

PREP BASEBALL

Suns too hot for Dawgs



Above, Hermiston catcher Wyatt Noland waits for the ball as Southridge’s Trace Hendrickson crosses home plate in the Bulldogs’ 14-0 loss to the Suns in the first game of a doubleheader Tuesday in Hermiston. Below, Hermiston pitcher Rustin Edmiston throws from the mound in the Bulldogs’ 14-0 loss to Southridge in the first game of the doubleheader.

Southridge sweeps doubleheader to remain undefeated

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

Hermiston senior Jordan Ramirez said he’s never faced a left-handed pitcher in high school baseball. That goes for the rest of the Bulldogs, and it was quite apparent when they went to the plate Tuesday against Southridge lefty Steven Englert.

Englert gave up just two hits and struck out eight as the Suns took the opener of the Mid-Columbia Conference doubleheader 14-0 in Hermiston.

“He is a quality pitcher,” Hermiston coach Kevin Moore said. “One of the better quality ones we will see in this conference. With

left-handers, the ball tends to tail away from the hitter. Not only that, he had command of three pitches and we couldn’t make adjustments at the plate.”

The Suns, who won the 3A state title last spring, made a clean sweep of things, taking the second game 12-2 to improve to 8-0 in MCC play and 10-0 overall.

“They have been around the program and they think it is their turn,” Southridge coach Tim Sanders said of his team’s solid play. “They have the confidence to be the next guy.”

Hermiston (1-7 MCC) starter Seth Prewitt was able to hold the Suns to two runs on four hits through two innings, but midway through the third, when he had reached 58 pitches and allowed two more runs, his day was finished.

The Suns would add four more runs to their total in the inning to take an 8-0 lead.

Hermiston went through three pitchers in the opener, but none could shut down the Suns, who finished with 11 hits, and only had two batters strike out.

“Their first guy had a knuckleball, which was interesting,” Sanders said. “They had trouble finding the zone and we were able to execute.”

Leadoff hitter Aidan Morrison went 2-for-3 with a double and three RBIs for the Suns, while Wesley Hickman was 2-for-4 with a triple and two RBIs.

Englert faced the minimum of batters the first two innings, recording six strikeouts. He gave up a single to Rustin Edmiston

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Buzzer-beater boosts Blazers past LA

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Maurice Harkless hit a corner 3-pointer at the buzzer, and the Portland Trail Blazers secured home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs with a 104-101 victory Tuesday night over the Los Angeles Lakers a few hours after Magic Johnson abruptly resigned as their president of basketball operations.

Johnson shocked the Lakers with his announcement about 90 minutes before tipoff of the last game in the Lakers’ sixth consecutive losing season. The Hall of Fame guard had been in charge of the Lakers for just 26 months, and his departure throws the 16-time NBA champion franchise’s offseason into turmoil even before it began.

Harkless scored 26 points and Enes Kanter had 22 points and 16 rebounds while the Blazers rallied in the fourth quarter to claim their 52nd win of the season.

Damian Lillard had 20 points and eight assists while the Blazers wrapped up home court for their first-round series against the Utah Jazz.

Portland has won 13 of 16 in its surge to a sixth consecutive playoff berth.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 32 points and Mike Muscala added 16 for the Lakers, who have missed the playoffs in a franchise-record six consecutive seasons.

Alex Caruso capped his incredible late-season surge with 12 points and 13 assists.

Los Angeles still went 6-5 after being eliminated from playoff contention March 22, and its 37 wins are the franchise’s most since that last playoff season in 2013.

MASTERS NOTEBOOK

Gambler bets big: ‘I’ll Take Tiger Woods for \$1.2 million’

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Tiger Woods won’t be the only big winner if he finishes on top of the leaderboard at the Masters.

A bettor in Las Vegas will pocket nearly \$1.2 million if Woods wins the Masters for the first time since 2005.

The unidentified gambler placed an \$85,000 wager on Woods on Tuesday to win the Masters. The bet was made at 14-1 odds, meaning the bettor will walk away with \$1,190,000 if Woods wins.

The bet made at the William Hill sports book chain represents the largest liability for an individual golf wager in the company’s U.S. history.

Rory McIlroy is the betting favorite for the Masters, listed as a 7-1 pick at William Hill. Dustin Johnson is at 10-1, followed by Woods and Justin Rose.

The longest odds in the field? Bettors can win \$20,000 on a \$10 bet if Viktor Hovland somehow wins the green jacket. Hovland, a Norwegian amateur who plays at Oklahoma State, is listed at 2,000-1.



Tiger Woods gets a ball from his caddie on the driving range at the Masters golf tournament on Tuesday in Augusta, Ga.

Sign here, please

The story of Brooks Koepka coming to the Masters as a kid and failing to get an autograph from Phil Mickelson in the parking lot at Augusta National has turned into a running joke. He first told Mickelson the story when they played a practice round together at the 2014 British Open.

“I was like, ‘Listen, man, you stiffed me, and I really didn’t like you for a long time,’” Koepka said Tuesday, calling himself “probably the only kid Phil’s ever turned down.”

“And he told me years later,” Koepka added, “I shouldn’t have been in the parking lot, so fair enough.”

Not content to let the

story die there, Koepka said he finally got Mickelson’s autograph, sending reporters back to Mickelson to find out if he had Koepka’s as well.

“A bunch,” Mickelson smirked. Asked as a follow-up whether the request was made in a parking lot, Lefty chuckled, “I did it in the appropriate location.”

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Or just sign over your first-born

The secondary ticket market for this year’s tournament is sizzling.

A one-day entry for Wednesday’s final practice round — with a face value of \$75 — were being offered for \$2,500 and up. Rain, accompanied by flashes of lightning, prompted Masters officials to cut practice sessions Monday and Tuesday in half and may have contributed to driving up prices. Those who don’t want to buy them online often take their chances with scalpers.

Although Augusta National prohibits the resale of tickets, it’s not against state law. So scalpers remain a familiar site near the club during Masters week — provided they don’t conduct business closer than 2,700 feet of a venue.

“We have people that will push the boundaries from time to time,” said Capt.

Scott Gay of the Richmond County Sheriff’s Office. “Typically, who we have the most problems with are just people being uneducated about the state law.”

Which way to the pro shop?

Players who cave in the face of their drivers or whose shaft breaks against a tree trying to play a shot at the Masters can now replace the club.

The USGA and R&A on Tuesday provided a clarification to a local rule that allows players to replace a broken or significantly damaged club, except in cases of abuse.

That’s a change from the new Rules of Golf and it’s aimed primarily at the elite level of golf.

The local rule defines “broken or significantly damaged” if the shaft breaks in pieces, splinters or is bent; the club is visibly deformed, detached or loose from the shaft, or the grip is loose.

The governing bodies made it clear, however, that players can’t replace a club — primarily the driver — if there is a crack or a scratch.