

Vikings fall to Pilot in twin bill

The Pilot Rock Rockets remained undefeated with their fourth and fifth wins of the season in a non-league doubleheader at home against the Umatilla Vikings on Thursday, 7-3, 12-2.

Pilot Rock starting pitchers Levi Thieme and Bryson Pierce controlled their outings and made big impacts at the plate as well. Thieme struck out 18 batters, walked four and gave up three earned runs on four hits in a complete-game effort in the opener. He also batted 2 for 3 with a solo home run that put Pilot Rock (5-0) up 4-3 in the bottom of the fourth inning. He also drove in an insurance run with a double in the sixth, and later scored on an error.

Pierce went 2 for 4 in the morning game, and also helped his own cause in the afternoon game going 2 for 3 with three RBI and a run. Pierce pitched four complete innings and allowed no runs on two hits and three walks. He struck out nine.

The Rockets scored the bulk of their runs in a 10-run third that saw Chris Weinke, Iverson Winters and Thieme each scored twice. Winters, Thieme, Pierce and Wesley Purcell all hit RBI during the frame, which featured six hits, three walks, one hit batter, two passed balls and one error.

Of the nine runs allowed by Umatilla starter Diego Soto off seven hits, just three were earned. He struck out two and walked

PREP SCHEDULE	
Wednesday, March 30	Saturday, April 2
BASEBALL	GOLF
Hermiston @ La Salle Prep, 4:30 p.m.	Hermiston boys @ Eagle Crest, 8 a.m.
Thursday, March 31	Hermiston girls @ Eagle Ridge, TBD
TENNIS	LACROSSE
Hermiston boys @ Davis (WA), 3:30 p.m.	Hermiston @ Mt. Spokane (WA), 1 p.m.
Hermiston girls @ Davis (WA), 3:30 p.m.	TRACK AND FIELD
Lacrosse	Stanfield @ Sherman County, 11 a.m.
Hermiston @ Richland, 7 p.m.	Monday, April 4
Friday, April 1	GOLF
BASEBALL	Hermiston boys @ Wildhorse Invite, noon
Hermiston vs. Rex Putnam (DH), 4 p.m.	Hermiston girls @ Pendleton, noon
Umatilla vs. Stanfield (DH), 1 p.m.	TENNIS
GOLF	Umatilla @ McLoughlin, 3 p.m.
Hermiston boys @ Eagle Crest, 8 a.m.	Tuesday, April 5
SOFTBALL	BASEBALL
Hermiston @ Reynolds (DH), 3 p.m.	Stanfield @ Riverside (DH), 1 p.m.
Echo vs. Umatilla, 1 p.m.	Umatilla @ Sherman, 4 p.m.
TENNIS	SOFTBALL
Stanfield @ Condon, 3 p.m.	Umatilla @ Irrigon (DH), 3 p.m.
TRACK AND FIELD	Echo @ Riverside, 1 p.m.
Hermiston @ Gresham at Mt. Hood CC, 4 p.m.	TENNIS
Umatilla @ McLoughlin, noon	Stanfield vs. Ione, 4:30 p.m.
Echo @ McLoughlin, noon	TRACK AND FIELD
	Hermiston vs. The Dalles, 4 p.m.

three. Thieme went 3 for 4 at the plate with two RBI and Winters was 2 for 3 with two RBI.

Seth Cranston led Umatilla (2-2) going 2 for 3 with a run.

Results from Umatilla's game at home on Tuesday against Sherman were not available by press time.

Game 1		R	H	E
UHS	000300	0	3	4
PR	012103	X	7	9

C. Keller, J. Dever (6) and catcher. L. Thieme and catcher. W — Thieme. L — Keller.

2B — T. Sanguino (UHS); L. Thieme, B. Pierce, J. Brickley, I. Winters (PR). HR — L. Thieme (PR).

Game 2		R	H	E
UHS	000 02	—	2	5
PR	00(10) 2X	—	12	10

D. Soto, A. Wilson (3) and catcher. B. Pierce, I. Winters (5) and catcher. W — Pierce. L — Soto.

2B — S. Cranston, J. Dever (UHS); B. Pierce (PR).

SOFTBALL

ECHO 18, HEPPNER 4 (6 innings) — At Heppner, Kenzie Blankenship homered twice in the sixth inning as the Echo Cougars piled on with 10 runs in the frame to pull away from the Heppner Mustangs in a non-league game on Monday.

