

BOYS

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the next basket of the run on a steal and layup by Zach Wiggins, but then the points came in bunches. Hunter Youngblood scored twice and Wiggins connected again before Bell put in back-to-back 3-pointers for a 31-12 lead.

The Tigers went into the break up 34-15, and Ontario never got closer than 14 points the rest of the way.

"We all had a bunch of energy and adrenaline coming into the game, and that helped us out, especially on defense," said Youngblood, who had a game-high 17 points.

As for the hot start to the game, the senior was a bit unsure what to attribute that to.

"I don't know. Sometimes they go in," he said.

La Grande shot just under 50 percent in the first half, going 14-for-30, and was 5-for-9 from 3-point range. The Tigers also amped it up on defense, holding Ontario to just 12-for-47 shooting and forcing 21 turnovers.

"For the most part we played hard," Carollo said. "Some new guys came in and kept it going. Defensively we could be a little bit better, but to hold a team to 34 points, I'm happy with their overall effort."

It was also an important win for La Grande for positioning in the GOL with just two league games to play before the district tournament. The Tigers are tied for second with McLoughlin following the Pioneers' loss to Baker Saturday. La Grande and Mac-Hi meet next Saturday.

The coach, though, said he hasn't put too much emphasis on the postseason seedings.

"We still have the conference tournament where we can turn some heads," Carollo. "There's still an



Ronald Bond/The Observer

La Grande's Nick Tsiatsos scoops in a layup as part of the Tigers' 6-for-6 start to their win over Ontario.

opportunity for us to be the ones to grab (a playoff spot) and be proactive about it."

Youngblood added that going into the final stretch, the Tigers "need to take away as much as we can from this game" for momentum.

La Grande (5-10 overall, 2-2 GOL) hosts Pendleton in its final nonleague game Tuesday.

Also Friday OUTLAWSTURN INTOP OFFENSIVE PERFORMANCE OF SEASON IN WIN

Five players reached double figures as the Enterprise Outlaws boys basketball team netted a season-high in points in a 70-55 road win over the Weston-McEwen TigerScots Friday in Blue Mountain Conference action.

Devin Greer led the way for Enterprise with 19 points. Dylan Marr had 16 points, Timmy Wells scored 13 and both Cason Kirkland and Coy Aschenbrenner had 10 points.

The Outlaws took control with a strong first half, building a 10-point lead after one quarter and going up 32-15

at the half.

COUGARS HOLD OFF ELGIN IN SECOND HALF

The Wallowa Cougars boys basketball team withstood a second half surge by the Elgin Huskies to hold on for a 36-35 road win Friday in Old Oregon League play.

Wallowa held a 13-6 halftime lead in what started as a low scoring contest.

Elgin woke up after the half, scoring 19 points in the third quarter to cut the deficit to 28-25 but ultimately was unable to overcome the slow start.

Christopher Nobles scored 16 points to lead Wallowa in the win, while Kaden McClure had 13 points to pace the Huskies.

EAGLES BEAT DOWN GRIZZLIES

Mason Ferré led the way with 18 points as 13 members of the Joseph Eagles boys basketball team scored in a 75-32 home win over the Griswold Grizzlies Friday in Old Oregon League play.

Tyler Homan added 12 points and Kade Kilgore had 11 for the Eagles. Joseph

broke the game open at the onset by jumping ahead 20-3 through one quarter, added 19 points in the second to take a 39-13 lead at the half, and the rout was on.

COVE PICKS UP OOL WIN ON THE ROAD

Blake Witten scored 10 of his 20 points in the first quarter, and the Cove Leopards boys basketball team built a double-digit first-half lead on the way to a 49-39 road win over the Pine Eagle Spartans on Friday in Old Oregon League play.

Cameron Dillman added 11 points for Cove, which went into the half holding a 26-13 lead. Landon Moore added nine points.

BADGERS EKE OUT WIN OVER PANTHERS

Moziss Nesser led the way with 12 points and six rebounds as the Powder Valley Badgers boys basketball team won another low-scoring, grind-it-out contest against the Imbler Panthers at home Friday, 38-33, in Old Oregon League action.

The Badgers won the previous meeting, 40-30. Only one team other than Imbler has held the Badgers to 40 points or less in a game.

Reece Dixon added 11 points for Powder Valley, which built a 22-13 lead at the half before Imbler cut the margin to 28-24 after three quarters before the Badgers held on.

Jayce Burnette scored 16 points, including 12 in the second half, to lead Imbler. Will Coston added five points for the Panthers.

Saturday COVE STAYS IN OOL-SOUTH RACE, WINS THRILLER AT POWDER VALLEY

It took two overtimes, but the Cove Leopards boys basketball team scored a crucial 60-53 road victory over the Powder Valley Badgers Saturday in Old Oregon League

play.

The teams were tied at 42-42 at the end of regulation, and 47-47 after the first overtime before Cove dropped 13 points in the second OT to pull away.

Blake Witten led the way for Cove with 25 points, including seven in the second overtime period to provide the difference. Cameron Dillman added 12 points and Dawson Gaertner scored 11 points

The win kept Cove in contention for the top spot in the OOL-South, where a win by the Badgers would have almost assured them first in the OOL-South and one of two top seeds to the district tournament.

Roper Bingham and Reece Dixon both had 13 points to lead the Badgers. Omar Benites added 12 points and Dominick Grende scored 10 points.

Cove (11-5 overall, 4-2 OOL) hosts Joseph in a key OOL game Tuesday, while Powder Valley (14-7, 6-3) travels to Pine Eagle Feb. 5.

BOBCATS COMPLETE SEASON SWEEP OF ENTERPRISE

The Union Bobcats boys basketball team used strong second and third quarters to take control as it earned a 46-40 road win over the Enterprise Outlaws Saturday in Blue Mountain Conference play.

The win moved Union one step closer to securing one of the top three spots in the BMC and having a chance to play for a state playoff berth, while the loss put Enterprise's postseason hopes on life support.

Union used a 17-9 edge in the second quarter to build a 23-14 halftime lead, then extended it to 35-23 after three quarters before holding off the Outlaws' rally.

Keegan Glenn led Union with 13 points. Jace Phillips added 10 points and Gannon

Carreiro had nine points.

Enterprise was led by Coy Aschenbrenner with 10 points, while Devin Greer added eight points.

COUGARS HANG WITH, BUT CAN'T TOP, NIXYAAWII

Despite a 26-point night from Christopher Nobles, the Wallowa Cougars boys basketball team came up short in an upset bid against the Nixyaawii Golden Eagles, falling at home 48-38 on Saturday.

The teams played even most of the night. Nixyaawii took a 14-8 lead early and maintained that advantage throughout the contest as it still led by six after three quarters, 36-30.

The Cougars (6-12 overall, 3-5 OOL) travel to Imbler on Friday.

PANTHERS EARN ROAD WIN AT PINE EAGLE

Jayce Burnette scored a game-high 17 points, Grant Slater and Blake Frost each added seven, and the Imbler Panthers boys basketball team pulled away late for a 41-24 road win against the Pine Eagle Spartans Saturday in Old Oregon League action.

The Panthers took just a 16-13 lead into the half and were still up just 22-15 after three quarters before netting 19 points in the fourth to secure the win.

Imbler (6-10 overall, 3-4 OOL) hosts Wallowa in a key OOL contest Friday.

HUSKIES HOLD OFF GRISWOLD

The Elgin Huskies boys basketball team held on for a close 56-55 road win over the Griswold Grizzlies in Old Oregon League play Saturday.

Stats were not available. The Huskies (10-7 overall, 5-3 OOL) host Cove on Friday.

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