drive another home.

Blue Mountain (2-12, 2-4 NWAC) returns to their home field on Friday for a doubleheader against Spokane. First pitch is at 2 p.m.

NWAC Baseball

On Thursday, the Blue Mountain Timberwolves hosted the Treasure Valley Partridges to split their season’s NWAC debut. They dropped their first game 6-4, but came back to claim the second 6-1.

Despite Blue Mountain’s 4-2 lead at the bottom of the fourth, the Partridges made a return with a four-run fifth inning, bolstered by Bryant Gerdes’ two-RBI single.

Gage Young led Blue Mountain’s offense in game one, batting 2 for 4 with a run and another driven in. Micah O’Donnell was 1 for 3 with two RBIs. Jorge Andrade struck out five Partridges, and walked just one.

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TRAINED TO TRAIN

Hermiston’s Dan Emry has spent 18 years caring for student-athletes



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Hermiston High School athletic trainer Dan Emry wraps junior Jonnathan Mosqueda’s foot before track practice Tuesday in Hermiston.

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

At Hermiston High School, athletic trainer Dan Emry is appreciated every day of the school year — not just during Athletic Trainer Appreciation Month in March.

“He is unbelievably valuable to our athletic department,” Hermiston athletic director Larry Usher said. “He is more valued than the athletic director. He does such an incredible job with his dedication and his experience in evaluating our athletes. And, he has a good relationship with our coaches.”

Emry, who is in his 18th year at Hermiston, is a full-time employee of the school district, which is not the norm for some trainers, but that allows him to be available for early morning practices and late nights with football games.

“Among Oregon high schools, only 46 to 48 percent have athletic trainers who are full-time,” Emry said. “The ones who do have them full-time are extremely blessed. A lot of people don’t realize what we do on a daily basis. The coaches, parents and athletes appreciate what we do.”

Hermiston boys basketball coach Casey Arstein had a season full of injuries, the worst in his three seasons, but Emry was able to help his players stay on the court or heal more quickly.

“Dan is one of the best around,” Arstein said. “He’s like an assistant coach. You can trust Dan — he wants the best for his athletes. He gets kids healthy without pushing it. He could be at a Division I school or in the pros. He is a plus for our program.”

During the season, basketball players Jordan Ramirez, Cole Smith and Andrew James were regulars in the training room.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Trainer Dan Emry looks at sophomore pitcher Sam Schwirse’s arm in the trainer’s room at Hermiston High School.

“Jordan knows Dan really well,” Arstein said. “He’s had ankle problems the last three years. Dan knows what it’s like to play with an injury. He was able to give Jordan confidence.”

James, who hurt his shoulder during football, still sought treatment during basketball season so that he could play. He had surgery after the season was over.

“He does an awesome job, and he respects your body and what the coaches and your parents say,” James said. “He has gotten me through a lot. We are extremely fortunate to have him.”

Other than treatment, James said it’s the little things like taping wrists and ankles before practices, and being a confidant, that makes Emry special.

“As a person and a mentor, the communication between him and the kids is important,” James said. “He’s

almost like a guidance counselor too.”

Other plans

Emry, 52, grew up in Luverne, Minn., where he played football and basketball at Luverne High School.

“I wanted to be a coach,” Emry said. “Our high school coach used to tape us because we didn’t have a trainer. I took a class the summer of my sophomore year of college, and that’s when I learned what an athletic trainer did. I get to help people and stay involved in athletics. I don’t have to sit in an office all day.”

Emry played two years of basketball at Normandale Community College in Bloomington, Minn., before transferring to the University of South Dakota, where he completed his undergraduate work.

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No. 1 seed Virginia outlasts No. 12 Oregon 53-49 in NCAA Tournament

By GARY B. GRAVES
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Ty Jerome scored 13 points, including a go-ahead 3-pointer with 3:34 remaining, and No. 1 seed Virginia reached its second regional final in four years with a 53-49 victory over No. 12 Oregon on Thursday night in the NCAA Tournament.

The Cavaliers (32-3) shot 36 percent and matched a season low in scoring, but got baskets when needed to outlast the Ducks (25-13).

NCAA TOURNAMENT



Virginia
53



Oregon
49

Jerome’s 3 was the biggest as he took Kehei Clark’s pass and converted from deep to make it 48-45.

Virginia clamped down from there holding Oregon scoreless for more than

five minutes after the Ducks went ahead, 45-42, on Louis King’s 3 with 5:43 left.

Clark tied it with a 3 with 5:21 left and De’Andre Hunter got free for a layup for 24 seconds left for a five-point edge that was enough to stop Oregon’s 10-game winning streak.

Clark finished with 12 points, six assists and four rebounds. Mamadi Diakite grabbed 11 rebounds as Virginia edged Oregon 34-31 on the glass.

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AP Photo/Timothy D. Easley
Virginia’s De’Andre Hunter (12) is defended by Oregon’s Ehab Amin (4), Kenny Wooten (14) and Paul White (13) during the first half of a men’s NCAA Tournament college basketball South Regional semifinal game on Thursday in Louisville, Ky.