



Sharp Bulldogs bunt and “slap” Grizzlies

By [Rick Anderson](#) - The Daily World

Wednesday, April 9, 2008 11:09 AM PDT

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Montesano's short game was working nicely on Tuesday. The Bulldogs' long game wasn't bad, either.

Aubree Pocklington and [winning pitcher Mikayla Shumate each homered](#) as the Bulldogs trounced Hoquiam, 12-3, in a non-league softball game Tuesday at John Gable Park.

Coming off a 15-day layoff, Montesano (4-1) showed few signs of rust.

Five of Monte's 14 hits were of the infield variety, including four bunt singles.

The Bulldogs, however, were also able to turn on the power when necessary.

Pocklington, the niece of Hoquiam coach Bob Pocklington, drove in four runs with three hits, including a solo homer to left field in the third inning.

[Shumate, ordinarily a slap hitter, delivered what Monte coach Pat Pace described as a “power slap” — simultaneously taking a full swing while running toward first base — that produced a three-run homer to right in the seventh.](#)

Pace attributed his club's offensive sharpness to productive sessions in the school's indoor batting cage during the long break.

“We're about even with the other Harbor teams defensively, but we're getting a lot of at-bats and it's starting to pay off,” said Pace. “As we get more into summer-type weather, we're going to be pretty tough all the way through our batting order.”

Starting four freshmen, Hoquiam's Pocklington also saw signs of progress from his club.

“I was pleased with our defense after the first two innings,” said the Grizzly coach. “If you're playing against a Pat Pace team, you're going to get better. They're a good ball club. They exposed our weakness, bunt defense.”

Down 5-0 after 21/2 innings, the Grizzlies (1-3) narrowed the margin to two when Krista Bickar blasted a towering homer far over the mesh fence in straight-away center with Brooke Bennett and LeeAnne Wheeler aboard in the third.

The Bulldogs, however, scored twice in the fifth on a walk to Pocklington and consecutive singles by Liz Hartman, Rachelle Ridout and Tori Erickson.

Pocklington's two-run single in the sixth preceded Shumate's three-run blast in the seventh.

Shumate pitched a four-hitter, walking only one while striking out six.

Hoquiam freshman Amanda Lewin took the loss in her varsity pitching debut.

Bickar, last year's HHS ace in the circle, is limited to non-pitching duties this season due to a shoulder injury.

Both teams are scheduled for action Thursday, with Hoquiam hosting Tumwater and Monte entertaining Tenino in a doubleheader.

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Shumate and Pocklington; Lewin and Gilmore.

RBI: Montesano — Pocklington 4, Shumate 3, Ridout, McEvoy. Hoquiam — Bickar 3. Three hits: Montesano — Pocklington. Two hits: Montesano — Shumate, Hartman, Erickson, Baker. Hoquiam — Wilson. Home runs: Montesano — Pocklington, Shumate. Hoquiam — Bickar. Triples: Hoquiam — Wilson. Doubles: Montesano — Erickson.

Winning pitcher — Shumate (walked one; struck out six). Losing pitcher — Lewin (walked six; struck out three).