

Mustangs split with Vikings

By Rick Paullus

After picking up their 21st win of the season, by a 10-1 score, the Heppner Mustangs dropped the second game of a doubleheader 4-2 to the Umatilla Vikings to give them their first and only win of the season at Umatilla on Saturday, May 15 to wrap up the regular season of Columbia Basin Conference play.

The Mustangs, number one seed in the CBC East, will take on the number one seed in the CBC West, the Sherman County Huskies, at The Dalles on Saturday, May 22, at noon, for the number one seed into the State 2A Championships.

The Mustangs (10-2 in the CBC, 21-2-1 overall) took a 1-0 lead in the first game in the second inning when Kiel Nairns singled and eventually scored on a Luke Murray fielder's choice.

They broke the game open in the fourth when Nairns and Murray singled, Kyler Lovgren was hit by a pitch to load the bases, Nick Christman hit a grand slam homerun, Chuy Elguezabal doubled, Josh Gutierrez had a RBI double and Kory Paullus had a RBI double to make it 7-0.

They added another in the fifth when Christman singled and scored on a Jode Coil single. After the Vikings scored a run in the bottom half, the Mustangs added two more in the seventh when Christman doubled, Elguezabal walked, Christman came home on an error and Dan Basile hit a RBI bloop double to make it 10-1.

Elguezabal went five innings to pick up the win, giving up just two hits and one unearned run, while striking out eight. Kyle Carlson went the final two innings in relief, striking out three and giving up one hit.

Nairns went three for three with a triple and scored twice. Christman went three for four with four RBI, a double and a homerun and scored twice. Gutierrez went two for three with a double. Elguezabal went two for four with a double and scored twice and Paullus went two for four with a double.

The Vikings struck first in the second game, getting a two-out, two-run homerun in the bottom of the first, but the Mustangs came back with a run in the third to cut the lead to 2-1.

The Mustangs tied in the fourth on a solo homerun by Nairns, but the Vikings scored two in the fifth and although the Mustangs had base runners they couldn't get them home and took the loss.

Nairns was two for four with a double and a homerun. Billy Gates and Christman were each two for three. It marked the first action for Gates this year, who is coming off shoulder surgery.

Heppner 10, Umatilla 1
Heppner 010 610 2-10 15 2
Umatilla 000 010 0-1 3 1

Chuy Elguezabal, Kyle Carlson (6) and Jode Coil; Giz Aguillar and Steve Wilson. W- Elguezabal. L- Aguillar. 2B- Elguezabal, Josh Gutierrez, Kory Paullus, Nick Christman (H). 3B- Kiel Nairns (H). HR- Christman (H). Umatilla 4, Heppner 2

Heppner 001 100 0-2 10 1
Umatilla 200 020 x-4 6 2

Josh Gutierrez, Nick Christman (6) and Jode Coil; Marc Estrada and Wilson. W- Estrada. L- Gutierrez. 2B- Nairns (H); Fig, Estrada (U). 3B- none. HR- Nairns (H) and Paul Madson (U).

Mustangs beat Tigerscots to clinch first

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustang baseball team scored in every inning to beat the visiting Weston-McEwen Tigerscots 8-2 on Tuesday, May 11 to clinch first place in the Columbia Basin Conference East Division. The Mustangs, 10-1 in the CBC and 20-1-1 overall, will face the Sherman County Huskies at The Dalles at noon on Saturday, May 22 for the CBC championship and the number one seed going into the state playoffs.

After giving up a run in the top of the first, the Mustangs came back with two in the bottom half to take the lead for good. Chuy Elguezabal led off with a walk. Then, Jode Coil singled, Josh Gutierrez had a sacrifice bunt that scored Elguezabal from second and Kory Paullus beat out an infield single to score Coil.

Kyler Lovgren hit a solo homerun in the second to make it 3-1.

In the third, Kiel Nairns reached on a fielder's choice and eventually scored on a Luke Murray single.

