

## Adams operates in Buffs' hot start

By Brian Mortensen  
Spilyay Tymoo

No, Rodney "Patch" Adams is not a doctor. He doesn't even play one in the movies.

The right-handed pitcher/third baseman/first baseman does have three pitches he can use to operate on opposing hitters.

The senior has also had a solid start at the plate, helping his Madras White Buffalo teammates move to an 11-1 start in the Tri-Valley League baseball campaign.

The Buffs (17-3 through Monday) swept Sherwood in a rain-postponed doubleheader Monday and played a single game at Wilsonville Wednesday and could be in first place in the league by this weekend.

"We're doing a lot better than we did last year," the burly Adams said, referring to last year's finish that saw the Buffalos reach the league playoffs. "We're hitting the ball right from the start instead of waiting for like the sixth inning."

"We're playing better defense, and we're doing a lot better on pitching."

Adams, who has hit one home run, that coming against Wilsonville April 2, has seen limited action since he sprained a knee in the Buffs' game at Gladstone April 6 but has since come back.

"Before I got hurt, I was pitching pretty good," Adams said. "But since I can't push off my leg any more, I lost a lot of velocity."

He said he hoped to be able to start against Wilsonville Wednesday or in the Buffs' doubleheader at Gladstone May 7.

Since he came back to the team last week against Valley Catholic, Adams has been able to play his standard field position at third base, as well as at his new one as of this year, first base.

"I like third base the most," he said. "I just like it because I've played it for a long time, and I know how to play it."

First base took a lot of work in fielding drills where he had to learn to pick up or block sharply hit balls, but he said he's figured out the position well enough.

He said he's had to play all three of his positions in a game this season, and that being so



Brian Mortensen/Spilyay

Rodney "Patch" Adams (left), and at bat (above.)



versatile can only help in the future, perhaps if he gets the opportunity to play college baseball.

Adams, who lives in the Sunnyside area of the reservation, said he's been playing baseball since he was 7 or 8 through Warm Springs' organized Little League baseball system.

"And my mom (Lana Leonard) and my dad (Andy Leonard) come out and hit with me," he said. "They both help me out in baseball."

Adams said he throws a fastball, curve and a circle changeup, and he's recently been working on throwing a slider and a cut fastball, that slightly breaks inside or outside, that Madras pitching coach Stan Williams taught him.

Adams said his mother started calling him "Patch."

"It's short for Patrick," he said. "That's what she says." And, yes, he's seen the 1998 movie starring Robin Williams as a would-be doctor who treated patients with good humor.

Adams said his biggest mo-

lar season with a pair at LaSalle Sat., May 14... Wilsonville, also 11-1 prior to its game against Madras Wednesday, ends its league season with five single games, at Sherwood April 29, at home against Valley Catholic May 4, at LaSalle May 6, and then at home against Estacada and Gladstone, May 11 and 13, respectively... the Wildcats also host Marist May 7... the Tri-Valley League regular season champion has a first-round bye in the Class 3A State Tournament and hosts its first game Wed., May 25... the Tri-Valley runner-up hosts the No. 3 team from the Far West League Mon., May 23... the third-place team engages in the Tri-Valley League playoffs against the victor between the fourth and fifth-place finishers.

## Gathering of Nations tourney is May 6-8

The Gathering of Nations 6-foot Plus 1 (Only) tournament is set for May 6-8 at the Warm Springs Community Center.

First place winner receives championship jackets and cash; second place, sweatshirts and cash; third place, t-shirts and cash. Other awards: five All Stars, MVP, high scorer, Mr. Hustle, most 3-pointers. Entry fee is \$280; holding fee, \$80. For more information call Rick Minthorn at (541) 553-1578; or Andy Leonard, 553-3243. Minthorn's mailing address is P.O. Box 955, Warm Springs, OR 97761. No checks. Money orders only. All fees must be paid by the first game.

## Little League photos scheduled

Attention parents of Little League players, the following is the picture schedule:  
Wednesday afternoon, May 11:  
T-Birds, 4 o'clock; Rivercats, 4:15; Raptors, 4:30; Braves, 4:45; Warriors, 5; Rattlers, 5:15;  
Jr. Boys, 5:30; Jr. Girls, 5:45.  
Thursday afternoon, May 12:  
Scrappers, 4 o'clock; Bulls, 4:15; Stars, 4:30; Angels, 4:45; Lil Bucks, 5; Paposoes, 5:15; Gamblers, 5:30.  
Coaches will hand out picture packets.

ment in baseball came in Little League.

"You'd have to go back to Junior All-Stars because I had a grand slam. We didn't really do good at districts, but it was pretty fun," he said.

College baseball could be a possibility, but he said he may try to play for Central Oregon Community College's club team next year.

Adams said his favorite team is the Atlanta Braves, and his favorite players are Alex Rodriguez and Gary Sheffield of the New York Yankees.

**Buff notes:** After Wednesday's game at Sherwood, Madras travels to Sherwood Wed., May 4... the Buffs then close out their home regular-season schedule with doubleheader against third-place Gladstone Sat., May 7... Madras beat Gladstone, 6-3, April 6... behind the pitching of Vaughan Prow... the Buffs close the regu-

Your Favorite  
**HOME**  
Furnishings  
**FOR LESS**

- DESKS
- LIVING ROOM
- DINING ROOM
- TABLES • LAMPS
- RECLINERS
- MATTRESSES
- BEDROOM • DAYBEDS
- SLEEPERS • BUNKBEDS
- LEATHER
- ENTERTAINMENT CENTERS
- AND MORE!

