



Presley Justice, left, had five aces, while Felicity Houston had three in La Grande's sweep of Ontario Tuesday.



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Panthers win key OOL battle in five



Ellen Morris Bishop/EO Media Group

Imbler's Rylee Deal had 26 assists and 13 digs as the Panthers rallied to get past Wallowa in five sets.

Aces up for La Grande

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

The La Grande Tigers didn't put up the type of attack numbers they are accustomed to on Tuesday night — largely due to the service ace being one of their biggest weapons.

Presley Justice had 14 kills and five of La Grande's 18 aces as the Tigers quickly swept Ontario in a Greater Oregon League home contest, 25-13, 25-13, 25-13 — a match that took just 55 minutes to complete.

"We served phenomenally tonight, so we didn't have a ton of chances to get the offense going, (but) when we had an opportunity to do that I thought we executed the offense really well," head coach Melinda Becker-Bisenius said.

Jacie Howton served up four aces, Jaiden Hafer and Felicity Houston each had three, and Renna Martinez added two. La Grande had several lengthy service runs — both Hafer and Houston had strings of three straight aces during the second set, and Justice had four of her aces during a 12-0 run in the final set that broke it wide open. She also had a kill to start the run and a kill from the back row to end it to put La Grande up 22-9 in the third.

"We worked together a lot

better than we have in the last few home games, and we had a lot more energy," Justice said. "We were very supportive of each other."

La Grande never trailed in the opening set and led by as many as 13 points when Jayce Seavert put down one of her seven kills for a 21-8 lead.

Ontario hung around during the second set, leading at one point 5-2 and still holding a 10-9 lead late.

But La Grande's serving prowess and a big second set from Justice turned the tables. Hafer's three straight aces briefly gave the Tigers a 6-5 lead. Ontario took the lead back, but Justice had four kills and Houston her three aces during a 10-1 run that turned Ontario's lead into a 19-11 margin for La Grande. Howton finished the set with two aces of her own.

"We always work on serving, so we're accustomed to serving over the net and serving good, and we have good chemistry, so that keeps the momentum going," Hafer said.

Ontario led much of the third until Howton's fourth ace — just before the set-breaking run — gave La Grande the lead for good at 10-9.

When Ontario did return a serve, La Grande was consistently able to quash any



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Jaiden Hafer had three of La Grande's 18 aces in the Tigers' win over Ontario Tuesday.

lengthy rallies with a kill, and often with a well-placed hit as opposed to a power attack.

"There are always open spots on the court. We try to hit those to mix up our shots so we're not as easy to read," Justice said.

The Tigers did what they were supposed to against a team that, on paper, they should have dominated. Becker-Bisenius said she was pleased with the effort.

"We executed the game plan. We talked about working on some things so we can focus on them this weekend at the North Marion Tourna-

ment," she said.

Hafer said the key in staying focused was to not overlook Ontario.

"We take it point by point and play how we normally play," she said.

Howton, in addition to her four aces, added 17 assists. Kenzie Williams had 13 assists and eight digs, and Houston had a team-best 11 digs.

Corrine Maag had three kills and four aces for Ontario.

La Grande (16-1 overall, 3-0 GOL) head to the North Marion Classic in Aurora Saturday.

SCOREBOARD

LOCAL SCHEDULE

Thursday

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Griswold at Elgin, 5 p.m.
Union at Pilot Rock, 6:30 p.m.
Cove at Nixyaawii, 6:30 p.m.
Pine Eagle at Joseph, 5 p.m.

PREP CROSS COUNTRY

Wallowa Valley at Crosby Invitational, TBD, Ontario
Friday
COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL
Warner Pacific at Eastern Oregon, 7 p.m.

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Echo at South Wasco County, 5:30 p.m.
Pine Eagle at Cove, 6 p.m.
Powder Valley at Crane,

4 p.m.

Enterprise at Weston-McEwen, 5 p.m.

Joseph at Elgin, 4 p.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER

Carroll (Montana) at Eastern Oregon, 6:30 p.m.
Friday
WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER
Carroll (Montana) at Eastern Oregon, 4 p.m.

PREP FOOTBALL

La Grande at Baker, 7 p.m.
Wallowa at Union, 7 p.m.
Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii at Imbler, 2 p.m.
Adrian/Jordan Valley at Elgin, 7 p.m.
Pine Eagle at Cove, 7 p.m.
Powder Valley at Crane, 1:30 p.m.

— Subject to change

FOOTBALL

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
New England	4	0	01.000	122	27	
Buffalo	3	1	0 .750	76	63	
N.Y. Jets	0	3	0 .000	33	70	
Miami	0	4	0 .000	26	163	

South						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	

Houston	2	2	0 .500	78	78
Indianapolis	2	2	0 .500	94	102
Jacksonville	2	2	0 .500	84	84
Tennessee	2	2	0 .500	91	62

North						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Cleveland	2	2	0 .500	89	91	
Baltimore	2	2	0 .500	135	100	
Pittsburgh	1	3	0 .250	76	88	
Cincinnati	0	4	0 .000	57	110	

West						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Kansas City	4	0	01.000	135	94	

Oakland	2	2	0 .500	79	102
L.A. Chargers	2	2	0 .500	90	74
Denver	0	4	0 .000	70	93

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Dallas	3	1	0 .750	107	56	
Philadelphia	2	2	0 .500	110	105	
N.Y. Giants	2	2	0 .500	87	97	
Washington	0	4	0 .000	66	118	

