

SPORTS

Grogan walks off Mac-Hi

Tigers finish regular season undefeated at home

BY SAM BARBEE
EO MEDIA GROUP

Before Stanfield hosted Mac-Hi Thursday, a solitary figure stood in front of the dug-out with flowers. It was Steven Allan, the lone senior on the Stanfield baseball team.

His last regular season game sent him home smiling when Dylan Grogan drove in Tony Flores with one out in the bottom of the seventh to give the Tigers a 6-5 come-from-behind, walk-off win.

Stanfield (16-7, 7-1 EOL) has now won six of seven and has already clinched the 3A Eastern Oregon League title. McLoughlin (5-17, 0-10) has lost four of five. Hunter Barnes got the win on the hill, tossing 4 1/3 innings, allowing five earned on ten hits, walked and struck out one. Mac-Hi pounded out 12 hits, but left ten men stranded. Klay Jensen led the way offensively, going 2-for-3 with a triple, two runs scored and two steals.

"It means a lot," Allan said

of a win in his final regular season home game, but he was quick to look ahead. "Hopefully we can get a state playoff game at home."

Allan was a celebrity Thursday night. He played seven positions — catcher, second base, shortstop, first base, third base, left and right field — and each time he moved, the public address announcer let the crowd know.

Grogan said it was important to his squad that they send Allan off a winner.

"We all love having Steven on the team," Grogan said, smiling. "He's annoying, but we love him."

"Steven's a fun kid, kind of a goofy kid and everything else," head coach Bryan Johnson added. "He keeps things light, and he's our only senior. These sophomores, they can say, 'Aw, let's look for next year.' But the other day, they said, 'Let's win one for Steven.'"

Stanfield is a perfect 12-0 at home this season.

Stanfield appeared to score the first run of the game when the Tigers had runners at the corners and two away with Justin Keeney at the plate. With one strike, Jason Fitzpatrick took off for second with Mac-Hi pitcher Jesus Vela still set.

Garcia spun and threw to second base, where there was no runner, and a balk was quickly called, awarding Jensen the plate and Stanfield's first run. But the umpires gathered behind the mound and changed their ruling, deciding that Vela's move to second was legal. Fitzpatrick was sent back to first. Jensen took his place at third and Keeney flew out to right two pitches later.

For 6.5 innings, the run was the difference. Mac-Hi plated the first two runs of the game when Jesus Vela singled in Hunter Jensen and Joey Barnhardt for a 2-0 lead. Stanfield got one back in the third when Ryan Bailey lined one back through the box, driving in Thylor Monkus.

Jensen broke out of a recent slump in a big way in the fourth. The sophomore had been hitting the ball hard the last week or so, but had nothing to show for it. Thursday, he broke out. He took the first pitch he saw in the fourth and hammered it over the left fielder's head for a lead-off triple, and jogged home when Justin Keeney blooped a 2-2 pitch just barely into left field, plating Fitzpatrick — who walked — as well.

"Right there, two strikes

(we're) just trying to choke and poke," Johnson said. "That's what he did."

But the 3-2 lead wouldn't last. Mac-Hi sent nine batters to the dish in the top of the fifth and came away with three runs. The Pioneers used a single and double to get starter Hunter Barnes into trouble, then lashed two singles with one out to tie things at four. Fitzpatrick would relieve the junior, and struck out the first batter he faced. Then Sterling Sandberg took the lead for Mac-Hi on a lazer into the left-center field gap plating Jacob Chaney for a 5-4 lead.

Stanfield tied it in the sixth when Jensen reached on an error and quickly stole second. Then Fitzpatrick reached on a bunt single, allowing Jensen to get to third. Two pitches later, Fitzpatrick took off for second, and the throw was high, handing Stanfield the tying run.

Then, with the home winning streak in jeopardy, Stanfield found a way to win. Tony Flores walked, and Grogan skied one to deep left-center. It dropped, but Flores would have had time to score even if the ball had been caught.

"I was just trying to get it out of the infield," Grogan said.

really encouraged me to coming out for the track team this year and I he's the one that's helped me enjoy so much success this year."

Track & Field members of Hermiston High continued in finals events Friday in 10 running events and six field events at Wahtonka Field in The Dalles. The top-two finishers will earn automatic state berths, with others having an opportunity to advance as well with strong efforts.

