

Showing respect

Respect. It's a simple word — just two syllables — and a simple concept. One way it's defined by Meriam-Webster is "a feeling or understanding that someone or something is important, serious, etc., and should be treated in an appropriate way."

That aspect of respect is the kind I'm talking about here. It's a part of sports, and we hear it all the time: respect for the game, respect for the umpire, respect for an opponent, for the fans, for the coaches.

Sports and respect go together like rain forest and, well, rain.

They're inseparable. One doesn't come without the other. They're symbiotic. Respect is to sports as Kurt Cobain was to Nirvana: synonymous.

So what I saw on a particular day at a particular game recently stuck with me. It was a complete lack of respect.

Now, I've been on teams that didn't respect the coach, and, let me tell you, each of those teams were bad. We lost (way) more games than we won, and it made playing on those teams miserable for me. I always respected coaches. Most of it was because I played for my dad for so long that the line between coach and parent blurred for me a bit. Most of the time, I couldn't say anything back to my coach because I was going to eat dinner with him later, and I would hear about it. But I was also told to respect those in authority because they're in authority. There isn't any other reason of which to speak. That's it, and that's all.

So when I saw a total lack of respect, I was disheartened. I was upset. I was even a little angry.

I saw players turn their backs when being instructed by a coach. I saw them consciously ignore instruction and continue to do things their own way. I saw players completely ignoring assistant coaches. I saw players not paying attention, then talking back to the coach when they were called out.

It was upsetting to me. It was blatant disrespect for the game and their coach. There was a part of me that wanted to do something about it, to say something about it. But I can't. I'm just a fly on the wall at these things, and my actions only hurt in those kinds



SAM BARBEE
FROM THE SIDELINES
Sports reporter

of situations.

But that's how strongly I felt. I can only imagine what the coach feels like being walked all over in front of a crowd. I wouldn't handle it with the same patience and grace that I saw.

I'm not saying I was always perfect because I wasn't. There were a few times that I was terrible. But I learned, and by the time I was in high school, it was second nature. I still have a hard time second-guessing coaching decisions, even when I am the odd man out. That's not something I do. I, the player, play, and the coach coaches.

I didn't see that this day. I saw players thinking they were coaches and telling the coach how they thought things should be handled. I heard players telling the coach outright that a bad decision was made. These are things that are unacceptable on any field, at any level, at any time.

This column may come off as a condemnation. It's not intended for that purpose at all, but I want it to be known that I wasn't happy with what I saw and heard. I'm a pretty easy-going guy. I don't get wrapped up in stuff like this very often, and usually I can understand why certain situations are the way they are.

But this was inexcusable, unacceptable and (unfortunately) unavoidable. I'm intentionally mentioning zero details because those aren't important. I'm not in the business of dragging names through mud.

But respect is a matter of the highest order when on teams. Teams aren't democracies. Unless specifically given, players have no voice, no authority, no rights, to be frank. Teams are oligarchies and maybe even dictatorships. There is one voice, one leader, one who commands respect for no other reason than that person is the head coach. I hope things get cleared up soon because the coach deserves better.

— Sam Barbée is the sports reporter for the *Hermiston Herald*. He can be reached at sbarbee@hermistonherald.com

Hermiston softball splits with Reynolds

Betz, Drotzmann pace Bulldogs in 6-1 win

BY SAM BARBEE
HERMISTON HERALD

Abi Drotzmann was angry.

Head coach Kylee Lete moved her from her usual third spot in the order down to the five hole. Lete told her she was thinking too much and wanted to get her a good at-bat. Drotzmann responded by sending an 0-1 fastball over the left field fence for a three-run shot, lifting Hermiston to a 6-1 win over Reynolds to salvage a split Friday evening at Rocky Heights Elementary School. The win snapped a three-game losing streak for Hermiston (3-5). Reynolds took the first matchup 9-4.

"(Coach Lete) was like, 'Maybe you should get mad more often,'" Drotzmann said after the evening win. "I was like, 'I'm still mad.'... She moved me down because I put too much pressure on myself being at three."

The four-run first inning was all Hermiston would need. Taylor Betz was near-unhittable in the circle. The righty went the distance, allowing one earned run on six hits and striking



SAM BARBEE PHOTO

Hermiston's Bobbi Hoffbauer bends to try to lay a bunt down during Hermiston's 6-1 win over the Reynolds Raiders Friday at Rocky Heights Elementary School.

out three.

