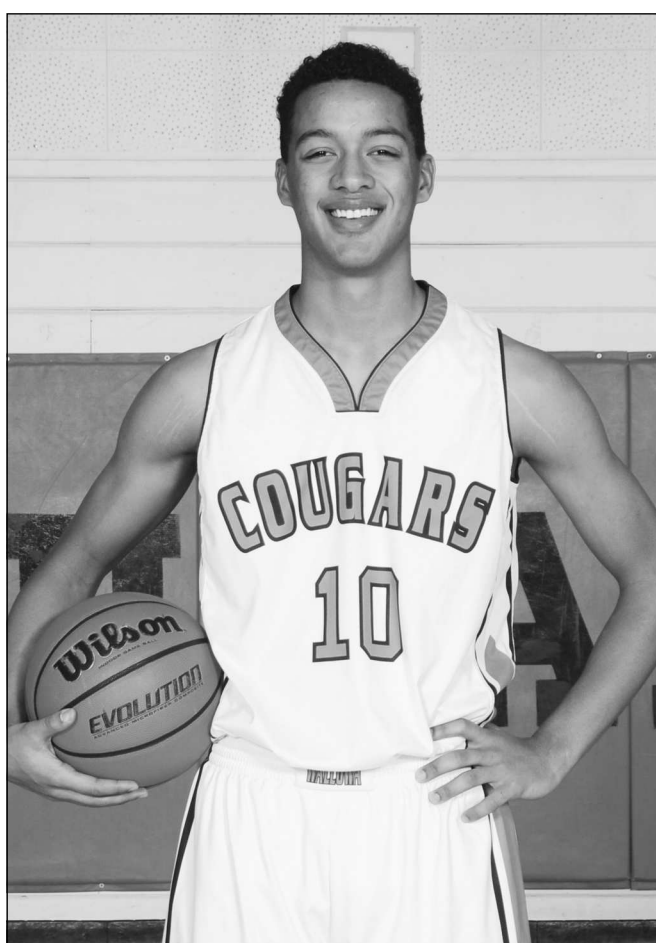




Ronald Bond/Observer file photo

Sabrina Albee led Joseph to sixth place at state.



Robert Duncan Photography photo via David Howe

Christopher Nobles was the key piece in Wallowa's offense.

## LMS grapplers take third at state

Observer staff

The La Grande Middle School wrestling team took third place in the boys division at the Oregon middle school state tournament over the weekend in Woodburn.

La Grande scored 102 points, just 3.5 points behind team champion Sky View, out of Bend, and two points behind LaCreole out of Dallas.

La Grande had five placers, led by Kai Carson, who was the champion at 102 pounds with a perfect 4-0 record. Jaxon Leon-

ard placed second at 85 pounds, going 3-1. Wyatt Livingston (150) turned in a 3-2 record for fourth. Ridge Kehr (102) went 4-2 for fifth. And Tavian Kehr (80) finished 3-3 and placed sixth.

Also on the local scene, Imbler placed 15th with 47 points. Elgin was 16th, scoring 46 points. Union placed 27th with 30 points. And Enterprise took 55th with 13 points.

Imbler was led by a second-place finish from Dominick Carratello, who

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## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### GRVFC deadline approaching

The deadline to register for Grande Ronde Valley Football Club's outdoor spring season is Friday. The season for girls and boys ages U6 through U18 runs from April to June. U10 through U15 compete on Saturdays in the Eastern Oregon Soccer League in "small-sided games" against teams from Baker City, Milton-Freewater, Enterprise, Pendleton and Boardman. Cost is \$20 for U6, and \$60 for the other age groups. For more information or to register, visit [www.grvfc.com](http://www.grvfc.com).

### Registration for Pee Wee Soccer open

La Grande Parks and Recreation is putting on a Pee Wee Soccer League this spring for those interested in introducing their kids to soccer.

The six-week league runs from April 20 through May 25, with all games and practices held on Saturdays at Benton Park.

The league is for youth ages 3-5 and not in kindergarten. Early registration runs through March 25 and is \$25. Regular registration, which is \$30, ends April 1.

A coaches meeting will take place at 6 p.m. April 10 at 2402 Cedar St, and a mandatory "Meet My Coach and Team Day" will be at 10 a.m. April 13 at Benton Park.

