

HOOPS

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“As soon as the first one goes in, you get more confidence,” Glenn said. “You shoot more, (and) if it goes in all of a sudden your whole team is shooting well and it’s kind of just an energy creator.”

Union also wreaked havoc on defense, forcing 28 Cove turnovers — seven in each quarter — and collecting 21 steals. The Bobcats also crashed the boards, owning a 33-25 rebound advantage with more than half of those — 18 — coming on the offensive glass.

“We’re aggressive. We go hard at defense in practice,” Rickman-Johansen said. “That’s a true passion of mine. We drill it a lot, (and) we talk about what it means to be a great defense. Teams don’t like our defense, and I love it.”

Glenn attributed the energy to the team’s shot-making.

“Our shots going in created energy for us, and that just moved our momentum for everyone on point,” she said. “We were all going at it, and we were more fluid in the second half.”

Union missed its first nine shots, and Cove led much of the first half and went into the break up 15-14 when Moore scored on an inbounds pass with 42 seconds to play in the half.

Moore finished with nine points to lead Cove. Maggie Frisch added seven points and 10 rebounds for the Leopards, who fell for the first time this season.

Audrey Wells added 10 points for Union, and Kohr had seven assists.

The win was much less stressful for Union than Friday, when the Bobcats shook off another up-and-down shooting effort to come back in the fourth quarter and escape with a 41-39 win over Echo.

The Bobcats, who led by three points at the half, scored just four points in the third to fall behind 30-26 after three, then heated back up in the fourth quarter and took advantage of a free-throw parade. The Bobcats shot 15 free throws in the fourth, and though they



Top: Union’s Callie Glenn, left, drives to the basket Saturday past Cove’s Raegan Duby. Bottom: Cove’s Elli Hines-Dunlap, left, drives past Union’s Taylor Daggett.

made just six, it was enough to aid in the rally.

Both Glenn and Taylor Daggett had 10 points for Union, with Daggett netting seven in the first quarter. Kylie Marriott added eight points.

Cove reached the title game with a comfortable win Friday over Adrian, 45-22.

Frisch and Austin Kendall each scored 13 points as the Leopards quickly put Adrian away for their second win of the season. Cove raced out to a 15-2 first-quarter lead and dropped 19 more points in the second quarter for a commanding 34-12 lead at the half. Frisch had 10 points in the first half, and Kendall had nine.

Union (3-0 overall) faces Joseph Friday at the Badger Tournament in North Powder, while Cove (2-1) visits Wallowa Thursday.

Also ELGIN SWEEPS OPENING WEEKEND

The Elgin Huskies opened the season with a pair of wins at the Elgin Lions Tournament, including a tight 46-44 win over Grant Union Saturday night in its tournament finale. The Huskies Friday defeated the La Grande junior varsity 47-36.

In the win Friday against La Grande, Jayden Palmer and Tymra Anderson powered the offense with 18 and 13 points, respectively. Palmer had 10 of her points



in the first quarter as the Huskies built a 13-4 lead, one they pushed to double figures by halftime as they controlled the rest of the game.

On Saturday, Anderson and Palmer were again the offensive leaders with 18 and eight points, respectively, while Jocelyn Palmer added seven and Gracie Evans scored six. Anderson had nine in the second quarter as Elgin rallied from an early deficit to take a 28-23 lead at the half, then pushed the lead to 40-33 after three before hanging on.

“It was a good win for us (and) a great character-build-

ing game overall,” head coach Brian Evans said.

The Huskies (2-0 overall) host Weston-McEwen Tuesday.

OUTLAWS SPLIT TWO IN CRANE

The Enterprise Outlaws split a pair of contests in Crane, losing Friday to the host Mustangs, 49-29, then bouncing back to eke out a 35-33 win over Jordan Valley.

The Outlaws found themselves in a 15-2 hole after one quarter against Crane and were unable to dig themselves out of it. The Mustangs maintained a 13-point margin at the half

and extended it to 41-20 after three quarters. The Outlaws were hampered by 42 turnovers in the loss.

Ashlyn Gray had seven points and nine rebounds to lead Enterprise. Jada Gray added six points, six boards and four steals.

On Saturday, the Outlaws rallied in the fourth quarter to hold on for a close win in a tight contest.

Enterprise led by one at the half and trailed 25-23 after three quarters, but the Outlaws put together their best offensive effort in the fourth to secure the win.

Jada Gray and Ashlyn Gray again led the Outlaws with eight and seven points, respectively. Casidee Harrod had eight rebounds and three assists, and Asiya Salim collected five steals.

Enterprise (2-1 overall) hosts Wallowa Friday.

BADGERS FALL TO DUFUR

A rough patch midway through the game was too much to overcome as the Powder Valley Badgers suffered their first loss of the season Saturday on the road against Dufur, 39-33.

“We turned the ball over too many times to win the game,” head coach Allen Bingham said.

Keanna Bingham scored 12 points in the loss to lead the Badgers. Josi Krieger added nine, and Autumn Davis had eight. Powder Valley, though, saw an early lead dissipate, and the Rangers outscored the Badgers 10-4 in the third to take over the lead after three, 28-24, and held on.

