

SPORTS

**TIGERS:**

continued from page A9

**STANFIELD 17, PLEASANT HILL 3**

After the top of the first inning, an inning that saw Pleasant Hill score a run and threaten to plate more, it looked like the Billies would take control early and force the eighth-ranked host Stanfield Tigers to play from behind from seven innings.

That didn't happen. Stanfield exploded for 10 runs in the bottom of the first and tacked on seven more in the next six innings to handle the ninth-ranked Pleasant Hill Billies 17-3 in the first round of the 3A Oregon state playoffs Wednesday in Stanfield.

"We just came out of the gates and Thylar (Monkus) got us going, set the tone," Johnson said of the first inning explosion. "Tony (Flores), and Ryan (Bailey) rips one — everything was just going our way. We just came out crushing the ball."

The win gave Stanfield some redemption after last season, when the Tigers blew a late lead at home to Harrisburg in the first round at home.

"We were talking about it all week," Grogan said. "We just wanted to make it past the first round."

The Tigers did in a big way.

Stanfield plated 10 runs in that massive first inning and six runs in the fourth. The Tigers batted around in those two innings, giving starting pitcher Flores all the cushion he needed. Monkus was 4-for-4 with three RBIs, two doubles and four runs scored to pace the Tigers offensively, and Ryan Bailey was 3-for-5 with a double, triple and a whopping five runs driven in. Flores had two RBIs to help himself, and Klay Jenson added a couple of hits and an RBI.



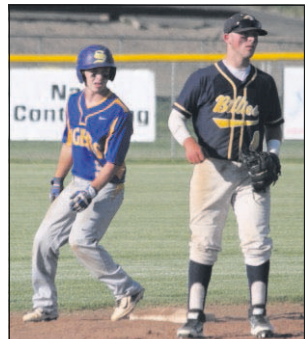
SAM BARBEE PHOTO

**Stanfield sophomore Tony Flores delivers a pitch to batter mate Thylar Monkus during the Tigers' 17-3 first-round win over Pleasant Hill on Wednesday in Stanfield.**

On the mound, Flores was lights out for just over two innings. The first seven outs of the game came by virtue of strikeouts, and he finished with eight over 3 2/3 innings, allowing four hits, two runs — one earned — and walked four. He was relieved in the fourth when he allowed back-to-back doubles and a walk to load the bases with two outs. Hunter Barnes came in and coaxed a lazy flyout to Jenson in left to end the threat.

The first inning was a parade of Tigers. Monkus got his first of four hits on an 0-2 pitch, and then Flores doubled to score Monkus, who had stolen second. Bailey shot one into the left-center gap but stumbled as he approached first base and only got a single out of it, although Flores scored for a 2-1 lead. Grogan was beamed, and then Jenson doubled for a 3-1 lead. The next six Tigers reached on walks, errors or hit-by-pitches, creating another eight runs. In all, Stanfield sent 14 batters to the plate and got those 10 runs on just four hits. Stanfield scored eight runs without an out and chased the Billies starter after facing 10 batters and no outs.

It was, by far, the most runs the Tigers have scored in the first inning all year and



SAM BARBEE PHOTO

**Stanfield catcher Thylar Monkus rounds second base after stealing standing up during the Tigers' 17-3 first-round state win over the Pleasant Hill Billies Wednesday in Stanfield. Monkus had four hits, including two doubles, scored four runs and drove in three.**

the most runs scored in a single inning all year.

"We haven't had a first inning like that all year," Johnson said. "We're a slow-starting team all year. We were kinda like, 'Who are you guys?' It was just a fun day."

**STANFIELD 17, PLEASANT HILL 3**

PHB	100	101
0-374		
SHS	1001	600
X-17122		
E. Richey, T. Callahan, N. Casarez, J. Putnam and K. Miller. T. Flores, H. Barnes, D. Grogan and T. Monkus.		
2B: S. Jones (PHB), T. Flores (SHS), K. Jenson (SHS), T. Monkus 2 (SHS). 3B: J. Putnam (PHB), R. Bailey (SHS).		

**GONZALES:**

continued from page A9

day, Gonzales retired all 15 batters she faced and struck out 10.

The other five outs, though, came on hard-hit balls sprayed around the diamond. She didn't realize over the course of the game what was happening.

"I was just going pitch-by-pitch, batter-by-batter," she said.

So when she recorded the final out — fittingly a strikeout — Bailey greeted her outside of the dugout and asked, "Do you know what you just did?"

She didn't. Though Gonzales received the official credit for the effort, she understands she wasn't alone in the victory.

"I looked at (shortstop) Bailey (Srofe after the game) and was like, 'It wasn't just me. You guys

did everything. You helped. You guys made plays to help me out,'" she said. "For me, it's not just personal. It's 'we,' our team."

Gonzales has demonstrated that motto this year. In a season that saw some defensive struggles — Gonzales allowed 36 earned runs and 79 unearned runs — the hurler never demonstratively showed her displeasure with her teammates. She maintained her composure in the circle through success and struggles and acted as an energy reservoir for her team. The other eight Cougars on the field knew that Gonzales was going to compete through every situation, through every inning, through every game.

That consistent effort rubbed off on teammates.

"When she's throwing strikes, and they hear the pop in that glove, it makes them step up and go, 'OK,'

Bailey said. "The confidence level goes up."

Though she was just a sophomore on a team with vocal leaders, Gonzales eased into a leadership role. Her play, but also her work ethic have begun to set examples of what success softball looks like in practice. She takes her bullpen sessions seriously, and has developed a tight relationship with catcher Erika Parks.

