

## Bucks nip Dawgs on tennis court

BY MATT ENTRUP  
EO MEDIA GROUP

Not much was determined when the War on 84 held its first battle of the girls tennis season Monday with Pendleton hosting rival Hermiston at West Hills Intermediate School.

While the Buckaroos earned the 5-3 victory, both coaches said it could have gone either way, and about the only thing certain after watching four matches go to tie-breaking third sets was how close their two squads were competitively.

“Every match was well played,” said first-year Hermiston coach Jason Sivey, who also had the teams’ next meeting on the mind. “It makes me wonder a lot about what we’re going to do for Pendleton the next time.

“We’ll definitely be making some little changes, but looking at how close the scores were, those could end up being big changes.”

Pendleton swept the top two singles and doubles matches, and Hannah Flanagan provided the tie-breaking win for Pendleton by beating Mackenzie Hill 7-6 (4), 6-4.

The Buckaroos’ other two singles wins were even closer, as Meagan Flanagan closed out Katelyn Millard with a 10-3 tiebreaker and Matilde Cittadini edged Jaycee Ternes 10-7 in their tiebreaker.

The Buckaroos didn’t need any tiebreakers in their two doubles wins, though, and No. 2 team Christina Thompson and Kiana Sperl had one of the most decisive victories of the afternoon with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Kylee Markwick and Whitney McMahon. Pendleton No. 1’s Keren and Keziah Hampton also swept, but just barely, in wins of 6-4 and 7-5 over Briana

Wolfe and Cheyenne Peterson.

Hermiston’s first win came from Athen Reid and Tania Jamie-Sanchez, who battled to a 10-8 tie-break win in the No. 3 doubles match. Sivey said it was the Bulldogs’ wins at No. 4 doubles and singles, however, that really made the afternoon for him.

Devyn Wolfe defeated Pendleton’s Aieleia Sayre in singles, while Breana Wadekamper and Reed Middleton pulled together for a 10-6 tiebreak win in doubles.

It was the first varsity win for all three freshmen.

Wolfe’s 6-3, 6-1 win over Sayre was the most decisive of the afternoon, and the Dawgs’ doubles showed why Sivey felt confident enough to bring them up from junior varsity recently.

“Devyn came out and played really well, and (Wadekamper and Middleton), they didn’t stop, they just kept competing,” he said. “It was fun to watch, for one, and it was good to see a couple of freshmen getting a win that they’ve worked really hard for.”

The teams will meet two more times during the regular season with the next coming Thursday at Hermiston High.

Hermiston’s next match is today when it hosts The Dalles at 4 p.m.

### PENDLETON 5, HERMISTON 3

Singles  
Meagan Flanagan (P) def. Katelyn Millard 2-6, 6-4, (10-3)  
Matilde Cittadini (P) def. Jaycee Ternes 4-6, 7-5, (10-7)  
Hannah Flanagan (P) def. Mackenzie Hill 7-6 (4), 6-4  
Devyn Wolfe (H) def. Aieleia Sayre 6-3, 6-1  
Doubles  
Keren Hampton/Keziah Hampton (P) def. Briana Wolfe/Cheyenne Peterson 6-4, 7-5  
Christina Thompson/Kiana Sperl (P) def. Kylee Markwick/Whitney McMahon 6-4, 6-2  
Athen Reid/Tania Jamie-Sanchez (H) def. Sam Bixler/Jenna Senter 3-6, 6-4, (10-8)  
Breana Wadekamper/Reed Middleton (H) def. Anna James/Julia Livingston 6-7 (1), 6-4, (10-6)

## The Dalles’ big fifth dooms Hermiston

Riverhawks plate seven runs with two outs

BY SAM BARBEE  
HERMISTON HERALD

For four innings on Tuesday, the Hermiston baseball team was in control, but in the fifth, the rails came off for the Bulldogs against The Dalles.

The Riverhawks plated five in the top half of the fifth, capped by a two-run single by Gordy Harris to put The Dalles up 8-4. When all was said and done, The Dalles walked away from Armand Larive Middle School with a 10-8 win and took two of three in the season-opening home-and-home CRC series.

