

# Herald Sports



## Tigers perfect in Game 1, sweep Weston-McEwen

STANFIELD — The Stanfield Tigers welcomed the Weston-McEwen TigerScots to Madigan Field for a doubleheader on Saturday and sent the TigerScots back to Athena with a pair of losses.

In Game 1, Stanfield's Dylan Grogan and Ryan Bailey combined to throw a five-inning, perfect game on the mound and the Tiger (4-1) bats backed them up well for a 13-0 victory. Grogan started the game and tossed 58 pitches in four complete innings, striking out 11 TigerScots while Bailey threw a perfect fifth inning with one strikeout.

In Game 2, Weston-McEwen battled throughout the early stages of the game, but the combination of Stanfield's offense and own defensive miscues led to a 12-run fourth inning to lead Stanfield to an 18-4

victory.

The Tigers offense belted 25 hits between the two games and seven of the starters had at least two hits. Tony Flores had perhaps the most productive day going 5 for 8 with three runs scored and seven RBI, while Brody Woods went 4 for 8 with three runs and four RBI.

Thyler Monkus had a team-high six runs scored from his lead-off spot in the lineup.

Woods started Game 2 on the mound for Stanfield and threw 65 pitches over three innings and allowed four hits, four runs (two earned) with six strikeouts. Klay Jenson pitched two scoreless innings with three strikeouts and just one walk allowed.

Stanfield will travel to The Dalles on Thursday for a doubleheader with Jefferson starting at Noon.

## Bulldogs hold off Lava Bears

HERMISTON — The Hermiston Bulldogs softball team is depending on several freshmen and sophomores to have big seasons in order to reach its goals in 2017.

So for coach Kate Greenough, there was nothing better than seeing so many of her underclassmen come through big in support of junior Julissa Almaguer in a 4-1 win over Bend at Rocky Heights Elementary on March 29.

Underclassmen accounted for five of eight Hermiston (2-2) hits, freshman Ashley Cameron was 2-for-3 with two triples, and several players made key defensive plays to help hand the Lava Bears (4-1) their first loss of the season.

Almaguer pitched a shutout through five innings and struck out four of the first six batters she faced, but found herself under pressure from the Lava Bears in the top of the seventh when an error on an infield pop-up loaded the bases with one out and brought

the batter representing the winning run to the plate.

Despite the momentary lapse, though, Almaguer was able to rely on her defense to get out of the jam and freshman third baseman Sam Atilano caught a pop-up in foul territory, then corralled a hot grounder in time to tag third for the force out to end the game.

"We tried to make things exciting at the end there but they played defense and they kept pushing and they never gave up, and that's what I

like about this group," Greenough said. "We're young, but I have some really intense leadership."

"Julissa just fights, she just keeps going and doesn't give up. Pitching is hard, especially when you get into little pickles like that, or situations where the bases are loaded and you don't know what happened. But she doesn't give up, and it's really settling I think to her infield, to her defense to know that they can trust her to keep fighting."

## Gritty walk-off saves split

### Hermiston avoids doubleheader sweep against Mountain View

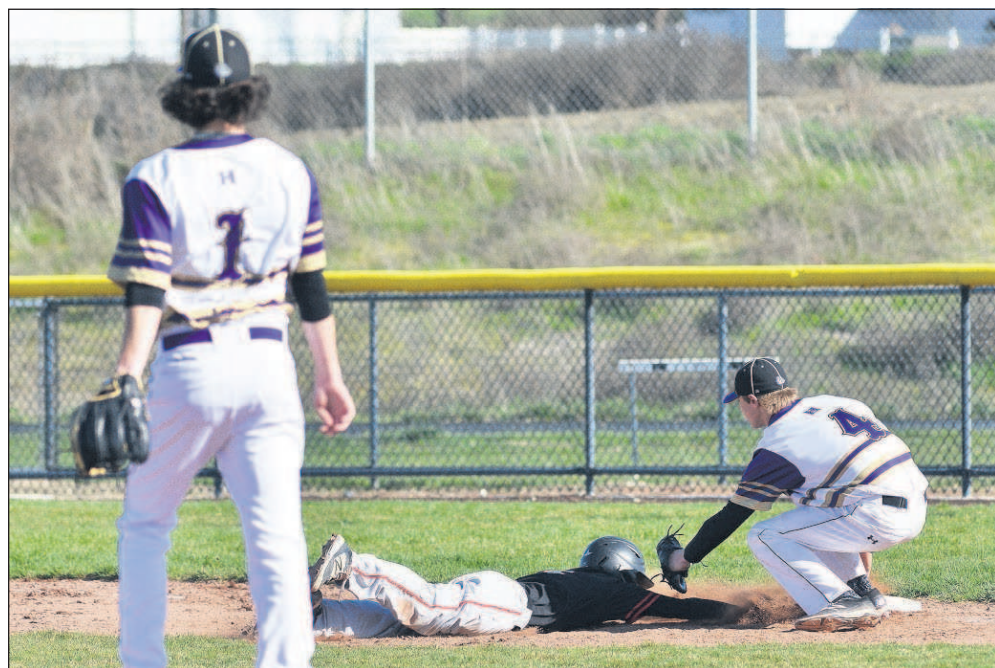
By ERIC SINGER  
Staff writer

HERMISTON — The Hermiston baseball team gathered at Armand Larive ball park on Monday, hoping to begin its spring break with a pair of wins as it hosted Mountain View for an afternoon doubleheader.

