

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Tigers sweep their way to title at Hanna Cashell tourney

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

After coming up short the previous two years, the La Grande Tigers volleyball team won the Hanna Cashell Memorial Tournament.

And they did so in dominant fashion.

La Grande swept its way through pool play, then through bracket play, culminating in a 25-16, 25-15 win over Baker in the title game of the tournament Saturday at La Grande High School.

“It was great. It’s always one of those bittersweet days,” Head Coach Melinda Becker-Bisenius said. “We’re playing a lot of volleyball, but we’re honoring Hanna’s memory. We want to win it, and have come up short the last two years. To win it this time and beat Baker, that was good.”

The Tigers were only challenged in one set during pool play. La Grande topped Imbler (25-16, 25-10), Nampa Christian (25-13, 25-23) and Ontario (25-13, 25-7) to win its pool. The Tigers came back from an 8-0 deficit in the second set against Nampa Christian.

In bracket play, La Grande handled McLoughlin in the quarterfinals (25-11, 25-12) and beat Vale, last year’s tournament champion, 25-22, 25-19, in the semifinals.

“I was really proud of how well my team stepped up this weekend,” Becker-Bisenius said. “We tried a bunch of different lineups (and) they adjusted. We were trying to find a lineup that worked. We had to mix it up. I was proud of how well we played as a group.”

The bevy of players stepping up was evident in the stat sheet. Jayce Seavert led the Tigers with 18 kills, 45 digs and four aces. Riana Scott had 15 kills and 29 digs, and both Claire Hardy and Allie Brock added eight kills. Felicity Houston had 36 digs and 12 aces. Jacie Howton doled out 40 assists and Kenzie Williams had 29 assists to go with five aces.

La Grande hosts Grant Union Sept. 4.

Also at the Hanna Cashell Tournament

A young Union team that possesses no seniors split six sets in pool play, falling to Vale (25-11, 25-23), splitting with Baker (25-21, 17-25) and sweeping McLoughlin (25-18, 25-21).

Once they reached bracket play, the Bobcats topped Nampa Christian in the quarterfinals, 25-22, 25-21, but lost to Baker in the semifinals, 25-21, 25-19.

“They realized not only could they hang with some

of those teams, (but) they could beat them,” Head Coach Lasa Baxter said. “That was a big confidence booster.”

Freshman Callie Glenn had a strong day with 55 assists in the tournament. She also served up 10 aces. Fellow freshman Kalin Nowak added 23 kills.

“Those freshmen who are starting for me are certainly exceptional freshmen,” Baxter said.

Autumn Daggett also had 23 kills, and Brianna Kohr had 28 digs and seven aces.

Union visits Powder Valley Tuesday.

The Imbler volleyball team also split six sets in pool play. The Panthers dropped two sets to La Grande (25-16, 25-10), swept Ontario (25-18, 25-15) and split with Nampa Christian (25-21, 9-25).

When they reached bracket play, the Panthers fell in the quarterfinals to Vale, 25-9, 25-17.

“I thought we had a good day against tough competition,” Imbler Head Coach Jennifer Teeter said. “I am proud of my team’s effort and commitment to improve each game.”

Stats were not available for Imbler, which hosts Pilot Rock Tuesday.

Powder Valley goes 6-0, Joseph 3-3 at preview tournament

Powder Valley went a perfect 6-0 to open the 2018 volleyball season, winning all six matches at the 16-team Class 1A season preview tournament at Country Christian High School, in Molalla.

Friday, the Badgers beat North Clackamas Christian (25-19, 25-11), North Douglas (25-23, 25-15) and Days Creek (25-21, 25-20). They followed Saturday with victories over Alsea (18-25, 25-21, 15-8), McKenzie (25-18, 26-24) and four-time defending state champion Country Christian (27-25, 25-18).

“There were some really tight matches, and matches they were down early but came back and showed maturity,” Head Coach Marji Lind said of the Badgers, who was the only team to go undefeated at the tournament.

