

SPORTS

Kopacz named third-team all-state



Utility player led Bulldogs in eight offensive categories

BY SAM BARBEE
HERMISTON HERALD

The Hermiston softball team had a member earn a high honor Monday.

Do-everything player Mikayla Kopacz was named a third-team player Monday by OregonLive.com.

"It was exciting for Mikayla to get recognition," Hermiston coach Kylee Lete said. "She did a good job at the plate, and it was good to see her get some recognition."

STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

Hermiston High School second baseman Mikayla Kopacz attempts to tag Lauren Richards, of Pendleton, during a CRC softball game at Steve Cary Field in Pendleton. Richards was ruled safe.

As a junior getting time at shortstop, second base and first base, Kopacz hit a team-leading .408 in 88 plate appearances. She also led the Bulldogs in hits with 31, RBIs — 15, doubles — seven, walks — 10, on-base percentage — .483, slugging — .552 and on-base plus slugging — 1.036. She also stole seven bases in seven attempts.

Kopacz not only helped on the field, Lete said, but her attitude and personality in the dugout was welcome, as well.

"She has a bubbly personality that helped the girls," she said. "She helped that she brought, not lightheartedness, but spirit and bubblyness to the team."

BULLDOGS:

continued from page A6

times that runner scored.

Stanfield was never truly out of the game, however. The Tigers got two in the third when, down 7-0, Keith Wampler walked to start, stole second and scored when Flores reached on an error. Ryan Bailey grounded out the next pitch, scoring Thyler Monkus, who had previously singled.

Stanfield's real damage didn't come until the fifth, however, when the Tigers were helped by walks. In that fifth, Monkus reached with two outs on a dropped third strike, and then Flores reached when a fly ball to right field got lost in the sun. Bailey and Dylan Grogan walked to load the bases, and then Hunter Barnes was beamed — he was hit three times in the game — to

plate Monkus. Then Makiah Blankenship walked in Bailey, and Jason Fitzpatrick walked in Grogan. Barnes scored on a wild pitch with Justin Keeney at the plate, and just like that Stanfield was back in it at 10-7. The Tigers scored the five runs on no hits.

Hermiston, though, tacked on another when Paytan Staker drove in Caden Schwirse on a single. Schwirse walked to lead off the inning.

Stanfield broke through for its first lead in the seventh, when Flores drove in Damian Curiel on a sacrifice fly, and Monkus followed on a throwing error for a 13-12 lead. A batter later, Bailey singled, but the hard-hit line drive got past the right fielder. The throw to third base was high and went out of play, sending Bailey home and giving Stanfield a 14-12 lead. They wouldn't

hold it for long. Hermiston pounded out seven hits in that eighth inning, putting away the pesky Stanfield club.

Stanfield next plays Thursday when it hosts a doubleheader against Sunnyside Christian at 4 p.m. Hermiston hosts Richland at

5 p.m. on Wednesday.

	HERMISTON 19,	STANFIELD 14
HERM	213	311
17 — 19 19 5		
STAN	002	054
30 — 14 7 4		

T. Sexton, G. Anderson, D. Gossler, K. Moss, H. Edmiston, K. Caldwell and S. Gritz; T. Flores, H. Barnes, J. Keeney, M. Blankenship, D. Curiel, T. Monkus and D. Grogan.

2B: D. Gossler (HERM), T. Sexton (HERM), C. Schwirse (HERM), G. Anderson (HERM), M.

Blankenship (STAN), 3B: P. Staker (HERM).

Stanfield splits with Tri-Cities Badgers

The Stanfield Tigers AAU baseball team split a pair of games Sunday with the Tri-Cities Badgers.

TCB took the opener 11-1, but Stanfield won the nightcap 9-8 on a single from Makiah Blankenship.

In the opener, Stanfield managed to slap seven hits but only got one run out of it, when Thyler Monkus singled home Hunter Barnes in the second. TCB scored in each inning.