However, the Bulldogs played sloppy in the first game, resulting in a 13-2 defeat and then stared at a 5-0 deficit after three complete innings of the second game, resulting in the pregame hope shifting to uneasiness. And before Hermiston came to bat in the fourth inning, senior Slade Gritz saw his teammates' body language and realized he needed to step up and say something.

"I called everyone together in the dugout and said 'We're not going to lose two to this team,'" Gritz recalled. "We have to figure it out and start putting the ball in play."

The meeting worked for the Bulldogs, as Hermiston began to chip away at the Mountain View lead and ended up winning the game 7-6 on a walk-off single by Gritz to split the doubleheader. Gritz came to the plate with the bases loaded and one out in the sixth inning while tied at 6-6, and on the first



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Mountain View's (4) dives back to first base as Hermiston's Kody Moss attempts to make the tag in the Bulldogs' 7-6 win against the Cougars on Monday in Hermiston.

pitch he ripped a hit up into the wind that carried it over the Mountain View outfielder's head for the win.

Mountain View (2-4) had intentionally walked Lukas Tolan to bring Gritz to the plate to make it a force out at home plate, which made Gritz determined to end the game with a win for his team.

"I remember as soon as they're going to put (Lukas) on I thought 'Well, they messed up,'" said Gritz, who finished 2 for 3 with three RBI in Game 2. "I just knew I needed to get my job done and he (the pitcher) threw a fastball right down the middle, made a mistake and I capitalized on it."

Hermiston (2-2) was the ones making the mistakes in the first game, as the Bulldogs tallied six errors defensively while the pitchers put 12 Cougars on base via a walk and hit-by-pitches. And at the plate, Hermiston managed just four hits, two of which came within the first two at-bats of the game.

The Bulldogs were playing for the first time in 13 days, though Hermiston coach Lance Hawkins said that he hoped that having a break would allow the Bulldogs to be roaring and ready to go instead of showing rust.

"We work really hard in practice and when I don't see any of that hard work paying off, it's a little dis-

appointing," Hawkins said. "We work on hitting the ball up the middle every day, and in the first game our first two guys did it and then we never did it again."

In Game 2, Hermiston got a much better effort from its pitchers as Brylee Dufloth started and Wyatt Noland finished it. Dufloth allowed four hits, five runs (four earned) and walked two in four innings, while Noland gave up one run and two hits in three innings to get the win.

Hermiston heads to Keizer this weekend to take part in the Volcano Spring Break Tournament, and will play a doubleheader on Friday against Cleveland at 11:30 a.m. and then against Summit at 2 p.m.

## Hermiston wins big at Track Classic

### Hermiston boys, girls each earn team wins

By ERIC SINGER  
Staff writer

PENDLETON — Twenty five high school track teams from across Eastern Oregon and southeast Washington descended on Pendleton High School for the 26th annual Buck Track Classic on Thursday afternoon, most of which were competing for the first time in the 2017 season.

It was the largest group of competitors in the event's history, according to Pendleton assistant coach Nicole Stewart, which made for a great — and long — day of competition for the local athletes. The athletes were also lucky that Mother Nature decided to be kind to them, after rainy weather earlier in the week gave way to clear skies and sunny weather for the meet.

"I was a little scared earlier (in the week), but thankfully the sun opened up," Hermiston's Tyler Rohrman said of the weather. "I'm just glad we're running in the sun."

Out of the 25 teams, the Hermiston Bulldogs walked away as team champions in both the girls and boys events with the help of a strong performance in the sprint events and in the field events on Thursday.

On the girls side, Hermiston earned a whopping 164.42 points which was way ahead of second place Nyssa (80.42) and third place Pendleton (54.84). And for the boys, Hermiston won with 141 points while La Grande followed in second with 115 points, Weston-McEwen (59) finished third and Pendleton (52.5) in fourth.

Rohrman, who won the boys 100 meter hurdles by more than half a second with a time of 15.33, said that competing in a meet with 25 teams early in the season can pay big dividends for the athletes.

"It helps you really get into track season," he said. "You go to a dual meet and it's just two teams, it goes by really fast, but here it teaches you to manage your body, your time and to know when to warm up."

"And to deal with the atmosphere because this is totally different with a lot more people here watching and it's a lot of what we'll deal with later in the season."