South						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
New Orleans	3	1	0 .750	84	92	
Tampa Bay	2	2	0 .500	123	117	
Carolina	2	2	0 .500	95	80	
Atlanta	1	3	0 .250	70	99	

North						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Green Bay	3	1	0 .750	85	69	
Chicago	3	1	0 .750	66	45	
Detroit	2	1	1 .625	97	95	
Minnesota	2	2	0 .500	84	63	

West						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
San Francisco	3	0	01.000	96	54	
Seattle	3	1	0 .750	103	89	
L.A. Rams	3	1	0 .750	117	104	
Arizona	0	3	1 .125	74	115	

All Times PDT
Monday's Game
Pittsburgh 27, Cincinnati 3
Thursday's Game
L.A. Rams at Seattle, 5:20 p.m.

BASEBALL

MLB Playoffs

All Times PDT
Wild Card
Tuesday, Oct. 1: Washington 4, Milwaukee 3

Wednesday, Oct. 2: Tampa Bay (Morton 16-6) at Oakland (Manaea 4-0), 5:09 p.m. (ESPN)

DIVISION SERIES (Best-of-5)

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Houston vs. Oakland-Tampa Bay winner
Friday, Oct. 4: Oakland-Tampa Bay winner at Houston, 11:05 a.m. (FS1)
Saturday, Oct. 5: Oakland-Tampa Bay winner at Houston, 6:07 p.m. (FS1)
Monday, Oct. 7: Houston at Oakland-Tampa Bay winner (MLB)
x-Tuesday, Oct. 8: Houston at

Oakland-Tampa Bay winner (FS1)
x-Thursday, Oct. 10: Oakland-Tampa Bay winner at Houston (FS1)

N.Y. Yankees vs. Minnesota
Friday, Oct. 4: Minnesota at N.Y. Yankees, 5:07 p.m. (MLB)
Saturday, Oct. 5: Minnesota at N.Y. Yankees, 2:07 p.m. (FS1)
Monday, Oct. 7: N.Y. Yankees at Minnesota (FS1 or MLB)
x-Tuesday, Oct. 8: N.Y. Yankees at Minnesota (FS1)
x-Thursday, Oct. 10: Minnesota at N.Y. Yankees (FS1)

NATIONAL LEAGUE

L.A. Dodgers vs. Washington
Thursday, Oct. 3: Washington at L.A. Dodgers, 5:37 p.m. (TBS)
Friday, Oct. 4: Washington at L.A. Dodgers, 6:37 p.m. (TBS)
Sunday, Oct. 6: L.A. Dodgers at Washington (TBS)
x-Monday, Oct. 7: L.A. Dodgers at Washington (TBS)
x-Wednesday, Oct. 9: Washington at L.A. Dodgers (TBS)
Atlanta vs. St. Louis
Thursday, Oct. 3: St. Louis at Atlanta, 2:02 p.m. (TBS)
Friday, Oct. 4: St. Louis at Atlanta, 1:37 p.m. (TBS)
Sunday, Oct. 6: Atlanta at St. Louis (TBS)
x-Monday, Oct. 7: Atlanta at St. Louis (TBS)
x-Wednesday, Oct. 9: St. Louis at Atlanta (TBS)

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

EASTERN CONFERENCE						
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
x-New York City FC	17	6	10	61	41	
x-Atlanta	17	12	4	55	52	
x-Philadelphia	16	10	7	55	57	
x-D.C. United	13	10	10	49	42	
x-New York	14	13	6	48	53	
x-Toronto FC	12	10	11	47	56	
x-New England	11	10	12	45	49	
Chicago	9	12	12	39	50	
Montreal	11	17	5	38	44	
Columbus	10	15	8	38	39	
Orlando City	9	14	10	37	42	
Cincinnati	6	22	5	23	31	

WESTERN CONFERENCE						
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	

y-Los Angeles FC	20	4	9	69	82	36
x-Minnesota Uni.	15	10	8	53	52	42
x-Seattle	15	10	8	53	51	49
x-LA Galaxy	16	14	3	51	56	55
x-Real Salt Lake	15	13	5	50	45	41
Portland	13	13	7	46	49	48
FC Dallas	12	12	9	45	48	46
San Jose	13	15	5	44	51	52
Colorado	12	15	6	42	57	60
Sporting KC	10	15	8	38	49	61
Houston	11	18	4	37	45	57
Vancouver	8	15	10	34	37	58

All Times PDT
Sunday, October 6
New England at Atlanta, 1 p.m.

Cincinnati at D.C. United, 1 p.m.
Sporting Kansas City at FC Dallas, 1 p.m.
LA Galaxy at Houston, 1 p.m.
Colorado at Los Angeles FC, 1 p.m.
New York at Montreal, 1 p.m.
Chicago at Orlando City, 1 p.m.
New York City FC at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
San Jose at Portland, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Seattle, 1 p.m.
Columbus at Toronto FC, 1 p.m.
Real Salt Lake at Vancouver, 1 p.m.
End of Regular Season

FOOTBALL CONTEST WINNERS! Week 4

1ST - JERRY ANDERSON, LA GRANDE (5 misses, closest tie-breaker)

2ND - BRIAN CANTWELL, LA GRANDE (5 misses, 2nd closest)

3RD - ROXANNE STEPHENS, LA GRANDE (5 misses, 3rd closest)

Congratulations! From The Observer.