

Mountaineers endure a winless weekend at Cavalier Classic

Observer staff

The Eastern Oregon softball team struggled through a 0-4 weekend at the Cavalier Classic in Portland, dropping a pair of contests on both Friday and Saturday.

EOU opened play Friday with a 4-3 loss to Western Washington in nine innings.

The Mountaineers had taken a 3-2 lead in the top of the ninth on an RBI single by Jordan Henley, who had a pair of hits, but an RBI groundout by the Vikings'

Emily Benson tied the score, and Rylie Wales won it with a walk-off RBI single.

Amanda Smith took the hard-luck loss for Eastern, tossing 8-2/3 innings, allowing four runs on five hits and striking out nine batters. EOU also got a solo home run in the contest from Haley Ebner.

Later Friday, the Mountaineers fell to Concordia, 9-1, in five innings.

Concordia took command of the game with a seven-run sec-

ond inning, which Hannah Self started with a solo home run and capped with a sacrifice fly for a 7-0 lead.

Shevan DeFreitas had two hits, including an RBI single in the third, for the Mountaineers.

Ashton Kazmierski allowed seven runs on three hits in just 1-1/3 innings.

On Saturday, Eastern opened with a 10-2 loss to Central Washington as EOU was again done in by two big innings.

Hannah Rothwell hit a solo

home run in the third to tie the score at 2-2, but Central Washington scored four times in both the third and fourth innings to build its eight-run margin, finishing off the onslaught with a Gracee Dwyer RBI single in the fourth.

Smith surrendered 10 runs on 10 hits in four innings for EOU.

Eastern wrapped its stay in Portland with another matchup against Western Washington, falling to the Vikings, 6-2.

Ashley Kelly knocked in both

Mountaineer runs with a triple in the second inning to tie the score at 2-2. A two-run double by Paityn Cyr in the third, though, triggered a three-run inning to put Western Washington ahead for good.

Kazmierski tossed all six innings for EOU, allowing six runs on 11 hits.

Eastern (1-9 overall) returns to action Friday and Saturday when it visits Southern Oregon to begin Cascade Collegiate Conference play. ■



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Megan Bingham scored a game-high 17 points as Powder Valley led from start to finish to make a return trip to the 1A state quarterfinals.

HOOPS

Continued from Page 7A

Badgers to score the game's first seven points and open an 11-2 lead on a steal and layup by Belle Blair.

The Badgers led by as much as 11 in the first, and used an 8-0 run late in the second — capped by a basket in the lane by Bingham — to go up 18 in the second before settling for a 26-10 lead at the half.

"We are growing the most defensively. Our defense is really good," said Logan Nedrow, who had a strong all-round game with seven points, five steals and five assists for the Badgers. "Everyone who comes in the game is going to give 100 percent."

Nedrow helped put the game completely out of reach early in the third with a 3-pointer and later a steal and layup for a 32-12 margin. Two buckets by Autumn Davis, who added 10 points, pushed the lead to 24, and the Badgers built as much as a 25-point lead in the fourth en route to the win.

The defense and rebounding helped offset the only downside for the Badgers Saturday — shooting. Powder Valley was just 21-for-57 for the game but collected 12 offensive rebounds. Josi Kreiger, who led the way with nine rebounds, grabbed five on the offensive end.

"We rebounded well, and (we) were taking good shots, (but) they were not going in," Allen Bingham said.

Rachel Haas scored 14 points, all in the second half, to pace the Wildcats.

The victory sets up the Badgers (24-3 overall) in a quarterfinal matchup against Crane Thursday night in Baker City. Crane scored a 44-35 win over the Badgers back in December, but Nedrow said the team has improved since it was in that contest.

"We're playing 100 percent better than we were at the beginning of the year, and I don't think a lot of teams realize how much we've improved. We're ready to come out in the state tournament and show people we are a good team," she said.

Megan Bingham agreed the team is playing with more confidence than earlier in the year, and noted that defeating Joseph in the district tournament a week ago gave them a boost.

"After beating Joseph I think it gave us confidence in knowing we have potential to go super far (at state)," she said.

Also Saturday JOSEPH HOLDS OFF MOHAWK TO REACH QUARTERS

Haley Miller scored 15 points to lead three players in double figures, and the Joseph Eagles girls basketball team built an early 22-point lead on the way to a 50-34 road win over the Mohawk Mustangs Saturday in the second round of the 1A state playoffs.

Joseph scored the final 15 points of the first quarter, with Sabrina Albee beating the buzzer to cap the run,



Ronald Bond/Observer file photo

Karli Bedard and the Enterprise Outlaws are in the state quarterfinals for the first time since 2013.

for a 17-5 lead that it never relinquished. A 12-2 run in the second quarter gave the Eagles their largest lead at 31-9, and they led 32-15 at the break.

Mohawk pulled within 40-30 in the fourth quarter on a Peyton Robinson steal and layup but got no closer.

