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DAWGS SPLIT OPENER



HERMISTON HERALD
VALE — The Echo Cougars took a brief break from league play, sweeping Vale on the road Saturday. Echo held the host school to only three runs in both games, winning the first 16-3 and the second, 17-3.

After dropping the first game to some miscues, Hermiston rallied to open CRC 1-1

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ
STAFF WRITER

HERMISTON — After the first game of Hermiston's Columbia River Conference opener, defense was something the Bulldogs needed to clean up.

They dropped Game 1 5-2 to the visiting Hood River Valley Eagles by their own accord, and were looking at a sweep after a late rally put Hood River up again in Game 2.

After taking an early lead with one run in the first, the Eagles answered with five runs in the fourth and fifth innings to go up 5-2. But another four-run rally, this time by the Bulldogs, put Hermiston up 6-5 to split the doubleheader.

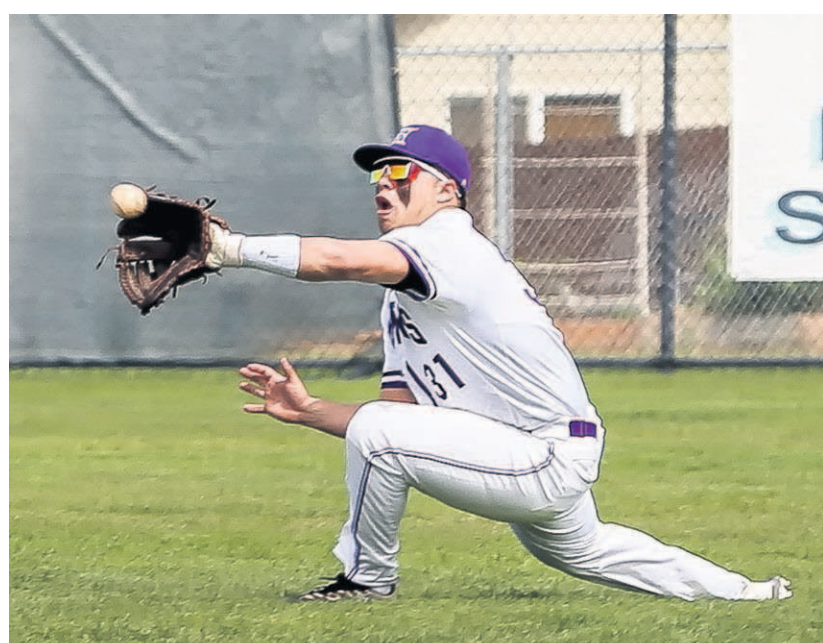
In the bottom of the sixth, trailing by three, Hermiston (5-9 overall, 1-1 CRC) needed to get its bats going.

The Bulldogs recorded only four hits in the first game, and by the fourth inning of the second outing, had matched that output highlighted by RBI singles from Wyatt Noland in the first and Lukas Tolan in the fourth.

Hermiston's fire power came just in time, as Jordan Ramirez took the plate with two outs and the bases loaded. Two previous walks with the bases already loaded put the Bulldogs within one run of knotting the score.

Up against Hood River's (7-8, 1-1) ace, Connor Coeper, on a 2-2 count, Ramirez sent a ground ball to short stop that scored both Tolan and Andrew James to put the Bulldogs up for good.

Ramirez then made an appearance on the mound to close out the game, allowing just one hit and walking one.



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"Well shoot," Ramirez began after Game 2, "that (RBI) would have never happened if Andrew (James) wasn't smart on the bases."

And as far as toeing the rubber, "I just came in and was like, 'My defense is good, just throw strikes and they'll get a play.' Look what happened: Garron (Anderson) double play, game," he added.

After the leadoff hitter singled to left field and a walk was issued to move runners to first and second base, Ramirez needed something to quickly get out of the inning. He had already thrown three strikes, but was going up against the middle of Hood River's lineup which had been pretty successful at the plate.

But just as Ramirez said, a 5-3 double play to third base sealed the deal and gives the Bulldogs the momentum going into another doubleheader against the Eagles on Tuesday.

"I'm extremely proud of how our kids came back in the second game," head coach Kevin Moore said. "All of a sudden we came back and fought back in the bottom of

the sixth and put up four ourselves to come out on the top side of this win."

