



Staff photo by Ronald Bond

Powder Valley's Reece Dixon, right, attempts a layup in front of Nixyaawii's Mick Schimmel on Tuesday night. The Badgers fell to the Golden Eagles, 83-72.

BOYS

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contest pulled Powder Valley within 50-46 with 4:15 to play in the third.

But an 18-2 run that bled into the fourth quarter — one that saw Burns score the first nine points of the fourth quarter — extended the Nixyaawii lead to 68-48, and the Badgers got no closer than 11 points the rest of the way.

Burns, with an array of teardrop floaters, layups and a few jumpers, scored 17 points in the period to help the Golden Eagles stay in front.

“I thought we turned the ball over a little too much, missed some easy layups,” Dixon said. “We could have probably been right there in it. First time we faced them. You didn’t know what to expect. Now we know.”

The Badgers were hurt by turnovers, as they gave the ball away 23 times in the contest.

The Badgers, who entered Tuesday’s game as the top-scoring team in 1A, raced out to the early first-quarter lead, going

up as much as 20-15 late in the first when Ethan Stephens hit the Badgers’ fourth 3-pointer of the quarter with 1:21 to play.

Nixyaawii charged back to take a 21-20 lead after one on a late floater by Burns and built as much as a nine-point lead in a second quarter that saw Schimmel drop 17 points and hit his first three 3-pointers. The lead reached 39-30 before Kaden Krieger’s short bucket in the key, Reece Dixon’s fast-break layup and Bingham’s jumper — all in the span of a minute — trimmed the deficit to three before Nixyaawii took a 43-36 lead into the half.

“Roper stepped up for us. My freshman that came in, Cole, I thought he played good, and Moziss played good — we just gotta work a little bit on defense on stopping their guards,” the Powder Valley coach said.

Bingham finished with 21 points and seven rebounds for the Badgers to lead three players in double figures. Dominick Grende added 15 points, and Reece Dixon had 11 points.

The Badgers (16-5 overall, 8-1 OOL) host La Grande Saturday.

Tigers pull away from Nyssa

Observer staff

LA GRANDE — Ella Dunlap scored 18 points Tuesday, including 10 during a decisive fourth quarter, as the La Grande Tigers girls basketball team pulled away in the fourth quarter to hold off Nyssa, 41-27, in non-league action at LHS.

Dunlap, the lone scorer in double figures for the Tigers, powered La Grande during the fourth to the win. The Tigers led just 25-21 after three quarters in the low-scoring contest but outscored Nyssa 16-6 in the fourth to put the Bulldogs away.

Kenzie Williams added five points for La Grande, and no other Tiger scored more than four points.

La Grande (12-6 overall) hosts Ontario Friday.

Joseph 53, Cove 33: Madelyn Nelson scored 12 of her 20 points in the first half Tuesday as the Eagles downed Cove in Old Oregon League play in Enterprise.

Nelson had eight points in the second quarter and hit a pair of 3-pointers as the Eagles outscored Cove 18-11 in the second to take a 30-17 halftime lead. She added eight more in the third to help Joseph pull ahead, 42-26.

Brianna Micka added 11 points for Joseph. Cove was led by Austin Kendall, who scored 11 points, while Taylor Felt added 10 points.

Joseph (14-5 overall, 7-0 OOL) faces Pine Eagle



Photo by Ellen Morris Bishop/EO Media Group

Cove's Taylor Fett, right, works against Joseph's Sabrina Albee, left, and Brianna Micka Tuesday night.

Friday in Imbler, while Cove (9-9, 2-5) hosts Elgin Friday at home.

Boys

La Grande 65, Nyssa 44: Kaleb Myer led four players in double figures with 18 points Tuesday as the Tigers exacted revenge for a previous home loss to Nyssa.

Unlike the teams’ first contest, a 50-35 win by the Bulldogs, this one was all La Grande. The Tigers led just 28-23 at the half but scored 22 points in the third — with Myer and Devin Bell each scoring eight — to pull ahead 50-37 after three, then finished off the rout with 14 more points in the fourth.

Cristian Mendoza added 16 points, while Bell had 14 and Justin Jenner scored 11 points.

The Tigers (5-12 overall)

host Ontario Friday.

Joseph 70, Cove 29: Mason Ferre led four Eagles in double figures with 12 points Tuesday as Joseph blasted the Leopards in Old Oregon League play in Enterprise.

Hadley Miller and Trace Collier each added 11 points for Joseph, and Chase Murray scored 10 points. Miller had nine of his points in the first and Murray added eight in the opening period as Joseph sprinted out to a 23-7 lead and quickly put the game out of reach.

Cove was led by Caden Hall, who scored eight points. Patrick Frisch added six points.

Joseph (14-5 overall, 5-2 OOL) plays Pine Eagle Friday in Imbler, while the Leopards (1-17, 0-7) meet Elgin Friday at home.

GIRLS

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vying for a playoff position in the loaded OOL-North, adding eight rebounds, four steals, two assists and a block.

“She played really well, but I hate to single out anybody in the game. That was a fun defensive game,” head coach Allen Bingham said. “Our man defense was really tough. I don’t think (the Golden Eagles) were used to that. Made them earn it. Belle obviously had a great game and really helped us, but it was a really nice team win.”

Offensively, Blair helped spark the Badgers in the third after a first half that saw the teams combine for 20 points. The junior banked in a 3-pointer six seconds into the third to give Powder Valley a 15-8 lead, then had a steal and a layup for a 22-12 edge with 4:30 to play in the third. A second banked-in 3-pointer — this one from Dallee Jo Bingham — gave the Badgers their largest lead at 25-14 just over a minute later.

“I just think we loosened up and shot the ball a little bit, and we scored in transition a few times and kind of got things going,” the Powder Valley coach said.

Both teams struggled to get a flow on offense in a first half that saw the teams shoot a combined 7-for-41 and commit 24 turnovers. Powder Valley, which never trailed, led by as much as four points in the opening half, including at 12-8 going into the break when Keanna Bingham scored following a steal with 1:55 to play in the half.

Blair said the slow start could have been in part due to the game being played on a school night.

“It doesn’t feel like a regular weekend game. Once we get warmed up and ready to go, we get going a little better,” she said.

Krieger and Keanna Bingham both added nine points for Powder Valley. Krieger also had nine rebounds, three assists and three steals. Lark Moses scored 11 points to lead Nixyaawii, and Melton scored 10 points.

Powder Valley (11-8 overall, 7-2 OOL) hosts La Grande Saturday.

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