#### Hermiston winners

**Boys**  
100 meters — Alexis Mercado (Hermiston) — 11.55  
1500 meters — Isaac Sanchez (Hermiston) — 4:17.50  
110 meter hurdles — Tyler Rohrman (Hermiston) — 15.33  
4x100 Relay — Hermiston (Garcia, Rohrman, Earl, Mercado) — 44.49  
Shot put — Elias Arenas (Hermiston) — 47-11.00  
Triple jump — Hiram Maciel (Hermiston) — 38-08.50  
**Girls**  
100 meters — Scout Reagan (Hermiston) — 12.90  
200 meters — Audrey Lincoln (Hermiston) — 27.25  
400 meters — Elsa Torres (Hermiston) — 1:03.62  
100 meter hurdles — Madison Wilson (Hermiston) — 15.99  
4x100 Relay — Hermiston (Wilson, Torres, Reagan, Lincoln) — 50.66  
4x400 Relay — Hermiston (Fuentes, Ortiz, Reagan, Torres) — 4:20.99  
Shot put — Maddy Juul (Hermiston) — 35-01.00

## Bulldog Invitational proves to be mental game

UMATILLA — With its straightforward layout and short fairways, Big River Golf Course proved deceptively tough for participants at the Bulldog Invitational on a sunny Thursday by the banks of the Columbia.

Without too many hazards, the players' mental approach became amplified, and those that overlooked the par-70 course paid with high scores. No golfers broke par, and 75 was the lowest score to be turned in.

Four golfers hit that mark as Pendleton's Haley Greb won the girls' title, and The Dalles's Chase Snodgrass won a two-hole playoff against Hermiston's Jared Thacker and Pendleton's Na-

than Som for the boys' title.

Snodgrass, a senior, hit par on both extra holes while Thacker and Som fell behind with bogeys as they replayed hole No. 1.

"I felt like I did what I could with the game that I had today," said Thacker, a senior. "I felt like I gave away some strokes, but that's golf."

He said after the way his first tee shot went, he was pretty happy to shoot 75 on a day several players came into the clubhouse complaining about hard greens.

"It could have been a bad day. I hit it out of bounds and I was like, 'Aw shucks. Well, come turn it around.' And that's what I did," he said. "We were prepared but my

putting was a little off today, but I also made some pretty sweet ones. I was able to knock in (two) birdies which was pretty exciting for me."

Led by Snodgrass, Mark Felderman's 77 and Tyler Vasser's 79, The Dalles won the boys team title with a score of 314. Hermiston was second with 320, and Pendleton was third with 325.

Anders Lind shot 76 for the Bulldogs, and Hermiston coach Aaron Lind said it was a great way for his team to head into spring break.

"We lost to The Dalles (Thursday) by six strokes, and we lost by 50 strokes a week ago to them at their place," he said. "So it is a move in the right direction.

... They're motivated. I feel bad because I've got players that apologized, 'I know I let you down.' Hopefully we have a big spring break, we're going to play some hard courses, and this is a positive that we can just run with."

Pendleton won the girls team title over Hermiston 377-400. Hermiston's low score was a 93 by Grace Blackhurst.

The next tournament on the schedule for the teams is at Wildhorse Golf Course on Monday, April 3.

**Hermiston Scores**  
BOYS — Jared Thacker 75, Anders Lind 76, Tyler Cameron 87, Augustus Blackhurst 87, Kayden Mechem 82.  
GIRLS — Sydney Adams 99, Lexie Lambert 114, Sonja Peterson 96, Grace Blackhurst 93, Makenzie Lind 110.

## Three goals in 29 seconds sink Bulldogs at home

HERMISTON — The Hermiston lacrosse team stood just 50 seconds away from its first win of the season, as it led the Hood River Eagles 6-5 until the Eagles began a furious final surge.

The Eagles scored the tying goal with 49.5 seconds left and then scored two more goals in a 28 second span to stun the Bulldogs with an 8-6 victory Friday

night to spoil Hermiston's home-opener at Kennison Field.

"Fifty seconds," Hermiston coach Jacob Arnold said after the game, shaking his head. "We played a solid four quarters and that was our battle last year to have a complete game, we just fell short tonight."

Hood River's tying goal came with a man advan-

tage as Hermiston (0-3) had a player in the penalty box, and Arnold said that a missed slide from one of the defenders is what opened up a lane for the Eagles's Jack McCaffrey to slip towards the net and fire the ball into the net. Then Hood River (1-0) won the ensuing faceoff and sped right down the field where Cale Brown zipped one into the net for

the go-ahead goal with 32.5 seconds left.

And the next faceoff went Hood River's favor as well, just like last time, the Eagles went right down the field where Brown scored the final goal of the game with 21.6 seconds left to make it the final 8-6 score.

"Winning the faceoffs gave them the man advantage coming down the

field," Hermiston junior defender Jake Palmer said, "so when they have four guys against our three it's kind of tricky for us to defend on the quick passes. And they had fast, crispy passes there and finished them pretty good."

While Hermiston did not get the result it wanted, they were more pleased with the overall effort put forth than in its two previous games

against McNary and Richland (WA) where the Bulldogs lost by a combined score of 27-12.

"The first two games we weren't completing basic passes," Palmer said, "and I feel in this one we really came together and started to coordinate passes and coordinate the plays and it showed it's starting to work."