

SPORTS

ROUND UP: Hermiston shuts out The Dalles

BY SAM BARBEE
HERMISTON HERALD

The Hermiston boys tennis team's first dual match went about as well as could be, as the Bulldogs shutout a shorthanded The Dalles team 8-0 Wednesday afternoon in Hermiston.

Each of the eight matches went in straight sets, with No. 2 singles player Jacob Snell recording a 6-0, 6-0 win. No. 1 singles player Tyler Wadekamper wasn't far behind with a 6-0, 6-1 win. In other singles matches, Valentino Whitsell won 6-4, 6-3, and Caleb Jorgensen won 6-1, 6-3.



SAM BARBEE PHOTO
Hermiston senior Tyler Wadekamper serves against The Dalles in a varsity singles match Wednesday in Hermiston.



SAM BARBEE PHOTO
Hermiston junior Jacob Snell prepares his serve toss in a varsity singles match Wednesday in Hermiston.

"It was good to see everyone get a win today," first-year head coach Shann West said. "It'll boost our confidence."

The Dalles' top three singles players couldn't make it to Hermiston, so the Riverhawks had to promote other players into the top slots and had some doubles teams playing together for the first time.

Hermiston pitched two shutouts in doubles action, with the teams of Cameron Meade and Race Latham and Ayden Prewitt and Skyler Grigg winning 6-0, 6-0. The pair of Patrick Wicks and Jason Morris won 6-3, 6-3, and Koby Grigg and Stefano Peiris won 6-1, 6-1.

Hermiston and The Dalles square off again April 22 in The Dalles.

Hermiston's next match is Tuesday at Pendleton. Play starts at 4 p.m.

Hermiston girls beat The Dalles

On Wednesday in The Dalles, the Hermiston girls tennis team slipped by the Riverhawks after a strong doubles showing.

The Riverhawks took three of four singles matches from Hermiston but lost all four doubles matches.

Athena Reid won the lone singles win, beating Ellie Trujillo 6-4, 6-0 in the No. 4 matchup. In the other singles matches, Katelyn Millard lost to Maris Ciano 7-5, 6-2, Robin Pashek beat Jaycee Ternes 6-4, 6-0 and Kiana Pielli beat

Devyn Wolfe 6-4, 6-2.

In doubles action, it was all Hermiston.

Two matches went to a tiebreaker instead of a third set, and both went in favor of the Bulldogs. In the No. 1 matchup, Briana Wolfe and Cheyann Peterson beat Johanna Wilson and Anna Miller 6-3, 3-6 (12-10). In the other tie-breaker match Brenna Wadekamper and Mackenzie Hill beat Rebecca Kohltfarber and Leslie Luna-Lopez 6-3, 1-6 (10-6). The Hermiston pair of Kylie Markwick and Whitney McMahon had no trouble with Abbi Minnicle and Emma Smith in the No. 2 match, cruising to a 6-2, 6-1 win. In the No. 4 matchup, Tania Jamie-Sanchez and Debra Johnson beat Cassie Vazquez and Tiani Langstan 6-2, 6-3.

Hermiston's next match is a showdown with Pendleton Tuesday, April 14 in Pendleton. Matches begin at 4 p.m.

Umatilla splits with Helix

In Umatilla, the Vikings tennis team split with Helix in the second meeting of the year between the Vikings and the Grizzlies.

On the boys side, Umatilla took home a 3-2 advantage. No. 1 singles player freshman Elian Aremonta topped No.1 Helix singles player Erik Jones 8-4, No. 3 singles Stephen Morris shutout Allan Holden 8-0 and No. 4 Douglas Gomez beat 6-3. The only singles loss for the Umatilla boys was in the No. 2 match-up, when Cody Dunn beat Giovanni Armenta 8-4.

In boys doubles action, Umatilla's No. 1 pair Edgar Madrigal and Junior Coria lost to Jones and Dunn 8-1.

On the girls side, Helix bested the Vikings 5-1.

The lone Viking win was No. 1 singles standout Sidney Webb, who eased

by Lynn Roberts 8-1.

Umatilla's next match is Monday against McLoughlin. Matches begin at 4 p.m.

Bulldog girl golfers take third

The Hermiston girls golf team placed third at the Pendleton Country Club Thursday.

Under clear skies, Sydney Adams was the highest Hermiston placer, finishing sixth with a plus-22 94. Grace Blackhurst finished eighth with a 104, Sage Smith came in ninth with a 110, Brittanee Hayden placed 10th with a 113 and McKenzie Lind shot a 121 to put her in 12th.

Hermiston's next match is against Summit Monday at Broken Top Golf Club in Bend. Tee time is set for noon. The Hermiston boys will play at noon at the Bend Invitational Monday in Bend.



SAM BARBEE PHOTO
Hermiston senior Tyler Wadekamper returns a shot against his opponent from The Dalles during a varsity singles match Wednesday in Hermiston.

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tween innings Hunt asked Brown why didn't he just let the ball drop in front of him. Brown said he wanted to make the play but make it "look good." Hawkins noted Hunt's curiosity and desire to learn is beginning to rub off on other players.

Hunt himself said he brings excitement and joy to the dugout that can get lost in the grind of a long season. His happiness at attending practice every day and his raw excitement for the game has attracted other players' notice.

At practice Thursday, players were hitting off tees, and Hunt was shagging. He was bouncing around, running, smiling, trying to catch and field everything. Again, his enthusiasm and desire to improve has attracted teammates notice.

"We see a young guy like that who doesn't even get to play and he shows up to practice and works hard," fellow freshman and starting third baseman Lukas Tolan said. "When we see him going his hardest and loving the game when he's out here, it makes us want to try a little harder and go the extra mile."

Officially, Hunt is the manager. That's his official title, but really, Hunt is a member of the team. Hawkins said so. Tolan said so. Hunt himself said so.

Each senior has a job to do on the field, from raking the area around first base, to putting the mound to bed, to cleaning the dugout. Hunt

has no job. Instead, he does what's needed. He asks Hawkins what needs to be removed from the shed for practice and does it "on the hop." When he takes off to grab a tee or a rake, the players follow suit.

"(The players) hold him accountable, but I think he holds them accountable in kind of a silent way through his actions, instead of just messing around and eating seeds and chasing butterflies and stuff like that," Hawkins said.

In games, Hunt always pays attention, and that focus leads his teammates to follow suit.

"We're supposed to be out here setting the example," Tolan said. "Most of the time, he sets the example for us."

Hunt hits with the team. He runs with the team. He throws with the team. He travels, he practices, he's held to every standard as the rest of the players, the only difference is he doesn't play.

Though he doesn't have a jersey and a number, he has a hitting jacket and a hat and a spot in the dugout ready for him. Hawkins makes sure Hunt is treated fairly and not as a lackey. Senior first baseman Dylan Caldwell talks to Hunt about movies and other non-baseball-related topics in the dugout during games. Assistant coach Matt Bergstrom said Caldwell has taken Hunt under his wing, almost like a brother.

For Hunt, there is no place he'd rather be.

"I feel pretty top-notch, like one of the guys," Hunt said, smiling.



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