Hermiston senior right fielder Cole Smith was 2-for-4 with two doubles and an RBI, and senior outfielder RJ Robles was 2-for-5 with an RBI single in the game.

“It’s pretty frustrating because we know we can beat them,” Smith said. “We already beat them once. We had home-field advantage. We should’ve come out with a little more pop in our bats, but we battled. It just didn’t fall our way.”

Hermiston (8-6, 1-2) pounded out 12 hits and had many opportunities to score



SAM BARBEE PHOTO  
**Hermiston senior catcher Jay Lindeman attacks a pitch during the Bulldogs' 10-8 loss Tuesday night at Armand Larive Middle School. Lindeman finished the day 1-for-3 with two runs scored.**

but couldn’t come through when it mattered.

In the second, the Bulldogs had the bases loaded and one out but only got one run. In the fourth, the Dawgs again had the bases loaded, but a called third strike ended the threat with none pushed across. In the fifth, they had runners on the corners with no outs, but The Dalles sniffed out Hermiston’s suicide squeeze, and the Bulldogs couldn’t do any more.

Head coach Lance Hawkins was frustrated with the amount of missed opportunities.

“Our big issue still is not getting the job done at the plate, not being disciplined and focused to say, ‘I’m gonna be the man. I’m gonna do what I need to help the team,’ and we’re not doing that,” he said. “Really, we haven’t done that all season. I’m just waiting.

That’s why I put it back on them.”

Despite the Bulldogs’ lack of situational hitting, finishing innings was their real problem Tuesday. Seven of the Riverhawks’ 10 runs came with two outs, including all five of their fifth-inning runs.

In the second, after quickly retiring the first two hitters with his own glove, starter Chase Root allowed back-to-back doubles and a single to erase a 3-1 lead. In the fifth, Root coaxed an easy fly ball to right and got a called third strike, but two straight walks ended his day in favor of Smith, who walked his first batter and then allowed four straight singles to turn a 4-3 lead into an 8-4 deficit.

“We gotta close,” Hawkins said. “When we (had) two down and nobody on, we extended way too many innings. There was an error but just walks. (It’s not) focusing and not finishing the inning.”

After The Dalles plated a run in the top of the first, Hermiston got three when Smith doubled home Jay Lindeman, and Dylan Caldwell’s lazy pop-fly to right field was dropped to plate Smith and Root to put Hermiston up 3-1. The Dalles answered with two more in the second to tie things at three, but then Root singled home Lindeman in the bottom of the

second to take a 4-3 lead.

The score didn’t change until the fifth, when The Dalles exploded for its five runs. Smith, who allowed the bulk of the runs, said he needs to locate better. He left some fastballs up in the zone, and The Dalles, a good fastball-hitting club, made him pay.

Hermiston pushed three across in the sixth when Mitch Brown singled home Smith, and then Michael Gossler singled with the bases loaded to plate Tyler Sexton and Mitch Brown. The Dalles would again extend the lead in the seventh, however, with two more unearned runs on an error.

On Saturday, Hermiston heads to Hood River to take on the hot Eagles, and the Bulldogs expect to face hard-throwing Washington State signee Ryan Ward at some point.

“That’s a big one,” Smith said. “(We) gotta get one for sure, maybe two. We gotta make it go our way. It’s gonna be tough going down there.”

The doubleheader starts at noon.

### THE DALLES 10, HERMISTON 8

TDR	120	050
2 — 10 8 2		
HHS	310	003
1 — 8 12 6		

P. Eaton, B. Bate and K. Mathisen; C. Root, C. Smith and J. Lindeman.  
2B: D. Hoffman (TDR), R. Kohl (TDR), C. Smith 2 (HHS), M. Gossler (HHS).

## Knights end Stanfield’s winning streak

HERMISTON HERALD STAFF

Despite committing seven errors, the Irrigon Knights slipped past Stanfield in a non-league baseball game Tuesday evening in Irrigon. The Knights used a five-run fifth inning to break open a 5-5 game.

