



Ronald Bond/The Observer

La Grande running back Nathan Reed, center, looks upfield on a carry during the first half of Thursday night's contest against Ontario. Reed ran for 279 yards as La Grande pounded Ontario, 49-12.

Union opens second half of BMC with sweep

Observer staff

Union's Autumn Daggett had seven kills and six aces, Kylie Marriott added five aces, and the Bobcats volleyball team started the second half of Blue Mountain Conference play with a sweep at Stanfield Thursday, 25-14, 25-10, 25-17.

Callie Glenn added 20 assists and four aces for Union. Kaylin Nowak had a strong all-around match with nine kills, five digs, two aces and two blocks, and Brianna Kohr added seven digs.

Union (9-7 overall, 3-4 BMC) faces both Enterprise and Heppner Saturday in Heppner.

Also Thursday ELGIN GETS PAST NIXYAAWII

Elgin's Tymra Anderson and Kaelin Evans both had four kills to lead the Huskies volleyball team to a four-set home win over the Nixyaawii Golden Eagles in Old Oregon League play Thursday, 25-15, 25-14,

16-25, 25-22.

Evans, Anderson, Jayden Palmer and Ashley Gentry each also had an ace for the Huskies in the win.

Elgin (5-12 overall, 3-6 OOL) travels to Joseph today.

IMBLER OUTLASTS COVE IN FIVE SETS

Imbler's Caysie McGinness had 17 kills and 16 digs, Aspen Smith added seven kills and 28 digs, and the Panthers volleyball team outlasted the Cove Leopards in a five-set Old Oregon League contest Thursday in Cove, 25-23, 20-25, 25-15, 23-25, 15-9.

Karrington Troyer added 34 assists and six aces, and Sydney Treat had five kills, four aces and three blocks. Chloe Birkmaier chipped in with 14 digs.

Stats were not available for Cove.

Imbler (10-9 overall, 6-3 OOL) visits Elgin Tuesday, while Cove (8-10, 4-5) hosts both Enterprise and Crane today.

Stevens destroys record at Ontario

The Associated Press

Union/Cove boys cross country runner Tim Stevens posted a time of 15:26 to shatter the high school course record and win the Crosby Invitational Thursday at Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario.

His time was nearly a minute better than the 16:25 run by former Baker High School and Eastern Oregon University runner Nic Maszk in 2011.

The rest of the unofficial top five for Union/Cove were Jack Silveira (16:32), Andrew Lackey (17:35), Israel O'Reilly (17:46) and Matthew Sheehy (18:18).

The Union/Cove girls were led by Audrey Wells, who ran the course in a time of 20:34. The rest of the Bob-

cats' top five on the girls side were Jaimee Baxter (20:52), Kaitlin Martens (21:40), Abriel O'Reilly (22:17) and Audrey Hill (23:22).

The Enterprise boys were led by Zac Knapp, who posted a time of 17:20. Bayden Menton followed in 17:32, and both Ian Goodrich and Cole Gomes turned in times of 18:48.

Ellyse Tingelstad paced the Outlaw girls with a time of 19:37, and Ella Coughlan followed with a time of 20:27. The rest of Enterprise's top five were Ashley Wilson (21:08), Sydney Rouse (22:36) and Lannie Stonebrink (23:14).

Official results and places, and results for La Grande, were not available at press time.

EOU men's runners drop one spot

Observer staff

The Eastern Oregon men's cross country team slipped one spot to No. 8 in the latest National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics coaches poll.

The Mountaineers dropped after St. Francis, Illinois, jumped EOU and several other team in moving from 11th to third nationally.

The Mountaineers, who have 453 points in the poll, are one of three Cascade Collegiate Conference teams in the top 10, and five in the rankings. Joining them are No. 2 Southern Oregon, No. 4 College of Idaho, No. 16 Northwest Christian and No. 20 Oregon Tech.

Oklahoma City held its spot in first in the poll.

Trouncing Tigers

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

The Ontario Tigers football team had its way when it took down the La Grande Tigers three weeks ago in Ontario.

Thursday night's rematch at Community Stadium was a complete role reversal as La Grande administered a beatdown to move into a tie for first place in the Greater Oregon League.

La Grande's Nathan Reed rushed for 279 yards and two touchdowns, Parker Robinson accounted for five scores, and La Grande pulled away after a slow start to pummel Ontario, 49-12.

"I knew we were going to come out and perform better than the last time we played them," La Grande Head Coach Rich McIlmoil said. "We're improving every week. The kids have been working hard."

The win moves the Tigers into a tie with Ontario atop the GOL, but La Grande now owns the tiebreaker should the teams end with the same record by virtue of the point spread. Ontario's earlier win was by a 35-14 margin.

The start was ominous for La Grande, which fell behind 6-0 barely five minutes into the game on a 34-yard touchdown catch by Seth Forsyth.

But La Grande got rolling on offense and stepped up on defense.

"That really woke us up," lineman Gabe Shukle said. "It got us really pumped up, and that's when we started bringing it."

