

PREPS

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climb to 2-1 through league play, placing them third in the early Blue Mountain Conference standings. Sophomore Tee Ledbetter led the way with 17 points as he continues to serve as the primary post player for the Bobcats. Union saw five players score nine or more points in the team's most balanced offensive performance of the year.

Union has lived on the edge throughout the first half of the season, with seven of its 14 games being decided by seven or fewer points.

La Grande wrestlers throttle rival Buckaroos, keep momentum going

PENDLETON — One of the strongest La Grande boys wrestling teams in recent memory has continued to flourish as the 2021-22 season progresses.

Coming off a fourth place finish against 47 schools at the Tri-State Tournament on Dec. 17, the Tigers finished 12th out of 72 teams at the 2022 Rollie Lane Invitational on Jan. 7.

La Grande kept its momentum alive as it shifted from regional tournaments to dual format, defeating the rival Pendleton Buckaroos 66-18 on Jan. 12. Out of the 11 matches that did not end in forfeiture, the Tigers won nine matches by fall.

Tavian Kehr, Joshua Collins, Coby Hibbert and Ridge Kehr all earned victories by fall in the first four matches to establish a 24-0 lead and set the tone for the remainder of the dual.

Pendleton managed two wins by fall, but La Grande's Bobby Gulzow, Kai Carson and Jaxson Leonard all earned victories in the final three matches to rout the Buckaroos by 48 points.

Head coach Klel Carson noted after the match that the La Grande wrestlers stepped up throughout the dual. La Grande has seen a number of strong contributors throughout the year across all weight classes. Sophomore Mason Wolcott has gone 13-5 this year at the 113-



Alex Wittwer/The Observer, File

Joelle Treat (5) battles for possession of the ball following a rebound at Imbler High School on Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021. The Union girls basketball team bested Imbler 52-22 in its season opener.

pound division, while fellow sophomore Kai Carson has impressed with a 19-2 record. Senior Braden Carson has dominated with a 19-1 record, while Brody MacMillan, Wyatt Livingston, Cole Shafer, Ridge Kehr, Brysen Penaloza and Collins have all accumulated over 10 wins this year.

The Tigers' next competition is set for the weekend of Jan. 15 at the Oregon Classic in Redmond.

Old Oregon League is wide open for girls basketball

Through the early stages of league play, the Old Oregon League is looking like it is anyone's for the taking.

With no clear frontrunners early on, a team with a strong league record could make some noise by the end of the season.

Imbler got off to a difficult 2-9 start to the season in non-league play, but wins over Elgin on Jan. 4 and Powder Valley on Jan. 8 have the Panthers trending in the right direction early on. Imbler previously lost 42-18 to Powder Valley at the Union Bobcat Classic on Dec. 17. The Panthers have won four out of their last six contests.

The league is one year removed from Powder Valley winning the league with a 4-1 record in the shortened 2021 spring season — in the 2019-20

season, Joseph dominated with a 11-1 league record and 22-8 overall record en route to a fifth place finish at the 1A state tournament. The Badgers got off to a tough 0-6 start to this season, but have trended up in recent weeks — Powder Valley has won five of its last seven matchups and is 2-1 in the early stages of league play.

"This year's league is wide open," Powder Valley head coach Allen Bingham said. "Some years pre-season isn't as important, but this year was huge for us."

Wallowa is an early contender for the league, posting a 8-5 record overall and going 2-1 in league play so far. The Cougars defeated Elgin and Cove by double digits and are a one-point loss to Joseph away from being 3-0 in the league. The Eagles have experienced a number of cancellations and have only posted a 1-0 record through league play, but the team has won three out of its last four matchups dating back to mid-December.

Nixyaawii is yet to prove itself at the league level, but has dominated its non-league opponents this year. The Golden Eagles have gone 8-2 throughout the start of the season and have outscored opponents by an average of 12.4 points per game. Nixyaawii is slotted at No. 6 in the OSAA 1A rankings, the top spot by any Old Oregon League team.

