

Tigers, Badgers, Huskies win

Observer staff

Parker Robinson passed for 194 yards and four touchdowns — all in the first half — and the La Grande Tigers scored on their first seven possessions en route to a 48-14 road win over The Dalles Riverhawks Friday.

“Our offensive line has been working really hard,” LHS head coach Rich McIlmoil said. “Against Pendleton we saw that we had some glaring issues that we needed to fix, we came out and tightened up a few things. Our offensive line came out ready to play football.”

Nathan Reed added his second straight 100-yard game, rolling up 104 yards on just eight carries. Robinson, meanwhile found four different receivers — Blaine Shaw, Casey Cornford, Dawson Gaertner and Justin Jenner — for the four touchdown passes that helped boost La Grande to a 48-0 halftime lead.

A 7-yard run by Reed and Gaertner’s 11-yard reception gave the Tigers a 14-0 lead in the first, then La Grande rattled of 34 points in the second quarter — on scoring catches by Shaw (51 yards), Jenner (10) and Cornford (30), and on a 3-yard run by Justin Frederick and a 35-yard scamper by Brody MacMillan. The last four of the touchdowns came in a span of 5:37 to blow the game open.

The Tigers finished with 374 yards — exactly double the 187 gained by The Dalles, which was also plagued by five turnovers. Three of those were interceptions, each of which was grabbed by Jenner.

La Grande (2-0 overall) hosts Ontario Friday to begin Greater Oregon League action.

BADGERS SLIP BY COUGARS

Reece Dixon threw three touchdown passes and ran for a fourth score, and the Powder Valley Badgers won an important early Special District 3-East contest at home over the Wallowa Cougars Friday, 38-26.

“Wallowa is ranked No. 7 in the coaches poll. The guys are playing really hard. They’re pretty excited,” Powder Valley head coach Josh Cobb said.

The game of runs saw the Badgers put together the most significant run in the second half, with three straight touchdowns — two on passes by Dixon — to turn a 20-14 halftime deficit into a 38-20 lead in the fourth quarter.

The Badgers had scored the first two touchdowns of the game, but Wallowa responded with 20 straight points to take the six-point margin into the locker room.

Dixon passed for 105 yards and threw two of his three touchdowns to Dominick Grende. As a team, the Badgers rushed for 239 yards.

In a losing effort for Wallowa, Lute Ramsden passed for 247 yards and three touchdowns. Tristin Bales had 144 yards receiving, 83 rushing and three touchdowns.



Ellen Morris Bishop/EO Media Group
Roper Bingham catches a touchdown pass during Powder Valley’s win over Wallowa Friday night.

Complete individual stats for the Badgers were not available.

Powder Valley (2-0 overall, 1-0 SD3-E) visits Pine Eagle Friday, while Wallowa (0-2, 0-1) hosts Elgin Friday.

ELGIN DOMINATES AT HOME

The Elgin Huskies were nothing short of dominant on both sides of the ball as they rolled to an 87-0 home win over the Cove Leopards Friday night in a 1A Special District 3-East matchup.

Elgin totaled 584 yards — 427 of which came on the ground. Andres Schmittle was the Huskies leading rusher with 173 yards on six carries and three touchdowns. Tristan Simpson added three touchdowns and was 6-for-7 passing for 156 yards. Two of those scores went to Jordon Palmer, who had 73 yards receiving. Gage McKay chipped in with nine carries for 123 yards rushing and two scores and Wyatt Hallgarth had 99 total yards and three touchdowns — two rushing and one receiving.

Cove was limited to 53 yards of offense, 56 of which came through the air.

Elgin (2-0 overall, 1-0 SD3-E) travels to Wallowa Friday, while Cove (0-1, 0-1) hosts Adrian/Jordan Valley.

The Enterprise Outlaws dropped to 0-2 on the season with a 46-8 loss to Oakley, Idaho, in a game played in Cambridge, Idaho.

Stats were not available.

The Outlaws return home for what will be their home finale Friday when they host Imbler.

Badgers host VB Classic

Observer staff

Powder Valley, Joseph, Imbler and Wallowa all took part in the East-West Volleyball Classic, with the Badgers going undefeated in six best-of-three matches, and only dropping one set.

“It was a great event,” Powder Valley head coach Marji Lind said of the inaugural event, which brought in 13 other teams from across the state. “What an awesome time to host all of these schools and their fans in our new school.”

On Friday, the Badgers swept Grant Union (25-19, 25-17), 1A perennial power Country Christian (25-14, 25-21) and Perrydale (25-22, 25-22). They followed on Saturday by defeating Heppner (25-12, 25-14), getting past Damascus Christian in three sets (23-25, 25-8, 15-19) and sweeping Pilot Rock (25-10, 25-9). Individual stats were not available for the Badgers.

