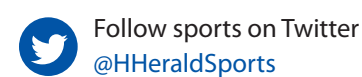


HeraldSports



Bulldogs split nonleague games

BY HERMISTON HERALD

Hermiston made easy work of Southridge on Saturday before meeting its match against Lake City Junior Academy in Richland.

The Bulldogs took down the Suns in a five-inning, 17-3 blow-out to start the day, but suffered a five-inning loss when Lake City shut them out 11-0.

Against Southridge, Samantha Atilano went 2-for-2, driving in four runs and scoring two.

Hermiston buried the Suns early, scoring 10 runs in the first inning. The high-scoring streak was highlighted by Grace Studer's two-run double and Ashley Cameron's three-run home run.

Suns pitcher Kendra Monteith couldn't contain the Bulldogs, giving up 15 runs on 14 hits in just 2½



innings. Hermiston Janelle Almaguer threw four innings and tallied six strikeouts, walking just one.

Bailee Noland went 3-for-4 with a double, a triple and two RBIs. Sydney Stefani hit two doubles, and Halle Pennington drove in three runs.

Lake City scored all of its runs in two innings, getting five in the second and six in the fifth.

Noland allowed 11 hits and five runs in three innings of work. The Timberwolves had 18 hits in the

game. Ashlynn Allen led Lake City with a two-run homer in the fifth inning, and a double. She drove in four runs.

Hermiston (13-5, 10-4 MCC) returns to Richland on Tuesday for a Mid-Columbia Conference doubleheader against the league-leading Bombers. It will be the Bulldogs' final games of the regular season. First pitch is at 4 p.m.

HERMISTON 10-17, WALLA WALLA 8-7 — The No. 2 Bulldogs made quick work of their Walla Walla visitors on Friday afternoon, knocking down a pair of Mid-Columbia Conference victories.

Janelle Almaguer scattered eight Walla Walla runs over 12 hits, but the Bulldogs scored a run at the bottom of the fourth inning to break an 8-8 tie and stay ahead

for good.

Even though Hermiston gave up five runs in the fourth inning of game two, they collected 13 hits to down the Knights once again. Pulling away for the long haul in the second inning, Kalei Smith drew a walk to score a run, Samantha Atilano hit an RBI-single, Ashley Cameron a two RBI-double, and Bailee Noland grounded out, scoring a run to aid in a five-run affair.

HERMISTON 7-5, CHIAWANA 16-4 — Hermiston's allowed Chiawana 18 hits to open Tuesday's Mid-Columbia Conference doubleheader in Pasco with a 16-7 loss, but the Bulldogs recovered to end the day on 5-4 win.

The Bulldogs ran out to an early 4-0 lead in the top of the first inning of the opening game, but Chiawana made some distance

with six runs in the bottom of the second. Bailie Bunger and Kaisha White both had RBI-doubles to aid in the comeback.

Annalisa McKinney was nearly unstoppable, hitting 4 for 5 with two runs and five RBIs for the Riverhawks. Bailee Noland was the Bulldogs' top batter, going 3 for 4 at the plate with a run and an RBI.

On Hermiston's mound, Janelle Almaguer allowed nine runs, and Noland gave up 7 runs. The two collected just three strikeouts for the game.

In Game 2, McKinney hit a solo homer at the bottom of the sixth to knot the score at 4-4. Grace Studer's RBI single in the seventh clinched the win.

Studer hit a perfect 4-for-4, driving in five runs. Almaguer went 3-for-4 with three runs scored.

PHOTO OF THE DAY

Umatilla brings home medals at classic



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Tymasha Douglas, of Umatilla, competes in the triple jump Friday during the Buck Track Classic at Pendleton High School. The Vikings had a good showing at Friday's meet. Umatilla's Julian Gutierrez tied for first place with Pendleton's Shawn Yeager in the high jump event. The Vikings also got a first-place finish from senior Zayne Troeger, who set a season record in the 800-meter with his 2:01.89 finish. Junior Mark Quinnomez set a personal record in the discus, clearing 125-10 and taking home another first-place win for Umatilla. Umatilla sophomore Chantal Lemus earned two first-place honors with her PR in the the shot put (33-01) and the discus (104-05; another PR).

BASKETBALL



HH File Photo

Preuninger

Preuninger takes over Hermiston boys program

By ANNIE FOWLER
STAFF WRITER

Drew Preuninger is coming home, so to speak.

Preuninger, who was hired last week to coach the Hermiston boys basketball team, lived seven years in the Hermiston-Umatilla area as a young boy.

His family moved away when he was 8 years old.

"My dad (Scott) coached in Umatilla (he led the Vikings to a state title in 1997), but we lived in Hermiston," Preuninger said. "There's still a few families there my parents talk to."

Preuninger, 29, takes over for Casey Arstein, who stepped down after the season for personal reasons. In three seasons, Arstein had a 43-28 record.

Along with Arstein, the Bulldogs also lose six talented seniors, leaving the cupboard a bit bare for Preuninger.

"Throughout my coaching career, I've built from the ground up," Preuninger said. "We start with the fundamentals and get them to play as a team."

Preuninger comes to Hermiston with an impressive portfolio.

He played high school basketball at Camas, and is the all-time career leader at Camas with 380 assists and 88 games played.

He then played four years at Concordia University, where he finished his career on top of the career list for made 3-pointers for the Cavaliers with 213 (in 103 games). He also set a single-season record at Concordia with 89 3-pointers his senior year (2011-12).

He also holds the single-season record for free

throws made at 90.9 percent (40 of 44).

In 2015, he was hired as the head coach of the Heritage boys team, taking over for his dad, Scott. He stepped down in 2017 for personal reasons.

Preuninger dabbled in real estate for a year, but he missed the game and coaching.

Shoot360, which is based in Vancouver, Washington, asked if he would like to work with their program in Indiana.

"I jumped at the opportunity to get back into what I love doing," he said. "The timing was perfect because it led me to teaching again and now to Hermiston."

He's only been in Indiana for nine months, but Preuninger is ready to get back to the Northwest.

"School is out May 28 here, then I'm coming back," he said. "I'll live with my aunt in Kennewick until I get settled."

Preuninger said he knows he is inheriting a young team, but believes he is the right man to lead the program.

"I'm only 29," he said. "I think I can bring excitement every day. I'm a gym rat."

Preuninger, who is teaching math in Indiana, will do the same at Hermiston until a full-time PE job opens up.

He said he also is excited to become part of the Hermiston community again.

"I haven't met (athletic director) Larry Usher in person, but I can tell we will get along fine," Preuninger said.

"And, I'm going to dive into their youth basketball program. That's where it all starts."



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