

Heppner/Ione baseball splits doubleheader vs. Irrigon in league opener



(Batter) Ryan Haugen gets a hold of one. -Photo by Brian Bunch



Mason Orem gets stuck in a pickle. -Photo by Brian Bunch

By Brian Bunch

On Thursday, April 3, the baseball crowd in Heppner was abuzz. The 3-2 Heppner/Ione Mustangs were opening league play against the 2-2 Irrigon Knights.

With an afternoon high around 50 degrees, you could see the crowd react every time the breeze picked up while the sun was blocked by passing clouds, but when the sun was out and the breeze was negligible, the focus was on baseball. The field at Heppner High School was looking fresh with the newly completed fence and backstop upgrades.

Ryan Haugen took the mound for the Mustangs in the first inning, giving up a leadoff single to the Knights' second baseman, Bennette Atkins, who would later score with a Cody Johnson RBI single. R. Haugen allowed only one run on three hits through the first two innings, picking up two strikeouts along the way. Karver Wilkins worked a walk in the bottom of the first but was the only Mustang to reach base in the first two innings as pitcher Kodi Maris also recorded two strikeouts for the Knights.

The pitchers were keeping it tight, each of them only giving up one free pass through the first two innings.

In the third inning, with one out and the Knights up 1-0, catcher Brock Locey would get a four-pitch walk from R. Haugen. Locey's courtesy runner, Colton Akers, would go on to score on another Johnson RBI single. This triggered a "He's a Freshman" chant from the Knight dugout, which Mustang freshman Jace Wilson surely heard. Wilson was due up second in the bottom of the third after designated hitter Brody McDaniel lined out to third base.

The nine-hole hitter smacked the first pitch he saw to center field for a single, flipping the order over for the Mustangs. Wilson getting on base opened up the base running for the Mustangs. Caylan Proudfoot, Alakae Rodriguez and Mason Orem joined the freshman in adding hits to the board in the bottom of the third. Wilkins and Haugen both reached base due to Knight errors. With the Knight defense struggling, Wilson scored the Mustangs' first run, opening the gates for them to run wild.

Highlighted by an Orem triple that scored two runs, the inning ended with a Keaton Coiner strikeout and a 5-2 Mustang lead.

The fourth inning was fast, with both pitchers throwing a total of 17 pitches to get the six outs required. Haugen gave up a single to Maris in the top of the fifth inning, but the pitcher was the only action on base for the Knights in the fifth and sixth innings. Proudfoot, getting his second hit of the game, led off the fifth for the Mustangs. Rodriguez, getting on base with an error, joined Proudfoot in adding runs in the fifth. The score was 7-2 for the Mustangs after five innings.

In the bottom of the sixth, a trend started to emerge for the Mustangs: all of their runs had scored with two outs. The first two Mustang batters in

the sixth flew out to center field, but you could still feel the momentum on their side. Wilson reached base on a Knight error, and then George picked up a two-out RBI to reach base with his first hit of the day. Proudfoot picked up an RBI single to push George across the plate, and Wilkins joined the party with his first hit of the game. The score was 9-2 for the Mustangs.

The Knights tried to rally in the seventh inning with runs by Locey and Julian Gomez, but the Mustang defense limited the damage and kept the final score of the first game at 9-4. R. Haugen pitched a complete game, picking up his first win of the season, allowing four earned runs on eight hits. Proudfoot led the Mustang hitters with three hits for two RBIs and two runs.

The Mustangs out-hit the Knights in the second game 8-7, but the three Mustang errors made the difference in runs as the Knights got the upset 7-4. Coiner got the start on the mound for the Mustangs, going 2.0 innings and giving up one earned run on two hits. His two strikeouts in the first inning were soon overshadowed by the walk in the second that scored,

handing him the loss.

Proudfoot replaced him for the last 5.0 innings, allowing six runs (one earned) on five hits.

Mustang hitters were putting in the work, led by Rodriguez with two hits on four at-bats, but the Knight defense was up for the challenge. George got a leadoff single to right field in the first inning, but Knight shortstop Colton Thompson made three back-to-back plays to strand him on first.

Rodriguez got a leadoff single in the second, followed by an Orem double, before Knight pitcher Julian Gomez rallied for two strikeouts, and then Rodriguez got caught stealing for the third out.

Wilson worked a lead-off nine-pitch walk in the bottom of the third inning, and he also gave the Mustangs their first run on a Wilkins ground-out RBI. Fast-forward to the fifth inning before the Mustangs got another run after Wilson hit a leadoff single and then scored on a Haugen RBI single to right field. Mustang catcher Wilkins, also on base at the time of Haugen's RBI, was replaced by courtesy runner Darby Spivey while at third base; Spivey went on to steal home for the second run in the inning and bring the

Mustangs within two runs after five innings.

George scored the last run of the game for the Mustangs on a Rodriguez RBI single after a leadoff walk in the bottom of the seventh inning. Proudfoot got on base in the last frame of the game but got caught up in a Wilkins double-play ball to second base. Haugen got on base with a two-out hit-by-pitch but got caught stealing third with Orem, the tying run, at the plate. The final score was 7-4 for the Knights.

