



Photo by Kathy Aney/EO Media Group
Union and Monroe players battle for a rebound during Friday's 2A state semifinal game at the Pendleton Convention Center. Monroe defeated Union, 45-27, to reach the championship game.

Union, Joseph both to play for third place

■ Dragons' 29-3 run turns tables as they top Bobcats in 2A semifinal 45-27

By Brett Kane
EO Media Group

PENDLETON — Union's shot at a state title fell just short after they let slip a close contest in the second and third quarters.

The Bobcats and the Monroe Dragons were locked in a one-point game for just over a quarter until Monroe tore away with a 13-point run in the second, and a 14-point run in the third that put the game out of Union's reach as it fell 45-27 at the 2A girls basketball state semifinals Friday afternoon the Pendleton Convention Center.

"We couldn't find a basket today," Union head coach Rhondie Rickman-Johansen said. "It just wasn't our night. We struggled to get anything to fall. We couldn't execute today. Every good team has those times where

they're not able to get the ball in the hoop."

The loss dropped Union (25-4) into a 3rd/5th place contest with Bandon at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday afternoon at the Pendleton Convention Center. Friday was the Bobcats' first semifinals appearance since 2015, where they fell 50-33 to Western Mennonite.

Monroe will challenge Kennedy in the state championship at 5:45 p.m. on Saturday, also at the convention center.

Union junior Kylie Marriott recovered her team's third lead of the game with a basket at 6:34 in the second quarter, and senior Taylar Daggett followed with a point at the line for a 13-11 Union advantage, but Monroe senior Mirtha Lopez took off with a nine-point, three-minute scoring run that put the Dragons ahead 20-13 with

2:55 left in the half.

Monroe junior Ashley Sutton capped off the streak with four straight points that left Monroe ahead with a 24-13 halftime lead. The Bobcats would never recover.

Union was outscored 16-3 in the third quarter, getting a bucket and a point at the line from sophomore Callie Glenn in the opening and closing minutes of the quarter, respectively. The Dragons strung together a 14-point run that spanned over four minutes, taking five points from senior Chloe May and four from Sutton.

Monroe led 40-16 by the run's end.

"We tried to fire up our defense in the second half, because that's all we could do," Glenn said. "We tried to turn our defense into offense. We don't have

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■ Eagles give Crane major scare but fall in 1A semifinal showdown 48-36

By Jayson Jacoby
EO Media Group

BAKER CITY — The Joseph Eagles put undefeated Crane in the unfamiliar position Friday afternoon of having to rally in the third quarter.

But scaring the top-ranked Mustangs is one thing.

Beating them is quite another.

After the Eagles took a 23-21 lead early in the third quarter, Crane responded with a 9-3 run to close the quarter, then held off Joseph's comeback bids in the final period to take a 48-36 win in the Class 1A state tournament semifinals at Baker High School.

In the Mustangs' previous 27 wins, the only teams to come closer are both Class 2A schools — Crane beat Union 47-46 on Dec. 20 and defeated Kennedy 40-34 on Feb. 5.



Photo by Kathy Orr/EO Media Group
Joseph junior Sabrina Albee, right, drives against Crane's Kelsie Siegner during Friday's semifinal game in Baker City. Albee scored 20 points in the 48-36 loss.

Among Class 1A opponents, only Jordan Valley, in a 47-19 loss on Feb. 1, held the Mustangs to fewer points than Joseph did.

Joseph coach Lance Homan said he can't fault the Eagles' defensive effort Friday as their seven-game winning streak, dating to

Feb. 11, ended.

"Our biggest thing is we wanted to play hard," Homan said. "I thought our girls played well."

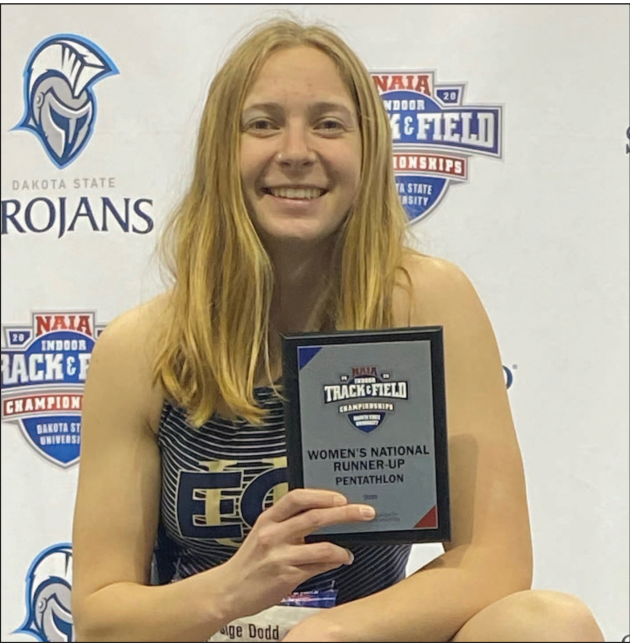
Despite a significant height disadvantage, the Eagles contained Crane's junior post, Riley Davis.

Davis didn't score until

the final 26 seconds of the first half, and she ended up with just seven points, to go along with a game-high 18 rebounds.

"You always have to focus on (Davis) inside," Homan said. "We're little, so we have to work together."

The Mustangs had to



Contributed photo by Rebecca Rhodes.
Eastern Oregon University's Paige Dodd poses with her plaque after taking second in the pentathlon at the NAIA National Championships in Brookings, South Dakota.

Dodd finishes second in pentathlon

Observer staff

Eastern Oregon University's Paige Dodd placed second Thursday in the women's pentathlon at the NAIA national championship meet in Brookings, South Dakota, as the senior scored 3,421 points in the five-discipline event and was one of two all-Americans for EOU.

Dodd trailed most of the day but worked her way up the leaderboard despite battling illness and a lingering injury. She scored 865 points after a time of 9.22 seconds in the 60-meter hurdles and had 712 points with an effort of 5-feet-2-1/4 in the high jump. But Dodd was 211 points behind eventual winner Erin Oleksak of Marian through

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Staff photo by Ronald Bond
La Grande's Ella Dunlap, right, scored 27 points and added nine rebounds Friday in the Tigers' win at home.

Tigers top Cascade, reach quarterfinals

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

LA GRANDE — It didn't matter where Ella Dunlap shot from Friday night, it felt like everything she put up was going to go down.

And her offensive output helped push the La Grande Tigers to the state quarterfinals for the first time in four years.

"It's amazing. I love it," Dunlap said of the state tournament berth. "I love to be a part of it. I'm so excited."

The junior post scored 27 points and added nine rebounds — at one point scoring 18 of the Tigers' 19 points during the second and third quarters — as La Grande slipped by Cascade in the first round of the state playoffs, 52-46.

"I think we wanted it more than Cascade and we pushed harder," Dunlap said. "We

had it in us."

Grace Neer added 10 points — all in the first quarter — and hit a pair of early 3-pointers to spark the Tigers' offense.

"Really pleased with the effort tonight," head coach Brian Wright said. "Kids came off the bench and gave us big minutes."

It was Dunlap, though, who took over in the middle quarters to help give La Grande a double-digit advantage.

Dunlap scored inside — dominating on the low block with an array of post moves or crashing the glass for an offensive rebound — and outside, draining several 15-to-18-foot jumpers from the top of the key. Her rebound and putback midway through the second put La Grande ahead 25-20 — at the time

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