

Buckaroos dash Badgers' title hopes

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

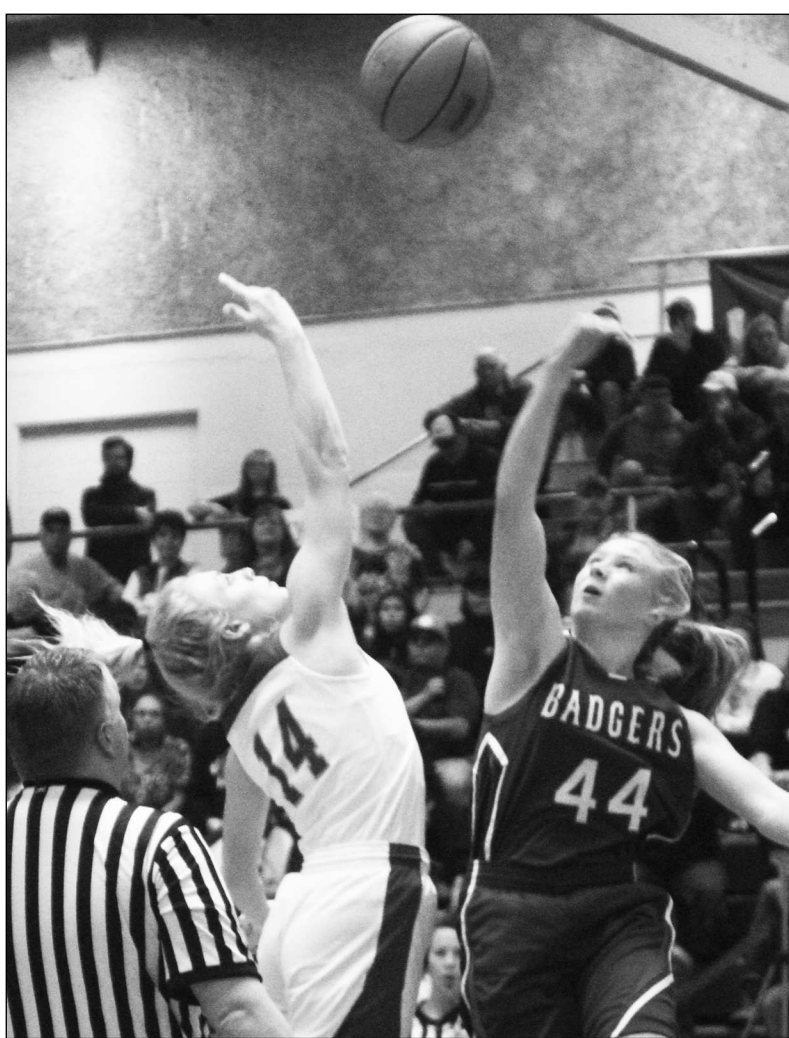
The difference in the 1A girls basketball state title game was simple: Shots fell for the St. Paul Buckaroos, but not for the Powder Valley Badgers.

St. Paul shot 50 percent in the first half to build a double-digit lead, and 43 percent for the game, to top Powder Valley, 49-32, Saturday night in Baker City.

"We just couldn't get anything to drop, especially early," Powder Valley Head Coach Allen Bingham said. "We had really good looks — things that normally drop down — and they just didn't. We dug ourselves a hole."

The Badgers had several opportunities around the rim bound away, rim off or even rattle out during a first half that saw them shoot just 21 percent. Powder Valley, in fact, went more than half of the first quarter without scoring until Logan Nedrow's steal and layup got the Badgers on the board. Belle Blair's 3-point play moments later knotted the score at 5-5, and Megan Bingham beat the first-quarter buzzer with a 3-pointer to keep the Badgers within 9-8.

But the Buckaroos heated up in the second quarter, using a 14-2 run to take control of the game. Erin Counts and Karlee Southerland hit back-to-back 3-pointers for a 17-9 lead, and two Counts free



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Powder Valley's Belle Blair, right, and St. Paul's Isabelle Wyss jump at center court to tip off Saturday's state championship game.

throws put St. Paul ahead 25-11 late in the second. The Buckaroos shot 64 percent in the period.

The Badgers cut the gap to 27-15 at halftime, and three times inched as close as 10 points in the third,



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Powder Valley's Megan Bingham attempts a layup during the first half of Saturday's state title game against St. Paul.

the last on a Bingham 3-pointer to get to 32-22. A 9-0 Buckaroos' run, though, boosted by 3s from Counts

and Isabelle Wyss, extended the margin to 41-22 early in the fourth. See **Badgers** / Page 8A

