

Eagles fend off SWC in defensive battle

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

Blowouts have been the name of the game in 2018 for both the Joseph Eagles and South Wasco County Redside football teams.

Entering Friday night's Special District 5 showdown in Joseph, the teams were a combined 9-0 and outscored their opponents a whopping 589-39.

Something had to give, and

in a game that did turn into a defensive battle, the Eagles mustered enough offense to come away with a 27-16 victory in six-man action Friday.

"We went in thinking it was going to be tough, and (South Wasco went) toe to toe with us," Joseph Head Coach Duncan Christman said. "All credit to South Wasco for having a great team."

Joseph's closest games entering Friday were two 60-point

victories, and for a moment it appeared the high-flying Eagles were on their way to another rout. Kade Kilgore threw an 11-yard touchdown to T.J. Grote on Joseph's first drive for an early 8-0 lead, and Kilgore followed by grabbing an interception and weaving his way through the players for a 65-yard touchdown and a 15-0 lead with 3:13 left in the first quarter.

"That was a big part of (get-

ting the win)," Christman said of Kilgore's pick-six. "He's been trying to get that all season. He finally got one to take home."

The Redside, though, settled in on defense, and early in the second quarter accomplished a feat nobody had done yet this season — score a touchdown on Joseph. Bobby Kately punched in a three-yard run at the 8:15 mark to

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Ronald Bond/The Observer

Joseph's Justin Rodgers looks for running room during Friday's contest against South Wasco County.

League champs once again

By Ronald Bond
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The La Grande Tigers girls soccer team is once again Greater Oregon League champions.

"It's a great feeling because we did it yet again," La Grande senior Kara Gooderham said of the league title. "We all work together as a team, (and) it showed."

Behind a first-half goal from freshman Audrey Garlitz and a second-half goal from Gooderham, the Tigers recorded a 2-0 win over the Baker Bulldogs in GOL action at Community Stadium Saturday. The win, coupled with a tie between McLoughlin and Ontario the same day, locked up the top spot in the league for La Grande for the eighth straight season.

"The girls have worked hard for it and earned it," Head Coach Kristen Rice said of locking up league again.

Gooderham said, though, the team has higher aspirations.

"Winning league is a goal, but we have big goals to go further," she said.

The Tigers were in control of Saturday's contest — their first on the new Community Stadium turf and just second at home this season — from start to finish, keeping



Ronald Bond/The Observer

LHS soccer players, from left Lindsay Adkins, Katie Perry and Kara Gooderham, celebrate after a goal scored by Gooderham in the second half Saturday.

constant pressure on Baker's defense while building what ended up being an 18-6 shot advantage.

"They had a great game," Rice said of her team. "They were ready for it. I was impressed with how we came out attacking."

Several shots came close, but La Grande finally broke through in the 31st minute on a 25-yard strike from Garlitz that found the top-left corner of the net for a 1-0 lead, which the Tigers took into the break.

"That was a beautiful shot. It was nice to get a goal from that far out and finish it," Rice said. "That got us going."

La Grande added to the pressure in the second half, and pushed the lead to 2-0 seven minutes in on Gooderham's goal from about 15 yards out.

"I think we definitely played better than the first time we played them," Gooderham said, referring to La Grande's 2-1 win at Baker in September. "We learned what their

tactics were and we changed our tactics. We possessed very well and executed well."

The defense was also crucial. While La Grande dominated possession, Baker did manage to put a couple threats together in the second half. But the Tigers put an end to those opportunities to record their seventh shutout in nine contests, and senior goalkeeper Faith Akers tallied five saves.

La Grande, in fact, has
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Ronald Bond/The Observer

La Grande's Adam Endress fires a penalty kick to score the game's first goal Saturday against Baker.

Tigers top Baker

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

The La Grande Tigers boys soccer team just needed the ball to find the net to get its offense rolling.

A penalty kick midway through the second half did just that.