Dawgs punch state tickets

BY MIKE WEBER
FOR EO MEDIA GROUP

Two Bulldog boys team members qualified for state at the Columbia River Conference championship track and field meet Wednesday in The Dalles, as junior Trey Neal took second place with a personal record in the discus throw of 148 feet and senior Tyler McCabe recorded a

personal record of 21-foot, 4.5 inches in the long jump final to get second place.

Neal in his first year of track, had a fabulous performance as he also took second place in the shot put with his toss of 49-1 to earn state berths in two throw events.

"I need to improve a little more in shot put, because I didn't have my best throws today," said Neal. "I'm kind

of new in both events actually, but I'll work on trying to improve in both throws prior to the state meet. In other years, I just took it easy in the spring after playing football and basketball, but I'm excited about reaching the state meet in track. My coach (David Faeteete) told me earlier this year that I would have a really good chance to qualify for state. Coach Faeteete

ROUND UP

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run to give Stanfield 13.

Grogan was 3-for-5 with three RBIs, and Bailey went 2-for-5 with three RBIs and also scored three runs. Monkus was 2-for-3 and scored four runs, and Flores was 2-for-2 with an RBI and scored twice.

For Umatilla, Landon was 1-for-4 with a run scored, and Dever was 1-for-3 with an RBI. Aaron Garza chipped in with a single.

On the hill, Grogan was nearly untouchable. The sophomore tossed five innings of one-run ball, striking out 13 Vikings while allowing only four hits and walked just one. Of his 95 pitches, 60 were strikes. Bailey finished up with two innings of shut-out ball.

In the nightcap, Stanfield got started much earlier, though with the help of five Umatilla errors. After notching 12 hits in game one, Stanfield had just seven in game two. Flores, Jensen and Damian Curiel had six of those hits, and Bailey pitched in with the seventh.

Jensen was just as good on the mound, allowing just one hit over a little more than four innings and striking out 14.

Flores led the way offensively, going 2-for-3 with two runs and RBIs. Jensen was 2-for-4 with two runs and RBIs, and Hunter Barnes had two RBIs without a hit. Curiel went 2-for-3 with one run and RBI.

The Tigers got two in the first when Flores doubled home Monkus and then scored himself on an error.

The Tigers really got to

work in the second, however, when they plated eight and put the game away. Curiel and Monkus were each beamed with one out, then Flores singled to drive in Curiel. After a fielder's choice got Flores at second, Grogan reached on an error to plate Monkus and Bailey for a 6-0 lead. Then, with the bases loaded, Jason Fitzpatrick walked in Hunter Barnes, who also walked. Then Curiel turned in his two RBIs with a single to give Stanfield a 10-0 lead.

Stanfield got four more, highlighted by an RBI double from Jensen, and the sophomore added another RBI base hit in the fourth, capping a two-run frame.

Umatilla scraped together some good at-bats in the fifth when Sean Miller, Landon and Kole Keller each reached, and Dever walked to drive in Miller. Diego Soto then walked to plate Landon.

Though he allowed nine runs, Dever didn't pitch poorly. Just three of the nine runs he allowed over 2 1/3 innings were earned, and three of Soto's five runs in relief were unearned, as well. Garza, Umatilla's third pitcher of the ballgame, also allowed two unearned runs.

Stanfield's district tournament starts next week in Stanfield against an opponent yet to be determined.

STANFIELD 13, UMATILLA 1

SHS 120 034 3—13 12 2
UHS 100 000 0—1 4 2

D. Grogan, R. Bailey and T. Monkus; C. Landon, D. Soto and C. Samson.

2B: T. Flores (SHS), D. Grogan (SHS), T. Monkus (SHS), S. Allan (SHS), 3B: J. Dever (UHS).

STANFIELD 16, UMATILLA 2 (5)

SHS 284 20—16 7 1
UHS 000 02—2 1 5

S. Allan, R. Bailey and D. Grogan; J. Dever, D. Soto, A. Garza and C. Samson.

2B: T. Flores (SHS), K. Jensen (SHS).

SOFTBALL

The Echo softball team had a pair of unbelievable first innings Friday in an Eastern Oregon League doubleheader against the Umatilla Vikings. The Cougars plated 10 runs in the first inning of the day and five runs in the first inning of the nightcap to take the doubleheader 15-0 and 19-1.

Echo (16-9, 10-4) is firmly planted in second place in the EOL. After struggling through a middling April, the Cougars are undefeated in May, posting a perfect 8-0 record and have averaged 15.5 runs per game. Umatilla is 0-20, 0-14.

