

WRESTLING

Continued from Page A7

While Burns and Hunter have proven track records, Hislop is excited for the potential of several up-and-comers on the team. Junior Kadyr Trick placed at the district meet as a sophomore and will look to be a strong contributor at the 138-pound weight class.

“He’s worked hard to get ready for this year,” Hislop said of Trick.

Senior Krager Muilenburg was injured the last two seasons, but will be another name to watch for Imbler.

“He’s come in as a senior, really strong,” Hislop said. “I am really impressed with him in practice so far.”

A new element for Hislop and the Panthers will be a presence in the heavyweight divisions. Gabe Harder, a 250-pound freshman, will look to continue to improve as a wres-

tlar and add versatility in Imbler’s weight classes. According to Hislop, Imbler has not had a heavyweight wrestler in about eight years.

“He comes to practice and works real hard,” he said. “If they all work hard, I think we can teach them enough about wrestling to be successful.”

On the girls side, Isabella Warg and Lucy Camacho will look to make some noise for Imbler this year. Hislop is looking forward to having two girls wrestlers that can help each other improve by practicing against each other.

“(Warg) is a hard worker and has great balance,” Hislop said. “I’m excited because girls wrestling is really getting going.”

The Panthers get the season started at the Enterprise Kickoff on Friday, Dec. 3.

“If they all work hard, they’ll continue to get better as the season goes on,” Hislop said.

BOYS

Continued from Page A7

play begins in January.

“It’ll be good for them. They’ll struggle early on, but individually I think they’ll all find things to work on,” Haddock said. “The goal is to collectively make it work.”

The coach noted that a return to a more normal routine after last year’s pandemic-modified season will help the Panthers. They had less time to acclimate to

one another’s skill sets and grow as a team, which Haddock said is crucial during a long basketball season. Coming off a tough spring season, Imbler is hoping its young group can learn from its seniors and turn heads in the Old Oregon League.

“They have the potential to do a lot of really good things,” Haddock said. “We’re going to have to fight through the bumps and bruises of being young. They’re going to have to learn to play together as a unit.”

GIRLS

Continued from Page A7

also has its challenges. The team’s size gives it opportunity in the paint, but there still is a need to identify who will be the shooters on the perimeter.

“We are trying to build our culture,” Sweet said. “We are trying to establish routines and make sure everyone understands the system with so many new faces.”

Imbler begins its season Wednesday, Dec. 1, when it hosts Union.

THRILLER

Continued from Page A7

deep into Adrian territory, Powder Valley ran out of time before the half and went into the locker rooms leading by two points.

In the second half, touchdowns came much easier for Adrian’s and Powder Valley’s offensive weapons. Senior Casey Vaughan opened the scoring with an eight-yard receiving touchdown to put the Badgers up 24-14. Once again, Adrian responded quickly and scored on a 23-yard touchdown pass from Conley Martin to Gavin Bayes to cut the lead back to 24-22 just four minutes into the third quarter.

Powder Valley quarterback Reece Dixon was efficient throughout the game, coming up with huge plays in the second half. He scored on a 23-yard touchdown run with 5:30 remaining in the third quarter to give the Badgers a 32-22 lead. Dixon finished the game with 129 passing yards, 49 rushing yards and three total touchdowns. Kaden Krieger, Dixon’s top target, was strong throughout the contest and hauled in 72 receiving yards.

As the final seconds ticked off the clock in the third quarter, Adrian running back Jace Martin scored on a 13-yard rushing touchdown to cut Powder Valley’s lead to 32-30. At the conclusion of two dominant seasons,



Alex Wittwer/The Observer

In a controversial call, an interception by Adrian’s Jace Martin (13) is ruled a pass interference, provoking jeers from Adrian fans, during the OSAA 1A State Championship game on Nov. 27, 2021, between the Adrian Antelopes and Powder Valley Badgers.

both teams’ championship hopes came down to the final 12 minutes.

Early in the fourth quarter, Powder was able to drive deep into Adrian territory but suffered a major blow — Dixon left the field due to injury. Just several plays later on fourth-and-goal from the Adrian nine-yard line, Dixon returned to the field and ran in a nine-yard touchdown. He would play sparingly for the rest of the game.

“We stayed focused and never gave up,” Cobb said of battling through adversity.

The Badgers could not convert the extra point, which kept the Antelopes within one score at 38-30 with 9:14 left in the fourth quarter. This proved costly as Adrian gained momentum late in the matchup.

Jace Martin was back at it again for the Antelopes on the ensuing drive, closing out a two-yard

touchdown run. Conley Martin converted the two-point conversion to knot the game at 38-38 with just less than five minutes remaining.

“It was a tough game,” Cobb said. “On both sides, the teams played real good football.”

The tension was palpable on both sidelines as the sun began to set on an epic championship matchup.

Dixon came back into the game, but a big hit on third-and-21 led to a fumble that gave Adrian the ball at the Powder Valley six-yard line. Just one play later, Conley Martin ran in from six yards out to give the Antelopes their first lead of the game since the first quarter. Adrian led 46-38 with 2:37 remaining in the game.

