

PREP FOOTBALL ROUNDUP

Bobcats stage furious rally

Observer staff

The Union Bobcats rallied twice from a 28-point deficit and scored the final 30 points of the game to stun the Wallowa Cougars, 42-40, Friday in Union.

Wallowa dominated the first half, leading 28-0, and was still up 40-12 late in the third.

But Union got within 20 after three quarters, scored twice in the fourth to get within a touchdown, then took the lead on a 40-yard interception return by Gannon Carreiro and the ensuing 2-point conversion with about three minutes to play.

Cameron Dillman had 167 yards rushing and three touchdowns for Union, and added a 90-yard kickoff return for a score. Jace Phillips added 105 yards rushing and a touchdown. Wallowa fell short despite amassing 403 yards rushing, and 551 yards total. Tristin Bales (193 yards rushing) and Zeb Ramsden (183) led the Cougars' rushing attack, while Lute Ramsden added 148 yards passing.

Union (2-2 overall) visits Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii Friday, while Wallowa (0-5) visits Pine Eagle Friday.

Also Friday IMBLER FALLS TO ROCKETS

The Imbler Panthers hung close to Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii in the first half before the Rockets pulled away for a 74-26 win Friday in Special District 3-West play in Imbler.

Isaac Herron had 131 yards rushing and two first-quarter touchdowns for the Panthers. Jayce Burnette

added 73 yards rushing and a touchdown and threw a 15-yard TD pass to Chance Goodman.

Pilot Rock used a pair of first-half kickoff return touchdowns to help build an 38-26 halftime lead, then scored 36 straight points in the second half to pull away. The Rockets finished with 398 yards rushing, and 438 total yards.

Imbler had 267 yards, 223 of which came on the ground.

The Panthers (1-4 overall, 0-3 SD3-W) host Dufur Friday.

LEOPARDS START STRONG BEFORE SPARTANS WIN

The Cove Leopards turned in their best half of football this season, and trailed just 8-6 at halftime before the Pine Eagle Spartans pulled away for a 46-6 win Friday in Special District 3-East action.

"We came prepared for a battle and played strong (in the) first half, ending it with a score," head coach Levi Wiseman said.

Chase Tennis caught a pass from Bo Ledbetter for a touchdown to make it a two-point game at the half before Pine Eagle asserted itself.

"Our team is improving each week," Wiseman said.

Cove (0-4 overall, 0-3 SD3-E) travels to Crane Friday.

MUSTANGS STOP BADGERS

The Powder Valley Badgers fell short in a Special District 3-East matchup on the road against the Crane Mustangs Friday, 60-36.

Powder Valley (3-2 overall, 2-2 SD3-E) hosts Adrian/Jordan Valley Friday.

Saturday

EAGLES ROLL AGAIN

The Joseph Eagles moved to 3-0 on the season with yet another blowout victory, 61-6, over Sherman/Condon at home Saturday.

Carson Littlepage led the Eagles' offense with 216 rushing yards and four touchdowns, and also caught a touchdown pass. Trace Collier threw 143 yards and three scores. Justin Rodgers had 11 tackles and Littlepage added nine to lead the defense for the Eagles.

The Eagles (3-0 overall) visit undefeated South Wasco County Friday. It's a rematch of Joseph's closest game since starting 6-man football, a 27-16 home win when the teams met a year ago.

Prep Cross Country

The Union/Cove Bobcats had a trio of top 10 runners at the Pasco Bulldog Invite Saturday in Pasco, Washington.

Taylor Fox led the Bobcat boys taking seven, with teammate Andrew Lackey following in eighth, and Israel O'Reilly in 13th.

For the Union/Cove girls, Jaimee Baxter placed eighth and Audrey Wells was 17th.

Times were not available, and results for La Grande were not available.

Prep Girls Soccer

The La Grande Tigers saw their six-game winning streak come to an end with a 4-0 loss on the road at Corvallis.

Both Starra Ullman and Audrey Garlitz had three shots on goal for the Tigers.

La Grande (7-2 overall) returns to Greater Oregon League action Saturday when it travels to Baker.

PREP VOLLEYBALL ROUNDUP

Tigers win pool, but drop bracket play matches

Observer staff

The La Grande Tigers won their pool at the North Marion Tournament, defeating two teams and splitting with a third, then dropped both bracket play matches.

The Tigers swept Gladstone (25-14, 25-12) and Molalla (25-18, 25-16), and split with Vernonia (25-22, 26-27). In bracket play, La Grande fell to Tillamook (25-15, 25-19) and North Marion (26-24, 25-21) to go two-and-out.

"I felt like in the morning we played our game and did what we could. In bracket play, against Tillamook especially, we didn't play our game," head coach Melinda Becker-Bisenius said. "On a different day, we beat those teams."

On the day, Kenzie Williams had 43 assists, 26 digs, 12 kills and five aces. Jacie Howton led with 44 assists, and had 10 digs and five aces. Jayce Seavert led the offense with 37 kills, added 39 digs on defense and four aces. Presley Justice chipped in with 23 kills and 34 digs, Felicity Houston had 38 digs, and Jaiden Hafer had five aces.

La Grande (16-3 overall) visits Pendleton Tuesday.

Also

COUGARS SWEEP TWO ROAD MATCHES

The Wallowa Cougars picked up two wins on the road over the weekend, sweeping the Griswold Grizzlies, 25-11, 25-19, 25-6, and the Nixyaawii Golden Eagles, 25-17, 25-11, 25-11.

Against Griswold, Shanna Rae Tillery had eight kills, five aces and 32 digs. Ashlyn Young led with seven aces, and Libby Fisher added two blocks.

