

Bobcats take home tourney behind 32 & 15 from Glenn

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

UNION — After running away with wins in their first two games, the Union Bobcats faced some resistance in the finale of the Union Lions Tournament.

They passed the test with flying colors, though, earning a 60-43 win Saturday over Adrian in the tournament title game behind a 32-point, 15-rebound effort from Keegan Glenn.

“They’re extremely physical,” Union head coach Odin Miller said of Adrian. “They’re the 1A state football champs, and (almost) every one of their stud players on that football team were here tonight, and you could tell. They were going to be physical. We knew they were going to be up in us and trying to disturb what we did.”

Union never trailed Saturday, but could never put the Antelopes away. The Bobcats had an 8-0 run early in the first quarter, yet led just 13-11 after one. They pushed the margin to a dozen in the second on Cole McLean’s layup, but saw the margin cut to 28-21 on Conley Martin’s 3-pointer before taking a 32-23 lead into the half.

Even when they pushed the lead to 47-25 on back-to-back 3-pointers by McLean and Jace Phillips in the third quarter, Adrian responded. The Antelopes cut the deficit in half, 47-36, on Clay Ready’s runner early in the fourth.

Phillips ended the run with a basket, then Glenn scored nine straight for Union to finally put the game away.

“This is the most physical team we’ve played all year,” Glenn said of Adrian. “Once they switched to a zone our whole team did a really good job at changing to that zone offense and contributed well together to adjust to that.”

Glenn was the primary catalyst, scoring inside with an array of post moves or rebound-putbacks, or outside with the 3-pointer.

“Outstanding,” Miller said of Glenn’s play. “He was all over the place. What Keegan has been able to do is develop the three phases to his offensive game — inside, midrange and then the 3. Everyone his freshman and sophomore year has known him as a 3-point shooter, and what I’ve been working with him on is helping him be multifaceted, and that’s going to help him no matter who he sees (guarding him) this year.”

Glenn pointed to an emphasis from Miller on offensive rebounding in an early time-out as a key for the team on Saturday. The team finished with 18 offensive rebounds, half of them by Glenn.

“Coach said you need to start crashing the boards on offense and you guys would be surprised at how many rebounds you could get off that,” he said. “It wasn’t just me, it was everybody crashing the boards and making sure we could get the offensive board.”

Phillips added 10 points — eight in the third quarter — and had seven rebounds and six steals.

On Friday, Phillips led a balanced scoring attack with 17 points, and Union rode its offense to a sizable first-half lead then clamped down on defense for a 68-24 blowout win over Echo.

Phillips had nine of Union’s 20 points in the first, and the Bobcats dropped 21 more in the second for a 41-17 lead at the break. Union then held Echo to just seven second-half points to turn an already lopsided ballgame into a rout.

Glenn added 13 points for Union, and Shane Ritter, Cameron Dillman and Garritt Ritter each scored nine



Staff photos by Ronald Bond

Union’s Keegan Glenn (top photo) scored 32 points in the Badgers’ win over Adrian, while Cove’s Chase Tennis (bottom photo) had 12 in Cove’s win over Echo.



PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

points as nine players scored for the Bobcats.

Union (3-0 overall) faces Joseph in the Badger Tournament Friday.

ALSO LEOPARDS GET FIRST WIN OF SEASON

The Cove Leopards picked up what head coach Doug Wiggins called a “big confidence boost” Saturday, getting a big third quarter offensively to pull away from Echo, 47-21, Saturday at the Union Lions Tournament.

“Definitely improvement from our first night to our third night. We went from really getting it handed to us the first night, (to) last night we were in a really close game, didn’t quite do it,” Wiggins said. “(Saturday) we came out, we’ve been learning from our mistakes, and it showed.”

Cove led a low-scoring contest at the half, 14-12, then exploded offensively in the third with 22 points on 8-for-12 shooting as a team — and 3-for-4 from the 3-point line — to open up a 36-17 advantage. Chase Tennis scored 10 of his game-high 12 points in the third and had a pair of 3s during a 13-0 run that ended the third and pushed the lead to 19.

“We were wanting to make things work, came out at halftime, knew the adjustments we needed to make and we just made them,” said Tennis, one of only two seniors on the youth-laden squad. “We started having fun with it in the third quarter and keep it going.”

Patrick Frisch added 10 points and Bo Ledbetter scored nine for Cove, which had eight players score.

Wiggins said seeing a shot go in sparked the team and

helped build momentum, but added Cove was playing for good shots in the second half.

“They’ve been working on that and they’re starting to see with a new offense this year — something they’ve never run — learning where those open shots are at,” he said.

On Friday, the Leopards dropped a back and forth game in the semifinals of the tournament against Adrian, 46-42.

Stuart Patton had six of his team-high 15 points in the third quarter as Cove rallied from a halftime deficit to take a 37-35 lead into the fourth quarter, but was unable to hold on as the Antelopes finished off the game with a strong fourth quarter.

Cove also picked up eight points apiece from Frisch and Tennis.

The Leopards (1-2 overall) travel to Wallowa Thursday. **BADGERS GET TWO WINS**

The Powder Valley Badgers shook off their overtime loss on Thursday to pick up their first two wins of the season, routing McKenzie in North Lake Friday, 95-37, and sneaking past Dufur Saturday, 68-61.