**HOME FURNISHINGS • REDMOND**  
*Locally Owned & Operated Since 1980*

Free Delivery to Most Central Oregon Areas

**Great AMERICAN**  
732 SW 6th St. At The "Y"

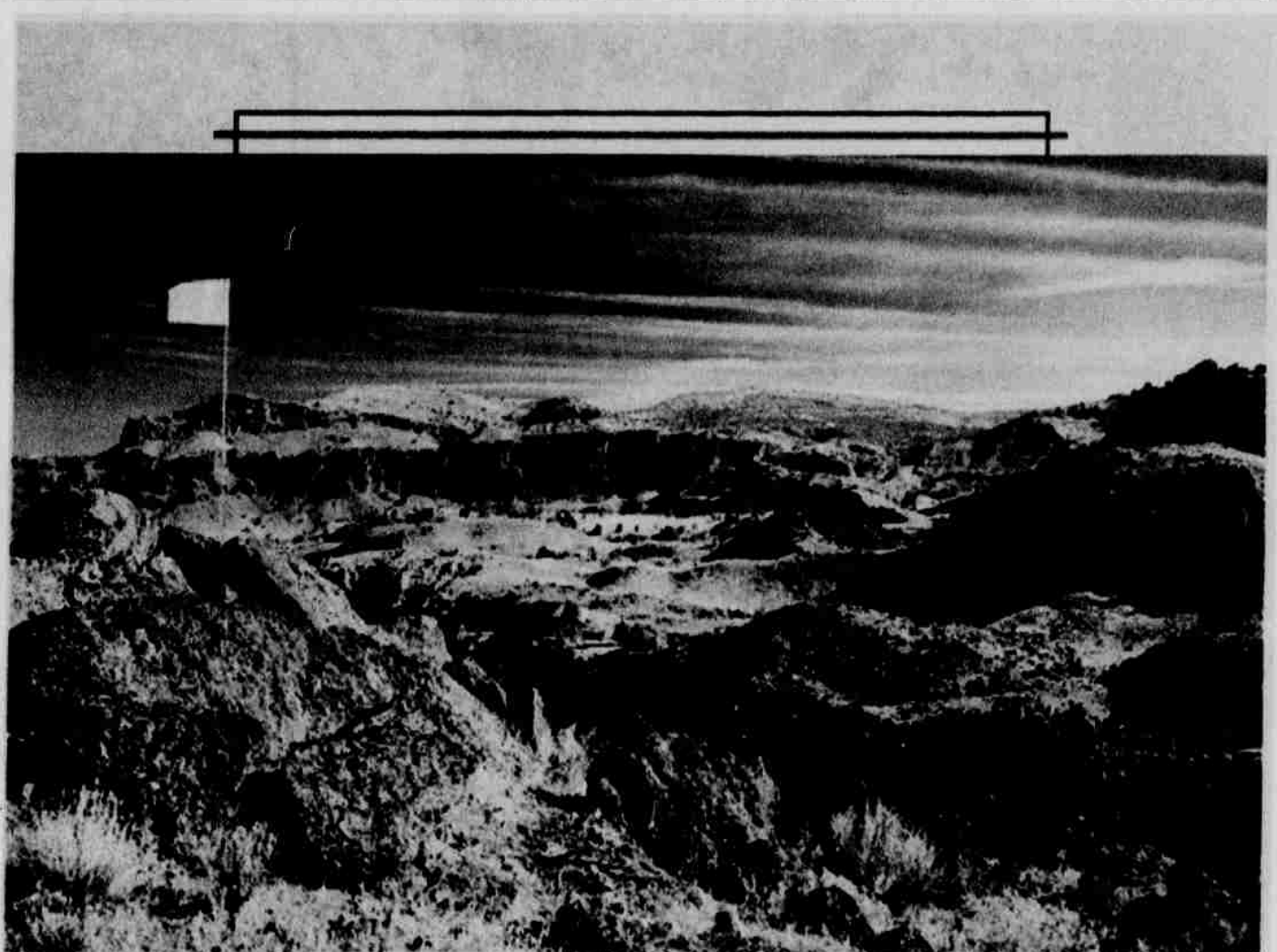
Open 7 Days a Week  
10-6 Mon.-Sat.  
11:00-5 Sun.  
**923-4155**



Photo courtesy of Rachel Tallmadge.

Curtis Thompson Jr. gets ready for a day of skiing at Mt. Hood Meadows, which recently hosted a free ski day for fifth-graders of the reservation.

**24 NE Plum  
Madras  
475-7560**



Casino Golf Pool Spa Dining Lodge

**HIGH DESERT ESCAPE SPECIAL**

**\$134**

for two Sun-Thurs  
\$30 add-on for unlimited golf for two

The sun is out. And so are the deals.

Take in everything Kah-Nee-Ta has to offer. With our High Desert Escape Special, two people can enjoy one night in a deluxe Lodge room, two entrees in the Chinook Room for breakfast or lunch and two \$5 slot coupons. Plus get unlimited golf for two on our scenic, 18-hole course for only \$30 more. That's in addition to our vast number of amenities, ranging from a full-service spa to a live action casino. All in a setting unlike anything you can imagine.

Join us in the Chinook Room for Friday Night Seafood Buffet at 5pm & Sunday Brunch from 7am-3pm

**KAH-NEE-TA**  
HIGH DESERT RESORT & CASINO  
Kahneeta.com • 800-554-45UN

Offer subject to availability, good 4/30-5/31/05. Valid Sun-Thurs, non-holiday. Room rates based on two people for one night. Advance reservation required. Does not include 4% resort fee. Golf add-on does not include cart, based on available tee times.