Against Nixyaawii, Jamie Johnston had nine kills, three blocks and 18 digs. Young added 17 digs.

"Communication is key for us," head coach Janea Hulse said. "We have been working tirelessly on improving that part of our game. These are a bunch of very talented girls that can do great things. As long as they keep that in mind and trust each other, they do great things."

Wallowa (16-6 overall, 7-2 Old Oregon League) visits Elgin Tuesday.

OUTLAWS SPLIT, GET FIRST BMC WIN

The Enterprise Outlaws split their three-way matches in John Day Saturday, falling

to Grant Union, 16-25, 25-13, 25-21, 25-21, but beating Pilot Rock, 25-28, 25-9, 25-16, to earn their first Blue Mountain Conference win of the season.

Ashlyn Gray had seven kills in the loss to the Prospectors and added four aces. Maci Marr had five kills, Claire Farwell had 24 digs and Carsyn Miller had nine assists.

"We played close with GU for most of the match, but found ourselves in trouble when we let them focus on offense," head coach Lisa Farwell said.

Against Pilot Rock, Miller had three aces, Zari Bathke had four kills and Rylin Kirkland had five assists.

"We played well against Pilot Rock and finally showed the confidence necessary to win three sets in a row," Farwell said.

Enterprise (8-10 overall, 1-5 BMC) faces Union and Heppner Saturday in Union.

Friday LEOPARDS ROLL

The Cove Leopards ran over the Pine Eagle Spartans in an Old Oregon League contest Friday, winning at home 25-7, 25-14, 25-14.

Elli Hines-Dunlap led Cove with nine kills, Kierra Moore added eight kills and Rachel Baird had four kills. Mykiah Overton added a 95% passing rate and Raegan Duby had a 93% passing rate.

Cove (12-5 overall, 5-3 OOL) is at Imbler Thursday.

EAGLES GET PAST HUSKIES

The Elgin Huskies fell short in a tight four-set match against the Joseph Eagles Friday, dropping the home Old Oregon League contest, 25-20, 27-29, 25-22, 25-21.

Tymra Anderson had a strong all-around game for Elgin with five kills, 16 digs, seven blocks and five aces. Shelby Sannar had 19 assists and five kills, Jayden Palmer had 10 kills and Maddison Harvey added seven.

Stats were not available for Joseph.

The Eagles (9-11 overall, 3-3 OOL) visit Imbler Tuesday, while Elgin (7-10, 3-5) hosts Wallowa.

BADGERS BURY CRANE

The Powder Valley Badgers picked up their 15th consecutive win Friday, sweeping the Crane Mustangs, 25-10, 25-16, 25-10. Stats were not available. The Badgers (21-1 overall) host both Adrian and Jordan Valley Friday.



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Elgin's Jordon Palmer, right, heads upfield after snagging one of his two interceptions during Friday's game against Adrian/Jordan Valley.

HUSKIES

Continued from Page 6A with 76 yards rushing and 53 yards passing in a little less than a quarter, went down on the next defensive series. After that, Elgin's offense struggled to find a rhythm for nearly a quarter, during which time the Antelopes went on a 42-0 run to pull ahead 48-14 on a 24-yard touchdown run by quarterback Conley Martin with 1:35 to play in the first half.

That's when Elgin showed its never-say-die mentality. McKay, who took over at quarterback, broke loose for a 26-yard touchdown run just before the half. The Huskies opened the third quarter with a 7-yard McKay touchdown on fourth and goal — one set up by a 62-yard run by the junior — to get within 48-28.

"They showed pretty good heart," McKay said of his team. "At first I knew I just had to get the team back up. It was fun after that. We couldn't really stop their offense, but our offense stayed right in there with theirs."

Martin found Wade Bond for a 22-yard touchdown for the Antelopes on their next

possession, but Elgin struck back through the air. McKay hooked up with Cody Harvey for a 45-yard completion, and the duo connected again two plays later for a 20-yard score to stay within 54-34. The touchdown put Elgin within a stop and a score of making the game interesting.

"We're used to just grinding out. We have that never quit, (never) give up attitude. That's how we were taught," Huskies' receiver Jordon Palmer said.

Adrian/Jordan Valley, though, pulled away as it scored the next 30 points. Martin scored from a yard out to start the run and push the margin to 28, and Bond returned a punt 82 yards for a score early in the fourth to make it 84-34.

Joe Lathrop added a late touchdown for Elgin for the final margin.

Martin finished with 239 yards passing, 139 rushing and 10 touchdowns — four passing and six rushing — for the Antelopes.

McKay, in what he said was his first action ever at quarterback, finished with 126 yards passing. He also rushed for 115 yards and

had 29 yards receiving, and he scored a touchdown passing, rushing and receiving.

Harvey had 127 yards receiving and also grabbed an interception on defense. Palmer added 23 yards receiving and also had an impact on defense, grabbing two second-quarter interceptions to keep Elgin around before it regained some rhythm on offense.

"I was just going out in coverage, seeing the ball and got it," he said of the picks. "I was hoping to kickstart the defense and offense for us."

Rysdam said he is hopeful Simpson will be back in time for the Huskies' regular season finale at Crane on Oct. 25.

"It's football. We gotta keep fighting. I told the guys, they're all from hardworking families, we got a lot of work to do now," he said.

The team did show, though, that it can play even without its headline-making quarterback.

"It's going to be a big loss if he can't come back, but we'll be just fine," McKay said.

The Huskies (4-1 overall, 3-1 Special District 3-East) are off until Oct. 18 when they host Pine Eagle.

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