

Giving back to the game



SAM BARBEE
FROM THE SIDELINES
Sports reporter

You never know what you'll see in a day of umpiring. Some of the strangest things I've seen happen on a baseball field weren't when I was wearing a glove, it was when I was wearing a mask.

This past weekend I went back to Longview for Father's Day and to help the area umpire's association work a 9- and 10-year-old tournament in neighboring Kelso.

The final game of the evening, which happened to be the 9-year-old championship, was by far the most interesting game of the day. It was a blowout, 14-3 or something, but the score didn't matter. It was an interesting game.

It pitted the always-good Black Hills (Lacey, Washington) squad against a quality team from White River, British Columbia, Canada. With Black Hills pulling away, a ball was lofted to right field. I thought it had a chance to leave, and I was watching to make sure I knew what happened while keeping track of the runners at the same time. The right fielder was backpedaling with his right gloved hand outstretched. He literally was just hoping the ball would fall into it, and, by some random divine intervention, it did — right into the pocket. My partner and I looked at each other from across the infield to make sure we knew what we saw. It was his call, and I was nodding furiously. I just wanted him to have confidence in the making the right call. It was an out.

But the player stayed down for awhile. It was the third out of the inning, so his whole team gathered around while he laid there in tears. I was first to arrive and cleared everyone out while both sets of coaches attended to him. He landed pretty hard on his back and I think he smacked the back of his head against the ground. That's enough to keep anyone down. I grabbed the ball, that was still in his glove, and rolled it back into the infield, but thought better of it right away. I like giving balls to kids who get hurt or make great plays. It's one of 100 baseballs we have, and giving away one or two doesn't make a huge difference. Plus, it gives the player something tangible to remember the tournament by. He, or she, can pick that baseball up and remember the catch he or she made.

It was made a little more special an inning later, when the White River first base coach told me they had to beg that guy's parents to let him come, and it was a fight every step of the way. Now he's made a fantastic catch that had everyone applauding and he got a baseball. What a weekend.

We had another kid get dehydrated and we crossed him off the batting order. We also had a snafu with a base becoming permanently dislodged and the only solution was to fill in the gap with dirt. We made do.

After the game, I flipped a ball over to the Black Hills team and thanked them for coming. They were thankful to also get a souvenir, and I saw some players tossing it amongst themselves during the trophy presentation as I headed to my car for the long drive back to Hermiston.

Not too long ago, I was those kids' age, playing summer baseball for no reason but because I loved it, and guys would put time in on the weekends to work my games. Now, things have flipped and I'm giving my time for them, and eventually those kids will do so as well. It's a cycle that will never stop. And a cycle I'm proud to be a part of.

— Sam Barbée is a sports reporter for the *Hermiston Herald* and *East Oregonian* based in Hermiston. He can be reached by email at sbarbee@hermistonherald.com or by phone at 541-564-4542, Follow him on Twitter @SamBarbee1 and follow Herald Sports @HHeraldSports.

Riverside/Irrigon tops Stanfield

BY SAM BARBEE
HERMISTON HERALD

Without four regulars, Stanfield had no answer for Austin Rice of Riverside/Irrigon.

The right-hander tossed a complete game, fanning 15 Tigers in a 9-5 Riverside/Irrigon win Monday in Irrigon. Thyler Monkus was 3 for 3 for Stanfield with two RBIs, and Adrian Renner knocked in a pair, as well.

Klay Jenson started on the hill and lasted just three innings, allowing seven runs — six earned — on seven hits, while walking six and striking out five. Damian

Curiel was better in relief, tossing the final three innings and allowing two unearned runs on five hits while striking out four and walking just two.

On the summer, Stanfield drops to 5-4.

R/I got on the board early when Kasey Kroske singled home a run in the bottom of the first. Stanfield tied things in the top of the third when Monkus singled home Justin Keeney.

But R/I took control in the bottom half of the third. Wayne Killion started things with a double, then, after an out, Abel Rodelo and Rice both walked to load the

bases. Killion would score on a wild pitch for a 2-1 lead, then Nate Bumbert walked to repack the pillows. Adrian Roa drove in Rodelo with a walk for a 3-1 lead, and Rice scored on a passed ball the next at-bat for a 4-1 lead.

R/I got three more in the fourth when Jose Salgado scored on a wild pitch, and Krose and Romer scored on a two-run single for a 7-1 lead.

Stanfield tried to come back with a four-run fifth. Curiel and Keeney started with singles, and Shane Keltz was beaned to load the bases. After an out, Monkus singled home Curiel, and, an out

later, Renner doubled home Keltz and Monkus to cut R/I's lead to 7-4. Fitzpatrick would later score on a passed ball to pull Stanfield within two at 7-5.

R/I grabbed a couple of insurance runs in the sixth on a two-run error to provide the final scoring.

Stanfield hosts Sunnyside Christian Friday at 6 p.m. in Stanfield.