The Badgers took care of an undermanned McKenzie Eagles squad Friday in North Lake, winning 53-5 in a game they led 21-0 after one quarter and 41-2 at halftime.

Josi Krieger had a game-high 14 points for the Badgers while Dallee Jo Bingham added 10 points.

Powder Valley (2-1 overall) faces Echo in the Powder Valley Invite Thursday.

IMBLER LOSESTWICE IN JOSEPH

The Imbler Panthers dropped two games in Joseph, falling Friday to Pilot Rock, 44-15, and Saturday to Prairie City, 32-17.

Elidia Rivas was the leading scorer Friday against Pilot Rock with six points. The Panthers were held off the scoreboard in the first quarter and trailed 19-4 at halftime.

Joelle Treat had five points and Anika McDonald added four in Saturday’s matchup against Prairie City, which broke open the game with an 11-3 second quarter to take an 18-5 lead at the half.

Imbler (0-3 overall) faces Jordan Valley Thursday at North Powder.

SHORTHANDED COUGARS DROPTWO

The Wallowa Cougars had a rough weekend on the court and in the health department.

Wallowa hung with Council, Idaho, before succumbing Friday in overtime, 56-48, and fell to the La Grande junior varsity Saturday, 41-35, in a pair of games at the Elgin Lions Tournament.

On Friday, Wallowa and Council went into overtime tied at 44-44 before the Lumberjacks pulled away with 12 points in the extra session.

Shanna Rae Tillery led the Cougars with 22 points, while Haley Brockamp added 12 points.

Saturday, Wallowa shook off an eight-point halftime deficit and held a 30-29 edge through three quarters before the Tigers finished off the contest in the fourth.

Tillery was the spark on offense for the shorthanded Cougars with 27 points.

“We’ve been bitten by the injury bug over the past week, losing five returning starters before playing this weekend’s games,” head coach David Howe said, adding the team had only five varsity players available on the weekend.

Wallowa (0-3 overall) hosts Cove Thursday.

EAGLES OPEN WITH TWO VICTORIES

The Joseph Eagles began the season with two dominant home wins, blasting Prairie City Friday, 48-16, and Pilot Rock Saturday, 45-24.

Stats were not provided for the Eagles (2-0 overall), who face Adrian Thursday at the Badger Tournament in North Powder.

VOLLEYBALL

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and the teams were tied at 22-22 all after a kill by Taylor Tibbetts, but Westmont scored the final three points for the early lead.

The Mountaineers were on the cusp of a 2-0 deficit when Sydney Dunn served up an ace for a 24-21 Westmont lead, but EOU scored the final five points to even the set. Ackerman had a hand in the final three points, tying the score at 24-24 with a kill, teaming with Cambree Scott on a block for the lead then posting another kill to knot the score.

Westmont had an answer for each Eastern run after that. The Mountaineers used a 5-0 run to get within 13-11 in the third set on a Megan Bunn kill, only to see Westmont respond with six straight points to take control of the set.

In the fourth set, Eastern rallied from five down to get within 21-20 on a block by Scott. Another block by the sophomore middle evened the score at 22-22, and she followed with a kill two points later to keep the set tied at 23-23.

Cassidy Rea, though, had kills on the final two points to send Westmont on.

“It was rough to end that way after having such a good season,” Ackerman said. “We were tired from the previous five-set match the day before, so that was a big factor.... It was a good game, and we fought hard to the end, (but) it happens that way sometimes.”

Four players reached double figures in kills for EOU, with Bunn and Ackerman, two of Eastern’s four seniors, leading the way with 15 and 14, respectively. Scott and Jet Taylor added 12 and 11 kills, respectively, and Scott also had eight blocks — including the two solo blocks late. Bunn also had a career-best 32 digs, one match after posting a career-best and program-record 32 kills. Kiley McMurtrey (30), Aspen Christiansen (17) and Sade Williams (15) also reached double figures in digs, and Madison Pilon had 53 assists.

“It has a sting with it ending earlier than we all wanted, especially right now,” Pilon said. “However, I think that in a few months when I look back on this



The Eastern Oregon University volleyball team, shown during a timeout at last week’s national tournament, finished the 2019 season with a record of 31-5.

season I’ll be thinking about how close we were as a team. We had one of the best team dynamics and I played with some of the best teammates.”

The loss ends the season with a record of 31-5, one win shy of the program record for victories set in 2016 and the third 30-win season in the past six years.

It ended, though, short of the deep run at nationals EOU was hoping for.

“When that doesn’t happen it breaks your heart,” McLean-Morehead said. “It was not what we expected.”

The senior class, though — Bunn and Ackerman as four-year players for EOU, and transfers Tibbetts and

Nina Bailey — leave a legacy of dreaming lofty dreams for Eastern’s volleyball program.

“That class, they have put us on the map again because of the success we have had this season, and to be honest, this is the first time that we tangibly talked about a national championship,” McLean-Morehead said. “For

them to dream it is the first step. It’s going to get there.”

Ackerman agreed. “What we did as a team this year is going to start the legacy of that championship mindset, even if things did not go our way this year,” she said. “The younger classes have that mindset to look forward to.”



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