

LHS

Continued from Page 6A
time of 1:58.79, and Reagan Kruse, Capra, Scott and Jensen won the 200 freestyle relay in 1:47.16, also setting a meet record. The sister combinations of Kennedy and Reagan Kruse and Romayne and Laramie Ricker took the 400 freestyle relay in 4:04.86, winning the race by more than 23 seconds.

"The things I've been really looking for in these early meets are the relays, particularly on the girls side, and I think that we're well on the way (to) locking in some fast relays," LHS head coach Darren Dutto said. "Our goal is to put in quick relays across all three events, and we have a lot of depth (so) it looks like that's going to happen. I thought the relays were particularly good on the girls side."

Kennedy Kruse, who individually added wins in the 200 freestyle (2:10.97) and 500 freestyle (5:51.82), also called the relays a strength of the team early on. In addition to sweeping the top spots in those three races, La Grande had two relay teams take third.

"We all love relays. It helps the team come together," Kruse said. "You're all pushing each other and all on the same relay cheering for each other."

Romayne Ricker, who added an individual win in the 200 individual medley in a record time of 2:17.85 and was second in the 100 backstroke in 1:06.71, agreed on the strength of the relay teams. The senior also spoke highly of the team's ability to compete well after a week where "there was half of us one day and maybe a quarter of us another day" at practice.

"It was rough, and to have every-



Staff photo by Ronald Bond

Kennedy Kruse won a pair of individual races and swam on a winning relay Saturday for the La Grande girls swim team.

one come out here and do their best, it means everything," she said. "It's all positivity off the team. We feel tired and sick, but when we build each other up, you don't feel it."

Scott, who won the 100 breaststroke (1:15.26) and took second in the 100 butterfly (1:05.22), was also pleased with the team performances considering not only the illnesses but that several swimmers were changed up from their typical events, including her swim in the breaststroke.

"Our performances were pretty great," she said. "We've got a long way to go, but for this point in the season it's pretty awesome."

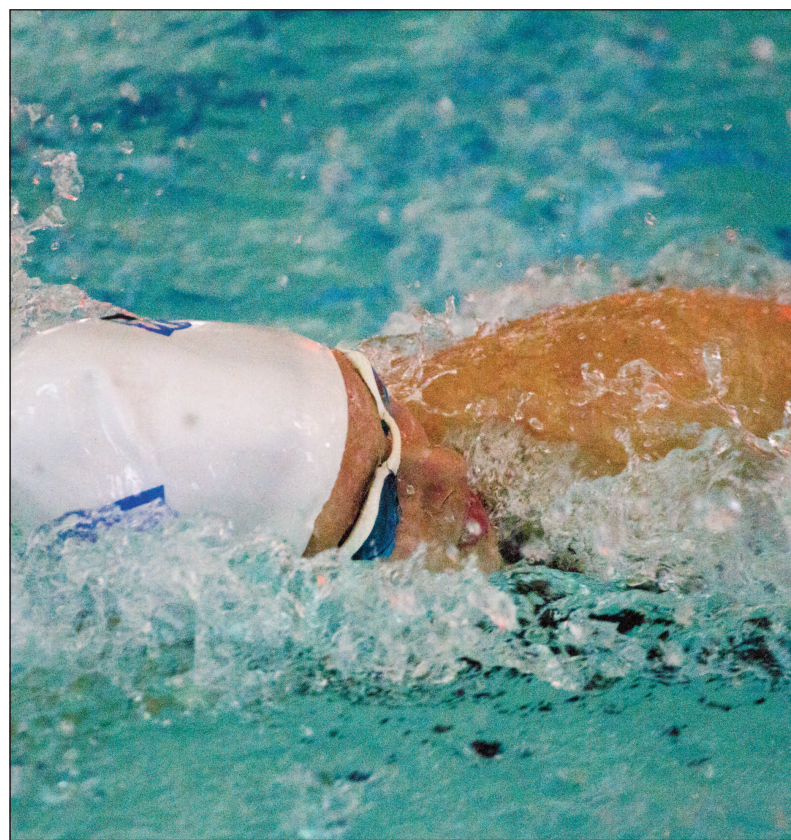
The senior also talked about

what Capra had added in her short time with the team.

"She was a total surprise," Scott said. "She brings a lot of positivity, a lot of leadership. She's totally great. Not only does her skill level contribute, but her overall being a friend, being a teammate, just really brings us all together. It's really cool."