Betz relied on her devastating change-up to keep the Raiders' hitters off balance all night. She threw mostly change-ups in her complete-game win.

"Taylor threw the ball well," Lete said. "She stepped up really well in this game, and her change-up looked great. It's a nice go-to pitch for her, and it's her best pitch."

The win also demon-

strates a mental toughness Lete said was missing the past few seasons. After playing a "tight" first game, Hermiston came out loose and scored early in the second. Drotzmann said Lete kept her team in the dugout between games to work out why they lost.

"When we're ahead, we're having more fun," Drotzmann said. "It's hard — we need to work on that. We've always been like

that. If we get down, we get down on ourselves, and it's hard to come back out of it. That's something we're working on."

With one out in the first inning, Ashley Moser singled, and Mikayla Kopacz then reached base. Ellery Jones got on base on an error, plating Moser and setting up Drotzmann's three-run bomb.

SEE SOFTBALL/A9

Vale sweeps Umatilla baseball in league opener

BY SAM BARBEE
HERMISTON HERALD

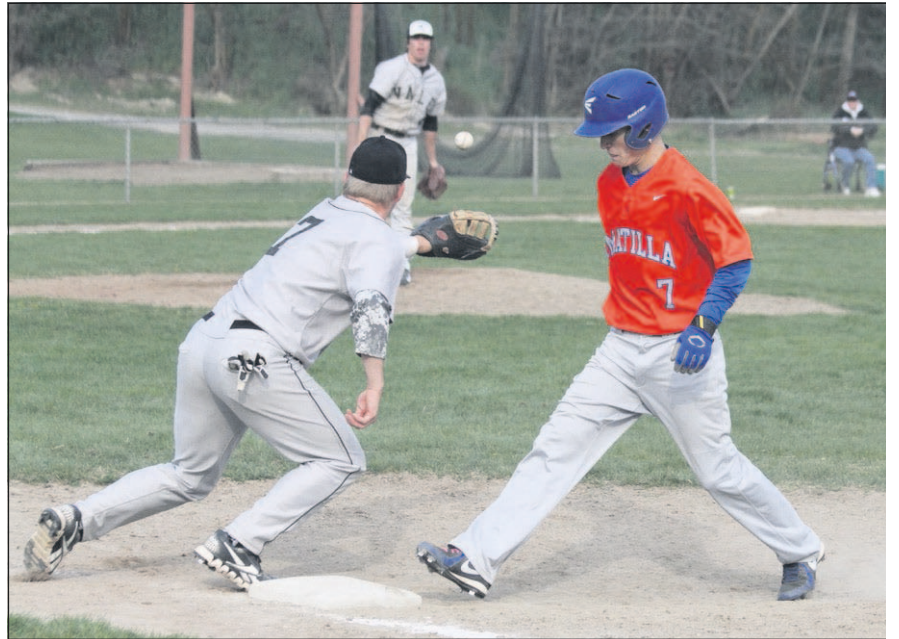
The Umatilla baseball team knew it would have its hands full against the Vale Vikings, and the blue-and-orange-clad Vikings gave the black-and-grey Vikings a fight.

Vale ended up sweeping Umatilla Friday 5-1 and 8-1, but it was how his team played that had Umatilla head coach Corleone "Booter" Lewis smiling after the games were over, although his team is now 0-5 to start the season.

"I'm liking the things I'm seeing," he said. "We can play catch. We're really consistent. I can throw my pitcher out there, and I feel like they'll last all seven."

Josh Dever almost went all seven innings in the 8-1 second leg, but he pitched well. The right-hander went five innings and allowed the eight runs on just five hits while striking out five and walking five.

Diego Soto relieved Dever in the fifth with the bases loaded and allowed a two-RBI single, but was otherwise effective from the mound, putting an aggressive Vale offense



SAM BARBEE PHOTO

Umatilla's Cory Landon gets back to first safely during a pick-off attempt during Umatilla's 8-1 loss to Vale on Friday in Umatilla.

off-balance.

The defense, however, let Umatilla's pitchers down. Dever consistently induced ground balls, but his Viking teammates couldn't field

them cleanly.

Umatilla led after the bottom of the first when Cory Landon tomahawked

SEE BASEBALL/A9

Tigers defeat Riverside in doubleheader

A couple of big innings helped the Stanfield Tigers sweep a doubleheader against Riverside Friday night in Stanfield.

