

PENDLETON BUCKS COWBOYS

Bucks baseball makes IMC debut with Crook County victory

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

Crook County was quick to put in runs on Saturday's Intermountain Conference baseball opener, but Pendleton wasted no time in responding.

That was at least the case in game one.

The Bucks' home doubleheader saw them open league action with a 5-2 rally over the visiting Cowboys, but trailed 9-3 in game two until the spring rain ended it after three innings.

Despite Pendleton's victory in the first game, they racked up five errors against the Cowboys' two. Ryan Stahl, who spent 5⅓ innings on the mound, struck out 10 but allowed five walks.

"Our defense definitely needs to be cleaned up," said Bucks coach TJ Haguewood.

"And we were making some mental mistakes on top of that. We need to start making these plays on a varsity level."

Brody Connell and Hunter Bishop gave the Cowboys a head start with two runs in the top of the first, but Pendleton turned the tables in their first offensive showing.

In the bottom of the first, Stahl singled and drove Gabe Umbarger in to put the Bucks on the board. Justin Duso scored a run off Quinn Doherty's sacrifice fly, and Austin Fell's single drove Stahl home two at-bats later.

Doherty hit a two-RBI double in the bottom of the second to set the stage for the victory.

Meanwhile, the Cowboys would go without a run for the remainder of the game.

They loaded the bases at the top of the sixth but



Crook County's Louis Duran stretches for the ball as Ryan Stahl, of Pendleton, slides into third base Saturday at Bob White Field. Stahl was safe.

Bucks pitcher Chris Large, who relieved Stahl for the final 1⅓ innings, stranded them all.

"We only had five hits in that first game, but the guys came through when they needed to," Haguewood said.

Umbarger went 2 for 4 with two runs, and while Stahl only posted one hit out of four appearances, he put in a run and an RBI to aid in the win.

"We jumped on (Crook County's) fast balls," Umbarger said. "Our offense was strong in the first game, but we needed to limit our errors."

Pendleton's second contest against the Cowboys will resume on Tuesday, April 30.

Bishop, Garrett Bernard, and Kyle Knoutson gave the Cowboys an early

3-0 lead at the top of the first, and they would send 10 batters to the plate in the third, giving them a 9-3 advantage.

"We weren't prepared," Umbarger said.

"We got ourselves deep into counts, which started putting us behind. (Crook County's) off-speed pitches really caused us some trouble."

Before Pendleton (4-5, 1-0 IMC) has a change to settle things with the Cowboys, they'll travel to Hood River Valley on Tuesday for another conference matchup.

"Our throwing and our defense were inconsistent today," Coach Haguewood said.

"But the good thing is, we'll work on cleaning things up before we're right back at it on Tuesday."



Gabe Umbarger, of Pendleton, runs home during Saturday's game against Crook County at Bob White Field.

Softball team knocks out double-digit wins

Pendleton brought the bats to ensure swift back-to-back victories in Saturday's Intermountain Conference debut.

The Bucks knocked down 14-2 and 19-9 wins over their Crook County hosts to go 2-0 in league action.

"It was a slow start, but once we got the bats going, it seemed like we could do no wrong at the plate," said coach Tim Cary.

Crook County's Berkeley Puckett and Kalyn Martinez helped the Cowboys out to an early 2-0 lead at the bottom of the second inning, but Pendleton slowly chipped away at the deficit until an eight-run sixth inning sealed the deal in their favor.

Kirah McGlothan was 3 for 5 at bat with two runs and an RBI, and Maria Lillienthal and Carissa Cooley both hit 3 for 4 with two runs.

Martinez, who put in 5⅓ innings of work, dropped the game for the Cowboys, surrendering 14 runs across 19 hits, and collecting 11 errors in the first game alone.

"Crook County is decent, but we're going to see stronger pitching coming up in the league, and we need to be prepared for that," Cary said. "(Crook County's) pitching was not overpowering by any means, but we started having a tough time at the plate. We had to make some adjustments."

Kila Soloman finished game one batting 4 for 5 and driving in two runs, but didn't score any of her own. That would change dramatically in game two.