Madelyn Nelson added 14 points and Albee had 12 for Joseph. The Eagles shot just 13-for-49 but made up for it at the free-throw line, going 21-for-27.

The Eagles (25-3 overall) will face St. Paul in the state quarterfinals Thursday in Baker City. The teams met in early January, with the Buckaroos earning a 40-32 win.

OUTLAWS EARN ROAD WIN, FIRST QUARTERFINALS BERTH SINCE 2013

For the first time since 2013, the Enterprise Outlaws girls basketball team is headed to the 2A state quarterfinals.

Carsyn Miller led three Outlaws in double figures with 11 points, and Enterprise used a 9-0 run late in the third quarter to take control on the way to a 45-34 road win over the Portland Christian Royals in a first-round game Saturday night.

Enterprise took a 19-15 lead at the half and was up by 10 before Portland Christian went on a 10-0 run to even the score at 28-28.

A timeout, though, reset the Outlaws, who responded with a 9-0 run to go into the fourth leading 37-28 and finish off the win.

Shelby Moncrief and Karli Bedard both added 10 points for Enterprise, a

program Head Coach Mike Crawford said has been on the cusp of getting back to the quarterfinals.

"For the last four years we have been ranked in the top 16, and based on the old rules we never got into the fray. We've been knocking on the door," Crawford said.

Enterprise lost in this round a year ago, but the returners who were in that game benefitted from being there.

"That experience paid off tonight," Crawford said. "We lost four starters (from last year) but I've got three seniors this year and I've got enough athletes (along with them). They all want to do more."

The win puts Enterprise (19-6 overall) into a quarterfinal matchup with Vernonia Thursday night in Pendleton. The Loggers enter the game coming off a 48-46 upset win over Monroe, the second seed and last year's state runner-up.

UNION OUSTED BY COQUILLE IN FIRST ROUND

The Union Bobcats girls basketball team hung with Coquille for about 20 minutes before the Red Devils pulled away for a 54-32 win in the first round of the 2A state playoffs on Saturday in Coquille.

Union took a 12-10 lead through one quarter, led late in the second before Coquille rallied to go up 22-17 at the half, and was still within single digits in the third. But Coquille built its lead to 43-31 after three quarters, then pulled away for the win.

Kaylin Nowak led the

Bobcats with 14 points, while Callie Glenn and Kaylee Lantis both had four. Union, though, shot just 12-for-41 from the floor in the loss.

"I'm proud of our girls," Head Coach Rhondie Rickman-Johansen said. "We're young. We've known that all along. We never used that as an excuse."

The Bobcats, who will lose only one player to graduation, finished with an overall record of 14-11, the most victories the team has had since winning 24 games in 2015.

Boys Friday LA GRANDE'S SEASON ENDS AT HANDS OF WARRIORS

The season came to an end for the La Grande Tigers boys basketball team one win shy of a state playoff berth as the Tigers fell to the Philomath Warriors on the road in the Class 4A state play-in round Friday, 59-44. It's the first time La Grande has missed the playoffs since 2013.

A big second quarter by the Warriors set the Tigers back, as Philomath outscored La Grande in the second stanza 17-9 to build a 32-20 lead at the half. La Grande pulled within 45-35 after three, but the Warriors finished off the win in the fourth.

Kaleb Myer scored 12 points and hit four 3-pointers to lead La Grande. Hunter Youngblood added 11 points, and Kaden Chandler scored seven points.

The Tigers finished the season with a record of 7-13.

BADGERS EDGED OUT BY WOLVES

The Power Valley Badgers boys basketball team fell short in its bid to get back to the 1A state quarterfinals, losing on the road

to the Days Creek Wolves in the second round of the state playoffs Friday, 62-58.

A big second quarter allowed the Badgers to erase a 10-point deficit and take a 29-26 lead at halftime. Days Creek responded with a 22-point third quarter to pull ahead, 48-47, after three quarters, then held on late.

The Badgers were hurt by hot 3-point shooting from Days Creek, as the Wolves were 13-for-25 from beyond the arc. Caleb Kruzic, who led the Wolves with 20 points, had six of those 3-pointers.

The Badgers, who lost despite shooting 58 percent, were led by Roper Bingham, who had 23 points and 11 rebounds. Reece Dixon added 15 points, and Moziss Nesser scored 10.

Powder Valley finished with an overall record of 17-10.

KNIGHTS DROP 103 POINTS ON UNION

The Union Bobcats boys basketball team ran into the defending 2A state champion Columbia Christian Knights, and saw the season end on the short end of a 103-36 blowout road loss Friday in the first round of the state playoffs.

CC jumped out to a 25-11 lead after one quarter and followed with 31 second-quarter points to take a 56-20 lead at the break and roll to the win, its 17th in a row.

Keegan Glenn scored nine points to lead Union. D.J. Coon added eight points, and both Tate Lantis and Gannon Carreiro had seven points.

The Bobcats, who were back in the playoffs for the first time since 2017 — when they were also eliminated by the Knights — finished with an overall record of 16-9. ■

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