Bailey Srofe was 4-for-4 in the opener, scored four runs and drove one in. Erika Parks was 3-for-4 with two RBIs and a run scored, and Alyssa Ray was 1-for-4 with four RBIs.

Echo scored its 10 runs without an out with Ray doubling once to plate two, Blankenship singling home one once and Parks coming up with two RBI base hits — one a single and one a double — to cap an inning that saw 14 Cougars step to the plate.

Two more Cougars scored in the second when Ray reached on an error, and Echo again got two more in the fourth when Blankenship reached on an error and then scored to give her team a 15-0 lead. Srofe tripled in the sixth and scored on a passed ball for Echo's 16th run.

Mackenzie Gonzales was good yet again in the circle, going the distance in a three-hit shutout. The sophomore

struck out nine and walked just two in her second outing since retiring 15 out of 15 batters against Portland Christian May 9. Since then, Gonzales has tossed 12 innings and allowed just six hits and two runs, both of which were unearned. In exactly 100 innings, her ERA sits at 1.96.

In the nightcap, the Cougars scored 16 runs in the first three innings to take an insurmountable lead.

Blankenship and Parks again led the way offensively. Blankenship finished 2-for-4 with three runs and two RBIs. Parks went 3-for-4 with three RBIs and two runs. Gonzales, playing right field this time, was 1-for-2 with two RBIs. For Umatilla, Bridgett Dunham was 2-for-2 with a run.

In the circle, Ray was solid. She threw all five innings, striking out seven in the two-hit, one-run effort. Umatilla junior Milly Rodriguez got the start and allowed 16 runs, though just three were earned.

Echo's district tournament begins next week likely in Vale. Echo is the second seed and must win one game before qualifying for the state tournament in two weeks.

ECHO 15, UMATILLA 0 (5)

EHS 1020 21—15 13 0
UHS 000 00—0 3 4

M. Gonzales and E. Parks; G. Ramirez and J. Garolazo.

2B: E. Parks 2 (EHS), M. Gonzales, A. Ray, 3B: B. Srofe (EHS).

ECHO 19, UMATILLA 1 (5)

EHS 565 03—19 14 2
UHS 000 10—1 2 8

A. Ray and E. Parks; M. Rodriguez, D. Trujillo and B. Dunham.

2B: K. Blankenship (SHS), Monique Monotya (SHS), 3B: B. Dunham (UHS).

FAAETEETE

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and backed up consensus All-American and first-round NFL draft pick Haloti Ngata.

When he arrived on campus in Eugene, his only focus was football. Early into fall camp, the freshman class of about 45 was ushered around from place to place, "to eat our time," Faeteete said. Advisers spoke of the importance of planning a career and choosing classes to accommodate that goal.

Faeteete raised his hand and asked simply, "What if you're here to play football?"

"Looking back, I was a smart, cocky kid who just wanted to play," he said.

His freshman fall camp was good enough to earn him a minor defensive role as a true freshman. His first game action game was against the No. 2, defending national champion Oklahoma Sooners with a freshman running back named Adrian Peterson. On his first snap, a play that Faeteete still remembers vividly, the freshman split the center and guard — both All-Americans — and dropped Peterson for a three-yard loss. He didn't even know he was going in. The next play, those All-Americans, perhaps slighted by the true freshman beating them — doubled-teamed Faeteete and drove him back into the defensive backfield.

When Ngata came back in, Faeteete went to the sideline and was greeted with an all-too common phrase from his position coach: "Welcome to college football."

Discovering the classroom

Faeteete maintained his academic attitude until his sophomore year, when he was given "swift kick in the butt" by the coaching staff. His GPA had dipped under 2.5, the acceptable limit for remaining eligible. He then ran into some injury troubles to his knee and elbow and realized then that academics was important. He appraised his body and what it can bring him, and understood that football isn't going to be around forever.

"I realized that school was really important," he said.

At the time, Faeteete wasn't majoring in anything related to education. He was a political science major with an emphasis in political theory and thought he might attend graduate school at Oregon and then go into law. His eyes were also set on the NFL.

That dream was fading fast, too, however. Even at Oregon, Faeteete understood the chances of playing pro football were small. of the business-like approach. That, plus the growing injury concerns, forced Faeteete back into the classroom with a renewed vigor. He went from B's and C's to A's and B's and graduated with a 3.6 GPA with a degree in political science. He excelled enough on the football field, however, to score a couple try-outs in the Big Show, as Faeteete calls it.