The nightcap, though, went much better for Stanfield. The Tigers led 5-2 before allowing four runs in the home sixth to fall behind 6-5. In that seventh, Barnes and Justin Keeney started with walks, and Jason Fitzpatrick moved them

up a base with a sacrifice bunt. Blankenship then singled to drive both in, giving Stanfield a 9-7 lead. Adrian Renner then hit a clutch sacrifice fly giving Stanfield a much-needed insurance run. It proved to be a huge one, as TCB plated one in the home seventh, but Barnes struck out the final two batters with the bases loaded to earn the split.

Monkus was 4-for-6, scored two runs and drove in two more on the weekend.

TRI-CITIES BADGERS 11, STANFIELD 1 (5)		
STAN	010	00 — 1 7 4
TCB	333	3X — 11 6 2

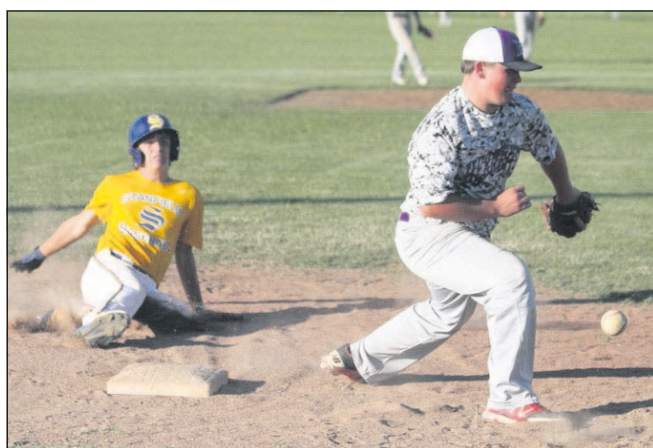
D. Grogan, A. Renner, T. Monkus; Nelson and Harlow.

2B: D. Grogan (STAN), Covedale (TCB).

STANFIELD 9, TRI-CITIES BADGERS 8		
STAN	221	100
3 — 9 6 2		
TCB	012	004
1 — 8 8 5		

T. Monkus, J. Fitzpatrick, H. Barnes and D. Grogan; Ritala, Wilson, Hartwig and Long.

2B: J. Fitzpatrick (STAN), Ritala (TCB). 3B: Vasquez (STAN).



SAM BARBEE PHOTO

Stanfield's Ryan Bailey slides safely into third as Hermiston's Garron Anderson tries to keep the ball in front of him Monday. Bailey would score on the play.

CANCER:

continued from page A6

Marcos Saturday. The top fund-raiser, Emma Pollick, raised \$311 and received a fancy belt holder. The next two, JP Phillips and Joseph Medina, received new duffel bags for raising \$260 and \$210, respectively.

"I appreciate everything everyone's done — raising money for me," Marcos said. "It's gonna really help us going back and forth to Portland."

Early Saturday afternoon, Eastern Oregon Family Taekwondo was packed. Benches had been arranged and each was full. People were standing all along the back wall, trying to catch the action.

Watson got the materials he needed, the things to break, from Home Depot. When he first went to Home Depot he asked for 20 8-foot, 1x12-inch boards, 50 bricks and eight cinder blocks to use as holders. He was originally told they could only provide half his request: 10 boards, 30 bricks and four cinder blocks. What happened next left Watson "speechless," he said.

Home Depot's supplier doubled Watson's requests. They gave him 20 boards, 90 bricks and 40 cinder blocks. It

blew Watson away.

"I give them the biggest shout out" he said. "Everything you see here was donated. It all was given. It was probably \$500."

The demonstration started with the younger students — the ninjas, as they're called — and they used simple strikes and kicks to break boards. The order went by age groups, with each student having a chance

to show off what they've learned. Some boards were difficult, refusing to be halved. Some cooperated, breaking on the first strike.

It culminated with Watson, his sons Tyler and Kameron, who are all black belts, Watson's wife, Lorry, a red belt, and Watson's daughter, Bailey, also a red belt. They broke bricks and demonstrated advanced athletic techniques.

For Kameron, who is currently attending the University of Oregon but drove over Friday night, Saturday's demonstration was about showing the students how to use their interests not for themselves, but for others.