Both Gonzales, a sophomore, and Parks, a junior, will return for the 2016 season.

That desire to improve and stark difference between her freshman and sophomore seasons impacted her teammates.

"There's the captains and obviously those are our biggest leaders, but I try to be a role model for them, someone for them to look up to," she said. "I'm always helping when needed."

**ODFW**

continued from page A9

miles may be closed due to construction, please call or check the website ahead of time.

**Black Bear** The warm and dry winter has left much more country snow free than usual. Green up has begun to appear in the lower elevations. The mild weather will have bears out and more active in the early part of the season. Look for bears close to timber stringers feeding on open ridges. Successful hunters need to remember to check in their bear within ten days of harvest. It cannot be frozen and propping open the mouth will help in aiding tooth collection later.

**Turkey** season is here. Look for spring turkeys to be moving from wintering grounds to their nesting areas. Listen for males to be calling early and late in the evenings to help locate gobblers. With snow levels higher than normal expect turkeys to be at slightly higher elevations this year. Cougars can be found throughout Baker County but hunters should target areas with high concentrations of deer and elk. Setting up on a fresh kill or using distress calls can be all productive techniques. Hunters are required to check in the hide of any cougar taken, with skull and proof of sex attached. Remember to pick up a 2015 tag. Coyote numbers are good throughout the district. Try calling in early morning and late afternoon. Remember to ask for permission before hunting on private properties.

**GRANT COUNTY** The P.W. Schneider Wildlife area is closed February 1st through April 14th. Herbicide application to stop spread of invasive annual grasses is happening on the wildlife area, more information.

**BLACK BEAR:** Most of our snow is gone from mid and low elevation areas of the district, roads can be easily accessed. The best strategy for finding bears this time of year is to sit on a spot with a good view of open canyon sides and use binoculars or a spotting scope to locate

them. The animals will feed off and on during all daylight hours and patience is the order of the day when spotting spring bears. Hunters are reminded all bears are required to be checked in within 10 days of harvest.

**TURKEY** numbers have been on the rise for the past few years in the district. Most of our snow is gone from mid and low elevation areas of the district. By opening day the turkeys will begin to move from their wintering areas up into nesting areas. The best strategy for finding them this time of year is to travel the forest roads or hike into areas where turkeys might be and call for them or just listen for their calls early in the morning.

**Cougar** hunting remains open. Successful hunters should remember that check-in of the hide with skull and proof of sex attached is mandatory; see the regulations for details. Remember to pick up a 2015 tag.

**Coyote** numbers are good in most of the district. Coyotes may respond to distress calls. Try calling in the early morning and late evening.

**MORROW, GILLIAM AND WHEELER COUNTIES**

**TURKEY** numbers have been rising slightly in the district. All our snow is gone from the timbered parts of the district. Turkeys have mostly moved up into the forest from their wintering areas. This year's very mild winter has allowed turkeys to disperse throughout the forest. Season closes May 31.

**Cougar** hunting is open. Cougar are well distributed in our forested areas. Calling with distress calls or cougar vocalizations can be effective. However, locating a fresh, naturally made kill has the best chance of success.

The Coyote population is healthy with good numbers of coyotes available for those who wish to pursue them. Watch wind direction to help prevent giving away your location. Calling with game distress calls can be very successful.

**UMATILLA COUNTY**

Bears are distributed along forested stringer areas throughout the mid elevations of Umatilla County. Upper elevation forest roads

are accessible from numerous access points throughout the county, thus providing earlier access to those timbered stringers amongst the mid elevations. Foraging bears can be observed by glassing open hill slopes with a south/southwestern aspect. Earlier in the season bears can be observed throughout the day. Bear numbers are increasing as we enter into May and should persist until the end of the season. Hunters are reminded all bears are required to be checked in within 10 days of harvest. Season closes May 31.

Turkeys are scattered throughout the forested areas of Umatilla County, look for turkeys along ridge tops crossing between drainages. Listen for gobbling turkeys within early hours of daylight from atop high elevation spots above those drainages. Less than average snow levels have provided earlier access to upper elevations.

**Cougar** are well distributed in forested areas of the Walla Walla, Mt. Emily, and Ukiah units. Hunters will have best success by finding a fresh naturally made kill and sitting on it, or by using predator calls. Some success has come from following tracks until the cougar is located.

**Coyote** are numerous throughout the County and hunters should have good success calling. Remember to ask permission before hunting on private lands.

**UNION COUNTY** Bear numbers are strong in all of Union County and hunters have a good chance of filling a tag. Look for bears on open South slopes. Access to national forest lands should be excellent due to the light snow pack this winter. Many forest roads will be soft with early snow melt, take care not to cause unnecessary ruts.

**Turkey** numbers look good in Union County and chances of finding a Gobbler should be better than last year. Hunters will increase their chances of success by staying out in the field all day. Walking into hunting areas that are not reachable by vehicles can produce enjoyable, uninterupted hunts. Birds are well distributed by midseason.

**Cougars** are common in Union County. Focus on game rich areas with long ridgelines or saddles that cats typically travel.

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**Special Notices 10**

**The Oregon Facilities Authority** is coming to Pendleton for an informational session regarding our SNAP Bond program on Monday, June 8 at 10:00 a.m. at the Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate. There is no charge for attending. The SNAP Bond program allows 501(c)(3) nonprofits to benefit from low cost financing for bank loans for the construction, purchase or remodeling of their facilities. A nonprofit organization works closely with a bank and OFA to arrange a SNAP Bond. For more information or to register, please contact Tillie Hasson at [tillie.hasson@tonkon.com](mailto:tillie.hasson@tonkon.com) or 503-802-2137.

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