Adrian came away with several key stops to force a fourth-and-11 at the Powder Valley 21-yard line with just 1:46 to go.

With the season on the line, Dixon was unable to complete a pass to Cole Martin as the Antelopes secured the victory.

“I wish we would have come out on top, but they were better than us today,” Cobb said.

The title is the second consecutive official OSAA state championship for Adrian, which defeated St. Paul in 2019. This year, the Antelopes and Powder Valley were on a collision course all season in a strong year for 1A football on the eastern side of the state.

“It’s outstanding,” Cobb said of the large turnout for the game. “This is small-town football. To play in east Oregon on grass and to have a finish like that — you can’t get any better than that.”

For Powder Valley, the season finishes just one touchdown shy of glory. The Badgers concluded the year as state runners-up after going 11-2 on the year.

“It was a great season,” Cobb said. “They had so much focus all season. Both teams played two seasons in one academic year. That’s a lot of football to stay healthy for.”

Powder Valley’s large group of seniors helped the team get to the championship game for the first time since 2003, which marks just the fourth time that the school has competed in the final.

“It’s been really fun,” Cobb said. “We’ll be back next year.”

ON THE SLATE

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL
Umatilla at La Grande, 5:30 p.m.
Jordan Valley at Powder Valley, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 3
COLLEGE MEN’S BASKETBALL
Eastern Oregon at Southern Oregon, 7:30 p.m.
COLLEGE WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
Eastern Oregon at Oregon Tech, 5:30 p.m.

COLLEGE MEN’S WRESTLING
Eastern Oregon at Providence Triangular, Great Falls, Montana, TBA

COLLEGE WOMEN’S WRESTLING
Eastern Oregon at Battle of the Rockies, Great Falls, Montana, TBA

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL
Cove vs. Adrian, Union Lion’s Tournament, 4:30 p.m.
Joseph vs. Crane, Prairie City, 4:30 p.m.
Echo at Union, Union Lion’s Tournament, 7:30 p.m.
La Grande (JV) at Elgin, 7:30 p.m.
Imbler at Stanfield, 7:30 p.m.
South Wasco County at Wallowa, 7:30 p.m.
Enterprise at Prairie City, 7:30 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL
Adrian at Cove, Union Lion’s Tournament, 3 p.m.
Joseph vs. Crane, Prairie City, 3 p.m.
La Grande (JV) at Elgin, 5:30 p.m.
Enterprise at Prairie City, 6 p.m.
Banks at La Grande, 6 p.m.
Echo at Union, Union Lion’s Tournament, 6 p.m.
Imbler at Stanfield, 6 p.m.
South Wasco County at Wallowa, 6 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Imbler, Elgin, Union/Cove, Enterprise at Enterprise Kickoff, TBA



Santa Bucks

Help families in our community have a great holiday!

\$1
GIFT

\$5
GIFT

\$10
GIFT



Purchase Santa Bucks to provide a holiday dinner to a local family in need.

clip or CLICK! 11/30/21 - 12/7/21

\$10 OFF

\$50 or more*

Save on your next grocery purchase of \$50 or more* with your Card & this Savings Award.



*Use this Savings Award on any shopping trip you choose at any Oregon Safeway or Albertsons store and S.W. Washington stores serving Clark, Wahiakium, Cowlitz, Skamania, Walla Walla and Klickitat counties by 12/7/21. This \$10.00 Savings Award excludes purchases of Alcoholic Beverages, Fluid Dairy Products, Tobacco, US Postage Stamps, Trimet Bus/Commuter Passes, Money Orders, Container Deposits, Lottery, Gift Cards, Gift Certificates Sales, All Pharmacy Prescription Purchases, Safeway Savings, Safeway or Albertsons Store Coupons and Sales Tax. One Savings Award redeemable per household. COUPON CANNOT BE DOUBLED. Online and in-store prices, discounts, and offers may differ.



Premium Slicing Meat & Cheese



25% off

Member Price

Freshly sliced in the Service Deli. See store for details.

Prices in this ad are effective 6 AM Tuesday, November 30 thru Tuesday, December 7, 2021 (unless otherwise noted) in all Safeway or Albertsons stores in Oregon and S.W. Washington stores serving Wahiakium, Cowlitz, Clark, Skamania, Walla Walla and Klickitat Counties. Items offered for sale are not available to other dealers or wholesalers. Sales of products containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine limited by law. Quantity rights reserved. SOME ADVERTISING ITEMS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL STORES. Some advertised prices may be even lower in some stores. On Buy One, Get One Free ("BOGO") offers, customer must purchase the first item to receive the second item free. BOGO offers are not 1/2 price sales. If only a single item purchased, the regular price applies. Manufacturers' coupons may be used on purchased items only — not on free items. Limit one coupon per purchased item. Customer will be responsible for tax and deposits as required by law on the purchased and free items. No liquor sales in excess of 52 gallons. No liquor sales for resale. Liquor sales at licensed Safeway or Albertsons stores only. ©2021 Safeway Inc. or ©2021 Albertsons LLC. Availability of items may vary by store. Online and in-store prices, discounts and offers may differ.