



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Joseph/Wallowa's Austin Brockamp finishes off a pin of Crane's Imani Schaefer during Friday's action at the John Rysdam Memorial Invitational in Elgin.

Elgin tourney honors former champ

Observer staff

The Joseph/Wallowa wrestling team recorded four top-two finishes to take fourth overall and claim the small school trophy at the John Rysdam Memorial Tournament Saturday in Elgin.

The event, now in its seventh year, honors former Elgin High School graduate and state wrestling champion John Rysdam, who was killed in an accident in February 2012.

Rysdam won a Class B state title at 168 pounds in 1970 as a senior. He was the first of five Huskies to win a state championship in the 1970s, and he won the title a year after taking second in the same weight class. As a team, the Huskies placed seventh at state both years.

"Dad loved wrestling," said Keela Rysdam, who along with her sister, Dena Rysdam-Ledbetter, and cousins Jeff Rysdam and Dianne Greif are the tournament coordinators. "He was all about the sport. He always was one who wanted people to be mentally tough. That's what he taught us."

Rysdam said her mother, Voleny, a longtime secretary at the high school, wanted to put on a tournament to honor John following his death, the first of which was held the same year he passed away.

The proceeds from the gate fund a scholarship that is given to an Elgin High School graduate at the end of the year.

On Saturday, Joseph/Wallowa's Aus-

tin Brockamp (170 pounds) had little issue at his weight class, needing barely four minutes to pin all three of his opponents, including finishing with a win by fall over Gauge Bloomer in the final to lead the Eagles.

Harley Miller (152B), Jonah Staigle (195) and Michael Diggins (285) all went 1-1 to claim second in their respective weight classes. Joseph/Wallowa also picked up a third-place finish from Gus Ramsden (160) who went 3-1 on Saturday.

The high placings helped Joseph/Wallowa score 79 points for fourth.

Weiser, Idaho, was the overall champion with a team score of 228.5 points. Sixth-place Enterprise (44 points)

See **Rysdam** / Page 10A

LHS girls win Nampa tourney

Observer staff

The La Grande Tigers girls basketball team won its final two games to claim the title in the Today's Dentistry Elite Eight Tournament in Nampa, Idaho, over the weekend, finishing with a 55-36 victory over the Nampa Bulldogs in the semifinals Friday and a 38-26 win against the Skyview Hawks in the championship game on Saturday.

Ella Dunlap led the Tigers in the final against Skyview with 14 points, eight of which came in the second half when La Grande pulled ahead for good. Camryn Collman added six points and three players chipped in with four points.

La Grande shook off a three-point first quarter to pull even by halftime at 14-14, then limited Skyview to just 12 points in the second half while itself scoring 12 in both the third and fourth quarters. Skyview had only five made field goals after halftime.

In Friday's semifinal win the Tigers jumped out to a double-digit halftime lead, then put the game on ice with a strong fourth quarter.

Collman recorded 20 points — 12 in the first half — and both Kenzie Williams and Josie Reagan had nine points. La Grande built a 30-20 lead at the break, then after letting Nampa hang around, outscored Nampa 19-8 in the fourth quarter to cement the win.

The Tigers (3-2 overall) are off until Dec. 27 when they face Banks at the Sisters Holiday Tournament.

Also Friday PANTHERS COME UP SHORT

The Imbler Panthers girls basketball team battled back from a 14-point halftime deficit, but saw their rally fall

See **Girls** / Page 9A



Ronald Bond/The Observer

La Grande's Romaine Ricker, shown during the girls 200 individual medley, won two individual events and was on two winning relay teams as the Tiger girls won their home meet Saturday.

Tigers keep carrying on

By **Ronald Bond**

The Observer

Team depth and leadership are going to be facets the La Grande Tigers girls swimming team will need to rely on throughout this season.

They showed both on Saturday.

Romaine Ricker won two individual events and swam on two winning relay races, Kennedy Kruse had a hand in three victories, and La Grande won seven of 11 races to secure the top spot at the 2018 LHS December Invite Saturday at Veterans' Memorial Pool in La Grande.

"I felt pretty solid today," Ricker said. "Not quite my PRs, but I feel

pretty good for the start of the season. Everyone else did amazing. I'm so proud of everybody. I think we're only going to get better from this point."

