

Herald Sports



Bulldogs find success at Kiwanis Invite

Hermiston teams finish top-2, win in 10 events

Hermiston Herald

The Hermiston Bulldogs track team had a strong showing at its 32nd annual Kiwanis Invitational meet on Saturday, as the Bulldog boys team finished second to Kamiakin (170) with 155 points while the girls pulled out a close victory with 190 points to Kamiakin's 186.

Hermiston picked up wins in 10 events overall on Saturday. In the girls sprints, Scout Reagan set a new PR in the 100 meter dash with a 12.33 run for first and Audrey Lincoln took first in the 400 meter (1:01.02). Hermiston swept the 100m and 110 meter hurdle events, with Madison Wilson (15.28) and Tyler Rohrman (14.57) each setting new PRs as well. Both Bulldog 4x100 relay teams also won as well.

In field events, Hermiston's Stephanie Mears (36-07.50) and Antonio Hernandez (48-01) won the shot put events, while Elias Arenas (140-10) won the discus. And to wrap up the day, Ebony Wilson won both the girls long jump (16-09.00) and triple jump (34-11.75).

Pendleton's two wins came in the high jump, where Kiara Glover was the only girl to clear five-feet as she jumped 5-02.00, while Johnny Stuvland tied with Hermiston's Hiram Maciel by clearing 6-feet-2.

Mac-Hi's Bianca Garcia claimed victory in the girls javelin, setting a new PR with a distance of 127-06.

Team Scores

Boys	Points
1. Kamiakin	170
2. Hermiston	155
3. Chiawana	146
4. La Grande	88
5. The Dalles	69

Girls	Points
1. Hermiston	190
2. Kamiakin	186
3. Chiawana	84
4. La Grande	79
5. Pendleton	70

SOFTBALL

THE DALLES 8-9, HERMISTON 1-8 — At The Dalles, the Bulldogs nearly stopped their losing streak but were unable to get past the Riverhawks in Game 2 of a league doubleheader and dropped their seventh contest in a row on Saturday.

Kalei Smith had a big day at the plate for Hermiston (6-12, 0-5 CRC) going 4 for 7, and Ashley Cameron drove in two runs in Game 2 while Sydney Stefani went 2 for 3.

Janelle and Julissa Almaguer took the losses in the circle. Janelle was relieved after allowing seven runs (four earned) in the first inning of Game 1, and Julissa gave the Bulldogs five strong innings giving up just one more run off five hits and four balls with six strikeouts.

The Dalles (3-14, 2-3) had her pegged by Game 2, though, and she went just 2 1/3 to start and allowed five runs.

WESTON-MCEWEN 9-12, RIVERSIDE 1-1 — At Athena, Bailey Hillmick threw two complete game victories allowing just 11 hits, two runs and two walks with 22 strikeouts as Weston-McEwen swept Riverside 9-1 and 12-1 on Saturday.

Weston-McEwen (7-4, 4-0 SD1) coach Jeff Griggs said that Hillmick has been working hard in practice on her pitches and it has started to pay off like it did on Saturday.

"She was locating well and mixing her pitches

well," Griggs said. "We've told her the art of pitching is to keep the batters guessing, that she doesn't have to always over-power hitters and her combination today worked well."

On offense, Courtney Cain and Jordyn Lambert each hit home runs for the TigerScots, while Hillmick and Charmayne Bennett led the team with a combined four hits each.

"We just hit up-and-down the lineup and that's been our success lately," Griggs said. "We're starting to have a lineup without holes and it's hard to pitch around players and it's paying dividends."

Sadie Hasbell led Riverside's (12-5, 2-3) offense with four hits and a double, while Abby Hernandez hit a solo home run in Game 2.

Game 1	RHS	W-M	R	H	E
RHS	000100	0	1	7	3
W-M	301014	X	9	12	2

Game 2	RHS	W-M	R	H	E
RHS	001 00	—	1	4	4
W-M	205 5X	—	12	8	1

W-P — B. Hillmick, LP — S. Wightman. 2B — S. Hasbell, Villegas (RHS); S. Peal, C. Cain, B. Hillmick (W-M). HR — C. Cain (W-M).

ECHO 15, IRRIGON 5 — At Echo, the Cougars put together a dominant victory over Irrigon on Saturday, winning the rubber match of the season series, 15-5.

Echo (7-8, 3-2 SD1) pelted 17 hits on the day, as coach Javier Garcia said his Cougars had an ultra-aggressive approach at the plate, which paid off big.

"We went away from being overly patient and wanted to make things happen and put pressure on them," Garcia said. "We had three first pitch hits in the first inning, which set the tone."

Alyssa Ray had a big afternoon for Echo, as she threw a complete game in the circle for the win, allowing five hits and five runs with nine strikeouts while also hitting a home run on offense.

Kendra Hart, Monique Montoya and Alex Putman each hit doubles in the game for Echo, while Mya Chapman and Fleming both had doubles for Irrigon (11-6, 3-2).