For Stanfield (9-4), Ryan Bailey was 3-for-4 with an RBI, and Tony

Flores was 2-for-4. Bailey started the game on the bump and went four innings, allowing five runs, three earned, on nine hits, and he walked two and struck out two. In a third of an inning, Thyler Monkus allowed seven runs, six earned, on four hits, and Hunter Barnes threw the final 1.2 innings with no hits and no runs.

The loss snapped Stanfield’s

nine-game winning streak. Stanfield heads to Vale Saturday for a key doubleheader in the 3A Eastern Oregon League. First pitch is set for 1 p.m. (MT).

SHS	300	110	0 — 5 7 4
IHS	301	170	X — 12 13 7

R. Bailey, T. Monkus, H. Barnes, D. Grogan; Verly and Kroske.  
2B: R. Bailey 2 (SHS), T. Flores (SHS), S. Allan (SHS). 3B: Blackman (IHS), Rice (IHS).

## Riverhawks down Lady Bulldogs

The Dalles take third straight from Hermiston

BY ERIK SKOPIEL  
EO MEDIA GROUP

The Bulldogs sought to remedy a weekend sweep against The Dalles Tuesday at Rocky Heights Elementary.

Instead, they found more disappointment.

Behind a four-run third inning, the Riverhawks dumped Hermiston 6-2. The defeat places Hermiston (6-10) in a three-game hole in league play and counts as the school’s 12th consecutive league loss dating back to last season.

“We came out flat in the first couple of innings,” Bulldog coach Kylee Lete said.

It was something the Bulldogs could ill afford. After taking a pair of one-run defeats to the Riverhawks (11-5, 3-0 CRC), hopes were high that a third meeting would provide a different result.

Senior Madison Ledbetter made her debut in the circle for the Bulldogs Tuesday. The right-handed pitcher’s season premier

was devoid of major blunders but did include eight balls that landed in fair territory and six runners crossing home plate. The Riverhawks (11-5, 3-0 CRC) did all of their damage in her three innings, racing out to a 6-0 lead before regular hurler Taylor Betz entered and shut things down.

The six runs proved plenty for the visitors.

Hermiston was unable to get to The Dalles pitcher Maddy Bradford until later in the game. She retired nine of 11 to open. She issued five walks in her final two innings, however and the Bulldogs took advantage plating those walks on hits from Makenzie Juul in the fourth and Makayla Kopacz in the fifth.

“Our bats didn’t wake up until the fifth inning,” Lete said. “We couldn’t put the bat on the ball, I guess.”

Three Hermiston errors in the opening third of the contest added to the Riverhawks’ edge. Twice left fielder Abi Drotzmann misplayed blooming singles to left field, and each time the third base coach’s stop sign turned to a wave, sending two runners in for runs.

“I just think after going 0-3 we’re going to have a lot more drive that we

should’ve had going into the first three,” Drotzmann said of the slow start. “Going to Hood River, none of the six seniors want to go 0-12 or whatever it is. We’re going to play our hardest.”

Hermiston opens up its conference series with Hood River Valley with a pair of road games on Saturday. They host the Eagles on Tuesday.

“We started off in our pre-game with a lot of energy, so I’m not sure what the change was,” Lete said. “I wish I knew.”

### THE DALLES 6, HERMISTON 2

R	H	E	
DALL	114	000	0
—	6	10	0
HERM	000	110	0
—	2	5	3

M. Bradford, S. Watson (5) and G. Helyer. M. Ledbetter, T. Betz (4) and K. Wheeler. W — M. Bradford. L — M. Ledbetter.  
2B — B. Hofbauer (HERM).

### Riverhawks sweep Hermiston

The Hermiston softball team’s league-opening doubleheader in The Dalles Saturday was full of heart-break.

The Riverhawks swept the Bulldogs 6-5 and 5-4 on Saturday, with the first

loss coming on a walk-off home run, and the Bulldogs left the bases loaded down 5-4 in the top of the seventh in the second game.

In the opener, Hermiston seemed to be fully in control. The Bulldogs plated three in the first inning, capped by a two-run shot off the bat of third baseman Ellery Jones. In the third, Kopacz, who was 5-for-6 on the day, doubled, and Drotzmann followed to put Hermiston up 5-1.

