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## Bulldog versus Bulldog

Janelle Almaguer throws her first career shutout in the double-digit win

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ  
STAFF WRITER

HERMISTON — This time last season, the Hermiston softball team had more losses than wins and would go on to win only two of its next five games after the opening week.

This season, the Bulldogs handily move to 3-0 after a 16-run shutout victory over Pasco (WA) on Friday.

“It’s exciting,” head coach Kate Greenough said. “They are working so hard and I think now everybody gets a chance to see that. They are doing all of the little things right now so regardless of whether that game is close or not, they did what they needed to do when they needed to do it and that’s exciting. It’s showing growth and showing maturity.”

Hermiston was just coming off a game that was shortened by the 10-run rule and were three runs away from another five inning game at Rocky Heights Elementary School.

The hosting Bulldogs got out to an early lead with four runs in the first inning and three more in the second.

Janelle Almaguer got a big strikeout to end the first inning

and leave the visiting Bulldog (2-4) runners stranded in scoring position.

Once it was Hermiston’s turn to step to the plate, the Bulldogs used their speed and timely hitting to get out ahead of Pasco.

After leadoff batter Sydney Stefani was sent to first on a walk, she quickly moved around the bases, stealing second and third by the time Sam Atilano stepped up to the plate.

On a wild pitch from Andrea Gonzalez, Stefani made the trip home and Atilano took first on another walk.

Saige Melson was the last Bulldog to get on base in the first, and on her RBI single she pushed Hermiston’s lead to 4-0 — two of the previous runs were both scored on wild pitches.

Again in the bottom of the second, another run was scored on a wild pitch.

Kalei Smith hit a line drive straight up the middle of the field to reach first and two bunts off the bats of Stefani and Atilano put Smith in position to score.

Almaguer followed with a two-run RBI single to extend the lead to 7-0.

Almaguer had a strong offensive outing and also recorded her first career shutout in the circle for Hermiston.

Starting in the place of her older sister Julissa Almaguer, who has been sitting out after an injury sustained in the season opener Tuesday, Janelle is getting valuable experience as



Hermiston’s Janelle Almaguer throws from the pitching circle in the Bulldog’s 16-0 win against Pasco on Friday in Hermiston.

STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

See **SOFTBALL**, Page A11



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