RIVERSIDE/IRRIGON 9, STANFIELD 5				
STN	001	040	0 — 5 8 3	
R/I	103	302	X — 9 12 1	
K. Jenson, D. Curiel and T. Monkus; A. Rice and C. Kroske. W — A. Rice. L — K. Jenson.				
2B: A. Renner (STN), W. Killion 2 (R/I), Homer (R/I).				

Hermiston's Crossley takes barrel racing college title

BY MATT ENTRUP
EO MEDIA GROUP

Led by the best barrel racing time of the week from Hermiston native Callahan Crossley, the Blue Mountain Community College Timberwolves women's rodeo team took the women's championship of the College National Rodeo Finals in Casper, Wyoming.

Crossley posted a time of 13.72, edging teammate Danyelle Williams for the title. Fellow Timberwolf Jessica Lewis placed seventh.

It was the first time a BMCC barrel racer had topped the national standings, but the fourth time a member of the Crossley family finished on the barrel racing podium at the Casper Events Center.

Callahan placed second last season with a four-round time of 56.03, sister Jade was second in 2013, and sister Jordan was third in 2008.

"We got all of our points out of the barrel race, which is unusual," said BMCC co-coach Larry Patterson. "I've never seen that happen before, that I remember anyway."

Patterson, who coaches the team along with Shawn Eng, said they treated their ladies like pitchers working a no-hitter as at least one of them placed in each



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

Callahan Crossley, of Blue Mountain Community College, competes in the barrel riding event during last season's Northwest Intercollegiate Rodeo Finals in Hermiston. Crossley took the 2015 women's barrel racing event in Casper, Wyoming.

SEE RODEO/A7

Echo exits McMinnville tourney early

BY SAM BARBEE
HERMISTON HERALD

Echo Outrage's summer softball season got off to a rough start this weekend.

Outrage lost its first game in McMinnville, 10-2 to the Forest Grove Rampage, then dropped a tight one to the McMinnville Grizzlies, 10-9, at an ASA softball tournament in McMinnville. Both games were shortened by time.

Echo found itself down big early to Forest Grove. The Rampage plated seven runs in the first inning, chasing starting pitcher MacKenzie Gonzales after just a third of an inning. Forest Grove used a walk and three singles to plate two runs before the first out was record-

ed, then used a walk, single, double and another single to plate five more and take a commanding 7-0 lead.

Gonzales allowed seven earned runs over the 1/3 of an inning on five hits while walking two and striking out none. In relief, Julisa Garza was effective, allowing three runs — two earned — on seven hits while walking two and striking out one.

Silvia Gonzalez singled home Jamie Christopher in the first to get Echo on the board, and Gonzalez drove in Beatriz Aguilera with a sacrifice fly in the third. Gonzalez finished 2 for 2 with both of Echo's RBIs. Christopher, Aguilera, Kelly McLaughlin, Lemmon and Gonzales had Echo's hits. They

were all singles.

Forest Grove, though, extended its lead in the top of the third with three runs. The Rampage used four singles, a walk and an error to plate three.

FOREST GROVE RAMPAGE 10, ECHO OUTRAGE		
2 (5)		
FGR	703	00 — 10 12 2
ECH	101	00 — 2 6 2
D. Wright and C. Holder; M. Gonzales, J. Garza and E. Parks. W — D. Wright. L — M. Gonzales.		
2B: J. Noe (FGR).		

In Echo's second and final game of the day, Outrage couldn't put away McMinnville.

Echo pushed across five runs in the first inning. Beatriz Aguilera started things off with a walk, and scored on a passed ball with Kelly McLaughlin at

the dish. McLaughlin would double, and MacKenzie Gonzales walked behind her. Julissa Garza then singled, plating two, Meranda Lemmon then tripled to drive in one, and Silvia Gonzalez to plate one more and give Echo a 5-0 lead.

McMinnville got one back in the home first on a single, but Echo plated three of its own in the second. McLaughlin drove in a run with a sac fly, Gonzales then drove in a run with a ground out, and Garza singled home a run for an 8-2 Echo lead.

McMinnville got a two-run single in the second to cut Echo's lead to 8-5, and got three more in the third to tie things at

SEE SOFTBALL/A7

GO SEE IT

Wednesday, June 24

Men's softball

Shearer's @ DQ, 6 p.m., North softball field, Theater Sports Park
Preferred Realty @ C&C Construction, 6 p.m., South softball field, Theater Sports Park
DQ @ Shearer's, 7:30 p.m., North field
C&C Construction @ Perferred Realty, 7:30 p.m., South field

Thursday, June 25

Baseball

Hermiston vs. Mt. Spokane, TBD

Friday, June 26

Men's rec softball

Regency Hermiston @ H and M Photography, 6 p.m., North softball field, Theater Sports Park
Java Junkies @ Nookies, 6 p.m., South softball field, Theater Sports Park

Sage Center @ M2Machmedia, 7:30 p.m., North Softball field, Theater Sports Park
New Hope @ 11th Market, 7:30 p.m., south softball field, Theater Sports Park
Baseball
Stanfield vs. Sunnyside Christian, 6 p.m.

Saturday, June 27

Auto racing

Johnny Appleseed Super Late Model 125, 7 p.m.