

## Echo softball state run ends with 12-2 loss to Dayton

BY SAM BARBEE  
HERMISTON HERALD

Days after beating Rogue River 11-4 to secure its first state playoff win, the Echo Cougars softball team couldn't keep the ball rolling, dropping a 12-2 decision to top-ranked Dayton in five innings Friday afternoon in Dayton.

Erika Parks was a solitary bright spot for the Cougars, going 2-for-3 at the plate with Echo's only RBI. Hannah McCarty also had a double, and Cynthia Curiel checked in with a triple.

Dayton got to Echo starter Mackenzie Gonzales early and often. The Pirates plated three in the first and fifth innings, one in the second and third, and four in the fourth. Rachel Fluke led the way, going 2-for-4 with two doubles, four RBIs and a run scored. She was followed by Sierra Ray who went 2-for-2 with a double, triple, three RBIs and three runs scored. Gonzales finished with five innings pitched, allowing 12 runs — 11 earned — on 12 hits while walking four and striking out one.

Echo's runs both came in the fifth when Parks singled home Beth Milbrodt and Kenzie Blankenship.

### DAYTON 12, ECHO 2 (5)

EHS 000 02-261  
DHS 311 43-12120  
M. Gonzales and E. Parks; H. Couch and C. Ringnald. WP — C. Ringnald. LP — M. Gonzales.  
2B: H. McCarty (EHS), S. Ray (DHS), R. Fluke 2 (DHS), 3B: C. Curiel (EHS), S. Ray (DHS), H. Couch (DHS), HR: K. Hill (DHS)

In their first state playoff game in program history, the Echo Cougars took their time getting things going.

They went on to score four runs in the fourth inning and seven in the seventh and held off a desperate rally in the bottom of the seventh to hold off the Rogue River Chieftains 11-4 Wednesday afternoon at Rogue River.

Gonzales continued the tear she started this season, tossing seven solid innings, notching eight

strikeouts and allowing one earned run on just three hits. Not to outdo herself in the box, the sophomore went 2-for-4 with two runs scored, three RBIs and clubbed her second home run of the season. Monique Montoya added a couple of RBIs and Bailey Srofe, Jaime Christopher and Parks had two hits each.

Parks took a hard tag to the face while trying to steal second and got a nasty cut on the inside of her lip and a bloody nose.

Head coach Bryan Bailey said she refused to come out of the game, and "the team fed off her determination." Srofe also made a spectacular diving catch on a line drive in the hole that also added to the Cougars' energy.

The game went scoreless for three innings before Echo scored. The Cougars pushed four across in the fourth when Parks reached on a bunt single, Srofe singled to left and Gonzales parked a 2-0 pitch over the left-field fence for a 3-0 lead. Then Cynthia Curiel came up big with an RBI triple to push Echo ahead 4-0.

The score would stay there until the seventh, when Echo got seven more runs. Parks and Montoya had RBI doubles, Srofe bunted home Hannah McCarty and Gonzales reached on an error, allowing Montoya to scamper across the dish. After an out, Curiel reached on an error, plating both Srofe and Gonzales for an 11-0 lead.

But Echo committed three errors in the bottom of the seventh to essentially hand Rogue River three unearned runs.

"It was a great team win for our community and supporters," Bailey said.

### ECHO 11, ROGUE RIVER 4

EHS 000 400  
7-11 125  
RRC 000 000  
4-4 33  
M. Gonzales and E. Parks; A. Sands and C. Hardy.  
2B: E. Parks (EHS), M. Montoya (EHS), J. Pratt (RRC), 3B: C. Curiel (EHS), C. Hardy (RRC).

## Flyg receives NAIA academic honor

Former Hermiston and current Eastern Oregon softball player Gracie Flyg has been named to the 2015 Daktronics NAIA Scholar-Athletes, the NAIA National office announced.

The honor is awarded to NAIA athletes who maintain a 3.5 GPA or better and have achieved

junior academic standing.

Flyg, a junior outfielder, started all 45 games for the Mountaineers. She finished with a .299 batting average, scored 16 runs and drove in 17 more.

EOU completed its season last month. The team was 18-27 on the season.

# Power in the circle

## Echo's Gonzales key reason behind team's success

BY SAM BARBEE  
HERMISTON HERALD

Following her freshman season, there was no indication that Mackenzie Gonzales was going to carry the Echo Cougars the next season.

Her first year, she hit around .130, led the team in strikeouts at the plate and pitched sparingly on a team that finished 9-14.

Head coach Bryan Bailey saw something in the struggling freshman, however. He put her on his American Softball Association team for the summer, and she showed signs of being a productive player. Then, that winter, Bailey told Gonzales her role would expand on the team, that the Cougars were depending on her in the circle and in the box come spring.

