

## Tigers' late rally falls short

By Ronald Bond  
The Observer

La Grande boys soccer Head Coach Wade Wright called Tuesday night's first-round playoff game "the most complete game of soccer we've had all season."

Unfortunately for the Tigers, a couple bounces didn't go their way, and a late goal wasn't enough to save their season in a 2-1 loss to North Marion at Community Stadium.

"You never want your playoff run to end, but, man, they were a good team, and we played such great soccer," Wright said.

The teams were evenly matched on the field. Total shots were just about the same, with North Marion having an edge in the category. Both teams were nearly equal time of possession, and both had several opportuni-

ties to score.

But North Marion had just a little more offense. An Edgar Lopez goal in the first half gave the Huskies the lead, and Andres Agabo netted a second goal with 86 seconds to play to make it 2-0.

Callum Ebel scored from about 10 yards out off a defender with 52 seconds remaining to give the Tigers one final hope, but

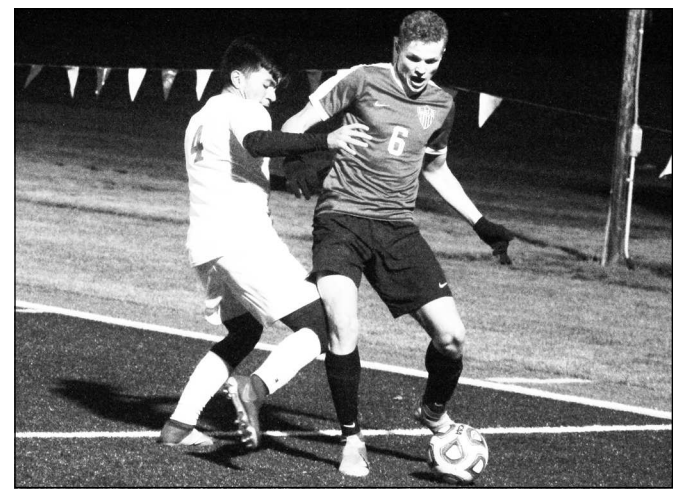
La Grande couldn't muster a final shot to pull even.

"I was (thinking), 'Get a hit on it', and it went in," Ebel said of the late goal.

Wright expressed his pride in how the team played.

"Everyone stepped up big," Wright said. "I don't have any complaints about how we played. You want to go out there and play the best game you possibly could play,

See **Tigers** / Page 9A



Ronald Bond/The Observer  
La Grande's Callum Ebel, right, works against North Marion's Cainan Sanchez Tuesday.



Jeni Greenshields photo

The Joseph football team celebrates following its 64-31 win over McKenzie Saturday night in Madras. The victory lifted Joseph to a perfect 7-0 season and de facto six-man title.

## Six-man football's best

By Ronald Bond  
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It may not go down as an official OSAA state title, but the Joseph Eagles proved Saturday night they were the top team in six-man football's return to Oregon.

Tyler Homan rushed for 288 yards and five touchdowns and threw a touchdown pass, and the Joseph defense grabbed four interceptions on its way to a 64-31 victory over the McKenzie Eagles in the six-men de facto championship game Saturday night in Madras.

"I don't know how to put it into words," Head Coach Duncan Christman said. "The

season was incredible. Having an undefeated season meant so much to these guys. Considering that they won only two games last year, the turnaround to a 7-0 season and winning a 'state championship' game was the best thing it could've been. It was a (culmination) of all the hard work these men have put in over the last four months."

The matchup pitted two of the top offenses in the state against each other, and the teams didn't disappoint with 913 combined yards and 95 points.

But Joseph's ground game, led by Homan, amassed 381 yards to steal the show. Joseph took

See **Eagles** / Page 9A



Jeni Greenshields photo

Joseph's Tyler Homan (24) spins away from a tackle and scores a touchdown during Saturday night's game.

## Mountaineer volleyball inches closer to top 10

Observer staff

The Eastern Oregon volleyball team heads into the final week of the regular season with its highest ranking of 2018 after moving up one spot to No. 12 in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics coaches poll Tuesday.

EOU is one of three Cascade Collegiate Conference teams in the top 20, and four in the poll, along with No. 10 Southern Oregon, No. 16 College of Idaho, and No. 22 Corban. Eastern and C of I meet Friday night at Quinn Coliseum in the Mountaineers' regular season finale.

