

SPORTS

# Viking softball falls to Mac-Hi JV team

BY SAM BARBEE  
HERMISTON HERALD

Against a largely junior varsity roster, the Umatilla softball team had a rough day Wednesday.

The Lady Vikings allowed six runs in a mistake-filled first inning en route to a 15-2 five-inning loss to the defending 4A state champion Mac-Hi Pioneers JV team in Umatilla.

Chelsea Winters had a single and scored a run for the Lady Viks; Mari Paz

scored a run and Joye Garcilazo, Brittnay Wheeler, Paz and Milly Rodriguez each had hits in the loss.

"I like the fact that we hit the ball against a pretty good pitcher," first-year Umatilla coach Monty Williams said. "That team is a good. That team is a championship program over there. That is a program that we should model (ours) after."

Before the season, Williams spoke about limiting mistakes, especially not

throwing the ball around while on defense. Despite being successful the last few games, Umatilla struggled with that again.

In the first inning, when Mac-Hi plated six, Umatilla threw the ball around and gave the Pioneers extra runs. In the second inning, Umatilla allowed a batter to reach after she struck out looking. That extra out would come around to score.

"We had the wheels come off that (first) inning,"

Williams said. "We did the thing we said we weren't going to do: We threw the ball around today. We made mistakes. We made silly mistakes."

Umatilla, though, didn't roll over. The majority of the Lady Viks' at-bats ended with a ball put in play. In the second, Winters reached on an infield single and moved to second on a ground-out from Bridgett Dunham. Rodriguez then notched her hit, and Paz singled an out later to drive

in Winters from third.

In the fifth, Paz earned a spot at first after getting drilled in the ribs and moved to second when Brianna Regian walked. Garcilazo then laced a double into the right-center gap, plating Paz easily from third to put Umatilla's second run on the board.

"The other thing I did like was the fact that we fought in the last inning to come back and extend the game," Williams said. "We didn't quit. We still went

up to the plate and hit the ball."

Mac-Hi, though, never struggled to find offense. The Pioneers scored in each inning and had at least one hit in each inning, as well.

For Williams and the Vikings, though, this game was a tune-up for the start of the league slate, which kicked off Friday against Vale.

"I wanted to see a good team (today), and I saw a good team today," Williams said.

# Stanfield tennis continues development vs. Ione

BY SAM BARBEE  
HERMISTON HERALD

At a 4A/2A/3A/1A Special District 4 tennis match between Stanfield and Ione on Thursday, the name of the game was development.

Stanfield graduated many of its experienced tennis players from last season, and Ione had a hefty number of newcomers, as well. Plus, with Stanfield's head coach Lisa Logan not present, assistant Monica Gehrke used Thursday as an opportunity to improve. That's all she was after.

"Usually I ask them what they think they need to work on when they get off the court," Gehrke said. "We just kinda put those in perspective of what they need to work on, but, for the most part, I think they did alright. This is only the second match of the season for most of them."

On the boys side, Ione took three-of-four from the Tigers, with Jan Glasen topping Hank Gehrke 8-0. Kai Arbogast beat Austin Thompson 8-0, and Bryan Fowler slipped past Gehrke 8-5. Stanfield's Thompson sealed the Ione boys win, beating Cardinals' Italian foreign exchange student Enrico Macciotti 9-7.

"I do think that Ione's boys were stronger than my boys (Thursday)," Monica Gehrke said.

She said Glasen, who is a foreign exchange student from Germany, is a very good player with instincts and talent. Gehrke said once Glasen figured out his backhand was consistently working against Hank Gehrke, he kept going back to it.

"He had skills," she said.

Thompson and Macciotti's match might have



Stanfield junior Yazzmin Chavez serves during a doubles match against Ione on Thursday in Stanfield. Chavez, with her partner Guitzell Chavez, beat Tim and Tom Gould 8-1.

SAM BARBEE PHOTO



Stanfield's Hank Gehrke, the Tigers' No. 1 singles player, tries to maintain a rally against Ione's Jan Glasen Thursday in Stanfield. Glasen went on to win 8-0.

SAM BARBEE PHOTO

been the most evenly matched match of the afternoon, with neither player having any real leg up in skill or experience. Thompson and Macciotti traded game wins until the match was tied at eight, but Thompson took control and outlasted Macciotti in the end. It was Macciotti's first match of the season and his young career.

"He did very well," Ione coach Maureen McElligott said. "It's nice to see improvement in him."

On the girls side, things were much more even. The lineups on both sides were full of first-year players, creating some very competitive and even matches.

Stanfield's No. 1 doubles team Yazzmin Chavez

and Guitzell Chavez beat the No. 1 Ione boys team of Tom and Tim Gould 8-1. Playing as the No. 1 girls doubles team, Natalia Esquivel and Edith Ibarra had a 6-5 lead, but they couldn't hold it and lost to Maia Fuchs and Katelyn Bess 8-6. Fuchs and Bess also took on Melissa Hood and Z.Z. Ruloph and won 8-2. Ione's Erica Nelson and

Kelsey Van Os won an 8-7 nail-biter over Natalie Cornejo and Amanda Carillo, and Stanfield earned a win from Brenna Holt and Payton Henning, who beat Reiah Waite and Natalie Grigg 8-3. In their second match, Hannah Flynn and Nelson beat Lanessa Bautista and Brianna Carnejo 8-0.

