

HeraldSports

Follow sports on Twitter
@HHeraldSports

PREP ROUNDUP

Hermiston softball posts 2 big wins

By HERALD STAFF

The Hermiston softball team wasted no time taking care of business in its season opener Saturday afternoon in Yakima.

The Bulldogs shut out Davis 18-0, and then turned around to take down Eisenhower 12-2.

"I'm really proud of the team," coach Kate Greenough said. "They scored 30 runs in 10 innings. That's exciting. We couldn't be more happy with the way they showed up and played."

Despite racking up 18 runs in the opener, the Bulldogs didn't get going until the third inning, where they put up eight runs. They tacked on two more in the fourth, and another eight in the fifth to end the game early.

Janelle Almaguer and Grace Studer combined for a no-hitter against the Pirates.

"That's a huge deal," Greenough said. "It hasn't happened since I've coached Hermiston. That doesn't happen often in high school softball."

Ashley Cameron led the offensive charge for both games, going a combined 6-for-7 at the plate with three doubles, a triple, a home run, and five RBIs.

"Ashley's absolutely a leader," Greenough said. "She's a good ball player. In softball, if you hit .300 or .400, you're doing well. She hit .800 today. That's an impressive feat."

The Bulldogs will begin Mid-Columbia Conference play Friday hosting Southridge in doubleheader at Rocky Heights Elementary. Game time is 3 p.m.

Boys tennis

HERMISTON 6, CHIAWANA 1 — The Bulldogs swept the doubles matches and dropped just one singles match in beating Chiawana in Mid-Columbia Conference action Monday in Pasco.

"Overall, the team is looking very good," said coach Shann West. "I think it comes down to the kids wanting to win."

HERMISTON 7, EISENHOWER 0 — The Hermiston boys made a clean sweep of Eisenhower on Saturday in Yakima.

Hayden Cissna won his singles match in a third-set tiebreaker 7-3. Jaiden Ruloph won his match 6-3, 6-4, as did Miguel Salvador, 6-4, 6-0. Austin Garcia made easy work of his singles opponent 6-1, 6-0 for his first win of the season.

Matt Eckhardt and Trent Pitney escaped with a 6-4, 6-4 doubles win. Salvador and Maxwell Spencer teamed to claim their match 6-0, 6-2, and Ruloph and Carter Tolan came out on top 6-3, 6-2.

"The boys are continuing to play very aggressive," Bulldogs coach Shann West said. "They're having some very impressive points with the balls being kept low and put away with authority."

Girls tennis

CHIAWANA 7, HERMISTON 0 — The Bulldogs ran up against a strong Riverhawks team Monday, dropping all seven matches in a Mid-Columbia Conference match in Pasco.

The doubles teams of Violet Mitchell and Emery Snyder, and Grace Lind and Malayna Anderson, split sets with their opponents, but lost in the tiebreaker.

HERMISTON 5, EISENHOWER 2 — The Hermiston girls dropped just one singles and one doubles match in cruising past host Eisenhower.

Addi Caplinger won her singles match in a 6-3 tiebreaker, Alyssa Perkins won 6-4, 6-4, and Cydney Lind won a 6-1, 6-3 match.

In doubles, Liz Umana and Shiyenne Stewart teamed for a 6-4, 6-1 victory, and Grace Lind and Malayna Anderson won in a 6-2, 6-1 match.

Prep basketball

Hermiston's Jordan Thomas scored four points and grabbed two rebounds to help Tri-Cities to an 84-62 victory over Yakima in the SWX Classic All-Star game Sunday at Yakima Valley College.

Talia von Olehoffen (Tri-Cities Prep) had 11 points, 11 rebounds and three steals for TC, which has won 10 games in a row in the series. Nicole Gall (Richland) added 12 points and four rebounds.

In the boys game, Yakima used a 31-16 run in the third quarter to help beat Tri-Cities, 104-96.

Hermiston's Ryne Andreason had four assists and four rebounds for TC, while Cesar Ortiz chipped in three points and three rebounds.

By ANNIE FOWLER
STAFF WRITER

Hermiston's Garrett Walchli knew he would have to turn on the jets when he got the baton for the anchor leg of the boys 4x100 relay.

Walchli, a junior, took the baton from Ben Wicks and started chasing down Walla Walla's Colby Turner. Walchli caught him with about 40 meters to go, and then crossed the finish line a step ahead of Turner for the win on Thursday at the Bulldog Invite at Kennison Field.

"I was wondering where our boys were at," Walchli said. "I was like third or fourth when I got the baton. I was like, 'We are not going down without a fight.'"

The Bulldogs won in a time of 45.72 seconds, while Walla Walla was second in 45.85. The team knows they still have work to do.

"Now, we just have to brush it up," said DJ Wilson, who ran the second leg.

Walchli also was second in the 100 meters (11.42), just a step behind Walla Walla's Jared McAlvey (11.23).