With both teams 1-1 in league play after the opening weekend, they are tied for third place in the league behind the first-place tie between Union/Cove and Grant Union/Prairie City/Monument, who are both 2-0. Through seven games this season, Proudfoot, Rodriguez and George lead the team, all hitting over .300, and Proudfoot and George lead the team with 10 runs each. Haugen is leading the team on the mound with a 3.500 ERA through 18.0 innings, allowing 12 runs (nine earned) on 18 hits with 16 strikeouts. Rodriguez and Coiner are leading the team in fielding, both with 30-plus total

chances and 1.000 fielding percentages.

The Mustangs host Stanfield/Echo on Tuesday, April 8, at 4 p.m. and Elgin on Friday, April 11, in a doubleheader at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Mustangs Finish Non-League Play at Home with Win

The Heppner/Ione Mustangs defeated the Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa Eagles 6-5 on Tuesday, April 1. Heppner's offense was led by Karver Wilkins, who had one hit and drew two walks, and Ryan Haugen, who also had one hit and one RBI. Caylan Proudfoot contributed two RBIs despite having no hits and also stole a base. Caleb George had two stolen bases but no hits. Keaton Coiner had one hit and one RBI, while Mason Orem had one RBI.

On the pitching side, Ryan Haugen pitched four innings, allowing no runs and striking out five, while Proudfoot pitched 2.1 innings, allowing five runs. George was credited with the win after pitching 0.2 innings.

DEADLINE:
MONDAYS
AT 5PM

WCCC Sunday Men's Play

Nineteen participated in the opening of Sunday Men's Play at Willow Creek Country Club on April 6. The play format was a blind-man scramble, and the results are as follows:

Special Events:
KP #4-13 Roger Mortimore, 2'7", and KP #16 Terry Snider, 7'10".

Net—1st Terry Snider-Jim Swanson, 46; 2nd Mike Doherty-John Bowles, 51; and 3rd Tim Hedman-Dave Gunderson, 52.

Gross—1st Curt Day-Roger Mortimore-Tom Shear, 56; 2nd Dave Pranger-Dallas Harsin, 57; and 3rd Rick Johnston-Duane Disque, 61.

The next play is scheduled for Sunday, April 13. Curt Day and Tim Hedman will be hosting. WCCC men are reminded to sign up for the Wednesday night match play that will be starting on April 16.

WWW.HEPPNER.NET
SUBMIT NEWS, ADVERTISING
& ANNOUNCEMENTS
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
SEND US PHOTOS
START A NEW SUBSCRIPTION

JM

AMIESON and MARSHALL

Plumbing • Heating • Farm Water Systems

CCB# 86139

(541) 384-2773

Family Owned Since 1905

Alaskan

Halibut Tent Sale

April 17th & 18th, 2025

Wild Caught Whole Alaskan Fresh Halibut

\$12.99

PER LB

CUT AT NO EXTRA CHARGE!!

Wild Caught Alaskan Halibut Fillets

\$19.99

PER LB

FRESH!

Wild Caught Jumbo Lobster Tails 16-20 Oz

\$29.99

PER LB

Wild Caught

Jumbo Easy Peel Prawns 4-6 Cnt

\$19.99

PER LB

Farm Raised

Alaskan Sockeye Salmon Fillets

\$12.99

PER LB

Wild Caught

Wild Caught Alaskan Halibut Steak & Roast

\$16.99

PER LB

FRESH!

Wild Caught Ling Cod Fillets

\$12.99

PER LB

FRESH!

Wild Caught Rock Fish Fillets

\$5.99

PER LB

FRESH!

Wild Caught Mahi Mahi Fillets

\$5.99

PER LB

FRESH!

Wild Caught Stuffed Salmon Fillet Portions

\$9.99

PER LB

-OR- Wild Caught Stuffed Sole Fillets!

Wild Caught Ahi Tuna Steaks 2-4 Oz

\$6.99

PER LB

Wild Caught

Wild Caught Large Cod Loin Fillet

\$6.99

PER LB

Wild Caught

Extra Large Lobster Tails 10/12 Oz

\$29.99

PER LB

Wild Caught

Farm Raised Catfish Fillets

\$7.99

PER LB

Farm Raised

Farm Raised Steamer Clams

\$5.99

PER LB

FRESH!

Farm Raised Oyster In The Shell

\$12.99

DOZEN

Farm Raised

Wild Caught Jumbo Sea Scallops

\$19.99

PER LB

Wild Caught

Farm Raised Large Cooked and Peeled Prawns 16-20 Cnt

\$9.99

PER LB

Farm Raised

Farm Raised Extra Large Black Tiger Prawns 8-12 Cnt

\$11.99

PER LB

Farm Raised

Wild Caught Snow Crab Clusters

\$15.99

PER LB

Wild Caught

MARKETfresh

LIMITED TO QUANTITY ON HAND, WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

Toldeo, WA
400 Cowlitz St. • 360-864-2161

Tenino, WA
669 E. Lincoln Ave. • 360-264-5650

Concrete, WA
44546 St. Route 20 • 360-853-8540

Goldendale, WA
622 E. Broadway St. • 509-773-3072

Heppner, OR
238 N. Main Street • 541-676-9614

St. Helens, OR
1111 Columbia Blvd. • 503-397-2288

Sign up for our new rewards program for digital discounts and savings! Marketfreshonline.com

Hoodsport, WA
24151 N US Highway 101
360-877-9444

Download on the App Store

ANDROID APP ON Google play