By the bottom of the second, the Bucks had shot out to a 14-4 advantage, propelled by Soloman's grand

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Staff photo by Annie Fowler
Hermiston's Jazlyn Romero finished sixth in the javelin Saturday with a toss of 130 feet, five inches.

Hermiston's Romero sixth at Pasco track meet

The Bulldogs faced tough competition in every event

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

Hermiston got its first taste of the Pasco Invite on Saturday, and it was a learning experience for the Bulldogs, who had just one athlete reach the podium at Edgar Brown Stadium.

Junior Jazlyn Romero

placed sixth in the javelin with a throw of 130 feet, 5 inches, which she hit on her second throw of the finals.

"I told them you can't go in there and think you own the place," Hermiston coach Emilee Strot said. "You need watch and learn."

The meet, in its 58th year, featured more than 1,500 athletes from 108 schools.

"I'm kind of excited to see all the competition in Washington," Strot said. "This is the kind of meet that prepares us for state. It's a step early in the season to

show us what state could be like."

Romero went into the finals in sixth place, and dropped to eighth after the first round. She jumped back up to sixth with her best throw.

"The competition is better when all throwers are close to each other (distance of throws)," Romero said. "It gives me an idea of what I need to do if I want to qualify for state. It's better than last week. Every day is a learning experience."

Romero also finished

16th in the discus (102-2).

In the triple jump, sophomore Paige Palzinski finished third in her flight with a leap of 31-5½, and finished 28th overall. Her mark was one-half inch off her season best.

"It was pouring down rain when Paige was jumping," Strot said "She was a stud. It's moments like that that drive her."

MaKaylee Young went 15-9¾ to finish second in her flight of the long jump, and finished 13th overall.

Alisha Wilson of Tahoma

won the event with a mark of 19-0½.

Young also was 18th in the 100 (13.35) and ran on the 4x100 relay team — along with Elsa Torres, Kamryn Aldred and Jayden Ray — which finished 15th (52.20).

The Bulldogs' 4x400 relay team (Ray, Amanda Nygard, Torres, Abigail Sharon) was fifth in its heat, and finished 29th overall in a time of 4:22.38.

In the hurdle events, Jen-

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Enes Kanter making the most of second chance with Blazers

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Looking back on it now, the Trail Blazers were clearly smart to pick up Enes Kanter after he was waived by the New York Knicks.

Kanter was brought aboard by Portland as insurance for the final stretch of the season, meant to back up starter Jusuf Nurkic.

Then Nurkic broke his leg and Kanter was thrust into a starting role with his new team. After Portland's playoff-opening victory over the Oklahoma City

Thunder, Damian Lillard dubbed the 6-foot-11 center the Blazers' MVP.

"He had a huge presence down the stretch and played a huge part in us winning this game," Lillard said after Portland's 104-99 victory Sunday.

Kanter finished with 20 points and a career play-off-high 18 rebounds, and was effective on defense against the likes of Russell Westbrook and Paul George.

It's been quite a journey from New York castoff to Portland playoff hero for the seven-year NBA veteran.

Kanter, 26, was waived

by the Knicks following the trade deadline. Once a starter, he fell out of the rotation altogether when New York — which finished with the worst record in the league — turned its focus to younger players.

Kanter, who came to the Knicks in 2017 from Oklahoma City in the Carmelo Anthony trade, averaged 14 points and 10.8 rebounds in 115 games over two seasons.

The Blazers picked him up just before the All-Star break, envisioning him as the second team center. But on March 25, Nurkic crashed awkwardly to

the court during a game at home against the Brooklyn Nets. Nurkic, who was averaging 14.6 points and 10.4 rebounds, broke his leg in two places and was out for the season.

Kanter appeared in 23 games with the Blazers in the regular season and started in eight, averaging 13.1 points and 8.6 rebounds.

"I was on the worst team in the league and I wasn't even playing because they thought I was too old to play. It was frustrating because I just wanted to go out there and win," Kanter said.



AP Photo/Steve Dipaola
Trail Blazers center Enes Kanter, center, grabs a rebound as Oklahoma City center Steven Adams, left, and Thunder forward Paul George, right, defend during Game 1 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series in Portland on Sunday.