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Davison comes through late for Hermiston

9/10 all-stars reach state semifinals

Hermiston Herald

Nine runs in the third inning put Hermiston up, and Brian Davison came through with big plays on offense and defense to help the 9/10-year-old all-stars preserve a 12-9 win over The Dalles on Sunday in the quarterfinals of the Oregon Little League State Tournament in Gold Hill.

Davison (2 for 4) hit a two-RBI single in the fifth inning that pushed Hermiston's lead to 12-4, then pitched the final 1 2/3 innings to hold off a rallying The Dalles and get the save. The Dalles was still able

to push four runs across the plate against Davison, and scored twice in the sixth on a two-out double before Davison got a grounder back to the mound for the final out. The win moved Hermiston into the semifinals where it will face Lake Oswego today at 6 p.m.

Aiden West started on the mound against The Dalles and went the first 2 1/3 innings before exiting with three runs allowed on six hits. He would get the win after Kaiden Dammeyer (three hits, two runs) and Davison combined in relief.

The Dalles broke onto the scoreboard first with two runs in the bottom of the first inning, but that would be its only lead of the game.

Hermiston was quiet on its first time through the lineup, but lead-off hitter Austin Garberg started the third inning with a single and Hermiston rallied for nine runs on six hits and four walks.

Drake Devin (1 for 2) hit a three-RBI triple and later stole home to make it 8-2, and Brad Hottman (3 for 4) hit an RBI triple to make it 9-2.

Dammeyer and Nathan Picard drew bases-loaded walks to push in runs, and JR Starr and Brycen Jones (2 for 4) each hit RBI singles.

The Dalles trimmed the lead to 9-4 headed into the fifth, but Garberg got another rally started with a walk. He then stole his way

to third, and scored on a double by Jones. Hottman followed with a single and Davison then brought them both in with a single.

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TD	201132	12	10	2
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W — A. West, L — Nolan, S — Davison.
2B — B. Jones (HER); Braden Z, Riley, Nolan (TD). 3B — B. Hottman, D. Devin (HER); Nolan (TD).

HERMISTON 11, KLAMATH FALLS 8 — At Gold Hill, Hermiston needed extra innings to advance past the first round of the state tournament on Saturday in a game that featured 35 total hits.

Austin Garberg (4 for 4) hit a single to score Karver Wilkins an tie the game at 7-7 in the fifth inning, and combined with Kaiden

Dammeyer and Brian Davison to throw five innings of scoreless relief as the game went into the ninth inning still knotted.

Davison (3 for 5) got back-to-back strikeouts to end the sixth inning with a runner on third base, and when Klamath Falls tried to steal home in the eighth JR Starr was there to apply the tag and keep the game going.

Drake Devin led off the top of the ninth with a bunt single, then went to third on passed balls while Garberg drew a walk.

Brycen Jones (2 for 6) followed with a line-drive single to right field that scored both players to make it 9-7.

Brad Hottman (3 for

5) added a single before Klamath Falls could get the first out, then Dammeyer (3 for 4) hit an RBI double to make it 10-7. Starr (1 for 2) added an RBI groundout to cap Hermiston's scoring.

Garberg retired two of the first three batters in the ninth before Aiden West was brought in to finish things. He allowed a run-scoring single to his first batter, but then got a swinging strikeout for the save.

Garberg got the win and was credited with one run on one hit over 2 2/3 innings.

HER	330010 004	R	H	E
KF	232000 001	11	19	0
		8	16	0

W — A. Garberg, L — Drost, S — A. West.
2B — B. Jones, A. Garberg, B. Hottman, A. West, K. Dammeyer 3 (HER); Drost, Jull, Bocchi (KF).



HERALD FILE PHOTO

Thane Pierson of Natches, Washington, and a high jumper at Washington State University, goes between his legs in the finals of the dunk contest at the 10th annual Takin' It to the Street 3-on-3 basketball tournament in Hermiston in July 2015.

Tournament returns to Main Street 11th year

Hermiston Herald

Court will be in session this weekend in Hermiston. Several courts, actually, will be open for play in the Takin' It to the Streets, Hermiston 3-on-3 basketball tournament on Main Street Saturday and Sunday.

In 2015, the tournament included 160 teams of boys and girls ranging from second graders to adults. The tournament also features a slam dunk contest and a 3-point shootout.

The tournament, now in its 11th year, raises money to benefit high school ath-

letic programs and local AAU teams.

Teams who have registered for the tournament can pick up their team packets on Friday, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church, 164 E. Main Street.

This year's Tournament, sponsored by HAPO Credit Union, will draw in teams from all over the Pacific Northwest.

For more information, check out the tournament website at www.hermiston3on3.org or look for the Takin' It To the Streets tournament page on Facebook.