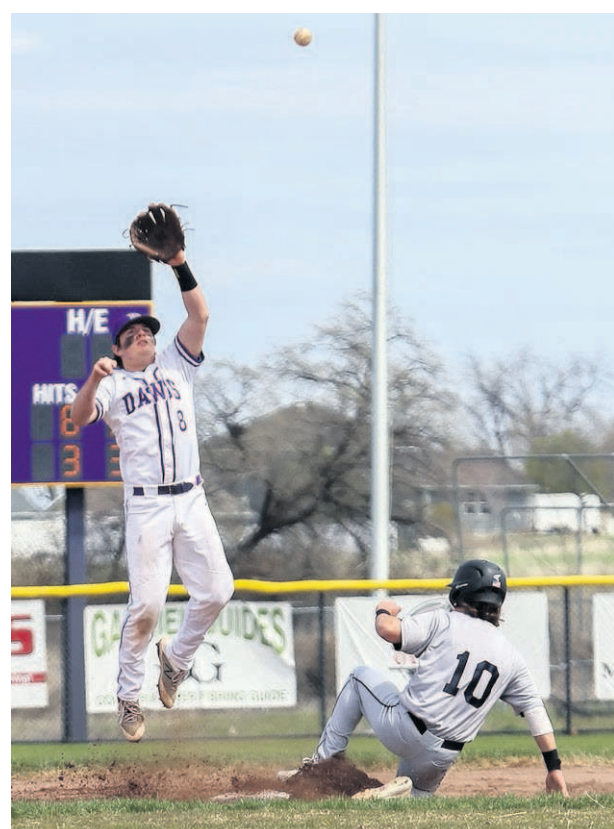
Offensively, Caden Schwirse had the best day and went 2-for-2 while scoring twice in Hermiston's win. Schwirse pitched five innings in the first game, and was handed the loss after giving up nine runs on four hits, striking out three and walking two.

James had one of the few highlights in Game 1, hitting a double which put him in position to be the first Bulldog to score. A grounder by Joel Mendez allowed James to round third and tag home, and one batter later Mendez was brought in by an RBI single off the bat of Ramirez.

Game 1			R	H	E	
HRV	011021	0	—	5	11	3
HHS	000020	0	—	2	4	1
(HR) G. Losee, (H) C. Schwirse, G. Anderson (6), V. Losee, L. Schwirse.						
2B: R. Gram (HR); A. James (H).						
Game 2			R	H	E	
HRV	000140	0	—	5	9	1
HHS	100104	X	—	6	6	1
(HR) C. Coeper, (H) L. Tolan, B. Dufloth (6), J. Ramirez (7), W. Dufloth, L. Coeper.						
HR: H. Howell (HR).						



Above: Hermiston's Andrew James slides into third base as Isaac Beaman, of Hood River Valley, waits for a throw during the first of two Saturday games.



Right: Hermiston's Andrew James jumps for the ball during Saturday's league match-up. Jordan Ramirez backs up James on the play.

PREP ROUNDUP

Echo enforces the 10-run rule in back-to-back wins

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In Game 1, the Cougars (8-2 overall) erupted in the second to get out to a 9-1 lead. Michelle Weems hit a grand slam over the left-field fence to highlight the inning, and Haili Spurlock added to the total with a two-RBI double.

Echo scored in each of the five innings played after their 10-plus run lead brought the run rule into effect. Four other Cougars brought in runs to help push Echo ahead of a struggling Vale team, which only recorded four hits in the game.

Alyssa Ray earned the win after five full innings of work striking out seven batters and walking only one.

In Game 2, the Cougars again got out to an early lead and were up 11-3 over the Vikings (4-6). The bats continued to fly as six batters helped add runs to the board and seven Cougars scored.

The top of the lineup was the most successful as the No. 2 and 3 hitters led the way. Spurlock went 3-for-4 and Monique Montoya 2-for-3, both with a combined three RBI and seven runs scored. Kendra Hart hit 2-for-4 with two-RBI tripled. Hart was also given the win in the circle after allowing three runs of three hits — including a home run from Isabella Sigrah — striking out five and walking four in five innings.

Stanfield nears 30 runs in sweep of Nyssa

ONTARIO — Stanfield dominated in its second league doubleheader Saturday when the Tigers took Game 1, 13-1, and then Game 2, 22-10.

In the first outing, Stanfield got out to a 6-0 lead after the opening inning. Nyssa was able to respond with a lone run in the second, but it was the Bulldogs only run of the day.

The Tigers (11-4 overall, 5-0 Eastern Oregon League) put up seven more runs, and finished the game in the sixth inning after four runs enforced the 10-run rule.