Ricker individually took first in the girls 200-yard individual medley (2:19.51) and in the girls 100 breast-stroke (1:12.61). She also swam as part of the winning girls 200 medley relay (2:00.78) and the girls 200 freestyle relay, which turned in a meet-record time of 1:49.07. Kristal Jensen and Reagan Kruse were part of both winning relays. Aryana Bouten swam a leg of the medley relay and Kennedy Kruse was part of the record-setting freestyle relay.

Kennedy Kruse also added individual victories in the girls 200 freestyle (2:12.58) and the girls 500 freestyle (5:57.23), while Jensen grabbed the top spot in the girls 100 butterfly, breaking her meet record from a year ago with a time of 1:03.44. She was also second in the girls 50 freestyle (26.90 seconds).

The strong efforts were key in La Grande landing 129 points to run away with first in the meet, well in front of second-place Pendleton (91 points). Scattered throughout the meet were eight additional top-three finishes to help boost the Tigers' point total.

See **Tigers** / Page 10A

LHS wrestlers find success on islands

Observer staff

The La Grande Tigers wrestling team made the most of the rare opportunity to compete in paradise, finishing with three champions and 11 top-four placers total at the Garner Ivey Maui Invitational Friday and Saturday in Hawaii.

Parker Robinson (170 pounds) and Nathan Reed (182) both won for the second week in a row after claiming the top spot at La Grande's Mullenburg Invite. Robinson went 3-0 with a win over teammate Grayson Livingston by a 4-3 decision in the finals at the weight. Reed was also 3-0, earning a 6-4 sudden victory over Ty Bates of Lahainaluna.

Reed earned top wrestler in the tournament for his efforts.

Braden Carson (132) added the third title, going 4-0 and earning another close win for La Grande with a 9-8 sudden victory over Zeff Dudoit of Lahainaluna.

Livingston went 2-1 on the mat for second at 170, with his only loss being the bout against Robinson. Gabe Shukle (220) also placed second, going 3-1 and winning three matches by fall before dropping the first-place match to Brock Ai of Kamehameha-Kapalama by a 3-1 decision.

La Grande also chalked up third-

place finishes from Ezra McIntosh, who went 4-1 at 126; Hayden Shafer, who was 4-1 at 160, including a win over teammate Keith Oswald in the third-place match; and Lincoln Clark, who went 4-1 at 220.

Adding a fourth-place finish for La Grande was Bella Guzlow, who went 1-2 in the girls 112-pound bracket, including a win by fall over Brianna Rivera Holt of Waianae in the consolation semifinals. Also taking fourth were Oswald, going 3-2 at 160, and Spencer Gerst, who turned in a 2-2 record at 195.

The Tigers travel to the Best of the West Friday in Pasco, Washington.

Badgers, Eagles go 2-0 on weekend

Observer staff

Reece Dixon scored nine of his team-high 13 points in the fourth quarter as the Powder Valley Badgers boys basketball team pulled away for a 57-42 win over the Union Bobcats Friday in La Grande.

The Badgers led just 41-37 after three quarters, but used a 16-5 fourth-quarter run to break the game open. A jumper and layup by Dixon put the Badgers up eight. Later, a free throw, followed by a rebound and putback, started a 9-0 run that ended with the Badgers ahead by 15 in the final minute of the game.

Roper Bingham added 12 points and Moziss Nesser scored 10 for the Badgers.

Keegan Glenn scored 19 points and hit four 3-pointers to lead Union. He also grabbed 19 rebounds for the Bobcats.

Also Friday EAGLES PULL AWAY FOR WIN

Mason Ferré had 12 of his team-high 19 points during a big third quarter for the Joseph Eagles, who went on to earn a 58-46 win over the Jordan Valley Mustangs Friday in La Grande.

Joseph held a slim 19-18 lead entering the third quarter when the team — including Ferré — got hot from the floor. Tyler Homan connected on a 3-pointer to give Joseph a 26-18 lead and cap a 10-0 run that dated back to the first half. After the Mustangs closed to within six, Ferré hit three 3-pointers and a layup as part of a 13-1 run to give the Eagles a 41-23 lead. Joseph went on to score 24 points in the third. The Mustangs got within 45-37 early in the fourth, but drew no closer.

Chase Murray added 11 points for Joseph and Kade

See **Boys** / Page 8A

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