

PREP

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La Grande’s offense and allowing junior quarter-back Logan Williams to step up and make plays in the passing game. Williams completed two passing touchdowns in the win over Nyssa, both of which were to Braden Carson.

Offense comes alive for Powder Valley

The Powder Valley football team seemed to be going through an identity crisis in a 38-0 shutout loss at the hands of top-ranked Adrian last week. A typically explosive offense was held scoreless as the team only managed a handful of first downs throughout the entire game. Coming off the devastating loss, the Badgers’ offense came

alive in a win over Union on Oct. 8. Powder Valley head coach Josh Cobb noted after the Adrian loss that it would be up to the players to regain the team’s poise. In the matchup against Union, the players did so by scoring early and often in a 51-14 victory. Quarterback Reece Dixon and running back Case Olsen both put in efficient performances, giving the Badgers a 22-0 lead by the end of the first quarter and controlling the game from the opening kickoff. Offense is key to Powder Valley’s success, with the team averaging 49 points per game against opponents not named Adrian. Seeing the offense bounce back after the shutout to Adrian was a very promising sight for Cobb. “It was great morale for the team,” he said. “We had

the JV guys in after the first quarter, so the varsity guys were cheering them on.” The Badgers are back in stride and will look to close out the regular season with wins against Wallowa and Crane. Cobb emphasized the importance of winning the upcoming games in order to be on the opposite side of the playoff bracket as Adrian. “This team has potential to play in the final game,” Cobb said. “We have some big opponents to play to get there, though.” Cove manages to score in loss to Adrian While it has been an overall mediocre year for head coach Levi Wiseman’s Cove football team, the Leopards managed to do what four other teams on Adrian’s schedule could

not: score. Adrian, the No. 1 team in the OSAA 1A standings, defeated Cove 56-6 on Oct. 8, improving to 6-0 on the year. With that being said, Cove showed promise by tallying 283 yards in the first half and finding the end zone. The Antelopes had not given up a touchdown since an opening-week victory over Camas Valley by a score of 46-8. “I was glad to get a score on Adrian during the first half as well as put together several decent offensive drives,” Wiseman said. Cove is coming off a 34-28 victory over Wallowa, but the team is now 2-4 on the year. It will not get much easier this week, facing off against a 5-1 Crane team on Oct. 15 that defeated Wallowa 70-0 this week.

Top runners cement position as postseason approaches

Several top runners showed their best at the Tiger Invite at the La Grande Country Club on Friday, Oct. 8. With the postseason approaching, things are falling into place for many of the county’s cross-country teams. The Union/Cove boys dominated the meet, scoring three runners in the top five. Junior Taylor Fox, who has been a regular at the top of the results sheet for the Bobcats, placed second overall with a 17:51. Fox got a glimpse at one of his main competitors, Caleb Brown of Pine Eagle. Brown ran a 17:04.3 to win the race and figures to compete with Fox near the top of the 3A/2A/1A District 3 Championships. The Union/Cove girls

team had its hands full competing against La Grande and Baker, but the Bobcats will go their own separate way in postseason. Audrey Wells, who ran a 21:36.5, figures to be near the front of the pack in district competition. For the La Grande girls team, its powerhouse of underclassmen near the front carried the load once again. Sophomores Emily Tubbs, Kiah Carlson and Faith Calhoun and freshman Cecilia Villagomez all placed in the top six as La Grande won the meet. Tubbs won the overall race by over a minute and figures to be a top runner at the Greater Oregon League Championships on Oct. 29. Head coach Alma Crow is persistent in keeping the team healthy and preparing them as best as possible for the postseason.

CAMPUS

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junior middle blocker Cambree Scott was electric along the net. She recorded eight blocks and 11 kills, leading the charge alongside Breanna Shaffer and Sade Williams. The trio is proving to be one of the top groups of hitters in the conference. Scott was back at it the following day, recording a team-high 14 kills and six blocks. The Mountaineers bested the Beacons 25-22, 25-21, 12-25 and 25-20 for a crucial conference victory. The reigning Cascade Collegiate Conference player of the year is leading the Mountaineers with 266 points, 207 kills and 98 blocks. Scott’s 98 blocks are first in the conference, with the next best player recording 77 on the year. Her defensive ability at the net is a big part of Eastern’s success, as the team is 16-5 on the year and 11-2 in conference play.

