

# Bucks defeat Kirkland, win tournament title in Pullman

**By Chronicle Staff**

The Bozeman Bucks escaped the heat that enveloped Southwest Montana over the weekend. That doesn't mean they weren't hot, however.

Behind standout performances from Sam Olson and Matt Hape, the Bucks won the four-day Palouse Summer Series tournament after earning an 8-4 victory

on Sunday over Kirkland, Wash., at Washington State University in Pullman.

"It's a great thing for the kids and for our program to go out to a tournament like that and come away with a championship," Bucks head coach Chris Hodges told the Chronicle via cell phone after the game.

The Bucks lost to the Merchants earlier in the tournament, 10-3, but Hodges said the turning point

for his team was after Bozeman lost to the Vancouver Redbirds on Friday morning by a 12-6 score. The Bucks held a team meeting and talked about how little time is left in the season.

"We talked about how tomorrow's never given to you; you have to play every day like it's your last," Hodges said. "I think we started to play like that and take the game into our hands instead of letting the game come to us. We made

our own breaks."

Olson, who earned saves in the final two games of the tourney, was named the tournament's most outstanding pitcher. Hape earned most valuable player honors after scoring the winning run of a 4-3 comeback victory over Vancouver on Saturday night. He also hit a home run against Bellevue on Saturday afternoon.

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The Bucks totaled 13 hits against Kirkland, and each player in the lineup had at least one hit or scored a run. Cullin Cameron went 3 for 3 and scored twice and Cody Cooper pitched six innings, allowing just four hits, to earn the victory.

Conner Linebarger and Ean Weaver had two hits apiece.

The Bucks scored three runs in the fourth inning on run-scoring singles by Linebarger and Josh Mac-

kay before Weaver drove in a run on a fielder's choice. Hape singled in Cameron in the sixth and Weaver helped put the game away with a two-run single in the seventh.

To begin the game, Cameron drove in Weaver, who had doubled, in the first inning. In the third, Linebarger, who was awarded Gold Glove for his defense during the tournament, scored on a wild pitch.

Dillon Peterson went 1 for 3 on Sunday, but it

was his impressive pitching that helped the Bucks defeat Vancouver one day earlier. Peterson struck out six in six innings and surrendered just three earned runs. Olson earned the save with a scoreless seventh.

When asked what the team did to celebrate winning the tournament, Hodges deadpanned: "A nine-hour bus ride home."

The Bucks, who were due to return to Bozeman at 2 a.m. on Monday, went 4-2 for the tournament and are now 17-20 on the

season. They play at the Billings Royals on Tuesday and host the Helena Senators on Wednesday.

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### Bucks 8, Kirkland Merchants 4

**Bucks** — Keith Alles 0-1, Dillon Peterson 1-3, Ean Weaver 2-5, Cullin Cameron 3-3, Alex Bradford 1-1, Conner Linebarger 2-4, Matt Hape 1-4, Sam Olson 1-3, Josh Mackay 1-2, Mario Stanislaw 1-3.

**2B:** Weaver, Hape. **RBI:** Weaver 3, Cameron, Linebarger, Hape, Mackay. **Runs:** Weaver 2, Cameron 2, Alles, Peterson, Linebarger, Stanislaw.

**Kirkland** — Nick Savas 1-3, Drew Quinlin 1-4, Colin Trembley 0-4, Jeff Watkins 1-3, Wesley Russell 1-3, Spencer Jackson 1-3, Jack Perkins 1-3, Nell O'Connor 0-3, Nori Shinizu 0-1, Kelly 0-1.

**2B:** Russell, Jackson. **RBI:** Quinlin, Russell, Jackson, Perkins. **Runs:** Watkins 2, Savas, Russell.

**W:** Cooper. **L:** Reddinger. **Save:** Olson.