

WRESTLING

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and Bisenius was 3-1. The other all-LHS final went to Parker Robinson (160) who won by forfeit over teammate Hayden Shafer. Robinson and Shafer finished 4-0 and 3-1, respectively.

The Tigers also snagged three titles at the upper end of the scale, with Christopher Woodworth (195) going 3-0 and pinning McLoughlin's Patton Wright in the finals. Spencer Gerst (220) turned in a 4-0 mark and had four first-round pins, including in just 56 seconds over Madras' Kody Zemke in the title bout. And Gabe Shukle (285) went 3-0 with three pins, including over Ontario's Elizar Ramirez in the finale.

Along with Bisenius and Shafer, the Tigers added a third runner-up in Braden Carson (126). He needed just 28 seconds to record to pins to reach the final before dropping the championship bout to Alex Duran of Baker by a 10-6 decision.

Winning their third-place matches to also reach state were three wrestlers: Cody Hibbert (113), who finished with a 3-1 record, Keith Oswald (152), who also went 3-1, and Lincoln Clark (220) who similarly posted a mark of 3-1.

Rounding out the state qualifiers were fourth-place finishers Cole Isaacson (3-2 at 126), Alex Kehr (4-2 at 132), Brody MacMillian (4-2 at 145) and Joel Rogers (2-2 at 285).

As a team La Grande scored 376.5 points, well in front of second-place Baker, which had 317. Klel Carson said the high score was due to not only the top wrestlers doing their part, but others who worked their way through the consolation bracket to score points.

"We had a lot of kids step up and get third place (who) qualified back through the back door," he said. "Guys like that make a tremendous difference."

La Grande is now off for two weeks until the Class 4A state tournament, which begins Feb. 22 in Portland.

EAGLESTAKE FIRST AT PINE EAGLE INVITATIONAL

The Joseph/Wallowa Eagles wrestling team had four winners and scored just enough points to edge Pine Eagle for the team title at the Pine Eagle Invitational Saturday.

Joseph/Wallowa scored 165 points, while

the Spartans had 153.

Steven Beckman (113), Austin Brockamp (182) and Jonah Staigle (220) each received double byes into the finals. There, Beckman beat Pine Eagle's Will Seggerman by fall, Brockamp pinned Adrian's Toby Clow and Staigle earned an 8-4 decision over Adrian's Cole Kennedy-Gooch.

Zeb Ramsden (132) went 2-0 and beat Levi Roath of Crane by fall in the finals.

Guylen Snyder (152) went 1-1 for second place, losing to Pine Eagle's Sven Rasmussen by fall in the final, while Gus Ramsden (160) also went 1-1 and was pinned by Seth Butler of Pine Eagle in the finals.

Corsin Risi (3-1 at 145) and Ronny Morello (0-1 at 170) placed third, while Brenden Moore (2-2 at 126) and Harley Miller (2-2 at 145) took fourth.

Imbler (102 points) was third, with Logan Butcher (145) leading the way with a 2-0 record and the top spot after pinning Elgin's Austin Greenlee in the final.

Taking second was Bryce Sullivan (170), who went 1-1 and lost by fall to Pine Eagle's Brandon Roe in the final.

Garrett Burns (0-1 at 113), MyKail Foster (3-1 at 138) and Zach Brown (0-1 at 220) each took third, while Kaden Lee (2-2 at 132) placed fourth.

Elgin was sixth with 32 points. Greenlee went 1-1 to take second at 145 with his loss in the final to Butcher, and Reece McConnell (2-2 at 138) placed fourth.

The teams return to Halfway for the 2A/1A Special District 4 tournament Friday and Saturday.

BOBCATSTAKE FOURTH AT COUGAR CLASSIC

The Union/Cove Bobcats wrestling team placed fourth at the Cougar Classic Saturday in Echo.

Jaxon Blackburn (132) won both his matches, including over Lakeview's Morgan Ludwig by a 19-0 technical fall, for first place. Carter Blackburn (1-2 at 138/145) and Damon Nipper (1-2 at 170/182) both were third. Jack Dempsey (0-3 at 160/170) was fourth.

Enterprise was originally on the tournament schedule, but did not compete.

Union/Cove and Enterprise travel to Halfway Friday and Saturday for the 2A/1A Special District 4 tournament.



Observer file photo

Eastern Oregon's Macy Higa, left, shown earlier this season, placed third at the WCWA national tournament, the highest placing in the history of the women's program.

HIGA

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it," Higa said of the match against Parrish. "I told myself that if I didn't make it to the second day I wouldn't get onto the podium."

Higa rebounded to clinch her all-American status with a win over Warner Pacific's Kaitlyn Funai by a 12-2 technical fall in the blood round Friday evening. She wasn't done there, though.