La Grande went off in the second quarter, taking a 7-6 lead on Blaine Shaw's five-yard touchdown catch — his first of three on the night — at the 10:07 mark of the second quarter. A 26-yard diving grab by Shaw about

three minutes later made it 14-6. Reed and Robinson also found paydirt in the second quarter — Reed from 10 yards and Robinson from 31 yards — to push the lead to 28-6 by halftime.

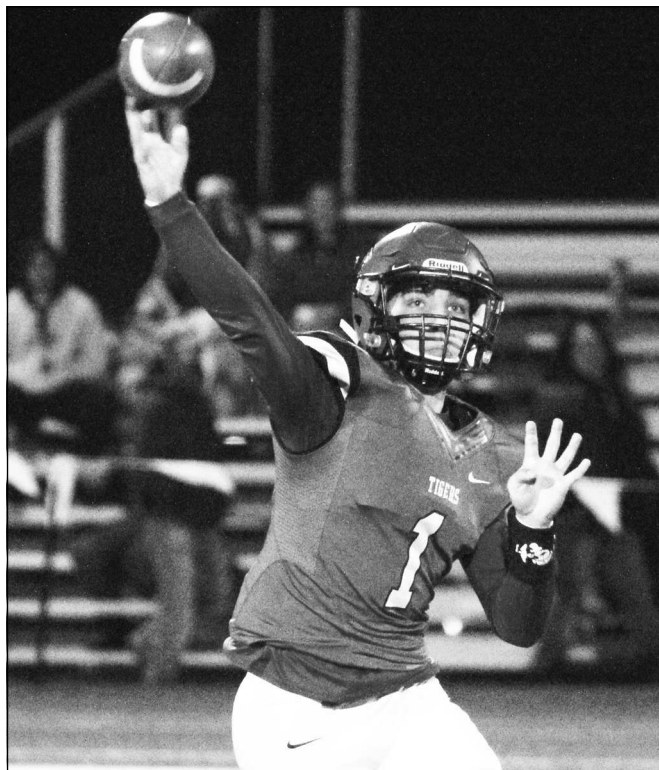
Shaw attributed a lot of the success to the play of the offensive line, and said that in turn helped the whole offense.

"They came together this week," he said of the line. "Nathan ran the ball downhill hard, and they gave Parker time to throw it to his receivers."

Meanwhile, La Grande's defense, which was carved up for 414 yards — including 321 yards rushing in the teams' first meeting — dominated up front. The defensive line gave Ontario nowhere to run and was constantly in the backfield to force a loss or holding Ontario to no gain. The visiting Tigers had just 96 yards of offense in the first half, and 247 for the contest.

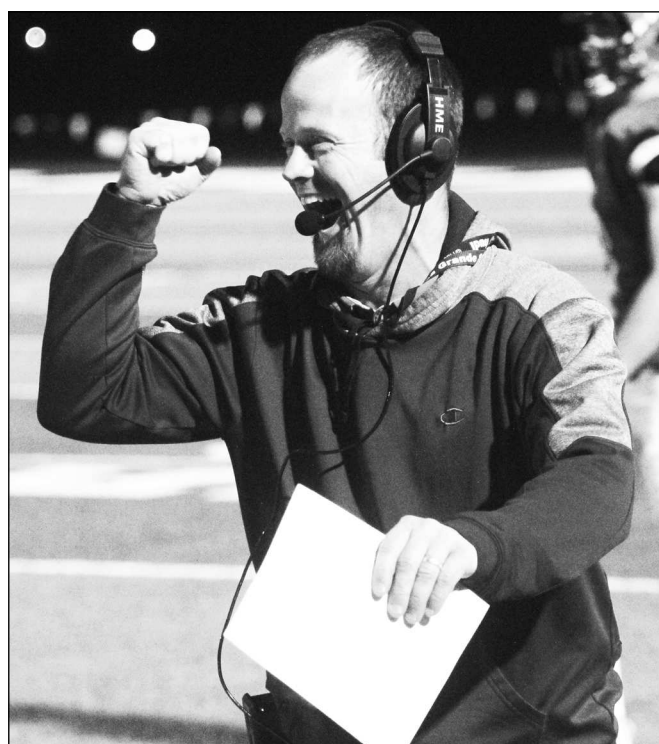
"Our defensive coordinator, coach (Matt) Wolcott, has done a great job and he really worked on us with reading the guards, the down blocks and the pulls," Reed said. "I think we read that well and we shut down the run game."

The second half belonged to Reed. The junior running back accounted for 192 of his yards after halftime, running over, around and through a beleaguered Ontario defense. His 52-yard run helped key La Grande's lone touchdown of the third quarter — a 13-yard catch by Zach Wiggins that he tipped to himself in the end zone — for a 35-12 lead. He added a 39-yard scoring run in the fourth to push the margin to 30 points, and finished the second half with seven rushes of at least



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Quarterback Parker Robinson threw four touchdown passes and ran for a fifth score in Thursday's win.



Ronald Bond/The Observer

LHS Head Coach Rich McIlmoil celebrates during Thursday's win.

10 yards. Reed was also quick to credit the offensive line for

the big game. "They did great. I couldn't See **Tigers** / Page 9A

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