

Bobcats lock up first league title since 2007

Observer staff

The Union Bobcats locked up the Blue Mountain Conference title Saturday and collected two wins in a three-way match, getting past Heppner in five sets, 23-25, 25-20, 25-13, 15-25, 15-11, and sweeping Enterprise, 25-20, 25-21, 25-10.

"It's a hard-working group of kids," head coach Karly Knapp said. "We haven't been at the top of the league for a while. Pretty cool and special for these kids. They have worked hard for it."

Union was last atop the league in 2007, when it shared the BMC title with Weston-McEwen. That Bobcats' team went on to place fourth at the state tournament.

Kylie Marriott powered the Bobcats in their win over Heppner, tallying 25 kills and adding 12 digs.

"Kylie was a huge contributor to that game," Knapp said. "It goes all the way around. All of our kids are really putting an effort into feeding the ball to whoever is having a good night. Kylie was there to stand her ground and put the ball away."

Autumn Daggett added 15 kills, 12 digs and five aces. Callie Glenn had 38 assists and 11 digs, Brianna Kohr had 29 digs and Ahnica Shoemaker had seven kills.

"These girls have grown a lot in confidence within themselves and each other," Knapp said. "They have proven that to themselves by winning league games. It's huge on their confidence."

Daggett and Marriott had 14 kills apiece in the Bobcats' win later Saturday over Enterprise. Glenn added 33 assists and 15 digs, and Shoemaker had six kills.



Ronald Bond/Observer file photo

Union's Kylie Marriott had 25 kills in the Bobcats' win over Heppner Saturday.

PREP VOLLEYBALL ROUNDUP

Stats weren't available for Enterprise, but head coach Lisa Farwell said the team "lost steam in the third."

"We played close with Union for two sets," she said. "We fought back and forth for the lead, but ended up just a few points short."

In between Union's matches, Enterprise took Heppner to five sets, but came up just short in an upset bid, 25-13, 17-25, 25-20, 17-25, 15-12.

"We played well for five sets, but just didn't come out on top," Farwell said. "There were several rallies that felt like they went on for a full minute or longer, and the stats show that. It's so frustrating to not come out with the win after playing so hard, but my team showed

a lot of heart and I am so proud of their effort."

Ashlyn Gray had 24 kills, and Farwell said she "could not be stopped." Claire Farwell and Zari Bathke each posted impressive numbers on the back line with 43 digs apiece, and Rylin Kirkland added 19 assists.

Union (17-2 overall, 9-0 BMC) travels to Grant Union Tuesday, while Enterprise (8-12, 1-7) is at Stanfield Thursday.

Also Saturday TIGERS FALL IN TOURNAY QUARTERFINALS

The La Grande Tigers won their pool at the Seaside Tournament Saturday, but then lost in the quarterfinals in bracket play to see their stay at Seaside end early.

Head coach Melinda Becker-Bisenius, though, felt the team played better than

at the North Marion Tournament a week earlier.

"I was much happier with our play," she said. "We did some good things and we executed some things we are really trying to work on."

The Tigers swept host Seaside, 25-19, 25-22, 25-19, and took two of three sets from Marist, 25-22, 19-25, 25-22, to win their three-team pool.

In bracket play, though, Corbett got the best of La Grande, 25-15, 21-25, 15-9.

Kenzie Williams turned in 30 assists, 35 digs and seven kills for La Grande. Jacie Howton had 29 assists, 21 digs and eight aces, Jayce Seavert had 23 kills and 37 digs, Presley Justice had 20 kills and 30 digs, and Felicity Houston had 68 digs.

La Grande (16-5 overall) hosts McLoughlin Tuesday.

JOSEPH SWEEPS TWO MATCHES

The Joseph Eagles picked up two road sweeps Saturday in Old Oregon League play, getting past Nixyaawii 25-15, 25-15, 25-13, and Griswold, 25-14, 25-14, 25-15.

Stats were not available. The Eagles (12-12 overall, 6-3 OOL) visit Wallowa Tuesday.

ELGIN INTHTREE

The Elgin Huskies earned a home sweep over Pilot Rock on Saturday, 25-20, 25-23, 25-19.

Maddison Harvey led Elgin's attack with nine kills. Jayden Palmer had a strong all-around match with 15 assists and 13 digs. Tymra Anderson added 10 digs and both Mariah Wilhelm and Gracie Evans had two aces.

Elgin (9-11 overall) travels to Imbler Tuesday.

BADGERS SWEEP SPARTANS

The Powder Valley Badgers ran over the Pine Eagle

Spartans at home Saturday, 25-15, 25-9, 25-17.

Stats were not available.

The Badgers (24-1 overall, 7-0 Old Oregon League) face both Imbler and Griswold Thursday in Imbler.

Friday LEOPARDS SWEEP

The Cove Leopards were swept on the road by the Crane Mustangs Friday, 25-22, 25-12, 25-17.

Kierra Moore led the offense with five kills. Austin Kendall added four kills and Raegan Duby had an 89% pass rating.

Cove (12-7 overall) hosts Powder Valley Friday.

COUGARS SWEEP PINE EAGLE

The Wallowa Cougars picked up a sweep on the road against Pine Eagle Friday.

Jamie Johnston posted a triple double with 46 digs, 10 kills and 10 blocks. Ashlyn Young had 20 assists and also collected 43 digs for the Cougars. Shanna Rae Tillery added 41 digs and 12 kills, and Ella Moeller had 32 digs and three aces.

"They made us work hard for every point that we got. Ashlyn was working all our hitters and the team worked well on defense," head coach Janea Hulse said.