The invite, which featured schools from Walla Walla to Heppner, did not see a lot of record times or distances, but for most schools it was just nice to get outdoors after a long winter and waiting for several inches of snow to melt.

There was no drama in the girls 4x100 relay, where Hermiston won with a time of 50.13 — more than 4 seconds in front of Umatilla.

While the win was nice, lead-off runner Elsa Torres did not like their time, saying their best time is a few seconds faster.

The Bulldogs did lead from start to finish, with Torres handing off to Madi Wilson, who in turn gave the baton to McKaylee Young, and Young passed it off to Scout Reagan, who crossed the finish line with the next team a country mile behind.

Even with a couple of stumbling handoffs, the Bulldogs were in sync.

"We have good chemistry," Wilson said.

Wilson also won the 100 hurdles in a time of 15.44.

"I was the last one out the blocks," said Wilson, who said she slipped a little. "I just ran. The first race is always a little bumpy, but I felt good overall. My goal is that no one will beat me on my track."

Young added a win in the 100 (12.99) to go with the relay. Patty Burres of Umatilla was second (13.03), and Scout Reagan, who was nursing a quad strain, was third (13:10).

In the battle of the big boys, Heppner's Derek Howard held his own in the shot put, finishing second with a mark of 47 feet, 3 inches. Walla Walla's Patrick Utschinski, who is headed to Washington State to play football, won the event with a throw of 52-8.

"It was pretty good for the first meet," said Howard, who has placed third at state the past two years. "It's a good opportunity to push myself against the



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Heppner sophomore Jayden Wilson competes in the long jump on Thursday at the Bulldog Invite in Hermiston.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston senior Madison Wilson, center, leads her heat in the 100-meter hurdles on Thursday at the Bulldog Invite in Hermiston.

big schools. They always have someone super good like him (Utschinski)."

Howard also was third in the discus (123-9), behind Utschinski (137-7) and Sam Carlson of Helix (126-4).

In the girls shot put, Hermiston's Paige Palzinski won with a mark of 38-8, more than a

foot better than Prosser's Abby Rodriguez (37-6). Hermiston's Kendall Dowdy was third (34-4).

Palzinski also was second in the triple jump with a leap of 31-4. Noelani Helm of Walla Walla won the event with a mark of 32-6.

Heppner's Mason Leh-

man won the boys 400 meters (55.57), with Umatilla's Arrik Russell second (55.83).

Hailey Heideman of Ione was second in the 400 (1:03.88), just a step behind Kaitlyn Wright of Burns.

Stanfield's Rebecca Reynolds finished third in the high jump, tying her personal best with a height of 4-8. Helm won with a height of 5 feet.

"I would have liked to have gone higher, but it just means I have more room to improve," Reynolds said. "The weather was so nice, which helped."

In the boys 1,600, Tim Stevens of Cove led the first three laps, then got caught by Walla Walla Valley's Justin Roosma, who eventually won the race in a time of 4:20.69. Stevens was nearly 6 seconds back, and Heppner's Hunter Nichols was fifth (4:34.97).

"I was good to get a first time and be in a competitive heat in a race," Nichols said. "I felt good for the first race, but I still have a long road ahead of me."

Chiawana takes two from Dawgs

By ANNIE FOWLER
STAFF WRITER

The Hermiston baseball team finally got to play on Friday, but the outcome wasn't what the Bulldogs had hoped for.

In the Mid-Columbia Conference opener for both teams, Chiawana swept Hermiston 8-6 and 10-0 in Pasco.

"The first game was a fun baseball game," Hermiston coach Kevin Moore said. "The team that made the least mistakes ended up winning."

Chiawana, who was supposed to have played its first game March 9, looked good with just a few days on the field.

"We went out and did our thing," River-

hawks coach Dave Price said. "We played pretty well."

In the opener, the Bulldogs led 4-1 after the first, and 6-4 after four innings.

In the fifth, Riley Cissne belted a two-out, two-run single that helped put the Riverhawks ahead for good. Cissne finished the game with four RBIs.

Wyatt Noland went 2 for 4 with a triple for the Bulldogs, while Seth Prewitt was 2 for 4 with an RBI. Trevor Wagner, Gavin Hunter and Spencer Juul all had an RBI, while Juul also had a double.

Jordan Ramirez, Wagner and Ethan Randolph all saw time on the mound.

"Our pitchers were on a pitch count," Moore said. "We wanted to see what their

conditioning was."

In the second game, the Riverhawks jumped out to an early 8-0 lead in the second inning, highlighted by a two-out, two-run single by Evan Wagner.

Chiawana led 2-0 after the first, and tacked on six more runs in the second. Two runs in the sixth invoked the 10-run rule.

Wagner had three hits and drove in four runs for the Riverhawks, while Royce Vandine drove in two runs.

Ramirez and Noland each had a hit for Hermiston.

"The second game wasn't pretty," Moore said. "It wasn't a bad ballgame. It was one of those games where one error led to six runs."