They added two more in the fourth when Nick Christman and Cody Walton singled, Christman scored on an error by the catcher and Coil had a RBI single to make it 6-1.

Mustang JVs split with Pirates

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustang JV baseball team split their last two games of the season with the Riverside Pirates, dropping their game 6-5 before taking the nightcap 8-3 on Thursday, May 13 at Boardman.

The Mustangs finished the year with a 10 and 5 record. The team consisted of sophomores, Kyle Carlson, Dan Basile, Sloan Keithley and Riley Wight and freshmen, Quinn Peck, Colton Hanson, Robbie Smith, Kody Lovgren, Travis Eubanks and Cody Hollis. Coaches were Rick Paullus and Jim Kindle.

The Mustangs took a 1-0 lead in the first when Cody Hollis reached on an error, Quinn Peck singled and Dan Basile had a RBI single. The Pirates came back with two runs in the bottom half, but the Mustangs scored a run in the fourth to tie it at 2-2 when Kyle Carlson doubled and scored on a Kody Lovgren groundout.

They came back with three more in the fifth when Hollis and Colton Hanson singled, Peck reached on an error, Basile had a RBI single and Sloan Keithley scored two more with a single. The Pirates scored three in the bottom half on two errors to tie it, and then scored a run in the bottom of the seventh to take the win.

Basile was four for four with two RBI. Keithley had two RBI and Hollis scored twice.

In the second game, the Mustangs took a 2-0 lead in the first when Basile singled, Carlson had a RBI double and Keithley had a RBI single.

The Pirates came back with a run in the bottom half, but the

In the fifth, Murray had a two-out single, Lovgren singled and Christman had a RBI single.

In the sixth, Elguezabal walked, Kyle Carlson had a sacrifice bunt and Gutierrez bunted Elguezabal home from second base again to make it 8-1.

The Tigerscots added an unearned run in the seventh to make the final 8-2.

Christman went five innings giving up three hits, while striking out three to get the win, with Gutierrez going two innings in relief giving up one hit while striking out two.

Walton went two for two. Lovgren went two for three with a homerun and two RBI. Murray, Coil and Christman each went two for three. Gutierrez had two RBI and Elguezabal scored twice as the Mustangs out hit the Tigerscots 14-4.

Weston-McEwen 100 00 1-2 4 2
Heppner 211 211 x-8 14 2

Duke, Sheard (6) and Greenwalt; Nick Christman, Josh Gutierrez (6) and Jode Coil. Chuy Elguezabal (5). W- Christman. L- Duke 2B- none. 3B- none. HR- Kyler Lovgren (H).

Mustangs broke the game open in the second when Robbie Smith doubled, Hollis walked, Hanson sacrifice bunted them to second, Peck walked, Basile scored two with a single, Carlson scored two with a single and Keithley had a RBI single to make it 7-1.

It was 7-2 in the sixth when the Mustangs scored their final run when Peck walked, Riley Wight singled and Basile had a RBI single. The Pirates scored a run in the bottom half of the sixth and the game was called on account of darkness.

Carlson went three innings, allowing one run on two hits, while striking out four. Basile went the final three innings allowing two runs on one hit, while striking out five.

Basile went three for four with three RBI and scored twice. Carlson went two for three with a double, three RBI and scored twice. Keithley went two for three with two RBI, Smith went two for three with a double and Peck scored twice.

Riverside 6, Heppner 5
Heppner 001 130 0-5 9 5
Riverside 002 030 1-6 5 4

Quinn Peck, Sloan Keithley (6) and Robbie Smith; Joey Parrish and Ryan Pedro. W- Parrish. L- Keithley. 2B- Kyle Carlson. 3rd- none. HR- none.

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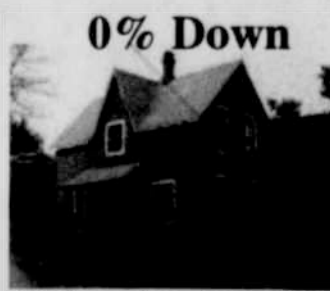


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