The Riverhawks got a run in the bottom of the seventh and went single, double, home run while down 5-2 to take the improbable come-from-behind victory.

In the nightcap, Hermiston trailed. Though the Bulldogs scored runs consistently, highlighted by Kalene Wheeler’s two-run single, they were down 5-3 heading into the top of the seventh. The Bulldogs had the bases loaded with two outs, but a harmless pop-up to the shortstop completed the sweep for The Dalles.

—Hermiston Herald sports reporter Sam Barbee contributed to this report.

## Golfers finish in top four

EO MEDIA GROUP

The Hermiston boys golf team had plenty to be happy about after its most challenging round of the season Monday at the Tetherow High Desert Challenge.

Against a contestant field expected to mimic the competition seen at the state championships, Hermiston finished in the top five in team scoring on a difficult Scottish-style links.

Hermiston didn’t have anybody finish higher than 17th but came in

tightly grouped with a team score of 325 that was good for fourth. Summit won the team title with a 305, followed by Bend (311) and Cascade Christian (317). Pendleton was sixth with a 339.

Paden LaCoursiere and Zac Adams each carded 80 to lead Hermiston in a tie for 17th. Keegan Crafton shot an 81 that tied him for 21st.

Hermiston will be back in central Oregon on Friday for the Crook County Invite at Meadow Lakes Golf Course in Prineville.

Tetherow High Desert Challenge at Tetherow Golf Club, Bend  
Team Scores — 1, Summit 305; 2, Bend 311; 3, Cascade Christian 317; 4, Hermiston 325; 5, Central Catholic 328; 6, Pendleton 339; 7, Clackamas 342; 8, St. Mary’s 345; 9, North Medford 352; 10, Roseburg 363; 11, David Douglas 370; 12, The Dalles 372; 13, Liberty 388; 14, Crater 408; 114, North Valley 408.

Individual leaders  
1, Ryan DeCastilhos, Bend 70  
2, Jack Loberg, Summit 73  
3, Reilly Hegarty, Pendleton 75  
4, Josh Wu, St. Mary’s 76  
5, Four tied with 77

Hermiston scores — Paden LaCoursiere 80; Zac Adams 80; Keegan Crafton 81; Anders Lind 84; Jared Thacker 93.

### GO SEE IT

#### Wednesday, April 22

**Girls Tennis**  
Hermiston vs. The Dalles, 4 p.m.

**Boys Tennis**  
Hermiston @ The Dalles, 4 p.m.

#### Thursday, April 23

**Softball**  
Umatilla vs. Walla Walla Academy, 4 p.m.

**Tennis**  
Stanfield @ Helix, 4 p.m.

#### Friday, April 24

**Girls Golf**  
Hermiston @ Mt. Spokane (WA), 9 a.m.

**Boys Tennis**  
Hermiston @ Capital Tournament, 9 a.m.

**Girls Tennis**  
Hermiston @ Capital Tournament, 9 a.m.

**Boys Golf**  
Hermiston @ Crook County Invite, 11 a.m.

**Echo @ Big River Golf Course, 10 a.m.**

**Lacrosse**  
Hermiston vs. Burns, 5 p.m.

**Baseball**  
Stanfield @ Vale (DH), 1 p.m.

**Softball**  
Echo @ Vale Tournament, 2 p.m. (MT)

#### Saturday, April 25

**Boys Tennis**  
Hermiston @ Capital Tournament, 8 a.m.

**Girls Tennis**  
Hermiston @ Capital Tournament, 8 a.m.

**Track and Field**  
Hermiston @ 30th Annual Kiwanis Invitational, 10 a.m.

**Stanfield @ Union, 11 a.m.**

**Echo @ Condon, 11 a.m.**

**Baseball**  
Hermiston @ Hood River Valley (DH), 12 p.m.

**Softball**  
Hermiston vs. Hood River Valley (DH), 12 p.m.  
Umatilla vs. Grant Union (DH), 1 p.m.