

# Young wrestlers excel at Baker City

All five competitors representing the Enterprise sixth through eighth grade wrestling team earned places Friday, Jan. 30, during one of the area's largest junior high school wrestling tournaments.

Competing in the 2015 Baker Brawl Junior High Wrestling Tournament, attended by teams throughout Eastern Oregon in a sweep between Ontario and Pendleton, was a potpourri of young grapplers under the tutelage of Enterprise Junior High

wrestling coach Carl Sanders. The Enterprise wrestlers ranged in weight classification from 90 pounds to 205+ pounds.

Locals winning individual classification titles at the Baker Brawl were sixth grader Trace Evans and eighth grader Evan Johnson. Evans wrestled at 90 pounds and Johnson at 110 pounds.

Claiming a second place in the heavyweight (205-pound-and-above) weight classification was Klint Norton.

Norton is an eighth grader. Another eighth grader on the team, Shane Lund, earned a third place in the tournament. Lund wrestled at the 95-pound weight class.

The fifth Enterprise participant in the large wrestling event held in Baker City was Kennison Knifong. Knifong, who earned a fifth place in the 95-pound weight classification, attends seventh grade at Enterprise Junior High School.



Courtesy photo

Bighorn sheep technician Holly Lance, in front of the corral trap on Sheep Ridge, takes data on the Lostine sheep.

## JOSEPH: Coach wants to see improvements

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"We talked a lot about playing steady instead of taking the big jump out of the chute like we've been doing, and they played real well in the last few minutes."

Huffman still saw need for improvements as the E-Gals ran into foul trouble, with Pine Eagle sinking 11 of 22 shots at the line while Joseph shot three of 7. He also cited turnovers as a continuing issue.

Natalie Williams scored seven with McKinzie Parker nailing five points. Huffman said the team talked of getting more point production from the guards, which paid off for the team. Team stats were unavailable.

## ENTERPRISE: Girls win one, lose one over weekend

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Sophomore Tiffanie George produced her third double double on the year with 11 points and 14 rebounds. She also had five steals, three blocks and two assists. Senior leader Carsen Sajonia also came up big with 11 points, four rebounds and two assists. Sophomore

Sarah Aschenbrenner had her best game of the year, scoring 11 with eight rebounds and two blocks. Emma Hall had six points, six rebounds an assist and a steal. Darby Gasset scored five with five rebounds. Riley Gray, Reagan Bedard and Reece Christman all contributed. From the line, Tiffanie, Darby, Carsen, and Reece all shot 50 percent or

better. The Burns Hilanders are the number-one team in the Wapiti League with a 13-0 record. Even though coach Crawford conceded that Burns could have increased its tempo at any time in the game, the coach said, "I wasn't disappointed with our girls' play at all. We got to within seven in the third, but after that it was all over."

Scoring totals by quarter, with Enterprise's number presented first, were 4-16, 14-15, 11-22 and 9-10.

Tiffanie George was the leading scorer for Enterprise with eight points. She also had four rebounds, a steal and an assist. Darby Gasset scored seven with five rebounds, an assist and a steal. Reagan Bedard and Emma Hall each scored six. Bedard had a rebound with two steals and a block. Hall hit a three and shot 75 percent from the line. Freshmen Madison Plew, Ashley Exon and Eliza Irish all scored, and classmate Riley Gray grabbed five rebounds.

One more big game remains on the Enterprise girls' schedule: at home against Grant Union this coming Friday.

## BIGHORNS: Tech trying to understand sick sheep

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The source of the disease, says Lance, is domestic sheep and goats that are carriers. Those domestic animals have developed immunity to the disease, but this isn't the case among the nine Bighorn Sheep herds identified in this county where many infected rams and ewes regularly cough and have runny noses.

The disease, in most instances, is not life-threatening to adult Bighorn Sheep, but it can be fatal to lambs.

Nose-to-nose contact is the most common means by which infected domestic sheep pass along the disease to their wild relatives. It's also how wild sheep pass it among themselves.

Lance says the problem often is exacerbated because so many Bighorn rams are prone to wander, mingle with domestic sheep and catch the disease, then return home to infect members of their home herd.