Grogan assigned to Twins' Rookie team

By ERIC SINGER

Staff writer

Quin Grogan's professional baseball career is now off and running.

After the Stanfield product signed his first contract mid-June, Grogan started his journey in Fort Myers, Florida with the Twins' Gulf Coast League rookie team, which is the lowest rung on the minor league ladder. But after just one start with the GCL team, Grogan has now stepped up one rung as he was promoted to the Elizabethton Twins in Elizabethton, Tennessee. The team is the Rookie Advanced League affiliate of the Minnesota Twins, playing in the Appalachian League.

"I'm very grateful for this opportunity," Grogan said via text message. "Traveling the states, meeting new people, and pursuing the dream just doesn't get much better than this!"

His first appearance in Elizabethton was on July 4, when he allowed four hits and four earned runs over two



PHOTO BY ZACHARY SHORE/LEWIS-CLARK STATE ATHLETICS

In this undated photo, Lewis-Clark State's Quin Grogan, of Stanfield, pitches during a game this season. Grogan was drafted in the 30th round of the MLB draft by the Minnesota Twins.

innings to go with four strikeouts. In his two total appearances, Grogan is 0-2 with a 7.50 ERA, giving up five runs with eight strikeouts over six innings pitched. Grogan said he has not been told whether will be a starter or reliever going forward, but for now will be working out of the bullpen.

Rogers ready to roll with Tigers

By ERIC SINGER

Staff writer

As the Stanfield Tigers baseball program prepares for life after Bryan Johnson, it will have a familiar face leading the way.

Assistant coach Brad Rogers has been elevated to varsity head coach after serving as the lead varsity assistant for the past nine seasons. It is Rogers' first go at a varsity head coaching spot, with his only head coach experience coming at the middle school football level in Stanfield.

"It's a little scary, I'll admit, with the high expectations set by Bryan (Johnson) here," Rogers said, "but I'm excited for the opportunity and I learned a lot over the last nine years. We have a great group of kids coming back and we're ready to go."

Rogers said he believed he was the best fit for the job

from the start, citing continuity within the program as a key to continue this recent string of success.

"It just seemed like the best thing for the kids," he said. "Having some continuity with all of the returners we do was paramount ... they were relieved when I got the job, and were glad it was someone they knew."

Before leaving town last week, Johnson said he was ecstatic to see Rogers stay on as head coach.

"Brad's great with kids, he cares about kids and has a big heart and a lot of pride for Stanfield," Johnson said. "It's never been a one-man show here with me, he's been a loyal assistant and knows the system, and he has his own little flavors and strategies to

add to it, but he's going to be able to maintain the continuity and he's a strong leader so I'm happy he stepped up."

Rogers will also be joined by Brad Scott and Trevor Morris as his assistants next season, both of whom were on the staff last season. They inherit a team that is coming off of a phenomenal 29-2 season where the Tigers captured the district title and second state championship in school history. Stanfield will return its entire pitching staff and all but two starters in the field in 2017, which has the team set up well for a possible state championship repeat.

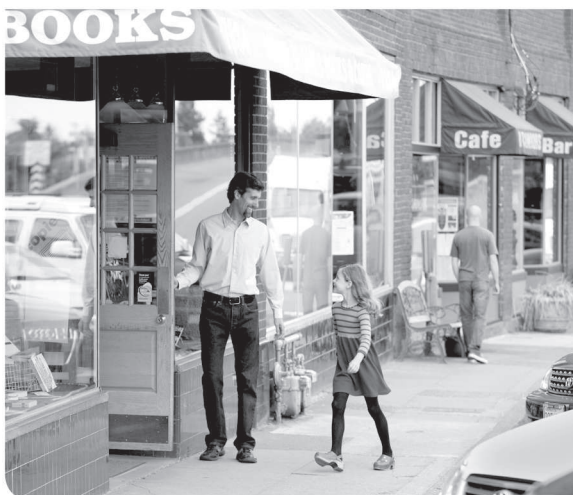
When asked how he will manage those high expectations heading into the 2017 season, Rogers said it's all about keeping the metaphor-

ical blinders on.

"We've always had a mantra of 'control what you can control' and that will be very important this year," he said. "We have a lot of talent coming back and the key for us will be working on getting better every single day. We can't measure ourselves against other teams, we can only measure ourselves in the work we put in every day."

Aside from the promotion to head coach, Rogers will also be dipping his toe into the administrative pool as the Secondary School athletic director starting in the fall.

"It's an ability to broaden my horizons," he said. "I've always enjoyed athletics ... I was a little leery about it at first being a first-time head coach and adding this to my schedule as well, but I think it'll be a good fit."



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