Adam Endress nailed a PK in the 56th minute, one of two goals for the senior, and La Grande took off with two more goals late for a 3-0 win over Baker in Greater Oregon League play Saturday at Community Stadium.

"Sometimes it's hard to get the first goal," La Grande Head Coach Wade Wright said. "Once you get the first goal, the second and third ones seem

to come a little easier."

That was certainly the case Saturday. La Grande controlled possession and flow most of the afternoon, yet the team was unable to connect on several opportunities in the first half and went into the break in a scoreless tie.

But midway through the second half, Callum Ebel was fouled in the goal box, and Endress put home the penalty kick to break the ice on the offense.

"We knew it was a matter of time," Wright said.

Endress and Ebel connected for two goals in the 61st and 76th minutes. It continued a trend often seen this fall of one assisting the
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Mounties have no trouble with Lights

Observer staff

The Eastern Oregon football team took care of business on the road ahead of a showdown with Southern Oregon.

Kai Quinn had 379 yards of total offense and four touchdowns, and the Mountaineers used a 44-0 run to take command in their 58-24 blowout win over MSU-Northern Saturday night in Havre, Montana.

Victor Dias added 132 rushing yards and two touchdowns, and Brenden Kelly caught two TD passes for the Mountaineers. As a team, the Mountaineers racked up 637 yards of total offense, the third most in program history.

Eastern found itself down 10-7 early in the second quarter before heating up. A

15-yard touchdown run by Quinn, a 73-yard scamper by Dias and a 28-yard TD reception by Kelly gave EOU a 28-10 lead by halftime.

The offense continued humming in the third. After a Nathan Harden field goal, Dias and Kaler Moore had scoring runs of 11 and 10 yards, respectively, and Connor Falk finished the period with a seven-yard touchdown catch to make it 51-10 after three.

Quinn was 22-for-32 for 330 yards with three touchdowns and an interception, and rushed for 49 yards. Kelly had 108 yards receiving and Tanner Zenke had 87.

Eastern (3-2 overall, 3-2 Frontier Conference) travels to SOU, which is coming off its first loss of the season, Saturday.

Outlaws take off on offense in win

Observer staff

The Enterprise Outlaws turned in their best offensive performance in five years, rolling over the Arlington/Condon Honkers in Special District 3-West play at home Friday, 58-8.

The offensive outburst was Enterprise's highest scoring effort since a 62-13 win over Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii on Oct. 18, 2013. The point total was also more than the Outlaws scored in both the entire 2014 and 2015 seasons, when they had 57 and 50 points, respectively.

Trace Evans rushed for 186 yards and three scores to lead Enterprise's 442-yard rushing attack. Jake Coggins added 142 yards and a touchdown, and Jacob Amaro was 3-for-4 passing for 136 yards and two scores. Dylan Marr caught all three passes for 136 yards and two touchdowns.

The Outlaws (3-3 overall, 3-3 SD3-W) host Union Friday, with the winner earning the No. 4 seed in SD3-W.

**Also Friday
ROCKETS PULL AWAY
FROM BOBCATS**

After hanging close in the first half, the Union Bobcats

watched the Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii Rockets pull away for a 54-24 win Friday in Special District 3-West play in Union.

Tate Lantis led the Bobcats with 188 yards rushing and a touchdown, and also had a 72-yard interception return for a score. D.J. Coon passed for 151 yards and two touchdowns. Gannon Carreiro had 91 yards receiving and a score, and Anthony Goodwater had 52 yards receiving with a touchdown.

Union trailed by just eight at halftime, but the Rockets used a 34-12 scoring burst in the second half to pull ahead.

Union (3-3 overall, 2-3 SD3-W) visits Enterprise Friday.
**COUGARS EASE PAST
PINE EAGLE**

Wallowa's Zeb Ramsden scored four touchdowns in the first quarter and finished with 124 rushing yards to boost the Cougars to a fifth-straight win, 56-16, over the Pine Eagle Spartans Friday afternoon in Special District 3-East play in Wallowa.

Ramsden scored on runs of 52, 10 and 33 yards, and
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