IHS	EHS	R	H	E	
IHS	210 20	—	5	5	2
EHS	717 0X	—	15	17	2

W-P — A. Ray, LP — M. Chapman. 2B — Fleming, Chapman (IHS); Hart, Montoya, Putman (EHS). HR — A. Ray (EHS).

BASEBALL

THE DALLES 10-4, HERMISTON 0-3 — At The Dalles, the Bulldogs offense sputtered on Saturday as Hermiston collected just nine hits and three runs resulting in a 10-0 and 4-3 victory for The Dalles.

In Game 1, The Dalles (9-9, 3-2 CRC) pitcher Jordan Wetmore mowed through Hermiston's order, allowing just three hits and one walk in six scoreless innings to go with seven strikeouts.

In Game 2, Hermiston (7-11, 1-4) pitcher Brylee Dufloth kept the Bulldogs right in it, giving up six hits with five strikeouts in 6 1/3 innings.

However he ran into trouble in the seventh with a leadoff walk and eventually loaded the bases.

Wyatt Noland came in on relief and the Riverhawk's Spencer Honald put down a perfect squeeze bunt to score the game-winning run.

No player had more than one hit on the day for Hermiston, but Cole Campbell hit a big two RBI single in the fifth inning of Game 2 to get the Bulldogs their first and only lead of the day.

BULLDOGS GET FIRST LEAGUE WIN

Hermiston puts it all together to beat Hood River

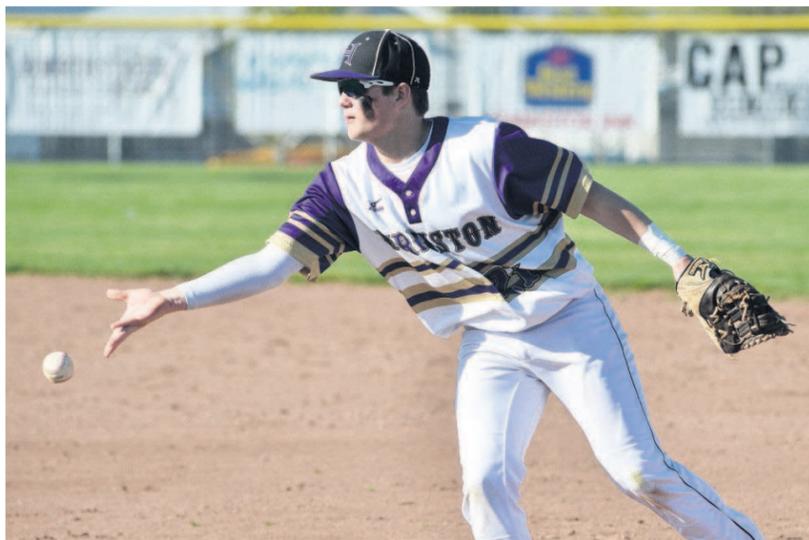
By ERIC SINGER
Staff Writer

With an inexperienced pitching staff, the Hermiston baseball team has had its fair share of growing pains this season.

The majority of Hermiston's pitchers had never thrown a varsity inning prior to this season, which meant a lot of learning what it takes to be successful at that level. The biggest thing that has plagued the Bulldogs so far is inefficiency on the mound, often times falling below 50 percent strikes thrown which results in a high number of walks, hit-by-pitches and extra bases to runners.

But on April 18 at Armand Larive ballpark, two of the younger pitchers gave coach Lance Hawkins something to smile about. Junior righty Caden Schwirse gave the Bulldogs five solid innings from the start and sophomore Jordan Ramirez threw two scoreless innings to save a 4-2 Bulldogs victory over the Hood River Valley Eagles.

Schwirse, making his fourth appearance on the mound this season, allowed six hits with two runs and one earned to go along with three strikeouts. He was very efficient as well, only walking two and throwing 74 pitches



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Hermiston's Kaden Caldwell flicks the ball to first base for an out in the Bulldogs' 4-2 win against Hood River Valley on Tuesday in Hermiston.

in his five innings and he threw just over 54 percent strikes.

"I don't want to just give away free runs," Schwirse said of his efficiency. "I wanted to make them put the ball in play and see what my defense could do."

Schwirse's only runs allowed came in the fourth inning when seven Eagles came to the plate. Three Eagles reached via hit and one walked, with the runs scoring on an RBI single by Lucas Viuhkola and on a Hermiston (7-9, 1-2 CRC) fielding error. He worked out of a few jams as well, stranding two runners in the first and working around a leadoff double in the third inning.

"Great pitching, I mean great pitching today,"

Hawkins added. "It helps when you're around the plate with your pitches. We weren't falling behind and when you're up early you can go with a second or a third pitch, and I think the guys did a good job of competing on the mound and that's what we need."

On the offensive side of things for the Bulldogs, the bats were kept relatively quiet by Eagle pitching. Hermiston registered five hits spread in the first and third innings, and had four innings where the team was retired in order.