"She accepted the role," Bailey said. "We talked early when we were doing winter workouts and said, 'You're going to step into a role you've never been in,' and she goes, 'I'm ready for it. I'll do it.' To me, that's big and helped us get to where we're at."

Softball is part of the Gonzales family's identity.

"It was kind of expected," the sophomore said.

She fell in love with the game right away, and by the time she was 15 she had earned a spot on Echo's varsity team as the back-



SAM BARBEE PHOTO

A hard-throwing right-hander, Mackenzie Gonzales of Echo also possesses a good dropball, riseball and change-up that keep hitters off balance.

up pitcher to senior Megan Bailey.

While her first-season numbers were not memorable, this season she helped propel the Cougars to places they had never been before. Behind Gonzales' wind-mill of an arm and power bat, the Cougars

won their first state playoff game in school history May 20.

Like her coach expected of her, Gonzales has been a key contributor.

A season after having one of the lowest averages and most strikeouts, Gonzales led Echo in batting

average, hitting .368, on-base percentage with .517, slugging with .632, on-base plus slugging with 1.149. She was four in doubles, hitting seven, tied with Bailey Srofe for first in runs with 32, third in hits with 25 and second in RBIs with 24.

It's no secret why Gonzales has had the turnaround.

"She's worked, not only season but off-season, to get to where she's at," Bailey said.

She was the only Cougar with an average above .350, on-base percentage over .500, slugging percentage over .600 and on-base-plus-slugging over 1.000 on a team that advanced into the state quarterfinals but fell in a 12-2 loss to Dayton on Friday.

Gonzales' impact on the Cougars isn't just felt from the plate. True, she occasionally patrols right field, but her main role is in the circle.

In her first year of major varsity of action, the sophomore has dazzled. In 121 innings, she allowed just 41 earned runs, good for a 2.37 ERA. Her walks and hits per innings pitched was at 1.5, so she allowed about a base-runner and a half per inning. She fanned 134 with an above-average fastball, good dropball, effective riser and dirty change-up.

Gonzales put herself on the map earlier this month when she tossed a perfect game at Portland Christian. On an uncharacteristically muggy lower Columbia

SEE GONZALES/A10

## Stanfield allows five in first, loses 9-6

BY SAM BARBEE  
HERMISTON HERALD

Five first-inning runs doomed the Stanfield Tigers Friday evening at Cascade Christian in a state quarterfinal baseball game. The Challengers

knocked around Tigers starter Klay Jensen to the tune of eight runs — four earned — in just an inning of work with five walks. Dylan Grogan relieved Jensen in the second and went the next five innings, allowing no earned runs and

striking out 10.

The damage had been done, however.

Stanfield scored in the top of the first, though, to open things. Ryan Bailey, who had three RBIs on the day, walked with two outs and moved to third on a Grogan single. He scored on a wild pitch with Jensen at the plate.

Helped by two Stanfield errors in the first, the Challengers got the five runs on just one hit. Challenger starter Cody Coggins, who struck out 10 Tigers on the mound, doubled home one, and then a couple more came in when Stanfield misplayed a grounder and flyball. Stanfield should have been out of the inning tied 1-1, but the two mistakes made the difference.

The first three Challengers reached base in the second, and two scored on a single by Will Weaver for an 8-1 lead.

The score stayed there until the fourth, when Cascade Christian's Knute Thompson allowing Cascade Christian's ninth and final run.

Stanfield wouldn't go down easy, however. The Tigers plated four runs in the final frame in a desperate attempt to keep their season alive.

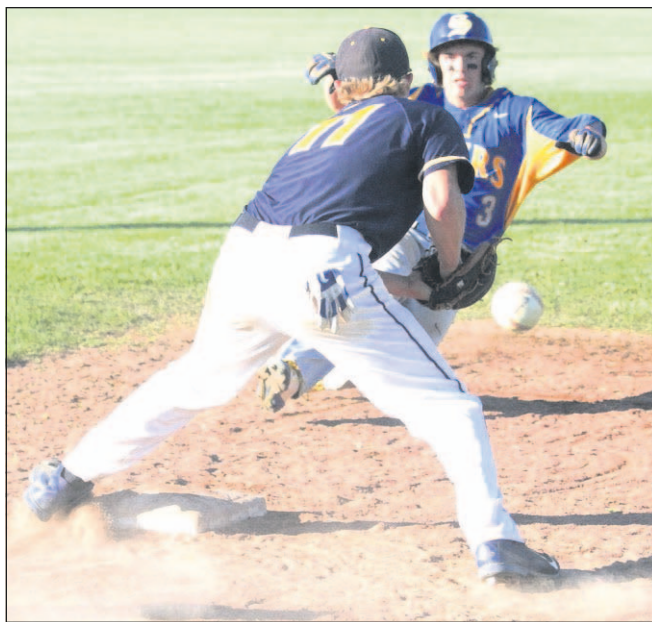
Justin Keeney singled to lead off. Thyler Monkus was beamed. Tony Flores singled, and then Bailey pounded a double into the left-center gap to clear the bases and put Stanfield back in it at 9-5. Makiah Blankenship then grounded out to drive in Bailey a couple pitches later, but it was all the Tigers could muster.