Blankenship's first home run came with two on and no outs to make it 11-4, and her second went for two runs with two outs to make it 18-4. They were her only two hits of the game.

Monique Montoya went 4 for 5 and scored four runs for Echo (3-1), Erika Parks went 3 for 4 with two runs and Hannah McCarty was 2 for 3 with three runs. Cheyenne Hilliard, Jamie Christopher and Montoya all had two RBI.

Alyssa Ray pitched the entire game and finished with eight strikeouts and two walks. She allowed four earned runs on nine hits.

Jessica Kempken (3 for 3) Miranda Lemmon (3 for 4) were the only Mustangs with multiple hits and Morgan Correa led Heppner (2-3) with two RBI. Lemmon pitched the first 4 1-3 innings and left with the score 7-1. She allowed four earned runs on eight hits with one strikeout and one walk.

EHS	11042(10)	—	18	15	1
HHS	010030	—	4	9	4

A. Ray and E. Parks, M. Lemmon, D. Durlley (5) and T. Hamby. W — Ray. L — Lemmon.

2B — C. Hilliard 2, M. Montoya 2, H. McCarty 2 (EHS); M. Lemmon, M. Correa, J. Kempken (HHS). 3B — J. Christopher (EHS). HR — K. Blankenship 2 (EHS).

Bulldogs pound Pasco

By **SAM BARBEE**
Staff writer

The Hermiston Bulldogs thoroughly dominated the Pasco Bulldogs in an interstate varsity softball game in Pasco on Friday, never allowing a runner past second base in 12 innings while scoring early and late in a 11-0, 15-0 sweep.

"It was really nice to see the girls be aggressive," first-year Bulldogs coach Kate Greenough said. "They're starting to realize how good they are."

In the opener, the Bulldogs (6-3) used patience and late-at-bat adjustments to slowly pull away from Pasco, in addition to an all-out approach on the bases.

Hermiston got its runners on by seeing pitches, fouling balls off and, ultimately, working walks. From there, Hermiston continually applied pressure to the Pasco defense, taking extra bases whenever opportunities presented themselves.

On one occasion, a Hermiston runner scrambled from first to third on a passed ball after the wayward pitch took a sharp bounce off the unforgiving backstop. Another time, Hermiston moved a runner from first to third on a single bunt, trading two bases for one out.

"We were aggressive, always looking for the next bag," Greenough said. "And when they saw (the open bag) they took it."

Though Hermiston's run output was low early in the game — just a run on five hits — the batters worked four walks and constantly had runners aboard. Hermiston was patient and, according to Greenough, were always watching the game and always learning. They never started swinging at pitches out of the strike zone. Including the nightcap, Hermiston struck

out one time and it was swinging.

"They were taking the first at-bats for what they were and made adjustments in their second at-bats," Greenough said. "You'd love to jump on teams early, but they were learning and making adjustments."

The Bulldogs broke through late, scoring two in the fourth, three in the fifth and four in the seventh to win going away.

Rebecca Englebrecht and Julissa Almaguer tripled in the win. Almaguer struck out four and walked two in five innings in the circle to earn the win. Taylor Betz closed the door, tossing two innings with two punchouts.

In the nightcap, Hermiston was clearly comfortable at the plate, and scored eight runs in the second inning to again win convincingly. This time, instead of playing an aggressive version of smallball, the Bulldogs took Pasco pitches into the gap. Four of Hermiston's six hits were for extra bases. Almaguer, Englebrecht and Jaime Hinkley each doubled, and Amanda Baron tripled. Hinkley also stole three bases, giving her a total of four on the day.

"The girls were always in control," Greenough said. "It was great to see."

Betz tossed all five innings of shutout ball on two hits while striking out four and walking two.

The results of Hermiston's home game against Summit weren't available by press time Tuesday.

Game 1		R	H	E
HHS	100231	4	—	11
PHS	000000	0	—	0

J. Almaguer, T. Betz (6), J. Hinkley, Carpenter, Bodnar. W — J. Almaguer. L — Carpenter. 3B: R. Englebrecht, J. Almaguer (HHS).

