

SPORTS

ROUNDUP: Buckaroos frustrate Hermiston softball

HERMISTON HERALD

The Hermiston Bulldogs softball team had a frustrating day Tuesday, losing to Pendleton 13-1 in six innings.

The Bucks plated eight runs in the fourth inning to turn a 2-0 game into a 10-0 game in a heartbeat. Hermiston (7-15, 1-8) made “a couple” of mistakes with Bucks in scoring position, head coach Kylee Lete said, extending innings and giving Pendleton more opportunities.

Kalene Wheeler singled home Jaime Hinkley for Hermiston’s lone run in the fifth. Wheeler was 2-for-3 with the RBI. Mikayla Kopacz and Hinkley were 2-for-3 as well.

Hermiston now enters the home stretch of its schedule with just three league games remaining. The Bulldogs host The Dalles Friday, Hood River Valley on Tuesday and close in the season in Pendleton May 15. All first pitch times are set for 4:30 p.m.

PENDLETON 13, HERMISTON 1

HHS 000 010 — 1 9 1  
PHS 011 803 — 13 12 0  
T. Betz and J. Hinkley; K. Murphy and M. Wissenfluh.  
2B: M. Kopacz (HHS), J. Hinkley (HHS), E. Richards (PHS), A. Morrison (PHS). HR: T. Grass (PHS) 2.

BOYS GOLF

Zac Adams and the Hermiston boys golf team ran away with both the individual and team titles at the Hermiston Invite at Big River Golf Course Tuesday.

Adams shot a career-low 68, which was the by far the lowest of the day on a windswept course, beating Brayden Pulver (75) and Chase Snodgrass of The Dalles (76).

As a team, Hermiston shot 318, eight strokes better than runner-up Pendleton.

Starting Monday, Hermiston will be in Redmond for the 5A Special District 2 district tournament, which runs through May 13.

GIRLS TENNIS

The Hermiston tennis team had a successful tournament at Bend Saturday, beating both Hood River Valley and Pendleton.

Against the Eagles, Hermiston prevailed 5-3.

Katelyn Millard and Debora Johnson grabbed the two singles wins with Millard winning the No. 2 match 6-1, 6-1, and Johnson taking the No. 4 match 6-2, 7-6 (7-2). Jaycee Ternes lost the No. 1 match after a tiebreaker, and Athen Reid lost in straight sets.

In doubles action against the Eagles, Hermiston lost just once. Briana Wolfe and Cheyanne Peterson won in straight sets 6-1, 6-1, 6-0; Kylie Markwick and Whitney McMahon won in straight sets 6-1, 7-5; the No. 3 pair of Devyn Wolfe and Mackenzie Hill cruised 6-0, 6-0; and the No. 4 pair of Breena Wadekamper and Reed Middleton lost after a third-set tiebreaker.

In the second match of the day against Pendleton, the Bulldogs waltzed to a 6-2 decision.

Ternes, Hill and Wolfe each won singles matches in straight sets, and Wolfe and Peterson won in straight sets in No. 1 doubles action. Markwick and McMahon dropped the first set of their second match but won 2-6, 6-3, 10-4 in a comeback victory. Johnson and Reid filled out the wins with a straight-set victory.

“Kylie Markwick and Whitney McMahon played the best I’ve seen all year,” head coach Jason Sivey said. “You could tell they wanted to win, not just play some tennis.”

As a whole, Sivey said, his team’s “mental game was better (Saturday).”

“Against Pendleton, you could actually tell they wanted to win,” he said.

Hermiston heads to Hood

River today, for a 4 p.m. match against the Eagles.

BOYS TENNIS

The Hermiston boys didn’t fare as well as their counterparts in Madras on Saturday. Playing three of the top tennis teams in the state — Summit, Band and Madras — Hermiston came away with just two wins.

Patrick Wicks and Thomas McCullough took home the lone win for Hermiston in a doubles match. Kaleb Jorgenson and Skyler Grigg each won sets in a day that saw Hermiston get knocked around and suffer two ankle injuries.