Visit [www.lagrandeparks.org](http://www.lagrandeparks.org) to register or to volunteer to coach.

### Weather leads to Tuesday cancellations

The Wallowa Valley baseball team's season-opening doubleheader at Weston-McEwen Tuesday was canceled. No makeup date has yet been announced.

The Eagles are set to face La Pine and St. Mary's in Bend Tuesday.

The Wallowa Valley softball team's season-opener at Weston-McEwen Tuesday was also canceled. No makeup date has yet been announced.

The Cubs travel to Heppner/Ione for a doubleheader Friday.

Finally the Pendleton Invite, which both the La Grande Tigers boys and girls golf teams were set to compete in Tuesday, was canceled, according to girls Head Coach Cally Goss. Goss also said the Lewiston Tournament next Monday, which La Grande was to play in, has also been canceled.

The LHS boys are back on the course March 22 at The Dalles. The girls are now slated to be off until April 1 at the Wildhorse Invite, though Goss said they could add a tournament before then.

# OOL's best live in Wallowa Co.

## ■ Sabrina Albee tapped as Old Oregon League girls basketball player of the year

By Ronald Bond  
The Observer

A season that saw the Joseph Eagles girls basketball team spend most of the season ranked second in the OSAA rankings may not have ended as well as the team hoped after a sixth-place finish at state.

But the Eagles scored plenty of individual hardware.

Joseph landed a total of five players on the Old Oregon League all-league award list and three on the first team, with sophomore guard Sabrina Albee leading the way as OOL player of the year.

"On top of being able to score like she does, she gets basketball," Joseph Head Coach Lance Homan said of Albee. "She gets how it's played. She anticipates well. She is a basketball player you love to have. It doesn't matter the situation, her mind it is in it. She knows what needs to be done at any given time."

Albee was joined on the first team by junior Madelyn Nelson and senior

Emma Hite. Senior Haley Miller secured a spot on the second team, and junior Camille Crenshaw was named honorable mention.

The five nominations were fitting of a team that went undefeated in OOL regular-season play. The Eagles at one point were 23-2 before finishing 3-3 down the stretch. Those three setbacks, though, came to teams that placed first, second and fourth at state.

The Powder Valley Badgers, who also made a deep run at state and placed second, saw four players earn honors on the all-league squad. Megan Bingham led the way on the OOL first team, as the senior was one of the primary catalysts of both the Badgers' offense and defense.

Two Badgers — sophomore Belle Blair and senior Logan Nedrow — were selected to the second team, and junior Autumn Davis earned honorable mention.

Head Coach Allen Bingham also earned an

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## ■ Wallowa's Christopher Nobles, the 'first pick,' named top boys basketball player

By Ronald Bond  
The Observer

His team didn't reach the postseason, but Christopher Nobles stood out as a dominant force in the eyes of the Old Oregon League coaches, so much so that the senior for the Wallowa Cougars boys basketball team was named the OOL player of the year.

"I put it this way: If you lined up everybody in the league and were going to play a pick-up game, who would be your first pick? It would be Christopher," Wallowa Head Coach David Howe said.

"In my opinion he should have gotten it the last three years. He's been runner-up the last two years, and he finally got it this year."

Nobles was the most consistent player in an up and down season for Wallowa, which went 7-15 overall and was 4-8 in the OOL. And while the Cougars missed out on the district playoffs, half of their league wins came against teams that finished in the top four in the league — Joseph and Elgin.

They were also the only 1A school in the state to stay within 10 points of eventual 1A champion Nixyaawii in a 48-38 home loss in late January.

Nobles was an integral piece who Howe said can shoot, rebound and play defense, and he was the player Wallowa primarily ran its offense through.

"I believe it's just his work ethic, for one," Howe said of what sets Nobles apart. "Even now he's working and shooting in the morning. He's trying to get a scholarship, and has a couple of schools looking at him."

The Joseph Eagles, who finished second in the OOL-North and reached the state playoffs, landed two players on the OOL first team, and had a third recognized. Both sophomore Mason Ferré and senior Tyler Homan were first team honorees for Joseph, which finished with a record of 18-10. A second sophomore, Chase Murray, was tapped honorable mention.

The Powder Valley

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