"There's nothing to be ashamed of," head coach Bryan Johnson said. "There's nothing to hang our heads about."

### CASCADE CHRISTIAN 9, STANFIELD 6

SHS 100 010  
4-6 64  
CCC 530 100  
X-9 71  
K. Jensen, D. Grogan and T. Monkus. C. Coggins, W. Weaver and J. Carpenter. WP — C. Coggins. LP — K. Jensen.  
2B: R. Bailey (SHS), C. Coggins 2 (CCC).

SEE TIGERS/A10



SAM BARBEE PHOTO

Stanfield sophomore Ryan Bailey slides into third base as Pleasant Hill third baseman Sam Jones tries to apply the tag as the ball gets away from him Wednesday. Bailey scored on the play and the Tigers won the game 17-3.

## ODFW REPORT

### NORTHEAST ZONE

#### FISHING

##### Weekend fishing opportunities:

- The spring Chinook fishing has been good on the lower Umatilla, anglers should concentrate on the area upstream of the Hwy 730 bridge and Threemile Dam.
- As spring continues, fishing for holdover trout in Wallowa Lake can be good, with fish in the 15 to 20-inch range.
- Irrigon and Umatilla hatcheries will be closed through July 15 for renovations.
- Visitors to the Umatilla National Forest this spring should pack a rod for fishing some of the many stocked forest ponds.
- Spring Chinook fishing on the upper John Day should be fair with river conditions coming into shape. Season is open through June 7.

#### Send us your fishing report

We'd love to hear about your recent fishing experience. Send us your fishing report through ODFW Fishing Reports — the information will be forwarded to the local biologist who may use it to update various ODFW resources such as the Weekly Recreation Report.

#### BULL PRAIRIE RESERVOIR: rainbow and brook trout

Approximately 200 trophy rainbow trout were stocked last fall and should provide fair fishing. Brook trout are also available.

#### GRANDE RONDE RIVER: trout, whitefish, bass

The Grand Ronde River will open for fishing on Saturday, May 23. Trout fishing early in the year can be good. Fly fishermen will find good hatches of caddis and stoneflies. Recent rains have increased flows and should set up well for

#### a weekend raft or drift boat trip.

#### HATROCK POND: trout

The Hat Rock State Park provides a trail system with easy angler access to the pond for the entire family. Fishing for rainbow trout should be good.

#### HOLLIDAY PARK POND: rainbow trout

Pond has been stocked and fishing is good for both newly stocked and carryover trout. IMNAHA RIVER: trout, whitefish, bass The Imnaha River is open to fishing. Fishing for whitefish in the upper river can be very good. Whitefish are abundant and can often reach lengths over 16-inches. Trout fishing can be good early in the season with all types of gear. Bull trout will begin moving through the system soon — remember, all bull trout must be released unharmed.

Spring Chinook are currently moving up the Columbia River toward the Snake River. ODFW managers are closely monitoring returns to determine the possibility of a salmon fishery on the Wallowa River. This fishery would open in early to mid-June provided a strong run of spring Chinook bound for the Wallowa. Check the ODFW website for fishery openings.

#### Flow data for the Imnaha can be found on the Idaho Power website.

#### JOHN DAY RIVER: spring Chinook / smallmouth bass

A spring Chinook season has opened on the John Day River May 20 through June 7, 2015. The river will be open for 26 miles from the Hwy 207 bridge (located 5 mile downstream of Service Creek, Ore.) upstream to the mouth of North Fork John Day River near Kimberly, Ore. Bag limit is 2 adults and 5 jacks both wild and hatchery can be harvested. There should be a

decent number in the fishery area. The river has been flowing high but is predicted to drop and be in decent fishing shape by the weekend.

#### John Day River flows

A few bass are now being caught below Kimberly during the warmest days.

#### JUBILEE LAKE: rainbow trout

The main road to Jubilee Lake is open, but anglers must walk into the lake as the camp ground remains closed. This is one of the earliest dates for access to Jubilee Lake; fishing should be good for carryover rainbow trout.

#### LONG CREEK POND, CAVENDER POND: trout

Both ponds remain open all year. Long Creek Pond was stocked on April 13 and should provide good fishing. Carryover trout up to 18-inches are being caught at Cavender Pond.