"That's what my dad wanted to instill into this school," he said. "We wanted to give out to this community and help them, and that's another thing that I think that we, as a taekwondo school, do. It's not just to teach them self defense, the basic things that people think of — how to fight or do anything like that, but it's teaching these kids how to

behave, how to treat other students, how to treat their parents and how to give back, obviously."

It was an emotional day. Margarita Madera was deeply thankful of the time an effort put forth by Watson, his family, his students and their parents. She kept glancing over to the displayed envelopes Watson's students used to collect the funds. The moment was overwhelming for her.

"It's amazing," she said, fighting back tears. "It's hard to believe."

A video tribute was posted to Erwin Watson's Facebook page, and donations are

still rolling in. Watson lost his mother to cancer, and he became emotional at the thought of one of his children finding themselves in Marcos' position.

"I wanted (my students) to go, 'You know what? Be blessed and be fortunate that you don't have and you're not going through the same thing this family's going through, and that you need to help,'" he said. "Hopefully nothing happens to anyone in my class or anyone at all, but this could be you, and you might need help and so you need to step up to help this kid and this family."



SAM BARBEE PHOTO

Erwin Watson, owner and operator of Eastern Oregon Family Taekwondo in Stanfield, breaks a stack of four bricks at the benefit break-a-thon he organized for local cancer patient Marcos Madera.



SAM BARBEE PHOTO

Kameron Watson, the son of Erwin Watson, prepares to brick a stack of bricks as a demonstration at Watson's break-a-thon benefiting Marcos Madera, a local boy from Umatilla who was recently diagnosed with cancer.

Super Crossword

Answers

A	M	A	N	A	P	O	P	P	I	N	G	E	S	C	A	P	E					
S	O	L	E	L	S	C	H	U	M	E	R	S	P	A	T	E	S					
P	R	O	T	E	I	N	S	K	I	M	M	E	R	C	O	R	T	E				
S	E	E	P	D	E	T	P	O	D	M	A	R	T	I	N	A						
			R	O	D	E	B	U	S	B	Y	B	E	R	K	E	L	E	Y			
O	C	T	O	P	I	C	O	R	G	I	O	O	O	A	D	S						
P	R	O	F	E	S	S	I	O	N	A	L	B	O	W	L	E	R					
T	A	X	I	H	I	V	E	S	E	E	K	E	V	I	T	E	S					
E	V	I	T	A	L	E	R	R	I	T	E	N	A	C	T							
D	E	N	S	T	E	T	S	O	N	U	N	I	V	E	R	S	I	T				
			C	H	I	N	L	I	L	T	A	L	E									
P	A	N	A	M	A	C	A	N	A	L	T	R	E	A	T	Y	J	E	B			
T	H	O	R	O	E	D	U	A	L	B	S	K	U	L	L							
L	A	M	A	R	R	A	D	O	T	I	C	L	E	I	L	S	A					
			T	E	E	N	I	E	B	E	A	N	I	E	B	A	B	I	E	S		
S	S	A	A	U	S	O	A	R	E	D	W	R	I	E	S	T						
K	E	N	T	U	C	K	Y	D	E	R	B	Y	W	H	E	T						
A	G	U	S	T	E	O	R	O	M	A	I	Z	A	P	S							
G	R	O	T	T	O	G	O	E	S	O	V	E	R	T	H	E	T	O	P			
G	A	R	T	E	R	O	N	E	E	Y	E	D	E	E	R	I	L	Y				
S	T	A	I	N	S	B	E	D	S	E	T	S	E	S	T	E	S					

NATIONAL FLAG WEEK

Exchange your old flag for a new American Flag!

June 15th through June 19th
We celebrate Flag Week in honor of our American flag and our heritage

In honor of National Flag Week, we will be handing out free American Flags.

You're a grand old flag, you're a high flying flag, and forever in peace may you wave.

~George M. Cohan

Flags may be exchanged Monday, June 15 thru Friday, June 19 between 9:00am and 5:00pm.

Limited supply, reserve yours today! There will be a ceremonial disposal of the retired flags that are collected.

McKay Creek Estates

1601 Southgate Place
Pendleton, OR 97801
(541) 276-1987



Prestige Senior Living, L.L.C.

www.PrestigeCare.com