Although local studies are far from complete, Lance already is discovering different lamb survival rates among different herds. The approximately 100-strong Lostine herd, the most-studied herd in Wallowa County because it's so accessible to ODFW researchers, has seen an increase in overall lamb health in the three years since Lance launched her local studies. Just the opposite trend is being witnessed in the 85-member Wenaha herd in northern Wallowa County where lamb survival rates have been dipping.

Lance admits she still doesn't understand why. However, one theory she suggests that lambs from the Lostine herd may be developing some immunity to the bacteria-caused pneumonia. That may be a positive thought, but beyond it lies additional concern. "The problem is that there are many strains of the disease, and if they get a new strain the problem could start all over again," Lance explains.

Rocky Mountain Bighorns' average lifespan is about 13 years for rams and 16 years for ewes. They haven't had a gentle history in their normal habitat west of the stateside Rocky Mountains. In the 1940s the last of the wild breed died in the western states, but in the 1970s Bighorns from Canada were re-introduced into Wallowa County.

But things never have been easy. In 1986 alone, says Lance, two-thirds of the Lostine herd failed to survive that one winter.

Based on 2013 ODFW population estimates (calculated from ground and aerial surveys) there are about 535 Bighorn living in the county. The largest herd today, according to Lance's calculations, is in the Lower Imnaha area and has expanded to about 180 animals. The next largest herds are located in the general Lostine, Lower Hells Canyon, and Wenaha areas. Other Bighorn Sheep herds, in decreasing numbers, are located at Bear/Minam, Saddle Creek, Muir Creek, Upper Joseph Canyon, and Upper Hells Canyon.

Lance typically catches Bighorns for study purposes either by corral traps or with dart guns. While collaring sheep for identification purposes, Lance regularly takes blood samples, fecal samples, and swabs the noses and throats of the sheep. She says, especially among the Lostine herd, she can capture and test individual sheep up to four times.

Corral traps locally were introduced by retired ODFW game biologist Vic Coggins and are effective because, during the winter months, technicians like Lance feed the sheep in the narrow traps. Because Bighorn can hurdle 8-foot barriers, says Lance, the wooden traps are very tall.

Always in love with animals, Lance — a native of Salem and a Wildlife Resources graduate of the University of Idaho — aspired to be a veterinarian yet admits she was felled in large part by a lack of math skills.

She says she simply "fell into" the Bighorn Sheep world and loves it. "I'm outdoors nearly 90 percent of the time, so what could be better than that?"

Jane Goodall, the world's foremost expert on chimpanzees in their native environment, has been a mentor to Lance in the past. The Bighorn technician also once went to the banks of the Amazon in rural Peru where she volunteered her help in constructing a school.

## LEAGUE: Joseph second

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Joseph came out strong Saturday, scoring 19 to the Spartans' seven in the first quarter. Going into the half, Joseph was up 32-17. The Eagles extended the lead to 55-33 by the third period's end, positioning themselves to withstand their visitors' 21-9 outburst in the final stanza and still win by a comfortable 11-point margin.

Noah DeLury led the Eagles' scoring with 18 points. Cayden DeLury was next with 13. Aaron Borgerding scored 11, Jake Chrisman 10, Tyler Johnson five, Sam Beckman four, and Wyatt Smith three.

After Saturday night's game, Fulfer said he and his

assistant coach Jake Layton took the team through Joseph and helped the community clean up from Friday's early morning wind storm. The day was used as a fund-raiser to help with costs for going to district, the summer league team and the middle school's AAU basketball program. The coach said the team is looking for more work and if anyone contacts the school needing help with clean-up the team is available to help.

After Joseph's Tuesday make-up game with Wallowa, the team will finish up league play with two travel dates. On Friday, Feb. 13, the Eagle boys play Griswold, and on Saturday they face the league's number-one team, Nixyaawii.

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**Student of the Week**

Tucker VanWinkle is a freshman at Joseph Charter School. He is the son of Shellea and Bob VanWinkle. Tucker maintains a 3.8 gpa and is actively involved in DRAMA, FFA, FCCLA where he serves as the Vice President of Public Relation and is also the Freshman Class President. The staff and administration would like to congratulate Tucker for making JCS a better place. It is a pleasure having you as one of our Eaglets!!!

**Tucker VanWinkle**  
Joseph Charter School

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