The Tigers used a five-run first inning to down the Pirates 12-6 in the opener and plated six in the fourth inning of the nightcap to complete the sweep with a 15-5 win in six innings.

Tony Flores and Ryan Bailey combined for 10 strikeouts on the mound in the front end, and Klay Jenson threw five innings of shutout ball in relief in the nightcap to earn the win.

In the opener, the Stanfield pitchers provided much of the offense, as well. Bailey was 3-for-4 with four RBIs. Flores was 1-for-3 with three RBIs, and four other Tigers drove in runs.

pitch.

Riverside came right back, though, and scored one in the second and three in the third to cut its deficit to one at 5-4.

Stanfield scored in the next three innings, however, highlighted by Bailey's RBI double and Jenson's RBI triple.

Stanfield plays next April 11 in a doubleheader against Elgin, which is set to start at 1 p.m.

STANFIELD 12, RIVERSIDE 5

RHS	013	020
0-6 8 3		
SHS	503	220
X-12 10 2		
E. Castillo, G. Roberts and J. Salgado. T. Flores, R. Bailey and T. Monkus.		
2B: J. Salgado 2 (RHS), R. Bailey (SHS). 3B: K. Jenson (SHS).		

In the nightcap, Stanfield took a little longer to get going.

Riverside jumped to a 5-2 lead after two innings with a five-run second inning, and the Pirates led 5-3 after three innings. Stanfield erupted for six runs in the fourth and five in the fifth, however, to take a 14-5 lead, and the Tigers

tacked on another in the sixth to initiate the mercy rule.

Monkus started, going just one-plus inning. The sophomore threw 31 pitches and allowed five runs — two earned — on just three hits and walked one. The crafty lefty Jenson came in, however, and slammed the door, pitching the next five innings without a run on seven strikeouts.

Steven Allan, Bailey, Jenson, Fitzpatrick and Makiah Blankenship each had two RBIs for the Tigers. Jenson and Blankenship had RBIs without recording hits.

With Stanfield down 5-3 in the bottom of the fourth, Fitzpatrick reached on an error with one out. Blankenship then walked, and Fitzpatrick scored on a wild pitch with Damian Curiel at the plate to close the gap to 5-4. Curiel would be beamed, Monkus walked and then Bailey delivered with a two-out double to plate Curiel and Blankenship to give Stanfield the lead at 6-5. Flores then walked to load the bases, and then Jenson, Hunter Barnes and Fitzpatrick each had RBI bases

on balls to give Stanfield an 9-5 lead.

In the fifth, Monkus, Allen and Bailey were each put on, and Monkus stole home with Bailey at the dish to get Stanfield up 10-5. Jenson walked with the bases loaded to plate Allan, and Jenson scored on a wild pitch to Barnes to put Stanfield up 12-5. The Tigers would get two more that inning, and Allan's line-drive RBI single in the sixth to plate Monkus put the Tigers up 15-5 and ended the game.

STANFIELD 15, RIVERSIDE 5 (6)

RHS	050	000-564
SHS	111	651-1562
J. Salgado, W. Killian, G. Roberts, D. Bingaman and J. Salgado. T. Monkus, R. Bailey and S. Allan.		
2B: G. Roberts (RHS), Abel Rodelo (RHS), R. Bailey (SHS), H. Barnes (SHS). 3B: G. Roberts (RHS).		

SOFTBALL

The Umatilla softball team was swept by Vale on Friday. Vale took the opener 5-3 and the nightcap 14-2.

No further details were reported.

GO SEE IT

Saturday, April 4

- Golf**
Hermiston girls @ Redmond Tournament, 8 a.m.
- Lacrosse**
Hermiston @ Sisters, 12 p.m.
- Track**
Echo @ Sherman County, 11 a.m.

Sunday, April 5

No events scheduled

Monday, April 6

- Golf**
Hermiston @ Pendleton @ Wildhorse, 12 p.m.

Tuesday, April 7

- Track**
Hermiston @ The Dalles, 3:30 p.m.
- Softball**
Hermiston @ Madison, 4 p.m.
Umatilla @ Irrigon, 4 p.m.
Echo vs. Weston-McEwen, 4:30 p.m.
- Tennis**
Umatilla vs. Ione, 3:30 p.m.
- Baseball**
Umatilla @ Irrigon, 4 p.m.

- Wednesday, April 8
- Boys Tennis**
Hermiston vs. The Dalles, 4 p.m.
- Girls Tennis**
Hermiston @ The Dalles, 4 p.m.