The LHS girls had four additional second-place finishes — from Jensen in the 50 freestyle (26.91), Riley Weigand in the 200 freestyle (2:14.22) and 500 freestyle (5:51.82), and Reagan Kruse in the 100 freestyle (1:00.15).

"We work all together and I just love how we push each other, we



Staff photo by Ronald Bond

La Grande's Maria Capra, a foreign exchange student from Italy, was in on four victories Saturday for the Tigers.

cheer for each other. That is the greatest part of our team, and I believe that can lead to the team doing great things," Capra said.

The LHS boys, who were more hampered by illness, scored 81

points to take second behind Pendleton (110 points). The Tigers picked up wins from Glenn Ricker in the 100 butterfly (58.23) and the 100 breaststroke (1:10.41).

LHS added second-place finishes from all three relay teams: the 200 medley relay in 2:09.04 (James Thurman, Jack Seydel, Ricker and Alex Larvik, the 200 freestyle relay in 1:47.07 (Levy Brembach, Kobe Cooper, Ricker and Thurman), and the 400 freestyle relay in 4:17.53

(Brembach, Max Huxoll, Cooper and Gabriel Zamora). Zamora individually was second in the 200 freestyle (2:11.30), and Thurman was second in the 100 freestyle (58.25).

"The guys side we were missing four of the 12 guys. I was happy (the boys team) just competed, and a lot of the young guys really stepped up," Dutto said. "I thought there were some great swims."

Cove's boys were fourth with 23 points, getting wins on the day from Tim Koza in both the 200 freestyle (1:59.49) and the 100 backstroke (59.02) and a second-place finish by Taylor Fox in the 50 freestyle (24.68).

ROUNDUP

Continued from Page 6A
the first quarter and go up 12-5 on Brianna Kohr's 3-pointer. Union, though, had just three second-quarter points, and Crane inched ahead 18-13 at the half. The Mustangs pushed the lead to 15 in the third and took a 36-23 lead into the fourth before Union rallied. Glenn, who had 14 points in the fourth, and Marriott combined for 21 in the final period. Autumn Daggett led the Bobcats with eight rebounds, and Wells had five steals.

Davis had eight points, 14 rebounds and six blocks for Crane.

Union (6-2 overall) faces Condon/Wheeler at the Winter Classic in Mission Friday.

Also at the Bobcat Christmas Classic JORDAN VALLEY TOPS POWDER VALLEY

The Jordan Valley Mustangs jumped out to an early double-digit lead Saturday on the way to a 60-20 win over Powder Valley in the third-place game.

Keanna Bingham and Autumn Davis scored five points apiece for the Badgers (4-5 overall), who are off until Dec. 30 when they host Burns.

ELGIN GETS BY COVE FOR FOURTH

Jayden Palmer and Tymra Anderson combined for 75% of the offense Saturday as the Elgin Huskies finished fourth at the Bobcat Christmas Classic with a 44-38 win over the Cove Leopards.

Palmer scored a game-high 20 points and Anderson finished with 13 for the Huskies. Five other players scored, but none with more than three points.

Cove was led by Austin



Observer file photo

Elgin's Jayden Palmer, shown in a game earlier this season, scored 20 points Saturday as the Huskies beat Cove.

Kendall, who scored 16 points, and Maggie Frisch, who added 10 points.

Elgin held a 19-18 lead at the half, but followed with 14 points in the third to take a 33-25 lead and held on.

Elgin (6-2 overall) visits Weston-McEwen Dec. 30, while Cove (4-4) hosts the La Grande junior varsity Jan. 3.

COUGARSTRASH CARDINALS

Jamie Johnston poured in 34 points Saturday to outscore Ione/Arlington on her own as the Wallowa Cougars won their third game in a row, topping the Cardinals on the road, 59-32.

"Obviously Jamie was a one-woman wrecking machine today, but our defense and our fight was just awesome," head coach David

Howe said.

The Cougars built an early eight-point lead and were up 27-17 at the half, then broke the game open after the break.

Wallowa (4-4 overall) visits Echo Friday.

JOSEPH SHAKES OFF FIRST LOSS, DEFEATS REDSIDES

Sabrina Albee scored 30 points Saturday to help Joseph shake off its first loss as the Eagles topped South Wasco County, 53-43.

Albee scored 16 in the first half as Joseph took a 25-19 lead into the break, then had 10 of the team's 19 in the third as the Eagles opened up a double-digit lead in the second half.

Molly Curry and Camille Crenshaw had eight points

each for Joseph (6-1 overall), which travels to Dufur Saturday.

TIGERS BURY ONTARIO IN NAMPA

La Grande picked up a win in its final game of the Today's Dentistry Elite Eight, pounding Ontario, 61-16.