Those opportunities led him nowhere, how-

ever. He spent a total of six days on NFL rosters and went back home to Eugene to play the waiting game. When Kay and Hodges reached out, he had all but closed the door on a potentially lucrative professional football career.

Then, in October of 2008, just a month into his new gig, the Raiders called while Faeteete was in class. They asked how quickly he could get to Oakland, that there might be a shot to make the team.

He asked for some time, and they granted it, and he got to thinking. He told his then-girlfriend — now wife — what happened and didn't know what to do. That evening at football practice, in the environment he always felt was right for him, he made his final decision.

"I go to practice that night with this thing on my chest," he said. "I'm working with kids. Kids are having fun. The coaching staff's excited about it. We're doing drills and it hits me, 'You don't want to play anymore. You want to coach.'"

Primarily his decision was centered around fulfilling the commitment he made to Hermiston High School. He also really enjoyed what he was doing. Those summer days in Medford running the sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade camps his senior year told him all he needed to know about where he wanted to be.

Now, he was finally there, and couldn't think of anywhere he'd rather be.

Head coach

Seven years after mistaking Arlington for Hermiston, Faeteete has come a long way. He said there is no place in the world he would rather be than teaching world studies and coaching football. In his class, students learn about historical events through themes. This semester is about conquest and conflict. Students are asked to think critically about violent historical events, such as World War II, and answer questions about them that aren't "Who was this guy?" or "What happened here in this year?"

His goal in the classroom is to give students skills that stay relevant and useful long past the classroom days, long past the football day. He wants to give skills that last into life.

As a football coach, Faeteete has endured four years of a rigorous program that demanded both athletic and academic excellence, and he has come to understand the value of both.

"Commitment, integrity, work, team work — all these things are what goes into what, I feel, makes a good person," Faeteete said. "Someone who honors their commitments, holds themselves accountable for their actions. The simple things. (People say), 'That's what you do normally.' Exactly. If you emphasize doing things the right way, things'll take care of themselves. The world is the world. Things happen. Not everything goes your way. But a part of life is learning from the bad and embracing the good."

DAWGS

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Aside from two fielding errors, the Buckaroo (11-14, 7-5 CRC) infield was on par. Third baseman James Bradt began two 5-4-3 double plays to get out of potential jams, and the game ended when Hermiston's Jay Lindeman was thrown out by Bradt while taking too large of a lead from the bag.

Hermiston backed into

the third playoff spot, finishing the season tied with The Dalles, but getting the edge by coin flip. They'll travel to the Northwest as No. 3. Rankings freeze on Monday.

"I'm just happy to keep playing," Hawkins said. "But, if we keep playing like this, we won't be playing much longer."

The Buckaroos managed six runs off of Hermiston ace RJ Robles Friday. It was a far cry from the last time the Buckaroos faced the

hard-throwing lefty.

Robles, who has been on the mound for three of Hermiston's four league wins, made the Buckaroos look foolish in a May 1 meeting. He sent 15 down on strikes en route to an 8-2 victory.

To combat Robles, who's a novelty in the CRC as its only regular southpaw, they recruited former Buckaroo lefties JD Lambert, Mitch Morioka, Ryan Hinrich and Casey Hunt to throw batting

practice this week.

"Just seeing it come from the left side, we hadn't seen it that much this season," said junior rightfielder Kai Quinn. "We were just focusing on hitting a lefthanded pitcher (all week)."

Quinn got the Buckaroos off and running in the third inning. With bases loaded, he smoked a ball to right field to bring Tony Papol and Caden Smith home. Alex O'Rourke would make it a 3-0 game one pitch lat-

er on a Robles' offering that bounced off the glove of catcher Landon Gammel and to the backstop.

Pendleton tacked three more on in the fourth taking advantage of two Bulldog fielding errors. A James Bradt fifth inning one-run single concluded the scoring.

"He wasn't the RJ they saw a week and a half ago or whatever," Hawkins said. "But you can't expect a guy to come out and strike out

15. We misplayed a couple of balls. We didn't make a couple of outs I thought we should and that hurt us.

"I'm not going to take anything away from Pendleton. They were the better team today."

PENDLETON 7, HERMISTON 0

R H E
HERM 000 000 0 — 0 3 3

PEND 003 310 x — 7 7 2

R. Robles, C. Root (5) and L. Gammel, B. Smith and T. Hancock, W. B. Smith, L. — R. Robles.

2B — D. Roe (PEND).