But in the first inning, back-to-back singles by Ramirez and Wyatt Noland plus a walk by Lucas Tolan loaded the bases. Slade Gritz stepped in with one out and sent a fly ball into left field that was

deep enough to bring home Ramirez on a sacrifice fly and a 1-0 lead.

And then in the fourth, Hermiston again loaded the bases with back-to-back singles by Ramirez and Noland followed by a hit-by-pitch for Tolan to bring Gritz to the plate with one out. And again, Gritz came through with a first-pitch double that rolled to the fence in left field to drive in three runs for a 4-0 Hermiston lead and further solidifying his spot as Hermiston's 'Mr. Clutch.'

"I'd want any of my guys up there but it seems like Slade is the one that gets there and always gets the big knock," Hawkins said of the senior. "He's

See BULLDOGS, A11

Pack of Bulldogs sign with T-Wolves

BMCC soccer adds more local talent for first team

By ERIC SINGER
Staff writer

When the Hermiston boys soccer team lost a 2-1 heartbreaker to Woodburn in the state quarterfinals in November, many of the team's 11 seniors thought that it was their final time playing the game they love

together.

However, on April 19 six of those seniors decided that the playoff game wasn't their last time together. Anthony Carillo, Eli Lopez, Gio Madrigal, Hiram Maciel, Isaac Munoz, and Ismael Arenas all signed National Letters of Intent with Blue Mountain Community College and be a part of the school's first-ever men's soccer team in the fall. The six made it official at a signing party in the Hermiston

High commons, and were all happy to know they will continue playing as teammates.

"It's a great feeling because I've grown up with these guys and we all know how to play with each other," Lopez said. "I'm excited about what's going to happen this year and I'm looking forward to it."

It was also an emotional day for the athletes, as all six were also fulfilling childhood dreams of playing collegiate soccer.

"Ever since I was little I always had a dream, a goal of playing professional soccer and this is just that next step after high school," Arenas said. "And I'm one step closer to my dream and that's all I can ask for."

"Yeah it was always my dream," Lopez added. "I was iffy about it my freshman year but now that it's come to reality I'm really excited and looking for-

See PACK, A11

Flores signs with BMCC

Hermiston guard stays close to home for college hoops

By MATT ENTRUP
Staff Writer

When Hermiston senior Chance Flores stepped off the court following a 65-50 loss to Parkrose in the 5A boys basketball play-in round, he knew nothing more than he wasn't ready for it to end.

Injuries during his junior and senior seasons had assured Flores and his 17-points-per-game average had flown under the radar of collegiate coaches and recruiters. That could have been that. But Flores, a 6-foot-1 guard who also averaged 5.7 rebounds, 3.5 steals and 3.2 assists his senior season, had been dreaming of playing college basketball since the sixth grade and wasn't ready to leave it there.

"Someone one time told me, 'Don't quit something until you're forced to,'" he said of some words of advice from Hermiston's Dennis Stefani, a former assistant with the boys' program and the Bulldogs' girls JV head coach. "He



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO COURTESY OF HERMISTON ATHLETICS

Chance Flores, second from right, signs his National Letter of Intent with Blue Mountain Community College men's basketball on Monday at a ceremony at Hermiston High. Also shown are Flores' parents, his older brother C.J. (standing), and his HHS coach Casey Arstein (far right).

told me that a long time ago and it just stuck with me."

With the assistance of Hermiston head coach Casey Arstein, he compiled his best highlights and started sending them out. One of the first programs Flores contacted was Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton, and when head coach Gavin Burt returned his interest Flores said he didn't expand his search much further.

Flores officially brought his short search for a college landing spot to a close last week when he signed a National Letter of Intent to join the BMCC Timberwolves in the fall.

Surrounded by family, friends and teammates during a ceremony at Hermiston High, Flores said there were two people he especially needed to thank for making him the player he is today.

The first was his older brother C.J., a 2014 HHS graduate.

"The biggest thing was my brother would always push me and at first it wasn't me trying to be great. It was me trying to be better than my older brother," he said. "We played basketball and then he was always better than me and he'd always push me, and then sooner or later it grew into 'Wow I re-

ally like this.' And now it's something I really want to push for."

The second was his eighth grade coach, Brian Moss.

"He really changed basketball for me, he just completely turned me around," he said. "I was an OK player and he really formed me into who I was coming into high school. He really helped me a lot."

The Timberwolves listed 13 freshmen on their roster in 2016-17, but Flores said Burt told him there will be plenty of opportunity for him to get on the court early.

"I'm hoping so, I was talking to coach a little bit and he said there's not a lot of returners left so that just definitely opens up a window, I've just got to keep working hard," Flores said.

He plans to work toward his associates degree in business with the intention of entering an electrician apprenticeship upon completion, but had to defer to Stefani again when considering his future.

"I'd like to (play at a four-year school). I'll play my two years there (at BMCC), or one year, and we'll see where it goes," he said.