

PREP CROSS COUNTRY

Outlaw boys take fourth at Bob Firman Invite

■ La Grande girls take 18th, boys 21st

Observer staff

Henry Coughlan took fifth out of 291 runners to help the Wallowa Valley boys take fourth in the Division II race at the Bob Firman Invitational Saturday in Eagle, Idaho.

Coughlan, one of three Outlaws in the top 30, finished in a time of 16:16.60, with teammate Zac Knapp in 14th in 16:43.30 and Bayden Menton in 26th in 17:09.50.

The Outlaws scored 178 points in the race. Sugar-Salem, Idaho, was first with 94 points in the Firman's small school race.

John Matthews (18:18.40) and Brenden Moore (18:18.80) were 75th and 77th.

La Grande scored 633 points to take 21st, and had two runners in the top 100. Cristian Mendoza led the Tigers in 22nd with a time of 17:05.70, and Braxton Bisenius finished in between Matthews and Moore, taking 76th in 18:18.60.

On the girls side, La Grande placed 18th with a team score of 480.

Jacki Martini led the Tigers by finishing 38th in the race of nearly 250 competitors with a time of 21:06.60. Teammate Corban Sexton was the other La Grande runner in the top 100, finishing 90th in 22:49.10.

Wallowa Valley, which didn't post a team score, also had two runners in the top 100. Ellyse Tingelstad finished 21st overall in 20:25.30, and Mary Catherine Matthews as 77th in 22:22.70.

The Outlaws return to the course Thursday at the Helix Stubblebuster, while La Grande runs at the Baker Invitational Friday.

BOBCATS PLACE FOURTH, SEVENTH INTHE DALLES

The Union/Cove Bobcats put three boys runners in the top 25 on the way to a fourth-place finish at the

Bridgette Nelson Memorial Invitational Saturday in The Dalles.

Freshman Travis Fox came in 14th in a time of 17:42.32 to lead Union/Cove, which had 110 points in a race that featured some 5A and 6A schools. Heppner, in fact, was the only other small school at the meet.

Andrew Lackey (18:04.06) and Israel O'Reilly (18:09.15) finished in 19th and 21st, respectively. Carter Blackburn (19:21.70) followed in 41st, and Monte Kirby (19:30.80) was 44th.

The Union/Cove girls, led by an 11th-place finish from Jaimee Baxter, took seventh with 145 points.

Baxter completed the race in 21:26.31. Three other Union/Cove runners were in the top 35, with Audrey Wells (22:52.94) taking 28th and Ashlee Burtch (23:27.76) and Kaitlin Martens (23:30.67) finishing 33rd and 34th, respectively.

Danielle O'Reilly (24:26.07) was 45th to round out the Bobcats' top five.

Central Catholic (15 points) and Summit (18) were the winners on the boys and girls sides, respectively.

The Bobcats return to action Friday at the Baker Invite.

TWO HUSKIES PLACE IN TOP FIVE IN UMATILLA

The Elgin Huskies had just two runners in the girls varsity race, but both placed in the top five to pace the Huskies' effort at the Footrace to Valhalla Friday in Umatilla.

Anika Jacobson led Elgin by taking fourth in 22:21.8, and on her heels in fifth was teammate Jocelyn Palmer, who finished in 22:32.4.

The EHS boys had four runners compete: Kaden McClure took 22nd (19:30.3), Kevin Hendrickson was 29th (19:47.7), Chris Myers was 34th (20:13.8) and Dalton Campo came in 43rd (21:42.5).

Elgin is back in action Friday at the Baker Invitational.

GOL

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Garlitz dribbled in and scored from about 10 yards out.

What followed was a run of missed opportunities with shots that either missed just wide or were stopped by Baker goalkeeper Shayna Ruby, who had 10 first-half saves and 17 total to keep the Bulldogs in the match.

"Shayna is an amazing goalie," Baker head coach Kristen Rushton said. "She has a brilliant ability to read the ball and to know where her goal is behind her, which is very uncommon in high school play."

Several saves were made on point-blank shots, including a run-in by Garlitz where the two met at the ball almost simultaneously and Ruby made the stop.

"She did really well, and some of them were really good saves, right in the corner," La Grande's Katie Perry said of Ruby. "She did a good job."

Perry's goal from 11 yards out in the 35th minute gave the Tigers some breathing room, and the Tigers netted three goals in a 12-minute timespan in the second half to turn the game into a rout as Lindsay Adkins, Rosie Aguilera and Starra Ullman each scored.

"I feel like whenever we score our first goal we

start playing a little bit better, we start playing a little bit more confidently. It still took us a long time to score after that," Perry said. "Once we got into the second half we got it going, especially the first part of the second half."

The Tigers' defense turned in a third straight shutout and fourth on the season — all coming at home. La Grande allowed just two shots on goal, and Alexyss Chamberlain and Brenna Strand recorded a save in each half — Strand's coming on a leaping stop on a Baker free kick.

The scoreboard may have shown a one-sided game, but Rushton was pleased with the effort of her team Saturday.

"The La Grande team is a great team. They have great control, they are really aggressive and they play soccer well," she said. "It was a great game today. It was very respectable. Even though the score was 5-0, the goals they made were beautiful goals, but I feel like we held them really well."

Brown even commended Baker's effort on defense.

"They played well defensively, very similar to Umatilla," he said of the Bulldogs. "(Rushton) had them well organized."

La Grande (4-1 overall, 1-0 GOL) travels to Pendleton today.

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TIEBREAKER GAME. CIRCLE WINNER AND FILL IN FINAL SCORE
16. MINNESOTA AT CHICAGO (TIEBREAKER)

HERE'S HOW:

Watch for the Football Contest page every Monday in the La Grande Observer.

A different numbered football game will appear in each of the sponsor boxes. Enter the advertiser name and game winner on the corresponding numbered line on the official entry form below, plus be sure to pick the remaining games already listed on the entry form plus the tiebreaker game. Pick the winner and the final score. In the case of an unbreakable tie the winnings will be split equally.

Entries must be postmarked by midnight this Thursday or dropped off at The La Grande Observer by 4 p.m. this Friday. Late entries will be considered invalid.

Mail entries to: Football Contest, La Grande Observer, 1406 Fifth Street, La Grande OR 97850 or drop off at our office at the same address.

Limit 1 entry per person. Maximum of 2 entries per household per week. The contest is open to everyone in Union and Wallowa counties. No photocopies accepted. Employees of The Observer and their immediate families not eligible. Winners will be announced in Wednesday's ad each week. Decisions of the judges are final.

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