No. 1 doubles pair Tyler Wadekamper and Jacob Snell tried to solidify a spot at districts, but head coach Shann West said they just didn’t have their best day. He said when players have an off day, like Wadekamper and Snell had Saturday, they often get frustrated and over-hit balls, which the pair did.

West sought to find positives, though.

“You’re able to see where other kids are,” he said. “You see what the next level is for high school players. Hopefully we can understand that’s where we can be.”

Hermiston hosts Hood River Valley at 4 p.m. today.

BULLDOGS

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The Buckaroos finished with 12 hits, including six doubles, four of which collided with the wall.

Hermiston conversely manufactured its five runs using small ball and a bit of luck. Root opened the game with a double down the left field line, and he scored three batters later on a Tyler Sexton groundout to second. The Bulldogs scored two more when Tolan smoked a ball to first base, but Pendleton’s Brady Smith missed pitcher Caden Smith running to first and the ball bounced into the dugout allowing two runners to score.

Gammel and Sexton each hit go-ahead sacrifice flies to the outfield to score Daniel Gossler to take leads at 4-3 and 5-4.

“I’ll play like that for the rest of the year if we can, and I think we’ll be alright,” Lance Hawkins said. “I told the boys it kind of sucks to lose like that, but if we play like that, then I’m pretty happy.”

Hermiston is reaching the brink of postseason elimination. With three games remaining, they trail third-place The Dalles by two games. Only three teams in the league hold the possibility of participating in the state playoffs.

PENDLETON 6, HERMISTON 5

R H E  
HERM 300 010 10 —  
5 9 2  
PEND 300 001 11 —  
6 12 1  
C. Root and L. Gammel. C. Smith, W. Morris (6) and Q. Cockburn. W — W. Morris. L — C. Rott  
2B — C. Root (HERM); M. Gossler (HERM); C. Smith (PEND); B. Hergert (PEND) 2; Q. Cockburn (PEND); K. Quinn (PEND)

HEADINGS:

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III classification. Last season, the Bruin’s posted a 32-1 record with the only loss coming in the Division III championship game to Thomas More 83-63.

Success isn’t foreign to the Bruins. They’ve posted 22-straight winning seasons; they’ve been ranked in the top 25 at least once in the past 11 seasons; they’ve qualified for the NCAA tournament 11 of the past 15 seasons; and they’ve qualified for the Final Four three of the past six seasons while advancing to the title game twice in that period, in 2009, when they won it, and in 2015, when they took second.

Despite all that, however, Headings said the program’s success played a small role in her decision. She said she didn’t even know how well the Bruins finished this season until after she had already decided to attend. It was just the cherry on top.

“It wasn’t a game-changer,” Headings said. “The really big thing for me was those girls aren’t playing there because they were paid to — it’s because they

want to.”

Division III schools don’t offer athletic scholarships; they just help with financial aid. Headings turned down athletic scholarships from smaller schools to go to George Fox because it felt right to her.

“Playing with them, I had a lot of fun, and it looked like the girls had a lot of fun, but they were still serious and still competitive, but they wanted to be there.”

Headings plans to study exercise science and possibly pursue physical therapy. The move to Newberg also isn’t a big source of nerves for Headings. She and her family moved to Hermiston from Lebanon, Oregon, about 20 miles east of Corvallis, and has family in the area.

Headings admits things have been a blur since the close of her senior basketball season. In four short months, Headings went from no plans to play college basketball, to considering it, to garnering interest to committing to a school.

“I’m really glad I made my decision to play,” Headings said. “It’s a new chapter. I’m excited.”

TIGERS

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them to get some PT and get after it.”

Stanfield, though, relied on its lineup mainstays for most of the production Tuesday.

Hunter Barnes singled home Flores and Klay Jensen in the first inning to take a quick 2-0 lead. TCP came right back in the top half of the second, however, when Greg Coverdell hit his first of two doubles. Sam Harlow then dinked one into center field, plating Coverdell for TCP’s first run.

