

Bulldogs draw tough match-up

By **ERIC SINGER**

HERMISTON — For the first time since 2013, the Hermiston softball team finds itself back in the 5A state tournament.

Of course this time Hermiston's road to a state championship game appearance is much tougher as the Bulldogs slot into the 2017 tournament as the No. 15 seed after turning in a 10-16 overall record and a 3-9 mark in the CRC.

Up first for Hermiston is the No. 2 seed Marist Catholic, who comes in with the most potent offense in the state. Led by reigning Class 5A Player of the Year and University of Oregon signee Lauren Burke, the Spartans put up 311 runs this year for an average of just over 13 per game.

The Spartans also allow an average of just 2.3 runs per game, which means Hermiston's offense will need contributions from every spot in the lineup and will need to find ways to manufacture runs.

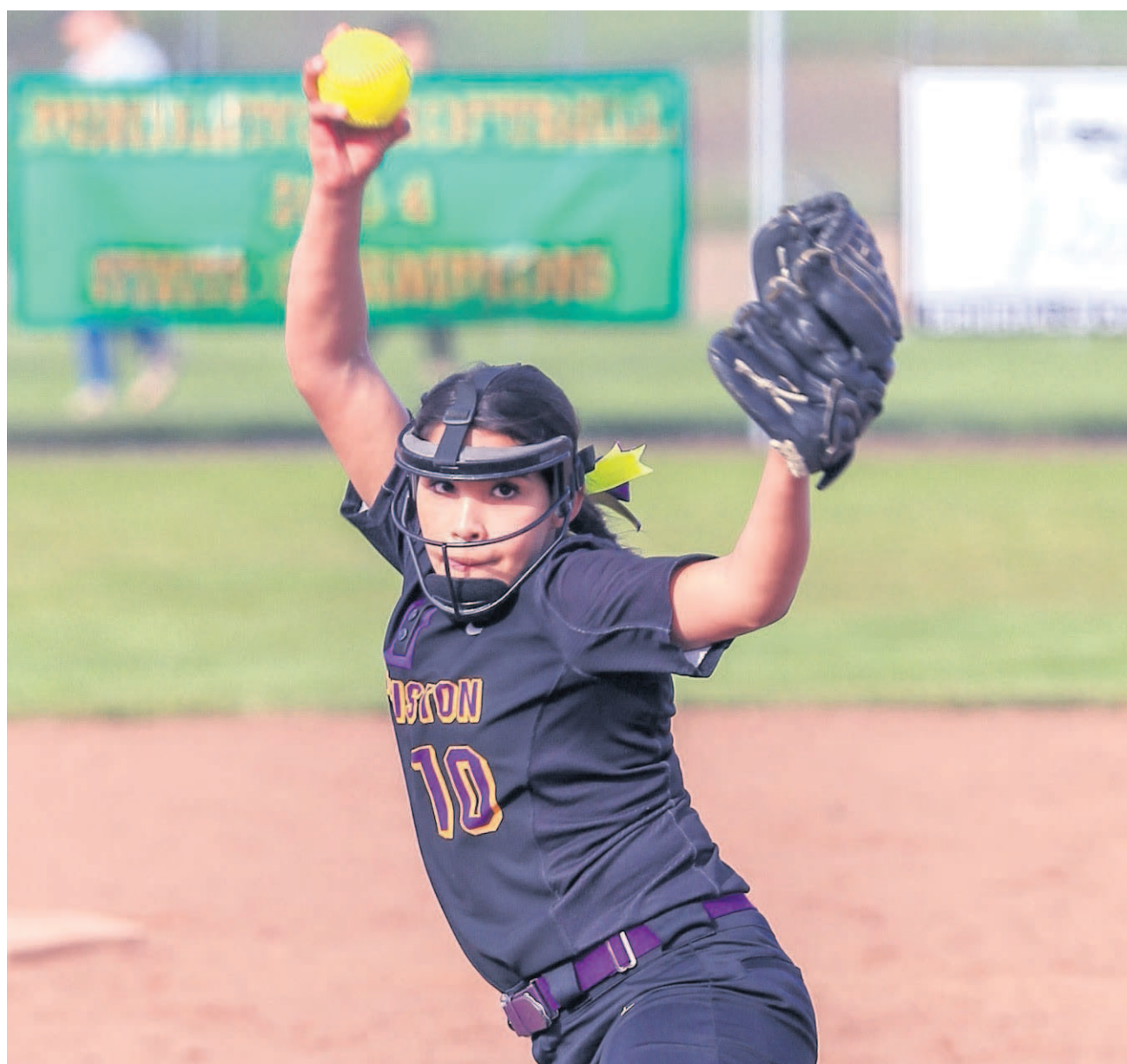
Hermiston will also need another strong performance from pitcher Jullissa Almaguer, who has led the Bulldogs to big wins over Hood River and Hillsboro over the past three weeks.

First pitch is set for 5 p.m. at Marist Catholic High School in Eugene.

Tigers ready for title defense

STANFIELD — The Stanfield baseball team put together an incredible run to a state championship in 2016, and now the Tigers are ready to do it again this year.

The Tigers start the Class 3A state tournament as the No. 1 seed, after completing a 22-2 overall



HERMISTON HERALD FILE PHOTO

Hermiston pitcher Janelle Almaguer winds up in the May 2 game against Pendleton at Steve Cary Field.

record and a perfect 15-0 mark in the Eastern Oregon League. They start the tournament bearing the best offense in Class 3A, compiling 311 total runs — an average of 12.9 per game.

The first team standing in the Tigers way is the No. 16 Catlin Gabel Eagles, the second place finisher in the Lewis & Clark league. The first round match-up will take place on Wednesday with first pitch set for 4 p.m.

at Madigan Field in Stanfield.

The Eagles went 10-8 overall and 8-4 in league play, and managed just 5.4 runs per game and allow an average of 4.8 runs.

The two teams played just one common opponent this season, Rainier, whom Stanfield swept 4-3 and 3-2 in a doubleheader on April 1. Meanwhile Catlin Gabel was swept by Rainier in three games this season by a combined score of 24-3.



HERMISTON HERALD FILE PHOTO

Stanfield's Dylan Grogan winds up for a pitch during the March 28 game against Weston-McEwen in Stanfield.

BMCC pool could close for good June 2

HERMISTON HERALD

A large leak in Blue Mountain Community College's swimming pool may force the college to permanently close the pool a year early.

The college considered closing the ailing pool in the spring 2016, but after gathering public input and working with local swim teams agreed to keep it open through 2018. But Casey White-Zollman, vice president of communications, said a "significant leak" has been discovered that could be too costly to repair.

The college drains the pool for maintenance each summer after local high schools and the Pendleton Swim Association finish their season. This year's closure is set for June 2. White-Zollman said at that point a contractor will be able to fully assess the leak and give the college an estimate on repairs.

The agreement between BMCC, Hermiston High School, Pendleton High School and Pendleton Swim Association included \$25,000 from the college and \$25,000 split between the other swim teams for maintenance over the two extra years of operation. But White-Zollman said a clause in the agreement would allow the college to close the pool early if needed repairs exceed that amount.

She said BMCC has kept all three swim teams apprised of the latest development and they will know more after the pool is drained June 2. The college is not currently scheduling swim classes for the fall.

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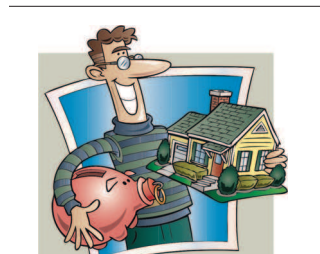
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