On Saturday, she scored yet another technical fall, dropping Cheyenne Sisenstein of King University by a score of 10-0. She then earned a 13-6 decision over Dajian Treder of Providence in the consolation semifinals, and finished with a second victory over Sugiyama in the third-place match, winning again by technical fall, 10-0.

"(Saturday) was the cherry on top," she said. "With the matches today I tried to not put as much pressure on myself. I tried to have fun in my matches."

Along the way, she defeated the fourth-place finisher in the bracket twice (Sugiyama), and also topped the fifth-place wrestler (Treder) and the seventh-place wrestler (Sisenstein).

Higa was the only wrestler for EOU to register multiple victories as the team finished 19th with a total of 26 points.

Lisa Megargee (101) dropped an early match by technical fall, 12-0, to Hiba Salem of Menlo. She recovered to win her second match, beating Kassidy Ramirez of Lyon College by a 10-6 decision, before being knocked out of the competition one round short of the blood round by a 6-2 loss by decision to Faye Cherrier of Life University.

Cassidy Freeman (109) lost to Mariah Lomas of Oklahoma City by an 8-2 decision and to Kylie Titus of MacMurray College by fall.

Amber Pair (116) opened with a 9-3 decision over Ashley Tobe of Cumberlandts, then dropped a 10-0 technical fall to Yurie Yoneoka of Providence and a 10-6 decision to Mariah Annis of Umpqua Community College.

Rosa Ramirez (123) fell by technical fall, 10-0, to Ferrum University's Marissa Ruiz, and by fall to Missouri Baptist's Brigitte Mihalca.

Dempsi Talkington (143) lost by fall to Southern Oregon's Sienna Ramirez in her

first match. She rebounded to defeat Candice Corralejo of Wayland Baptist by an 8-2 decision, but was eliminated one round short of the blood round after an 11-0 technical fall loss to Zoe Wight of Life.

Sara Angelo (143) dropped a match by fall to Simon Fraser's Sara Brinkac and by fall to Ottawa University's Lacey Henderson.

Renay Monohan (155) lost by a 10-0 technical fall to Alison Horne of Simon Fraser, and by a 12-2 technical fall to Sierra Talmadge of Jamestown.

Anderson said the team took a lot away from the national tournament to build with.

"A lot of it is we need to start setting our weights for next year now," he said. "We need to keep working out, we need to maintain weight. We've talked to a couple girls about where they want to be weight wise, and some want to go down a weight class, but that starts now."

He added that "the team will be stronger next year with the experience we have coming to the room (in recruits) and the experience we have in the room (with returners)."



Ronald Bond/The Observer

La Grande's Alexys Chamberlain, right, drives to the basket against Baker Friday.

Bulldogs wallop La Grande

By Ronald Bond

The Observer

The La Grande Tigers girls basketball team had a chance to claim a share of the Greater Oregon League title Friday, but struggled through a major off night and was handed a tough-to-take 63-24 home loss at the hand of the Baker Bulldogs Friday — one that had Head Coach Brian Wright searching for the right words.

"I don't know if it's the end-of-the-year stuff, but we weren't ready to play," he said.

He noted that the team appeared flat from the opening tip, but the situation was further exacerbated by Baker scoring the game's first 15 points, surging ahead by 20 points early in the second quarter and taking a 34-6 halftime lead in a contest where it held La Grande to just two first-half field goal. The Bulldogs, in comparison, were 13-for-26 in the first 16 minutes.

"It doesn't help any when I think we missed our first four, five shots, and they didn't, and all of a sudden we're at an imbalance," Wright said. "They're a good team. They're quick. They're athletic."

It all amounted to the Tigers' worst loss of the season, and worst margin of defeat since a 40-point setback against the Bulldogs last season.

Rose Gwillim led Baker with 19 points, six rebounds and seven steals, while Sydney Younger added 17 points. Gwillim was a force in the early stages, with eight first-quarter points, including her second 3-point play of the period for the quick 15-0 lead. Younger caught fire in the second and fourth quarters as Baker piled on.

"Rose is really good. We did a better job of (guarding) her at Baker than we did tonight," Wright said.

La Grande finally got on the board on an Ella Dunlap layup at the 2:10 mark of the first, but didn't crack double digits until a Luran Rinker layup late in the third made it 45-11. Baker wound up leading by as much as 42 points.

Rinker finished with seven points to lead La Grande, which shot 20 percent and had 33 turnovers. Dunlap and Camryn Collman both added four points.

Wright said it's a loss the Tigers can't change, but that the team needs to focus on what they can fix with the GOL district tournament ahead.

"The most important thing is you just get back into practice next week, be positive with the kids and talk them up," he said.

The Tigers (12-7 overall, 4-2 GOL) host either McLoughlin or Ontario likely Thursday evening in the GOL tournament semifinals, with the winner getting an automatic state berth and another matchup with Baker on Saturday.