The Wallowa Cougars went 3-3 on the weekend. Friday, Wallowa defeated Pilot Rock (25-11, 25-19) and Grant Union (25-22, 25-15), but lost a close match to Crosshill Christian (25-23, 25-20). On Saturday, the Cougars saw an early lead slip away in a loss to Perrydale (25-23, 25-22), eked out a three-set win against Crane (28-26, 20-25, 15-11) and fell in three to Heppner (25-14, 23-25, 15-12).

“The teams that were at the tournament are very good teams with high rankings that I am sure will be contenders at state,” Wallowa head coach Janea Hulse said. “I felt like we played well against these teams.”

Stats were not available.

The Joseph Eagles went 2-3, losing on Friday to County Christian (25-12, 25-22) and to Crosshill Christian (18-25, 25-17, 15-12) before beating Adrian (25-23, 24-26, 15-10). On Saturday, the Eagles lost to Jordan Valley (22-25, 25-22, 16-14) and defeated Heppner (22-25, 25-21, 15-12). Results from Joseph’s scheduled match against Grant Union were not available.

For the tournament, Sabrina Albee led the Eagles with 32 kills, seven aces and five blocks. Camille Crenshaw tallied 10 kills and four aces, and Molly Curry had five kills and three blocks.

Imbler dropped its six matches. On Friday, the Panthers played close with, but fell to, Heppner (25-22, 18-25, 15-4), Crane (25-17, 25-17), Crosshill Christian (25-18, 25-20) and Country Christian (25-18, 25-19). Imbler finished play Saturday, falling to Damascus Christian (25-18, 25-19) and to Grant Union (25-21, 25-15).



Ronald Bond/The Observer
Powder Valley’s Keanna Bingham sets the ball during Saturday’s Classic.



Ronald Bond/The Observer
Joseph’s Sabrina Albee attempts a kill Saturday at North Powder.

Aspen Smith and Erin Coston led the Panthers’ attack with 17 and 16 kills, respectively. Allison Stirewalt served up eight aces, Anika McDonald added seven aces and 11 digs, and Coston had 10 digs. Rylee Deal had 49 assists.

Joseph (5-7 overall) hosts Wallowa (7-5) on Tuesday, while Powder Valley (15-1) hosts Imbler (5-10) on Thursday. Both are Old Oregon League contests.

SCAMPER

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time for the Huskies.

On the girls side, Tingelstad’s performance — the senior finished the race in 21:40 — proved key in helping Wallowa Valley fend off Union/Cove. The Outlaws finished with 72 points, while the Bobcats had 77 and third-place Baker scored 86.

Though she led throughout the race, Tingelstad — like the Outlaw boys — gained some breathing room on the trail.

“That’s my strength, and I love it in those hills,” she said, adding her mindset attacking the hills is “this might hurt, but (I) just gotta make it hurt less than the other girls, and just push through.”

She finished six seconds ahead of runner-up Sydney Keller of Baker, and 10 seconds in front of Union/Cove’s Jaimee Baxter, who took third.

“I was right on Ellyse’s heels going up the hill, feeling pretty good. Coming back I fell asleep a little bit,” Baxter said.

Tingelstad said Baxter, a senior for the Bobcats, challenges her to perform well.

“Both races (this season) Jaimee has been right on my shoulder, and in our district she’s a very competitive rival. On the course she just pushes me and it’s really awesome.”

Teammate Kyla Hook followed in ninth with a time of 22:51. Lucrezia Curcio (24:42, 26th place), Mary Catherine Matthews (24:52, 29th) and Sydney Rouse (25:08, 35th) rounded out the Outlaws’ top five.

For Baxter, the reality of it



Ronald Bond/The Observer
Wallowa Valley’s Ellyse Tingelstad, left, won the Catherine Creek Scamper, while Union/Cove’s Jaimee Baxter, right, was third.

being her final time running the Scamper set in following the conclusion.

“This is definitely my favorite race. I love this race,” she said, briefly fighting back tears. “Union and Cove cross country is a family. Our coaches don’t just coach us during season. They’re definitely some examples in my life.”

Baxter was the lone Bobcat in the top 10, but three additional runners were in the top 30. Audrey Wells placed 17th for Union/Cove in 24:03, followed by Kaitlin Martens (24:32, 23rd) and Danielle O’Reilly (24:56, 30th). Audrey Hill, at 25:14, came in 37th.

Jacki Martini was seventh — and the lone La Grande Tiger in the top 20 — as La Grande placed sixth with 130 points. Corbyn Sexton placed 21st in 24:24. Also in the top 50 for La Grande were Gladys Alf Rippee (25:10, 36th) and Delia Gulzow (26:14, 50th).

Elgin put two runners in the top 25, as Jocelyn Palmer came in 18th in 24:07, and Anika Jacobson was 22nd in 24:26.

Wallowa Valley, Union/Cove and La Grande all run at the Bob Firman Invitational Friday in Eagle, Idaho, while Elgin heads to the Footrace at Valhalla Friday in Umatilla.

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