

# SPLIT:

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plined. I don't like the consecutive zero (innings) and that will come back to bite you if you don't play good defense and it bit us a bit today. But we're trying to build on anything here and not dwell on the negatives."

Mendez reached base six times on the day for Hermiston with three hits, two walks and a hit-by-pitch, while also scoring a team-best four runs and adding two RBIs. Noland and Caldwell each had three hits, with Nolan driving in three and scoring three runs, while Caldwell drove in a pair with a double.

### UP NEXT

The two teams will meet again on Tuesday for a single game in Pendleton with first pitch set for 4:30 p.m. Both teams sit in a three-way tie with The Dalles for second in the CRC standings.

Game 1		R	H	E
PHS	020003	0	5	8
HHS	201205	X	10	11

(P) D. Naughton, N. Lani (4) and R. Russell. (H) L. Tolan, J. Ramirez (7) and S. Gritz. WP — L. Tolan, LP — N. Lani. 2B — S. Jerome, A. Zaugg (PHS). HR — S. Gritz (HHS).

Game 2		R	H	E
PHS	022203	1	10	16
HHS	140030	0	8	11

(P) R. Russell, C. Large (5) and J. Duso. (H) B. Dufloth, C. Campbell (5), A. James (6) and S. Gritz. WP — C. Large, LP — C. Campbell. 2B — N. Bower, R. Russell (PHS); J. Mendez, L. Tolan, D. Gossler, K. Caldwell (HHS). 3B — S. Jerome (PHS).

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# Stanfield duo make college decisions

By ERIC SINGER  
Staff Writer

March 23, 2017 will be a day that Stanfield seniors Maya Gadsden and Kenzie Gonzales will remember for a long time.

It was the day that both ladies took a big step toward achieving one of the biggest goals of their respective athletic careers. In a ceremony at Stanfield Secondary School, the duo signed National Letters of Intent to play college athletics, with Gadsden signing with Treasure Valley Community College for volleyball and Gonzales with Blue Mountain Community College for softball.

"I remember feeling

very happy and excited for the next chapter in my life," Gadsden said. "It was relieving that all my hard work payed off, that it wasn't for nothing."

"I'm just super stoked to know that I can play at the next level," Gonzales said.

Gadsden, who lines up at outside hitter/middle blocker on the court, started playing volleyball in eighth grade, but didn't start to think about possibly playing in college until her sophomore year of high school. She gathered more attention on the recruiting circuit by playing club volleyball, playing on Club Gold based out of Richland, Washington.

The senior, who will

study nursing, said she had interest from three community colleges and a few Division III colleges. But in the end, Treasure Valley stood out to her and made itself the obvious choice.

"I liked that it's a small school with an excellent coaching staff," Gadsden said. "They have the same philosophy as my club team, which is a really easy transition. And I was looking to go somewhere that offered on-campus living so I could have a total college experience."

Gadsden will join a Treasure Valley program that went 10-23 overall in 2016 and finished eighth in the NWAC East region. The Chukars have averaged

just over 11 wins per year in the past four seasons, and have not had a winning season since 2009, but Gadsden hopes to help change that.

For Gonzales, who also plans to study nursing, Blue Mountain was the only college she set her sights on.

"It's close to home, the girls I was able to meet were great and the coach was awesome," Gonzales said.

The right-handed thrower has a chance to make an immediate impact at Blue Mountain, with the Timberwolves losing two of the three pitchers on its roster after this season. Gonzales will also be teaming up with Pilot Rock

pitcher Tehya Ostrom at BMCC next season, and the idea of a locally-dominated pitching staff is something that Gonzales is looking forward to.

"I don't know her personally, but we've competed together on the field for a long time," Gonzales said. "I'm very excited to call her my teammate and hopefully lead the pitching staff with her."

Gonzales knows that she and Ostrom will have their work cut out for them, though, as they are joining a BMCC program that, just like Gadsden with TVCC, has not had a winning season in several years. But Gonzales is looking forward to the challenge.

# Andreason signs with Lane Community College

By MATT ENTRUP  
Staff writer

With 16 straight tournament appearances, the Lane Titans women's basketball team has won an NWAC-leading 83.7 percent of its games going back to the 2001-02 season.

Maintaining that level of success, especially in the junior college ranks where players are granted a maximum two years eligibility, is no easy task. So when

coaches find high school programs that continually produce college-ready athletes, they pump that well until it goes dry.

One of the Titans' trusted pipelines leads back to Hermiston High School, and on Wednesday, April 27, they added another Bulldog to their ranks when guard Rileigh Andreason signed her National Letter of Intent.

"It was kind of scary but exciting at the same time, I

get to try something new," said Andreason, who established herself as a dangerous jump shooter early in her Bulldog career and added a tenacious defensive mentality as a senior.

She's the fourth Bulldog to sign with the Titans in recent years, and will join 2016 HHS grad Kiana Heehn, who played in 18 games her freshman season at Lane.

Courtney Walchli was the first Bulldog to head to

Lane and gave the Titans about seven points and five rebounds a game during the 2011-13 seasons that produced one of the program's four 30-win campaigns. Then the Titans hit big with Gabby Heehn, who capped her career with a school-record 125 threes during the Titans' championship run in 2015-16.

Andreason said she's eager to follow in those footsteps.

"I want to shoot a high

percentage of shots so I can be a shooter," she said. "Just catching and shooting from the outside."

Hermiston head coach Juan Rodriguez said he knows she's going to represent the Bulldogs well at the next level.

"I'm just happy for her," he said. "She's worked hard, ever since she was little, and it's a goal she's come to realize and I just wish her the best from our program."

# GRITZ:

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for a chance to check out the program and meet the team, and then offered him a chance to play for the Timberwolves.

Gritz accepted the offer and made his pledge to BMCC official on Thursday as he signed his National Letter of Intent at a party at Hermiston High School.

"It's awesome," Gritz said

of the opportunity. "I was just waiting for the opportunity ... I like BMCC, I like the guys, they're a bunch of good dudes and coach Baker is a great guy."

Baker said that he has had his eye on Gritz since last season, and the Bulldog came with glowing recommendations from Hermiston coach Lance Hawkins as well as several other coaches from the area.

"We were in need for a catcher who is solid defen-

sively," Baker said in an email. "He has a plus arm and a quick release behind the plate. When recruiting catchers we look for kids who are tough, smart and can help control the run game and he fits all three."

Blue Mountain also presents Gritz with a great opportunity to play right away, as two of the three catchers on the Timberwolves roster are sophomores. Gritz said that Baker expects him to catch a lot of innings for BMCC in

2018. "He thinks if I work hard I'll play a lot, which is great," Gritz said. "And hopefully I'll be starting by the time spring rolls around, that's my goal. I have to work hard though."

Gritz added that he is really excited about reuniting with former Hermiston teammates Tyler Sexton and Chase Root at Blue Mountain next season, both of whom were battery mates with Gritz on the Bulldogs.

Root is the only one that has earned playing time this season, as he is currently second on BMCC in appearances with 14 this season, with a 4.98 ERA in 43 1/3 innings.

Gritz was Root's catcher last season for Hermiston when Root tossed 14 strikeouts in 20 1/3 innings with a 0.69 ERA in four league starts. Now Gritz is counting down the days until he is the one catching Root's pitches again, this time in Timberwolves gear.

"That'll be great, I'm definitely comfortable with Chase," Gritz said, "and I think that'll be good for us again."

And aside from joining up with friends again, Gritz was ecstatic to be staying close to home.

"That's a plus," he said with a smile. "I didn't want to travel that far from home."

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