#### MAGONE LAKE: rainbow and brook trout

Water temperatures are still cold and fishing is fair.

#### McNARY PONDS: trout

The ponds have been stocked and fishing should be good for rainbow trout. A trail system provides access to both pond and stream fishing and the area also has several handicap accessible fishing platforms.

#### PEACH POND (Ladd Marsh): rainbow trout

Stocked with rainbow trout for the first time this season during the first full week of April.

#### ROULET POND: rainbow trout

Stocked with rainbow trout for the first time this season during the first full week of April.

#### ROWE CREEK RESERVOIR: rainbow trout

Remains open all year. Fishing is good for carry-over trout and the reservoir has been stocked.

#### TATONE POND: trout

The pond has been stocked and fishing should

#### be good for rainbow trout.

UMATILLA FOREST PONDS: trout The forest ponds have been stocked and should provide good fishing for rainbow trout.

#### UMATILLA RIVER: spring Chinook

For the week of May 11 to May 17, anglers averaged 3.9 hours per spring Chinook caught. The catch has been early and late with fish and anglers dealing with the high water temperatures. Returns and catch rates should pick up quickly within the next couple of weeks. To date a total of 3,500 spring Chinook have returned to Threemile Dam. Low water levels and high water temperatures are likely going to have major impacts on the fishery, trap and transport of all spring Chinook was started on April 26 and will likely continue for the remainder of the return season.

This will effectively end the upper river fishery, there have been 160 fish released into that area and fish may drop back into the fishery area. Anglers should consult the synopsis for detailed regulations. Anglers are reminded steelhead season ended April 15.

#### Threemile Dam fish counts

WALLOWA LAKE: rainbow trout, kokanee, lake trout

Holdover trout from last season stockings are available and often range 15 to 20-inches long and can be caught in multiples. Early spring anglers have reported catching a few of these fish and one reward tag worth \$50 has been returned from a heavy 18-inch fish.

The lake will be stocked for the first time this year before the Memorial Day weekend. Once stocking begins, catch rates are generally very high with many anglers taking home limits early

#### in the day.

Some experienced fishermen are picking up large lake trout trolling at depth with downriggers.

While lake trout aren't abundant in Wallowa Lake it's not uncommon to find fish over 25 pounds.

Biologists have received few reports on the kokanee fishery; however, late spring and early summer is usually best. Lend a hand to local biologist and report your kokanee fishing experience at ODFW Fishing Reports.

In 2014 the lake was stocked with tagged rainbow trout in an effort by ODFW to better understand the utilization of this fishery. Tagged fish have been caught at very high rates and over \$2,700 in rewards have been paid. Some of these fish have likely held over from last year and are available to anglers. If you catch one of these tagged fish, please report the number, location, date, where in the lake the fish was caught and the size to the ODFW office in Enterprise or online.

#### WALLOWA RIVER: steelhead, mountain whitefish

Some salmonflies and caddis have been hatching and will put the fish on the bite; however, many techniques will catch fish. Whitefish will also be available and can offer up some fun when fishing for trout is slow. Remember, below Rock Creek only adipose-fin clipped trout may be harvested. All bull trout must be released unharmed.

Spring Chinook are currently moving up the Columbia River toward the Snake River. ODFW managers are closely monitoring returns to determine the possibility of a salmon fishery on the Wallowa River. This fishery would open in early to mid-June provided a strong run of spring

Chinook bound for the Wallowa. Check the ODFW website for fishery openings.

#### WILLOW CREEK RESERVOIR: trout, crappie, bass

Anglers are reporting good catches of rainbow trout from 12 to 20-inches. Best catches are falling for PowerBait and night crawlers fished on the bottom. The Reservoir was stocked last week with larger than legal-sized trout. Warmwater fishing is picking up as water temperatures increase.

#### NORTHEAST ZONE HUNTING

OPEN: COUGAR, SPRING BEAR (see regs), SPRING TURKEY

Spring bear and turkey hunting close May 31. See the turkey hunting forecast.

Wolves in Northeast Oregon

Wolves are protected by state law and it is unlawful to shoot them. Coyote hunters in northeastern Oregon need to take extra care to identify their target as wolves can look like coyotes, especially wolf pups in the mid-summer and fall. Please report any wolf sightings or wolf sign to La Grande office (541) 963-2138 or online with the Wolf Reporting Form.

Use the Oregon Hunting Map to see where to hunt.

#### BAKER COUNTY

Check the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest website or call them for the latest on Forest Service Rd 39 construction and detour route information. Remember it is a designated snowmobile route until April 15 and is not maintained for passenger travel until mid-June. The southern 18

SEE ODFW/A10