STANDINGS

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Cascade Collegiate Conference

Team	League	Overall
Oregon Tech	9-0	12-5
College of Idaho	8-1	14-3
LC State	6-3	13-4
Southern Oregon	6-3	9-8
Warner Pacific	5-4	9-8
Corban	5-5	10-8
Eastern Oregon	4-5	10-7
Multnomah	4-5	8-9
Northwest	3-6	6-8
Evergreen	2-7	2-11
Bushnell	2-8	4-13
Walla Walla	1-8	2-14

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Cascade Collegiate Conference

Team	League	Overall
Southern Oregon	8-1	15-2
Bushnell	8-2	11-7
Eastern Oregon	7-2	10-7
LC State	6-3	12-3
Oregon Tech	5-4	12-4
Northwest	5-4	11-5
College of Idaho	5-4	11-6
Warner Pacific	5-4	7-7
Multnomah	3-6	3-13
Evergreen	2-7	3-9
Corban	1-9	2-15
Walla Walla	0-9	1-15

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

4A Greater Oregon League

Team	League	Overall
McLoughlin	1-0	2-6
Baker	0-0	9-3
La Grande	0-0	8-1
Ontario	0-1	0-8

2A Blue Mountain Conference

Team	League	Overall
Stanfield	3-0	8-6
Heppner	2-0	10-2
Union	2-1	8-6

Grant Union	2-1	3-9
Weston-McEwen	0-2	6-6
Enterprise	0-2	2-10
Pilot Rock	0-3	3-11

1A Old Oregon League

Team	League	Overall
Powder Valley	3-0	13-1
Joseph	2-0	4-6
Cove	2-1	4-6
Imbler	1-1	3-10
Wallowa	1-2	3-10
Nixyaawii	0-0	8-2
Griswold	0-1	1-10
Pine Eagle	0-2	3-7
Elgin	0-2	0-7

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

4A Greater Oregon League

Team	League	Overall
McLoughlin	1-0	6-3
Baker	0-0	9-4
La Grande	0-0	6-5
Ontario	0-1	0-8

2A Blue Mountain Conference

Team	League	Overall
Stanfield	3-0	12-2
Union	3-0	12-2
Grant Union	2-1	5-7
Enterprise	1-1	6-7
Weston-McEwen	0-2	7-7
Heppner	0-2	5-6
Pilot Rock	0-3	4-11

1A Old Oregon League

Team	League	Overall
Imbler	2-0	4-9
Wallowa	2-1	8-5
Powder Valley	2-1	4-8
Joseph	1-0	4-5
Cove	1-2	2-8
Nixyaawii	0-0	8-2
Griswold	0-1	4-7
Pine Eagle	0-1	1-8
Elgin	0-2	3-9

ON THE SLATE

Saturday, Jan. 15

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Eastern Oregon at Evergreen State, 3 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S WRESTLING

Eastern Oregon at Oregon Wrestling Classic, Redmond, Oregon, 11:45 a.m.

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Union at Enterprise, 5:30 p.m.

Cove at Pine Eagle, 5:30 p.m.

Joseph at Imbler, 5:30 p.m.

Wallowa at Nixyaawii, 5:30 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Union at Enterprise, 4 p.m.

Pine Eagle at Cove, 4 p.m.

Joseph at Imbler, 4 p.m.

Wallowa at Nixyaawii, 4 p.m.

PREP BOYS WRESTLING

La Grande at Oregon Classic, Redmond, 7:40 a.m.

PREP GIRLS WRESTLING

La Grande at Jay Bird Classic, Nampa, Idaho, 11 a.m.

PREP SWIMMING

La Grande at La Grande Invitational, Veterans Memorial Pool, 10 a.m.

Cove at La Grande Invitational, Veterans Memorial Pool, 10 a.m.

Monday, Jan. 17

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

La Grande at Pendleton, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 18

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Pilot Rock at Enterprise, 6:30 p.m.

Powder Valley at La Grande, 7:30 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Pilot Rock at Enterprise, 5 p.m.

Joseph at Pine Eagle, 5:30 p.m.

Powder Valley at La Grande, 6 p.m.

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