

Hermiston girls atop leaderboard at PHS invite, boys finish in third

By **ERIC SINGER**
STAFF WRITER

PENDLETON — The Hermiston girls golf team brought home the team championship at the Pendleton Country Club on a sunny Thursday afternoon after shooting a 391 at the Pendleton High School Invitational.

The Bulldogs were the only team to shoot a sub-400 round with Leslie Brown leading the way with a 94, which earned her a second place finish individually, and Grace Blackhurst's 95 earned her a third place finish. Rounding out the group was Sonja Peterson and Myka Krumwiede, each shooting a 101.

The Bulldog boys edged

out the rival Buckaroos by one stroke to finish in third place with a 347. Garrett McClanahan led the team with an 84, followed by Cody Thacker's 86, Blue Blackhurst's 87, Kaleb Crafton's 90 and Connor Scott's 93.

Hanford won the boys team championship with a 328 and La Grande finished just ahead of Hermiston in second place with a 343.

Both the Buckaroo teams had solid showings at their second home tournament of the year, as the girls finished in second with a score of 415 and the boys in fourth with a 348.

Pendleton senior Jared Geier went on to make four birdies in his round to shoot a one-under 71 to earn top

medalist with a six stroke cushion over second place Gabe Cach of Hanford and Riley Lankford of Nixyaawii. Geier admitted he was pretty excited once he totaled up his scorecard and realized he broke par for the first time in his varsity career.

"It felt great," Geier said of his round. "I've never shot one-under before, I've never actually shot under par before so it was a great feeling."

Fellow Buckaroo Megan George earned top medalist honors for the girls side, shooting a 12-over 84. George was the one of only three players to shoot under 100 on the day, and she finished with a 10 stroke cushion on second place. The

Buckaroos play the Country Club course twice a week, which came in handy for the top two players Thursday.

"It helps you know where to hit the ball and how the greens are rolling," Geier said. "It helped us out a ton today."

Rounding out the local competitors on the girls side was Mac-Hi's Taylor Copenhaver (105) and Megan Norton (109), as well as Nixyaawii's Tyanna Van Pelt (137).

The Mac-Hi Boys finished sixth with a solid 384, led by Carson Chester (84), Noah Wilson (88) and Kodi Leidenfrost (97). Nixyaawii was in sixth led by Lankford's 77, as well as Deven Barkley (93), and Wilbur Oatman (114).



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Hermiston junior Blue Blackhurst chips his ball onto the 10th green Thursday at the Pendleton County Club.

PREP ROUNDUP

Stanfield hits five home runs in sweep of Riverside

HERMISTON HERALD

The Stanfield Tigers remain unbeaten in league play after sweeping the Riverside Pirates 9-3 and 21-11 on Friday afternoon in Boardman.

The Tigers (13-4 overall, 7-0 Eastern Oregon League) hit a combined five home runs on the day and a total of 12 extra-base hits overall. Brody Woods and Justin Keeney each had six hits on the day for the Tigers, with Woods adding a home run, two doubles, five RBI and four runs scored. Keeney also had six RBI and scored four runs.

Also stuffing the stat sheet for Stanfield offensively was Adrian Renner with five hits and four runs, TJ Smith with four hits, a home run and three runs, Shayne Keltz with four hits, a home run, three RBI and three runs, Hunter McCanch with three hits and Damian Curial and Makiah Blankenship each with a home run.

Woods also earned the

win on the mound in Game 1 after recording 10 strikeouts while allowing just one hit and one run over four innings.

Knights split home doubleheader

IRRIGON — Irrigon split a league doubleheader with Burns on Friday afternoon. The Knights took the first game, 5-2, while the Hilanders were victorious in the second outing, 12-2.

In Game 1, Zach Henrichs threw a gem for the Knights as he allowed only six hits, two runs and one walk in six innings while tallying eight strikeouts. Adrian Roa pitched a perfect seventh for the save.

Lino Covarrubia led the Knights with two hits including a home run, while Johnny Phillips had two hits with a double and Keith Fleming had a double.

The Knights' pitching didn't fare as well in Game 2, as five different pitchers combined to walk 15 bat-

ters and allow five hits with 12 runs. The defense also recorded a whopping eight errors.

In Vikings versus Vikings, Vale sweeps Umatilla

UMATILLA — The home Vikings fought hard but just didn't have enough to take down the Vale Vikings on Friday, as Umatilla lost a doubleheader 8-4 and 11-8.

Seth Cranston and Andrew Wilson each had three hits on the day to lead Umatilla (5-7 overall, 1-6 Eastern Oregon League), while Noah Holford had two hits with a double, Uriel Garcia had two hits with a double and two RBI and Cody Samson had two hits with a triple and two RBI.

Kole Keller pitched seven strong innings in Game 1, allowing nine hits with eight runs (three earned) and eight strikeouts. Cody Samson pitched

a complete game in Game 2.

Riverside softball puts tallies in win column

BOARDMAN — The Riverside Pirates notched their first league victories of the season by sweeping Weston-McEwen 4-3 and 7-2 on Friday.

In Game 1, the Pirates (5-5 overall, 2-1 Special District 1) trailed the Tiger-Scots (2-10, 1-3) 3-2 in the bottom of the seventh before it got a rally going. Skylar Wightman was hit by a pitch and then JoJo Hernandez and Ray Elliott each singled to load the bases. Next, Megan Hegar stepped to the plate and delivered a single to right field to score Wightman and Hernandez to deliver the 4-3 win.

Hernandez, Elliot and Hegar each had two hits in the game for the Pirates, and Wightman earned the win with 10 strikeouts in seven innings while allowing nine

hits and three runs.

In Game 2, the Pirates controlled from the start to lead 5-0 after three innings. Abby Hernandez and Wightman each had three hits to lead the Pirates, while JoJo Hernandez had two hits and Delmy Barrera had a double. Tyree Burke led the Tiger-Scots with two hits.

Wightman also earned the win for the Pirates and punched out 11 batters while allowing only four hits with two runs.

Echo softball sweeps back-to-back doubleheaders

UMATILLA — Echo tallied 23 hits and scored 35 runs as they thumped Umatilla in a league doubleheader Friday afternoon to win 19-1, 16-1.

The Cougars (13-2 overall, 6-0 Special District 1) were led by dazzling starts by pitchers Alyssa Ray and Kendra Hart. Ray threw five innings and struck out seven

while allowing two hits and one run in Game 1, and Hart struck out 10 in five innings with four hits and one run allowed in Game 2.

Hart was the team's top hitter with four hits, a home run and a triple, two RBI and six runs scored. Ray also had four hits with six RBI, while Alex Putman homered and Monique Montoya tallied three hits with three RBI.

Just a day later in Echo, the Cougars broke out the bats for the second straight day to sweep a doubleheader with Burns on Saturday, winning 18-0 and 20-2.

Ray threw a one-hit shut-out for the Cougars in Game 1, striking out nine in five innings. Hart earned the win in Game 2 after striking out 11 and giving up four hits and two runs.

Putman led the offense with four hits with a double on the day, adding six RBI and four runs scored. Montoya had three hits with a double and six RBI and six runs, while Hart had three hits and scored five runs.

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