Game 2		R	H	E
HHS	281 22	—	15	6
PHS	000 00	—	0	2

T. Betz, J. Hinkley, Lopez, Carpenter (3), Stark. W — T. Betz. L — Lopez. 2B: J. Almaguer, R. Englebrecht, J. Hinkley. 3B: A. Baron (HHS). SB: J. Hinkley 3 (HHS).

ECHO:

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nique Montoya, Hannah McCarty and Gonzales each scored twice.

The Cougars lashed nine hits, five of which were doubles, and capitalized on the numerous Colton errors, especially in the second. In that second, Echo sent 14 batters to the plate and scored eight runs, though four were unearned. Echo was balanced, with hitters up and down the lineup turning in quality at-bats, another point of emphasis for Bailey entering the contest.

"(We) took advantage of every mistake (Colton) made," Bailey said. "We weren't hesitant and took advantage of it."

In the second, Montoya led off with a double into left center, and moved to third when McCarty was beaned and Gonzales walked. After Beth Milbrodt struck out, Curriel started the rally with a two-run double, giving Echo the lead for good at 2-1. Pendleton transfer Hilliard followed with an RBI single plating Gonzales, and Christopher reached on Colton's first error of the inning, plating Curriel and giving Echo a 4-1 lead. {Erika} Parks then reached on Colton's second error of the frame, which itself allowed Hilliard to score, then after a throwing error compounding the original error with the glove, allowing Christopher to jaunt across the plate for a 6-1 Echo lead.

Kenzie Blankenship then singled, but a bad throw from left field gave Parks time to score.

Montoya walked in her second at-bat of the inning, and McCarty reached for the second time when she was hit by another pitch. After a pop-up to second base gave Colton its second out, Milbrodt singled this time, scoring Blankenship.

Echo threatened in the third, getting Christopher to third. She walked, stole second and moved to third on a Parks ground-out, but Blankenship's hard-hit line drive into center field was gloved there by Shelby Marshall to end the threat.

In the fourth, Echo put it away. Montoya walked to lead off, then McCarthy and Gonzales followed with nearly identical line drive singles into center field, giving Echo the bases loaded an no out. Montoya scored on a wild pitch during pinch-hitter Rachel Campana's at-bat, which ended in a walk, then Pollick, also pinch-hitting, doubled into left-center, plating Gonzales and Campana to put Echo up 12-1. McCarty scored on a wild pitch during Pollick's at-bat.

Hilliard reached on an error, but Pollick was thrown out at the plate in a 5-3-2 play, making up for the lost out. Christopher then reached on an error, and, after Parks popped out to second base, Blankenship ripped a single into left field, scoring both Hilliard and Christopher, providing the final scoring.

For an Echo team that had struggled in its first two games with plate discipline, was better at defining the strike zone on Thursday and not chasing pitches outside of it. Echo

batters only struck out twice, learning the value of putting the ball in play.

"It's pretty easy to defend strikeouts. You don't have to do anything," Bailey said. "A lot of these teams, if you just put the ball in play, they have to field in cleanly, throw it cleanly and catch it cleanly, so there's room for er-

ror. You can make things happen by just putting the ball in play."

Echo is back on the diamond for a 4:30 date with Heppner/Ione in Heppner.

CHS	100 00	—	12	5
EHS	080 4X	—	14	9

M. Gonzales and E. Parks; C. Weinburger and C. Neff. W — M. Gonzales (EHS). L — C. Weinburger (CHS).

2B: C. Curriel (EHS), E. Parks (EHS), K. Blankenship (EHS), M. Montoya (EHS), A. Pollick (EHS).



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TIGERS:

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work hard and they have high goals and aspirations for the season. They show up early and ready to go at practice and are a bunch of team-first guys."

Stanfield had perhaps its best test yet Tuesday when the team traveled to The Dalles to take on the Kennedy Trojans. The Trojans held a 4-2 record and had scored 55 runs (9.2 average). The result of that

game was not available by press time

So can the Tigers sustain this torrid pace?

"I don't know, we're going to be facing some better competition coming up in our (non-league) and league schedules," he said. "If the team can stay healthy I think we can make a deep run into the postseason."

SHS	021145	—	22	17	1
RHS	000 01	—	1	0	0

Flores, Renner (5), and Monkus. Killion, Calvillo (4), Sorenson (4). 2B — Bailey, Renner, Flores, Grogan (SHS).