Strong performance from McLeod gets EOU women’s soccer back on track

After a 3-0 loss to the College of Idaho last week snapped a seven-game winning streak, the Eastern Oregon University women’s soccer team bounced back behind a krait showing from senior midfielder Kaitlyn McLeod. The Mountaineers defeated Rocky Mountain 3-0 on Oct. 8, moving back into a tie for first place with the College of Idaho at the top of the Cascade Collegiate Conference. McLeod was crucial to the Mountaineers’ efforts, assisting on the game’s opening goal by Erika Skindlov in the 30th minute off a corner kick. Later in the 43rd minute, McLeod scored with a strike from six yards away. McLeod has been a consistent contributor for Eastern. She is tied for second on the team with four goals and 10 points. She leads the team with two assists and is fourth on the team with six shots on goal.

RUNNERS

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happy for her,” Carlson said. “Some other teams might not be like that. We’re separate runners, but at the same time we’re like one.” La Grande’s runners push each other to get better in practice and during races, but their bond goes beyond just competing. The runners naturally get along and believe that bonding together off the course will help their team chemistry during races. “I think we just really work well together,” Calhoun said. “We hang out outside of practice too and get along really well.” The athletes noted that each individual comes from different backgrounds and has different groups of friends, but that they share a familiar bond that brings them together. “At practice, it’s great to have this kind of environment where we can just be ourselves,” Carlson said. “School can be stressful, but at practice after school you can just take a breather.” The top pack might be taking a breather from the stresses of school work, but their training is relentless. Crow noted that the group is very hardworking and puts in the work necessary to have success as a team. “Consistency is the key in training,” she said. “Being consistent and holding each other accountable goes a long way.” Future is bright La Grande’s top runners are hitting their stride at the right time of the year. The Tigers have



Alex Wittwer/The Observer
Freshman Cecilia Villagomez ran a career-best 20:45.9 to finish second at the Tiger Invite cross-country race.



Alex Wittwer/The Observer
Faith Calhoun is part of a group of four top underclassmen posting strong results this season for La Grande.

several weeks off before competing at the Greater Oregon League Championships on Oct. 29. Even with such a young group, the Tigers have lofty goals for the postseason. According to Crow, the mentality is to keep healthy and qualify for the state meet. She believes that the team can place top six, but the girls runners are shooting for top four. “We want to place really well at state,” Villagomez said. “We’ve been working really hard.” Regardless of the team’s overall finish this year, the close-knit squad is enjoying having a full season and creating a close bond. “I think with COVID, it’s

made us realize that we’re just thankful that we have each other and get a normal season,” Calhoun said. “We’re really thankful to have this time together.” All eyes will be on the Tigers’ top group with the postseason upcoming. La Grande’s underclassmen have shown their abilities during the regular season, but will look to prove themselves with the season on the line in the postseason. Regardless, the Tigers are crafting a powerhouse of runners that is built for success in the coming years. “We’re all only sophomores and (Villagomez) is a freshman, so we still have a lot of time to get better,” Tubbs said. “I’m really excited for the future.”

ON THE SLATE

Tuesday, Oct. 12
PREP VOLLEYBALL

Imbler at Nixyaawii, 5 p.m.
Powder Valley at Cove, 5 p.m.
Grant Union at Union, 5:30 p.m.
La Grande at McLoughlin, 6:30 p.m.

PREP BOYS SOCCER

Fruitland (Idaho) at La Grande, 4:30 p.m.

PREP GIRLS SOCCER

Baker/Powder Valley at La Grande, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 13
PREP BOYS SOCCER

La Grande at Baker/Powder Valley, 5 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 14
PREP FOOTBALL

Imbler at Pilot Rock, 7 p.m.

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Union at Weston-McEwen, 5 p.m.

Baker at La Grande, 6:30 p.m.
Enterprise at Stanfield, 5 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 15
COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

EOU at Lewis-Clark State, 7 p.m.

COLLEGE MEN’S SOCCER

Oregon Tech at EOU, 4 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN’S SOCCER

Oregon Tech at EOU, 6:30 p.m.

PREP FOOTBALL

Union at Lyle/Wishram/Klickitat, 6 p.m.

Elgin at Adrian, 6 p.m.
Powder Valley at Wallowa, 7 p.m.

Crane at Cove, 7 p.m.
Mitchell/Spray/Wheeler at Joseph, 7 p.m.

Enterprise at Sherman/Condon, Condon, 7 p.m.

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Pine Eagle at Powder V., 10 a.m.

Pine Eagle at Imbler, 4 p.m.
Powder Valley at Wallowa, 4 p.m.

Joseph at Elgin, 4 p.m.

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