Then, Stanfield broke it open in the third. With one out, Flores walked, bringing up Grogan. On the second pitch of the at-bat, Grogan lined

one into the wind and over the fence in left center field. It cleared about 10 feet left of the 365-foot sign and was estimated to be about 370 feet in total. It was Grogan’s second dinger in a week and third on the season. Johnson said Grogan has been hitting more line drives lately, as opposed to early in the season when he was popping up too much.

“He can generate some power,” Jensen said.

“He was in a little bit of a slump (earlier),” Johnson added. “Now he’s in a groove. ‘I said, ‘I bet the ball looks pretty big right now,’ and he said it does when you’re hitting well.”

Grogan finished 2-for-4 with three RBIs, a double and a home run, increasing his season average to .407, good for second best in the club.

Bailey leads the Tigers with a .420 clip.

After Grogan’s home run, the Tigers then broke open the game when Barnes singled, Allan doubled to plate Barnes and then Curiel, Keeney and Blankenship had their hits.

“It’s contagious,” Grogan said of the two-out hitting. “It pumps us up.”

Returning from his injury, Flores was solid on the hill. In five innings, he allowed five runs — four earned — on seven hits, walked four and struck out 10. Flores cruised until the fifth, allowing just one run on four hits but tired a bit in his final inning and started to leave the ball up.

Stanfield tacked on another run in the sixth when Grogan doubled home Thyller Monkus, and Jensen and Grogan combined to slam the

door from the bullpen.

With just two leagues games ahead of them, the Tigers are aiming to host a district game, which they did last year.

“It’s so important,” Grogan said of clinching the EOL title. “It’s one thing we really want to do. It’s one of our goals every year.”

Stanfield heads to Portland Saturday for a doubleheader. The Tigers take on Portland Christian at 11 a.m. and Clatskanie at 1 p.m.

STANFIELD 9, TRI-CITIES PREP 5

TCP 010 040  
0 — 5 7 1  
SHS 206 001  
X — 9 11 3  
T. Mercado, I. Nelson, P. Geist and S. Harlow; T. Flores, K. Jensen, D. Grogan and T. Monkus.  
2B: G. Coverdell 2 (TCP), D. Grogan (SHS), S. Allan.  
3B: J. Amoto (TCP). HR: D. Grogan (SHS).

CHALLENGE:

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“It was smaller back then,” he said. “Now there’s a lot more people. It’s the same race. It must’ve done well because it’s the same race (and) everyone’s doing it (still).”

Blackburn said that in the past the cross country team has raised about \$3,500 from the fundraiser, which features participants running various dis-

tances on the Butte, and he’s shooting for \$3,500 to \$4,000 this year.

Each participant will have their name entered in a drawing to win one of 45 prizes ranging from gift certificates to a barbecue grill to a Blu-ray player. Winners must be present to claim their prize.

The funds raised go to help the cross country runners in several ways. First, it helps pay for the T-shirts given to runners every season. Blackburn’s predeces-

sor, Jake Puzey, started the tradition of providing the athletes with a free T-shirt, and the Butte Challenge is a major part of paying for those shirts.

Money raised from the event also provides funds for travel costs and meet

fees for the cross country team.

The Butte Challenge course traverses around the Hermiston Butte, overlooking Funland Park and easily seen throughout the city.

Saturday’s event features a 5-kilometer run, 5-K walk

and 10-K. The Butte Scoot is also available for children in a course adjacent to Funland Park, and Hermiston cross country runners will run it with the youth. After the Butte Scoot, an inflatable castle will be blown up in the field.

“It’s just a fun family event,” Blackburn said. “You got the kids run. It’s right there by Funland, so kids can play at Funland. We’ll have hot dogs, all the prizes — it’s the funnest event when you can have your whole family there.”



HERALD FILE PHOTO

Runners from all across the region came to run in the 15th annual Butte Challenge in Hermiston last year. Funds raised from the event benefit the Hermiston youth cross country program.

Super Crossword

Answers

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EAST OREGONIAN

Hermiston Herald

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