Also Friday NIXYAAWII 44, ELGIN 40

For the second time this season, the Elgin Huskies girls basketball team suffered a heartbreaking loss to the Nixyaawii Golden Eagles, falling at home 44-40 Friday in Old Oregon League play.

The setback gave Nixyaawii the tiebreaker between the two teams in the OOL-North standings.

Jocelyn Palmer led Elgin with 14 points. Tymra Anderson scored 10 points and both Jayden Palmer and Kaelin Evans had seven points.

COVE 47, IMBLER 33

A strong first half gave the Cove Leopards girls basketball team the edge it needed to earn a 47-33 road win over the Imbler Panthers Friday in Old Oregon League play.

The win locked up second place in the OOL-North for Cove and dropped Imbler to third.

The Leopards took an eight-point lead after one quarter, extended it to 24-12 by halftime and kept their distance in the second half.

Four players — Elli Hines-Dunlap, Raegan Duby, Rebekah Farrell and Maggie Frisch — scored nine points for Cove's balanced attack.

Caysie McGinness had 15 points and Gracey Smith had seven for Imbler, which played its final game of the regular season.

The Panthers (5-15 overall, 3-8 OOL) face Wallowa in the first round of the OOL district

tournament Thursday in Baker City.

UNION 55, PILOT ROCK 35

Callie Glenn scored 16 of her game-high 20 points in the second half to help the Union Bobcats girls basketball team pull away for a 55-35 road win over the Pilot Rock Rockets Friday in its Blue Mountain Conference regular-season finale.

Union led throughout, including 21-16 at halftime, but dropped 20 points in the third quarter to build a 41-25 lead and take control.

Abriel O'Reilly and Kaylin Nowak both added 10 points for Union, which is averaging 60.7 points per game during its season-ending three-game winning streak.

The Bobcats (13-9 overall, 7-5 BMC), who finished fourth in the BMC, face Stanfield in the BMC district tournament Friday. Union is out of contention for an automatic state playoff berth, so it likely needs a win over Stanfield to keep it hopes for an at-large bid alive.

GRANT UNION 58, ENTERPRISE 45

The Enterprise Outlaws girls basketball team took a lead into the fourth quarter on the road against the Grant Union Prospectors before Grant Union took the lead back for good for a 58-45 win Friday in Blue Mountain Conference play.

Grant Union was up by one at halftime before Enterprise inched ahead to take a 37-35 lead into the final quarter. The Prospectors, though, went off for 23 points to secure the victory and lock up the BMC title.

Ashlyn Gray scored 12 points to lead the Outlaws, while both Lexie Gassett and Carsyn Miller had nine points.

The Outlaws (17-5 overall, 9-3 BMC) face Heppner Friday in the BMC district tournament in Pendleton, with the winner locking up an automatic state playoff berth.

JOSEPH 60, WALLOWA 17

The Joseph Eagles girls basketball team locked up the Old Oregon League-North title outright with a 60-17 home win over the Wallowa Cougars Friday in Old Oregon League action.

Stats were not available.

Saturday POWDER VALLEY 53, ELGIN 27

The Elgin Huskies girls basketball team saw its season come to an end with a 53-27 home loss to the Powder Valley Badgers Saturday in Old Oregon League play.

Jayden Palmer led Elgin with 11 points. Tymra Anderson added 10 points and Gracie Evans had five.

Stats were not available for Powder Valley.

Elgin finished the season at 9-12 overall and was 5-7 in the OOL, while Powder Valley (21-3, 10-1) moves on to face either Imbler or Wallowa in the semifinals of the OOL district tournament Friday in Baker City.

COVE 35, PINE EAGLE 29

The Cove Leopards girls basketball team shook off a scoreless third quarter to pull out a 35-29 home win over the Pine Eagle Spartans Saturday in its Old Oregon League regular-season finale.

Cove was outscored 9-0 in the third to see a 10-point lead trimmed to 23-22 after three quarters, but regrouped in the fourth to hold on.

Kierra Moore led the way for the Leopards with 10 points, and both Elli Hines-Dunlap and Raegan Duby had seven points.

Cove (11-10 overall, 5-6 OOL) faces Nixyaawii Thursday in the first round of the OOL district tournament in Baker City.

GRISWOLD AT WALLOWA CANCELED

The regular-season finale between the Wallowa Cougars and the Griswold Grizzlies boys basketball teams was canceled.

The Cougars (11-10 overall, 8-3 OOL) face Imbler in the first round of the Old Oregon League district tournament Thursday in Baker City.

JOSEPH 60, NIXYAAWII 28

The Joseph Eagles girls basketball team wrapped up the regular season with a 60-28 road win over the Nixyaawii Golden Eagles Saturday to finish 12-0 in the Old Oregon League.

Stats were not available.

Joseph (22-2 overall) will face either Nixyaawii or Cove in the semifinals of the OOL district tournament Friday in Baker City.