In girls singles matches, Rita McElligott topped Esquivel 8-6, Ione's Karina Rios knocked off Candida Rojas 8-1 and Stanfield's Nicole Hood slipped past Ione's Babali Peterson 8-5.

McElligott said many of the matches were much closer than the scores indicate, and that's tough to tell sometimes with one-set, first-to-eight match-

es. The winning and losing wasn't important to either Gehrke or McElligott, however. With so many players new to the game — some even playing their first matches ever — it was important to get them experience playing in matches to determine where they are as players but also to have fun.

"My idea is you do as well as you want to do," McElligott said. "I can show you and tell you what to do, but I can't do it for you. So, you have to take it that step further and have to want to do it, and I think most of them do, so that's good, and most of them have fun, so that's half the battle right there."

## BASEBALL:

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a high fastball past the Vale shortstop into left field. A batter later, with runners at first at third and nobody out, Dever helped himself by grounding into a fielder's choice to plate Landon

for the first run of the ballgame.

Dever kept Vale at bay for the first two innings, allowing just one hit, but Vale pushed one across in the third to tie things at one when Tanner Romans walked, stole second, moved to third on a wild pitch and scored on

another wild pitch. After a quiet home half of the third, Vale got three, capped by an RBI fielder's choice off the bat of Lane Cummings.

Vale got its final three in the top half of the sixth, highlighted by a two-run single from Marco Ramirez to give Vale

its 8-1 lead.

In the opener, Vale jumped to a quick 1-0 lead after the first inning and added to it with one in the third, two in the fourth and one in the sixth.

Umatilla threatened, though, loading the bases with one out, but a field-

er's choice and a strike-out were all the Vikings could muster.

Landon went the distance for the Umatilla Vikings, giving up just the five runs and striking out nine.

### Vale 8, UMATILLA 1

VHS	001	304
0-8 6 0		
HHS	100	000
0-1 2 5		
A. Webber and J. Schoor, J. Dever, D. Soto and C. Landon.		
2B: A. Webber (VHS).		

### VALE 5, UMATILLA 1

VHS	101	201
0-5		
UHS	000	100
0-1		

## SOFTBALL:

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The Bulldog bats were quiet until the fifth inning when Moser led off with a single up the middle and then promptly stole second with Kopacz at the dish. The first baseman lashed one to the fence in right for a triple, scoring Moser easily from first. Jones then grounded out to the second baseman, but Kopacz didn't take off until after Jones had been put out at first. This set up a close play at home, but the throw was just enough off-line that Kopacz slid in under the tag for Hermiston's sixth and final run.

Reynolds, though, didn't go down easy. The Raiders got one in the fifth when Raven Laine singled with one out and Madi Grose

followed with a double to put Betz in her first jam of the day: runners at second and third with just one away. Sarah Stanfill then shot a single into left, plating Laine from third. It was all Betz would allow that inning, coaxing a couple of easy pop flies.

In the seventh, Reynolds again threatened. After two quick outs, Alison Walton and Cheyenne Vance both singled, but Betz induced a foul-territory popout to her battery mate Breyanna Naylor to end the threat and the game.

"The girls are learning how to turn a ballgame around, and that's huge for us" Lete said. "They're learning how to come back from a two, three-run deficit and score runs. Whether we win or not, we're learning how to face those challenges. That's mental toughness right there."

Hermiston's next game is Tuesday at Madison. First pitch is set for 3:45 p.m.

### HERMISTON 6, REYNOLDS 1

RHS	000	010
0-1 6 2		
HHS	400	020
X-6 5 2		
C. Vance and C. Curtis. T. Betz and B. Naylor.		
2B: M. Grose (RHS). K. Wheeler (HHS). 3B: M. Kopacz (HHS). HR: A. Drotzmann (HHS).		

### REYNOLDS 9, HERMISTON 4

In the first game of the afternoon, Hermiston head coach Lete said her Bulldogs came out "tight" and couldn't rally from an early 3-0 deficit.

Drotzmann went 2-for-3 that game, but Reynolds scored in every inning but the second while holding Hermiston to just four in the third.

Reynolds won despite

committing seven errors, with six coming in the third inning alone. Hermiston had six straight batters reach on errors that inning but could only push across the four runs.

Julissa Almaguer toed the slab in the front end, allowing the nine runs, with seven earned, on seven hits, walked two and struck out one. Lete said the freshman threw well but was let down at times by her defense.

"They hit her, but we gave them some runs, too, that we could've taken away and tighten the score," Lete said. "We also left runners on base, which doesn't help."

### REYNOLDS 9, HERMISTON 4

RHS	301	211	1
9 7 7			
HHS	003	000	0
4 2 3			



Hermiston's Taylor Betz comes home with a pitch with a Reynolds runner on second during the Bulldogs' 6-1 win over the Raiders Friday at Rocky Heights Elementary School.

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