

Cougars advance; Huskies, Panthers eliminated

Observer staff

For the fourth time in five seasons, the Wallowa Cougars football team is headed to the Class 1A state quarterfinals.

Gus Ramsden rushed for 202 yards and accounted for four touchdowns, Austin Brockamp added 180 yards rushing and two scores, and the Cougars shook off an early deficit to handle the Falls City Mountaineers for the second time this season, 44-8, Friday in Wallowa.

“Our kids played well defensively, very physical and cleaned things up offensively in the second half,” Head Coach Matt Brockamp said.

Austin Brockamp’s 63-yard run gave the Cougars an early lead. Wallowa found itself down 8-6 after one quarter, but went into the half leading 14-8 after a Gus Ramsden 15-yard touchdown pass to Zeb Ramsden in the second quarter.

The Cougars then ran wild.

Gus Ramsden scored on runs of 40 and 75 yards, and Brockamp scooted in from 50 yards to give Wallowa a 36-8 lead after three. Gus Ramsden added a 54-yard TD run in the fourth.

The Cougars rolled up 403 yards rushing, and 470 yards of total offense, while holding Falls City to just 214 yards.

Wallowa (8-2 overall) will host Lowell in the quarterfinals at 1 p.m. Saturday, looking for its first quarterfinal victory since 2005.

BUCKAROOS DROP ELGIN
The Elgin Huskies’ first playoff run in a decade came

to an end in the first round in a 66-30 loss to the St. Paul Buckaroos, a favorite to win the Class 1A state title, Friday.

St. Paul quickly put the game out of reach, going ahead 28-0 after one quarter and 58-0 by halftime. T.J. Crawford accounted for 300 total yards and five touchdowns.

“Although I was the opposing coach in this game, I will say that I was impressed with how well St. Paul executed their offense and how disciplined they were defensively,” Elgin Head Coach Jeff Rysdam said. “They’re going to be a tough team to beat in the playoffs.”

For Elgin, which finished the season at 5-5 overall, Wyatt Hallgarth had 56 yards rushing and two touchdowns. Tristan Simpson added 58 yards passing and a touchdown and had 64 yards on the ground. Ian Smith caught a TD pass and had 46 yards receiving.

“This has been a fun year, and we’re sad to see it come to an end, but our seniors have laid a solid foundation for the underclassman to build on and make another state playoff run in 2019,” Rysdam said.

IMBLER BOWS OUT

Imbler’s season came to an end on the road in the first round of the Class 1A playoffs with a 36-24 loss to Lowell Saturday.

Stats were not available. The Panthers finish the season with a record of 7-3 overall.

VOLLEYBALL

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digs, ended the set.

An 8-0 C of I run turned the third set in favor of the Yotes, giving them a 23-15 lead on a kill by Pagan. EOU got within two late, but couldn’t finish the set.

Bunn was one of four players in double figures in kills for EOU. Ackerman recorded 13 kills, Tibbetts had 12 and Holli Mullins had 10. Kiley McMurtrey, like Bunn, had 22 digs, and Sarah Carpenter had 12 digs to go with her team high 25 assists. Pilon had 21 assists.

The Mountaineers also had one of their top matches at the net with 17 blocks. Both Taylor and Crisp had nine block assists, Bunn had

seven and Scott chipped in with six.

Despite the loss and the missed opportunity to clinch the CCC outright, EOU did earn a share of the conference title over the weekend.

“It is impressive, especially considering how many new pieces this team has,” McLean-Morehead said. “I’m more than pleased with how the season has gone thus. You never know what those expectations are going to be year to year, especially with interchanging parts all the time, so I’m really proud.”

EOU (22-6 overall, 17-3 CCC) will be in the semifinals of the CCC tournament Friday in Ashland. The Mountaineers will learn their opponent Tuesday night.

FOOTBALL

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became the second straight team to score 40 or more on EOU, which Camp called “tough to swallow.”

“That’s two (games) in a row where we’ve been exposed in some areas that we definitely need to be better at,” he said. “We have to get back to the drawing board and get our kids in some situations where they can be more successful.”

EOU finally got on the board late in the third quarter on a Nathan Harden 35-yard field goal. Kaler Moore added a 45-yard touchdown run in the fourth.

It was a rough home ending for Eastern’s seniors, most of whom have played through one of the more successful runs in program history.

“They’ve done such a good job believing in this program,” Camp said. “They won a lot of football games. It’s hard to see them go out today, their last home game, not being as successful as I wanted them to. They mean everything to this program (with) the way they walk

(and) the way they talk.”

Camp noted that even in the closing minutes, several of the seniors were still working to encourage players on the EOU sideline, and imploring the team to finish strong.

“At the end of the day they are a class act in how they carry themselves,” he said. “They might not have been winners today on the field, but they’re winners in my book.”

The loss also overshadowed a milestone day for wide receiver Brenden Kelly. The senior had four catches for 83 yards, which moved him over 3,000 yards receiving in his career, the first Mountaineer to achieve the feat. It’s an accomplishment Camp attributed to Kelly’s work ethic.

“He worked like that in the offseason right after the playoff game (in 2016), and then he’s just continued. I don’t think anybody works as hard as him,” Camp said. “That’s why he has success, and that’s why the numbers indicate that. Hard work will indicate great numbers.”

EOU (5-4 overall, 5-4 Frontier) finishes the season Saturday at Carroll College.



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