

EAST OREGONIAN

# SPORTS

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Staff photo by Kathy Aney  
**Pendleton's Tucker Zander dives back to second base as Ashton Sawyer, of Southridge, attempts to tag during a game Thursday at Bob White Field. Zander was safe.**

## SUNS SCORCH BUCKS

Four-run first inning puts visiting Southridge out front for good

By BRETT KANE  
*East Oregonian*

**W**hen Pendleton's baseball team was down 5-0 at the bottom of the seventh inning, Gabe Umbarger knew risks had to be taken.

He kept that in mind as he stepped up to the plate with one out and Austin Fell on first. He smacked away a fly ball well into left field that got him to second and drove Fell home. He stole third on an error during the same play.

Umbarger scored on a wild pitch on the next at-bat, but the comeback wouldn't be enough to overpower the visiting Southridge Suns, who survived the Bucks' last-minute run to defeat them 5-2 on Thursday.

Umbarger said he knew he couldn't let his team end their final preseason showing scoreless.

"You can't just leave a guy stranded on third," he said. "It's not acceptable. If I see a ball go five or 10 feet past the catcher, I'm going to try and get in any way I can."

Before Umbarger sparked the short-lived rally, Southridge shot ahead early with a four-run first inning. Aidan Morrison and Nick Grade were both driven in on Wesley Hickman's two-RBI double on a 2-1 count. Hickman scored on Ashton Sawyer's sacrifice fly, and Steven Englert was driven in by Austin Davis' single.

Pendleton pitcher Chris Large struggled to contain the Suns in the first inning, allowing the four runs over five hits, and striking out just one.



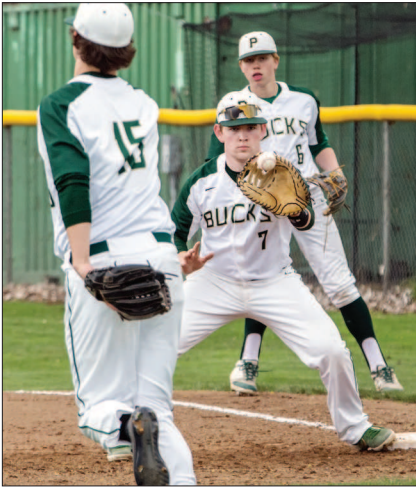
Staff photo by Kathy Aney  
**Nick Grade, of Southridge, attempts to evade the tag of Pendleton's Ty Beers while trying to get back to first base Thursday at Bob White Field. Beers made the tag.**

"Chris is one of our go-to guys on the hill," said Bucks coach TJ Hague-wood, "but he gave them (Southridge) some opportunities to get hits off him."

Meanwhile, Grade was resilient on the mound, striking out seven and scattering three hits and one walk over the first three innings.

The Suns are currently the top team in the Mid-Columbia Conference, and were coming in hot after two back-to-back league wins over Hermiston on Tuesday.

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Staff photo by Kathy Aney  
**Pendleton's Quinn Doherty (7) fields a throw from pitcher Cooper Roberts (15) to put out a Southridge runner during a game Thursday at Bob White Field. Providing backup is Austen Fell.**

## Injury derails season for Hermiston's Madi Wilson

EWU signee attends practice and works with the hurdlers

By ANNIE FOWLER  
*East Oregonian*

Madi Wilson was looking forward to track season, and seeing how she would stacked up against the best athletes in Washington.

The Hermiston senior, who competes in both hurdle events and the 4x100 and 4x400 relays, tore her right Achilles tendon March 21 during the first meet of the spring.

She had won the 100 hurdle event, and the Bulldogs destroyed the field in the sprint relay. The injury came in the 300 hurdles, where she was leading until she went down near the end of the race.

"It just happened," Wilson said. "I came off the second-to-last hurdle, and on my second step it tore."

Wilson said an MRI showed a completely torn Achilles tendon. She had surgery March 28 and has been sporting a light blue cast the past couple of weeks.

"I am going to get the cast off Tuesday, and they will take out the stitches," Wilson said. "I will get a walking boot, but I still won't be able to put any weight on it. Then, I will start physical therapy."

While there hasn't been a lot of physical pain associated with the injury, Wilson said the mental aspect of the injury has been the worst part.

*"I KNOW  
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THIS."*



Madi Wilson, Hermiston senior who tore her right Achilles tendon during the first meet of the spring

"It's a mental hurdle I have to get over," she said. "I can still support my team. I help with the hurdlers. I love coaching — it helps me reflect back on what I need to do. I know God has a plan for me throughout this."

The one bright spot of the ordeal, is that her scholarship to run track at Eastern Washington University is not in jeopardy.

"I have been in contact with the coach and he is totally understanding," Wilson said. "He's very encouraging about my recovery."

Wilson finished second in the 100 hurdles, and fifth in the 300 hurdles, at the Oregon 5A state track meet last year. The 4x100 relay teams also finished second, leading up to a promising season for the Bulldogs.

"The very first meet — that was hard to see that happen," Hermiston coach Emilee Strot said. "She didn't play basketball, and she put in the work every day to prepare. She was ready to do big things. Madi is hard to replace in all aspects. She was the heart of our team."

The Bulldogs, who will participate in their first Pasco Invite on Saturday, also will be without senior sprinter Scout Reagan, who is nursing ankle and thigh injuries.

"We have some young kids who are ready to step up, but they are filling big shoes," Strot said.

Strot said she will take 20 athletes to the Pasco Invite, led by javelin thrower Jazlyn Romero, who finished third at state last year, and junior sprinter Garrett Walchli, who will compete in four events (100, 200, 4x100 relay, 4x400 relay).

"I'm excited about them competing at the Pasco Invite — going up against the best of the best," Strot said.

The Hermiston girls will field a 4x100 relay team, led by senior sprinter Elsa Torres. She is joined by sophomores MaKaylee Young, Kamryn Aldred and Jayden Ray.

Also competing for the boys will be senior Freddy Mendoza in the 800 and the 4x400 relay.

"It's only his second year of track," Strot said of Mendoza. "He's already run a 2:02 this year."

## Mariners homer in 15th straight game, down Royals 7-6

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Trailing by two runs and down to their last strike, the Seattle Mariners found a way to keep their winning streak alive.

"Confidence is building," manager Scott Servais said.

Seattle became the first major league team to homer in each of its first 15 games when Dee Gordon connected in the sixth inning, then beat the Kansas City Royals 7-6 Thursday behind Daniel Vogelbach's home run in the 10th.

Seattle improved the best record in the major leagues to 13-2, completing a four-game sweep and extending its winning streak to six. The Mariners became just the third team since 1987 to open with at least 13 wins in the first 15 games after Milwaukee (14-1 in 1987) and Bos-

ton (13-2 last year). Kansas City has lost 10 straight games, has the poorest record in the big leagues at 2-10 and is off to its worst 12-game start since 2006. The Royals failed to preserve leads of 4-0 in the sixth and 6-4 with two outs in the ninth.

"Other teams just can't seem to do any wrong," said Kansas City's Whit Merrifield, whose hitting streak ended at 31 games.

Royals center fielder Billy Hamilton was carted off with a knee injury after failing to grab Mitch Haniger's tying, two-run triple in the ninth. Royals manager Ned Yost said he did not have an update on Hamilton's condition.

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AP Photo/Orlin Wagner  
**Seattle Mariners designated hitter Daniel Vogelbach hits a solo home run during the 10th inning of a baseball game against the Kansas City Royals at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., on Thursday.**