The Tigers were already up 28-10 at the half, then blanked Ontario in the third quarter, 21-0, to build the lead to 49-10 and roll to the easy win.

Lauran Rinker and Ella Dunlap scored 16 points apiece to lead the Tigers — Rinker with 10 in the first half, and Dunlap 10 in the second half. Camryn Collman added 12 points.

La Grande (3-3 overall) travels to the Sisters Holiday Tournament Friday.

Friday LAST-SECOND FREE THROW LIFTS BOBCATS

The Union Bobcats nearly gave away Friday's semifinal at the Bobcat Christmas Classic, but held on for a 37-36 lead over the Jordan Valley Mustangs.

Callie Glenn scored 16 points to lead Union, and hit the game-winning free throw in the closing seconds to break a tie after Jordan Valley both even. Kylie Marriott and Audrey Wells added seven points.

Union led 30-23 after three quarters. The Mustangs rallied in the fourth quarter to tie the score late on three Kiana Quintero free throws, but fell short.

HUSKIES SCORE EASY WIN OVERTIGERS

The Elgin Huskies ended a two-game losing streak Friday and breezed past Dayville/Monument, 44-17.

Tymra Anderson had 15 points for the Huskies, who had the game well in

hand by halftime. Jocelyn Palmer added eight points and Gracie Evans had seven as seven players scored for Elgin.

LEOPARDS GET BACK IN WIN COLUMN

The Cove Leopards shook off a rough third quarter with a strong fourth Friday to defeat Council, 36-22.

Cove was held to just a free throw in the third and saw a 10-point halftime lead trimmed to 22-20, but outscored the Lumberjacks 14-2 in the fourth.

Maggie Frisch scored nine points to lead the Leopards. Kierra Moore and Elli Hines-Dunlap had eight points apiece.

MUSTANGS PULL AWAY FROM BADGERS

The Crane Mustangs used a 16-0 second-quarter run to distance themselves on the way to a 53-14 win over Powder Valley.

Josi Krieger led the Badgers with six points.

PANTHERS SLIP AGAINST NOTUS

The Imbler Panthers had an early lead Friday, but a big second quarter by Notus, Idaho, changed the game as Imbler fell, 54-29.

Both Anika McDonald and Kenna Whitmore scored 12 points for Imbler, and combined for 11 in the first quarter as the Panthers grabbed a 14-10 lead. Notus followed with a 16-1 run to take a double-digit lead at the half and pulled away in the second half.

The Panthers (0-8 overall) host Prairie City Jan. 3.

COUGARS RUN WILD ON THE ROAD

Shanna Rae Tillery scored 19 points and added 13 rebounds Friday to lead a balanced attack as the Wallowa Cougars ran over Condon/Wheeler, 65-23.

Wallowa raced out to a quick 18-2 lead and quickly put the game out of reach, pushing the lead to 22 by halftime and 37 after three quarters.

Jamie Johnston added 18 points and Haley Brockamp scored 13 for the Cougars.

Eagles handed first loss

The Joseph Eagles squandered an early double-digit lead Friday and suffered their first loss of the season in a 44-42 setback against Ione/Arlington.

Joseph led 16-4 after one quarter, but the Cardinals cut the deficit to two by halftime, pulled even at 34-34 after three, then snagged the win. The Eagles hurt themselves with struggles from the free-throw line in the second half, as they were just 3-for-15 after the break.

Sabrina Albee scored 20 points to lead Joseph. Molly Curry added nine points.

TIGERS DROP GAMETO FRUITLAND

The La Grande Tigers dropped their second game at the Today's Dentistry Elite Eight in Nampa, losing to Fruitland, 54-51.

Stats were not available.

MCINERNEY

Continued from Page 6A
stints since ending his playing career in 2004. He has more than seven years of managerial experience between the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers and High

Desert Mavericks — both Single-A teams in the Mariners' farm system — and Seattle's Double-A affiliate Jackson Generals. He also served as a hitting coach for Texas Tech.

Horner was named California League Manager of the Year in 2009

and has been on the WSU staff the last four years. At least a dozen players he coached have been drafted.

Blue Mountain Community College head coach Brad Baker and Whitman College assistant coach Tommy Richards were the other two finalists.



Reed & Associates for excellent service **LOCALLY!**



Medicare, Auto, Home insurance and Annuities



Nicole Cathey

10106 N. 'C' • Island City

541-975-1364

Toll Free 1-866-282-1925

www.reed-insurance.net

Kevin Reed