Outlaws finish season in fifth

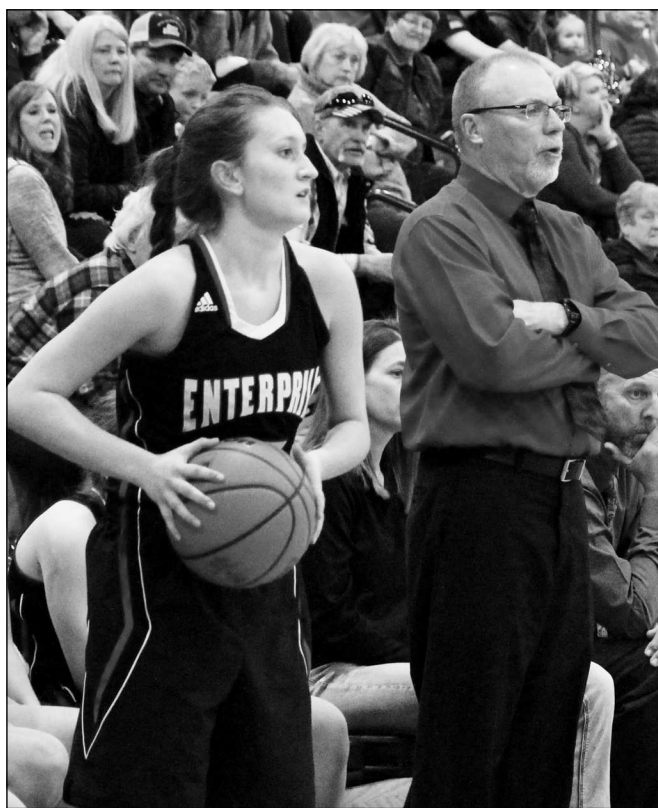
By Ronald Bond
The Observer

Two runs by the Kennedy Trojans girls basketball team — including a 19-1 spurt in the first half — gave it control of the game as Kennedy topped the Enterprise Outlaws, 49-31, in the third-place game of the 2A state tournament Saturday evening at the Pendleton Convention Center.

But the loss, which dropped Enterprise to a fifth-place finish in the state, didn't detract from how Head Coach Mike Crawford felt about the way his team played this season as it garnered its first trophy since 2012, when it also came in fifth.

"We were ranked as high as sixth in the state, so to finish fifth, are we going to cry about that? No way," he said.

The attitude will undoubtedly prevail although the best season in Enterprise in seven years did end on



Kannon Miller photo

Lexie Gassett, left, looks to inbound the ball as Enterprise Head Coach Mike Crawford looks on Saturday.

a sour note, with a close semifinal loss Friday night to eventual state champion

Heppner before Saturday's setback against Kennedy.

See **Enterprise** / Page 7A

Loss drops Eagles to sixth place

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

The Joseph Eagles girls basketball team entered the state tournament with high expectations — but the season didn't end as the team hoped.

The Crane Mustangs used a 21-4 run during the third and fourth quarters to turn a close game into a blowout and hand Joseph its worst loss of the season, 49-30, Saturday morning in the fourth-place game of the 1A state tournament in Baker City.

"They shot extremely well," Joseph Head Coach Lance Homan said of Crane. "They're a good basketball team, and they're only going to get better. They made shots, their energy was better than ours (and) they outworked us."

The loss dropped the Eagles, who were ranked No. 2 in the state much of the season, to a sixth-place finish.



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Joseph's Emma Hite (10) battles for a loose ball with Crane's Shelie Doman on Saturday.

"It wasn't how we wanted it (to end), definitely, but it is what it is, and we left it all

out on the court," said Halley Miller, one of Joseph's. See **Joseph** / Page 7A

Randall, DiLulo claim all-Americans as Eastern ties for 16th



University of Providence photo

Eastern Oregon wrestler Harley DiLulo took sixth at nationals at 197 pounds after losing his first match.

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

Drake Randall placed fourth and Harley DiLulo was sixth to garner all-American status and lead the Eastern Oregon University wrestling team to a tie for 16th place at the NAIA National Championships Friday and Saturday in Des Moines, Iowa.

The two all-Americans matched the total EOU had compiled in its previous two seasons.

"I'm proud of the way they got out there and competed," EOU Head Coach Dustyn Azure said. "They battled from the start to the finish. Points didn't go our direction, but we went out there and put up a performance. (I'm

proud of the weekend.)"

Randall (165 pounds) was the lone Mountaineer to reach the quarterfinals, opening the tournament with a 13-5 major decision over Benedictine's Tyler Harris and a second-round win by fall over Noah Reynolds of Bluefield.

He was knocked out of title contention by a Cascade Collegiate Conference rival, Andrew Bartel of MSU-Northern, by a close 3-2 decision, then rattled off three wins in a row to reach the third-place match.

"He did a great job of bouncing back from (the loss to Bartel)," Azure said. "That's been a struggle (but) he was able to rebound (and) get his mind focused."

Randall defeated two Grace-land wrestlers, Drew Sams and Brennan Swafford, by identical 8-6 scores. His win over Swafford came by sudden victory on a takedown in overtime. He then pinned Providence's Adrian Lyons-Lopez — the top seed — by fall in just 54 seconds, before Bartel clipped him in the third-place match by the same score as in the quarterfinals, 3-2.

DiLulo (197) dropped his first match to Life's Dialo Matsimela by a 7-4 decision, then caught fire in the consolation bracket with four consecutive wins. He earned a 20-5 technical fall over Wayland Baptist's Riley Williams, a 12-2 major decision. See **Wrestling** / Page 8A



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