Park, Missouri, and Grand View, Iowa, the only undefeated teams in NAIA volleyball, continue to hold the top two spots in the poll.

### EOU WOMEN'S SOCCER BACK IN TOP 25

The Eastern Oregon women's soccer team moved back into the top 25 in the NAIA coaches poll following a five-week hiatus, coming in at No. 23 headed into next week's CCC Tournament.

Eastern, which last week won the tie-breaker for the regular season CCC title and automatic national berth, is aiming to win both the regular season and tournament championships for the second year in a row.

EOU is the only ranked team from the CCC. William Carey, Mississippi, holds the top spot in the poll.

### FOOTBALL HANGS IN AT NO. 24

The Eastern Oregon football team is still in the NAIA coaches poll, but dropped to No. 24 in Monday's poll after suffering a road loss to College of Idaho Saturday.

The Mountaineers, who are 5-3 entering their final home game of the season, are among three ranked Frontier Conference teams along with No. 12 Rocky Mountain — who they host Saturday — and No. 20 Montana Western.

Morningside, Iowa, continues to hold the top spot as one of four undefeated teams in NAIA football.

## La Grande Swim Club fares well at Spooktacular meet

Observer staff

Lifted by a victory by the girls team, the La Grande Swim Club took second overall at its annual Spooktacular Swim Meet Saturday and Sunday at Veterans Memorial Pool.

The LGSC girls scored 1,905 points for their win, while the boys team took third with 594. Overall, La Grande scored 2,499 points for second.

Here are La Grande's winners and second-place finishers:

**First place:** Livi Sloan; girls 8 and under 50-yard freestyle (43.08

seconds); girls 8 under 25 breaststroke (25.78); girls 8 and under 50 backstroke (53.93); girls 8 and under 100 individual medley (2:02.66); girls 8 and under 100 freestyle (1:43.77); girls 8 and under 25 backstroke (23:35); girls 8 and under 25 freestyle (20.45); girls 8 and under 50 breaststroke (55.55);

Jack Musgrove: boys 8 and under 50 freestyle (37.83); boys 8 and under 50 backstroke (46.99); boys 8 and under 25 butterfly (23.07); boys 8 and under 100 IM (1:49.14)

Becca Koza: girls 9-10 100 free-

style (1:06.29); girls 9-10 50 breaststroke (40.68); girls 9-10 50 butterfly (34.41); girls 9-10 100 IM (1:16.26); girls 9-10 50 backstroke (36.13); girls 9-10 100 butterfly (1:17.66); girls 9-10 50 freestyle (30.33); girls 10 and under 200 IM (2:42.19)

Sarah Koza: girls 11-12 50 breaststroke (33.13); girls 11-12 50 butterfly (28.71); girls 11-12 100 butterfly (1:04.62); girls 11-12 50 freestyle (26.41); girls 11-12 100 breaststroke (1:13.86); girls 11 and over 400 IM (4:59.52)

Zane Ricker: boys 11-12 50

breaststroke (38.62); boys 11-12 200 freestyle (2:17.55)

Kennedy Kruse: girls 15 and over 200 backstroke (2:31.85)

Girls 10 and under 100 medley relay (Rinnah Lynch, Becca Koza, Isla Howard, Hannah Zamora - 1:14.26)

Girls 10 and under 100 freestyle relay (Rinnah Lynch, Becca Koza, Isla Howard, Hannah Zamora - 1:05.74)

**Second place:** Lily Parry: girls 8 and under 50 freestyle (49.77); girls 8 and under 25 butterfly (33.47)

Sarah Koza: girls 11:12 100

freestyle (59.01); girls 11-12 200 IM (2:20.65)

Zane Ricker: boys 11-12 100 freestyle (1:02.66); boys 11-12 100 butterfly (1:17.29); boys 11-12 50 freestyle (28.78)

Kennedy Kruse: girls 15 and over 100 freestyle (1:01.77); girls 15 and over 50 freestyle (28.45)

Glenn Ricker: boys 13-14 100 breaststroke (1:09.55)

Riley Weigand: girls 15 and over 200 IM (2:33.85); girls 15 and over 200 breaststroke (2:59.18)

See **Swim** / Page 8A

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