The Badgers scored early and often against McKenzie, and had a balanced scoring effort on their way to their first win of the season. Roper Bingham and Reece Dixon had 22 and 20 points, respectively, to lead Powder Valley as it raced out to a 45-22 halftime lead and never looked back.

Kaden Krieger added 12 points for the Badgers, who had at least 21 points in each quarter for their highest scoring game since scoring 98 in a win against Pine Eagle in December 2017.

On Saturday, Powder Valley got more balanced scoring as it held on in a tight

battle against Dufur. Dixon and Bingham were again key pieces for the Badgers, with 17 and 14 points, respectively, while Ethan Stephens had 16.

The Badgers broke a 20-20 tie after one to inch ahead 38-34 at the half and were up 50-44 after three.

“We just started playing better,” head coach Kyle Dixon said of the team’s play in the two wins. “I thought we were a little rusty (on Thursday). Today we played fantastic (and) got down the court well. They’re a pretty tough Dufur team.”

The Badgers (2-1 overall) face Echo in the Powder Valley Invite Thursday. **HUSKIES OPEN 1-1 AT HOMETOURNAMENT**

The Elgin Huskies split their contests at the Elgin Lions Tournament over the weekend, edging the La Grande junior varsity Friday, 47-46, and falling to Grant Union Saturday, 74-49.

Elgin came from behind Friday to get the win, rallying from down 18-12 at the half and 33-31 after three to finish off the fourth for the win.

Kaden McClure had 10 of his team-high 12 points in the second half. Cody Harvey added 10 points and Jordon Palmer scored nine points, all of them coming in the third quarter.

On Saturday, the Huskies dug themselves a hole too big to get out of in taking their first loss.

McClure was the leading scorer for Elgin with 24 points, including 18 in the second half. Harvey added eight points.

Elgin (1-1 overall) hosts Weston-McEwen Tuesday. **OUTLAWS SHAKE OFF LOSS FOR FIRST WIN**

The Enterprise Outlaws split two contests in Crane

over the weekend, falling Friday to Crane, 56-37, but rebounding Saturday to defeat Jordan Valley, 50-41, for their first win of the season.

David Salim had 14 points in Friday’s game against Crane and Cason Kirkland added 13. The Outlaws dug themselves a 10-point first-quarter hole, but hung within nine at 25-16 at the half before the Mustangs distanced themselves in the third quarter.

On Saturday, Devin Greer hit six 3-pointers and went off for 30 points to power Enterprise to its first win. All six of Greer’s treys came in the first half, and the Outlaws used a strong second quarter to build a 29-19 lead at the half, one they didn’t relinquish.

Kirkland added eight points for Enterprise (1-2 overall) which hosts Wallowa on Friday. **PANTHERS FALL TWICE IN JOSEPH**

The Imbler Panthers dropped a pair of games in Joseph over the weekend, though they were very different contests. Pilot Rock on Friday scored all 25 points in the first quarter to race to a 76-29 win over the Panthers, but Saturday Imbler had a fourth-quarter lead against Prairie City before falling 42-31.

Jayce Burnette scored 17 points Friday, 15 of them coming in the second and fourth quarter against what Tony Haddock called a “talented” Rockets’ squad.

“We played passive and on our heels,” he said. “Just didn’t compete very well.”

On Saturday, Imbler rallied from 14 points down to take a two-point lead with 5-1/2 minutes to play, Haddock said, before Prairie City ended the game on a 15-2 run.

“(We) did a much better job of competing defensively and

valuing the ball, especially in the third and to start the fourth,” Haddock said.

Isaac Herron had 11 points to lead Imbler (0-3 overall) and Wyatt Frost had six.

The Panthers next play at the Badger Tournament Thursday in North Powder. **COUGARS STRUGGLE ON OFFENSE IN TWO LOSSES**

The Wallowa Cougars struggled to hit their shots in two games at the Elgin Lions Tournament, falling Friday to the Council Lumberjacks, 62-29, and Saturday to the La Grande junior varsity, 46-29.

“Defensively we’re doing what we want to do. We’re playing hard defense, we’re working extremely hard, and I know the kids are frustrated. Even in our offense we’re working hard, they’re just not falling,” head coach Cody Lathrop said.

Zeb Hermens scored eight points in Friday’s game, while Mason Moore added even. The Cougars were within 27-16 at the half, but Council pulled away late, scoring 35 second-half points, including 24 in the fourth.

On Saturday, a big third quarter help the Tigers pull away from the Cougars as Wallowa was outscored 14-4 in the period to turn a 25-17 game at the half into a 39-21 deficit.

Tristin Bales had a team-high eight points, and Hermens added six for the Cougars (1-2 overall) who host Cove Thursday. **EAGLES SPLIT SEASON OPENING WEEKEND**

The Joseph Eagles won their season opener over Prairie City Friday in tight fashion, 57-55, then lost to Pilot Rock Saturday, 49-37.

Stats were not provided for the Eagles (1-1 overall), who face Adrian at the Badger Tournament Thursday.

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