Stats were not available.

Powder Valley hosts Union Tuesday.

Joseph, meanwhile, went 3-3 at the 1A preview tournament, posting a 1-2 record Friday and a 2-1 mark Saturday.

The Eagles opened Friday with a win over Alsea (25-23,

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“I’ve been coaching college football for 22 years (and) that might be one of the best catches I’ve ever seen, without a doubt,” Camp said.

Added Quinn: “He’s a tremendous athlete and wide receiver, but for him to pull that off was amazing.”

Quinn polished off EOU’s scoring with a three-yard run early in the fourth quarter for a 10-point lead.

The defense held up from there. The Mountaineers’ defensive line was consistently in the face of C of I quarterback Darius-James Peterson, limiting him to 136 yards passing, eight yards rushing, sacking him three times and forcing two fourth-quarter interceptions — both of which were pulled in by Zack Jacobs.

“You have to give credit to the (defensive) line,” Jacobs said of the second pick.

“They put pressure on that quarterback. He absolutely

panicked and threw it up. I read the ball (and) got it. Without them, I don’t make that pick.”

Brenden Kelly led the Mountaineers’ receiving corps with 129 yards on 10 catches. Hancock and Phoenix Milhollen added 62 and 57 yards, respectively.

The Mountaineers said they have plenty to clean up headed into next week’s showdown against No. 4 Southern Oregon. EOU committed 10 penalties, had several dropped passes on offense and a few blown coverages on defense.

“We weren’t perfect by any means. Not at all,” Quinn said. “We’ve got a lot of stuff we have to work on this next week going into Southern. Southern’s going to be a great team. All we wanted to do was get the win and that’s what we did. Very proud of everyone. It was a tremendous team win.”

The Mountaineers (1-0 overall, 1-0 Frontier Conference) host SOU Saturday.



Ronald Bond/The Observer
La Grande’s Felicity Houston had 12 aces Saturday.

21-25, 15-10), but lost to Hosanna Christian (25-21, 25-13) and Crosshill Christian (25-13, 25-12). Saturday, Joseph topped McKenzie (25-16, 21-25, 15-10) and Perrydale (25-21, 22-25, 15-8), but lost to North Douglas (25-16, 23-25, 15-8).

Stats were not available.

The Eagles travel to South Wasco County Thursday.

Cove opens with pair of wins

The Cove volleyball team opened the 2018 season with a pair of wins at Sherman Friday, defeating Sherman in four sets, 20-25, 25-17, 25-18, 25-23, and rallying to beat Trinity Lutheran in five sets, 21-25, 19-25, 25-20, 25-10, 15-9.

Stats were not available.

The Leopards return to

action Saturday at the Prairie City Tournament.

Injury impacts Outlaws

An injury to a starter early in action Saturday at the Grant Union Tournament hurt the Enterprise volleyball team, which dropped three matches in pool play, then lost its first bracket play match.

The Outlaws fell in pool play to Heppner (25-18, 25-18), Burns (25-9, 25-13) and Jordan Valley (25-12, 25-24), and in bracket play against Weston-McEwen (25-12, 25-15).

“We lost a starter, Gracie Niezen, to a knee injury in the first five points of the first set on Saturday, which put us into a bit of a tailspin,” Head Coach Lisa Farwell said.

The coach said two fresh-



Ronald Bond/The Observer
Jayce Seavert led La Grande in both kills (18) and digs (45).



Ronald Bond/The Observer
Kylie Marriott reaches out for a ball during a match for Union, which reached the tournament semifinals.

men, Jada Gray and Rilyn Kirkland, both played well filling Niezen’s role.

Ashlyn Gray led the Outlaws’ attack on the day with

10 kills. Carsyn Miller had 16 assists, Shelby Moncrief had 26 digs and Claire Farwell served at a 94 percent clip.

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