The Cougars (18-6 overall, 9-2 OOL) host Joseph Tuesday.

EAGLES FALL IN FIVE

The Joseph Eagles dropped a five-set match on the road at South Wasco County Friday, 7-25, 25-16, 25-21, 16-25, 15-13.

Stats were not available.

BADGERS SWEEP TWO

Powder Valley picked up two nonleague home wins Friday, sweeping Adrian, 25-14, 25-19, 25-11, and Jordan Valley, 25-16, 25-15, 25-12.

Stats were not available.

PREP SOCCER ROUNDUP

LHS girls soccer wins, boys lose at Baker

Observer staff

The La Grande Tigers moved within one victory of at least a share of their ninth consecutive Greater Oregon League championship with a 5-0 road victory over the Baker Bulldogs on Saturday.

Audrey Garlitz registered a hat trick in the win, and both Starra Ullman and Rosie Aguilera added goals for the Tigers. Teammates Katie Perry, Cecelia Aguilera, Taryn Miller and Josie Bornstedt had an assist apiece, and Alexyss Chamberlain had six saves.

The Tigers (8-2 overall, 4-0 GOL) travel to Nyssa Tuesday.

BAKER BLANKS LHS BOYS

The La Grande Tigers were handed a second consecutive loss — one that put a major damper on their hopes for a Greater Oregon League title — falling to the Baker Bulldogs on the road Saturday, 1-0.

"We were ambitious to try new things, but it didn't go our way," head coach Sid Rangel said. "There's always room for improvement, and we just didn't finish."

La Grande (7-3 overall, 2-2 GOL) travels to McLoughlin Friday, needing a win and a loss by Ontario Saturday to keep a shot at the GOL title alive.

PREP FOOTBALL ROUNDUP

Eagles get by South Wasco County again in highly anticipated rematch

Observer staff

The Joseph Eagles survived a close match-up against the South Wasco County Redsides for the second year in a row, winning on the road Friday afternoon, 25-13.

Carson Littlepage powered the Eagles' offense to the tune of 194 yards rushing and three touchdowns and a 48-yard receiving touchdown. His scoring reception was the only score of the half as Joseph took a 6-0 lead into the break. He followed with three second-half rushing scores. Joseph built a lead of 19-0 late in the third quarter, and was in control in the fourth, leading as much as 25-7.

The Eagles (4-0 overall) host Mitchell/Spray/Wheeler Friday.

Also BOBCATS TRIPPED UP BY ROCKETS

The Union Bobcats hung with the undefeated Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii Friday, but fell short in the Special District 3-West battle, 36-32.

Cameron Dillman shouldered the load for the Bobcats, rushing for 255 yards on 22 carries and a touchdown. He also had a receiving touchdown. Anthony Goodwater added 92 yards rushing, and Jace Phillips passed for 92 yards and two scores, and also ran for two touchdowns.

The Bobcats (2-3 overall, 1-2 SD3-W) host Enterprise Thursday, with the winner taking third place in the district.

DUFURTOPS IMBLER

Cooper Bales rushed for 184 yards and four touchdowns to lead the Dufur Rangers to a 74-20 win over the Imbler Panthers Friday in Special District 3-West play.

Dufur scored the first 32 points, built a 50-12 lead by halftime and rushed for 496 yards in the win.

Isaac Herron led the Panthers with 134 yards rushing and had a 66-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter. Jayce Burnette added 80 yards rushing and two touchdowns — one a 71-yard score in the second quarter that got Imbler on the board. He also passed for 141 yards as Imbler totaled 370 yards.

The Panthers (1-5 overall, 0-4 SD3-W) fin-

ish their season Friday at Ione/Arlington.

COUGARS GET IN WIN COLUMN

Lute Ramsden threw for 196 yards and four touchdowns, Zeb Ramsden rushed for 137 yards and two scores, and the Wallowa Cougars picked up their first win of the season in dominant fashion, 72-6, over the Pine Eagle Spartans Friday in Special District 3-East play.

Tristin Bales accounted for four touchdowns, taking the opening kickoff 80 yards for a score, adding two touchdown receptions and taking an interception 99 yards for a score in the second half. The Cougars, who scored the final 66 points of the game, took a 30-6 lead at the half, then wore down the Spartans in the second half.

Wallowa (1-5 overall, 1-3 SD3-E) hosts Crane Friday.

TIGERS DRUB ONTARIO AGAIN

The La Grande Tigers clinched a state playoff berth with a second thumping of winless Ontario in Greater Oregon League play Friday, winning on the road, 52-10.

Stats were not available.

La Grande (6-0 overall, 3-0 GOL) plays its final regular season road game Friday when it travels to Cottage Grove.

OUTLAWS GET SECOND WIN

The Enterprise Outlaws kept their hopes for third place in Special District 3-West alive with their second win of the season, 36-28, over the Ione/Arlington Cardinals on the road Friday.

Stats were not available.

Enterprise (2-3 overall, 2-2 SD3-W) travel to Union Thursday for their regular season finale. The winner takes third in the district.

CRANE SHUTS OUT LEOPARDS

The Cove Leopards were blanked on the road against the Crane Mustangs Friday, 58-0.

The Leopards (0-5 overall, 0-4 Special District 3-East) host Powder Valley Friday.

ANTELOPES RUN PAST BADGERS

The Powder Valley Badgers fell at home against Special District 3-East champion Adrian/Jordan Valley Friday, 84-26.

The Badgers (3-3 overall, 2-3 SD3-E) travel to Cove Friday.



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