The near shutout was thanks to the efforts of Brody Woods. While toeing the rubber, he surrendered the one run but struck out a whopping 17 batters. Woods' efforts on the mound turned into offensive firepower in Game 2.

Woods had a four-hit outing with a single, two home

runs and a triple highlighting another 12-run victory.

The second time around, the Bulldogs (1-14, 1-4) were able to keep things close for a while. They matched Stanfield's seven runs to knot the score after two innings. But then the Tigers broke out in the third behind a two-run homer from Woods and commanded the lead.

Other notable at bats included Justin Keeney, who went 3-for-5 with three RBI; Damien Curial, who also recorded 3 RBI and was 4-for-5 at the plate; and Shayne Keltz, who brought in two runs off three hits.

Hermiston track and field ends weekend at Hayward Field

EUGENE — In Day 2 of the Oregon Relays, Hermiston was led by the girls 4x100-meter relay team and senior hurdler Tyler Rohrman.

The 4x100 team — made up of Scout Reagan, Madison Wilson, MaKaylee Young and Elsa Torres — finished third in a field of 32. The Bulldogs clocked 50 seconds flat, and were just 0.37 seconds behind first-place Mountain View (ID).

After finishing third (14.98) in his heat in the 110-meter hurdles, Rohrman improved on his time to finish fourth overall in 14.81.

The Bulldogs had two top-15 finishers in the boys and girls javelin throw. Eric White claimed 15th place after recording a throw of 45.61 meters and Jazlyn Romero rounded out the top 10 with her best of 35.64 meters.

Bulldog tennis comes away with big wins to end week

HERMISTON — Hermiston wrapped up its busy week of play by hosting Eisenhower (WA) on Saturday.

The girls team won 6-2 behind big wins from both the No. 1 singles player and No. 1 doubles pair.

"(It was a) great match by the girls today," head coach Jason Sivey said. "I'm very proud of the improvements we are showing and success that is coming along with it."

In singles, Mackenzie Hill — the No. 1 Bulldog — defeated Jayme Fisher, 6-1, 6-0, and Adriann Stewart and Olivia Thomas both followed with wins against their respective opponents.

Lindsay McAllister dropped her singles match to Sara Gonzalas, 6-2, 7-5.

"The two losses were also hard fought battles that could have done either way," Sivey said. "The freshman

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SCHEDULE

Local slate

PREP BASEBALL
Friday
Vale at Umatilla (DH), 1 p.m.
Burns at Irrigon (DH), 2 p.m.
Stanfield/Echo at Riverside (DH), 12:45 p.m.
Saturday
The Dalles at Hermiston (DH), 12 p.m.
PREP SOFTBALL
Friday
Weston-McEwen at Riverside (DH), 1 p.m.
Echo at Umatilla (DH), 1 p.m.
Saturday
The Dalles at Hermiston (DH), 12 p.m.
Burns at Echo (DH), 1 p.m.
PREP TRACK & FIELD
Tuesday
Heppner, Irrigon, Stanfield at the Mustang Invitational (Heppner HS), 11 a.m.
Wednesday
Echo, Mac-Hi, Pendleton, Pilot Rock, Umatilla, Weston-McEwen at the Pendleton JV Invite No. 1 (Pendleton HS), 2 p.m.
Friday
Echo, Umatilla at the Condon/Wheeler Invite (Condon HS), 11 a.m.
Hermiston, Mac-Hi, Pendleton at Kiwanis Twilight Invitational (Hermiston HS), 2 p.m.

Saturday
Helix, Pilot Rock, Stanfield, Weston-McEwen at the 12th Annual Pepsi Invitational (Union HS), 11 a.m.
Riverside at the 16th Annual Portland Christian Invitational (Portland Christian HS), 11 a.m.
PREP GOLF
Thursday
Hermiston, Mac-Hi, Pendleton at Pendleton Country Club, 12 p.m.
Friday
Hermiston (girls) at Wandemere Golf Course (WA), 9 a.m.
PREP TENNIS
Tuesday
Pendleton at Hermiston (girls), 4 p.m.
Hermiston at Pendleton (boys), 4 p.m.
Riverside at Stanfield, 4 p.m.
Thursday
Hermiston at The Dalles (boys), 4 p.m.
Saturday
Helix, Umatilla, Stanfield at Stanfield, 10 a.m.
PREP LACROSSE
Wednesday
Hermiston at Richland, 7 p.m.
Saturday
West Valley at Hermiston, 2 p.m.