

TIGERS

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La Grande built a 5-2 lead out of the gates, but Banks battled back to tie the game at 6-6 and never trailed for the remainder of the contest. Banks senior Charlie White and La Grande senior Brady Hutchins led the way in scoring early on. White scored six of his 13 points in the first, while Hutchins had much more in store later in the game after tallying five points in the first eight minutes.

The Braves went on a 10-0 run to end the quarter to take a 18-8 lead, putting the Tigers on their back heels early on.

"I didn't think our defense was great in the first quarter," Carollo said. "We didn't do a good enough job of really jumping out on some of the switches. We just fell asleep a couple times."

Facing an early deficit, La Grande did what it could to rally momentum in front of a packed house. The Tigers fought back to cut the lead to 25-19, but the Braves managed to hold a 27-19 lead at the half.

Coming out of half-time, La Grande pushed the tempo and pounded the ball into the paint. Senior Devin Bell scored six of his 13 points in the third quarter as the Tigers scraped away at Banks' lead.

For Banks, Gobel provided a consistent scoring option and helped hold off La Grande's momentum. He scored seven points in the third quarter en route to a game-high 26 points on the night.

In the fourth quarter, it appeared early on that Banks may cruise its way to a victory. The Braves built up a 48-33 lead with 5:20 remaining in regulation as La Grande looked for answers.

Hutchins rose to the task for the Tigers, igniting from the three-point line. The senior hit three three-pointers in the final frame to help spearhead a major comeback attempt — Hutchins finished the game with six three-pointers. Junior Sam Tsiatsos also hit back-to-back three-pointers as La Grande erased a 15-point deficit.

A three from Hutchins with 1:46 tied the game at 53-53 as momentum swung completely toward the Tigers.

Banks later took over possession, up 55-53 with 30 seconds remaining, but an offensive foul flipped the possession back to the Tigers. Bell followed up with a basket inside to tie



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group

Devin Bell (5) checks his options during the OSAA 4A State Championship playoff match between Banks and La Grande at La Grande High School on Friday, March 4, 2022. The La Grande Tigers fell to the Banks Braves 58-55 in the final seconds as the Braves sank a three-point buzzer beater.

the game at 55-55 with just over 10 seconds left in the contest.

With the game on the line, Gobel walked up court and faced an opportunity to make a big play. The senior did just that, hitting nothing but net on a leaning three-point jump shot from the top of the key to seal the game.

"They were a physical team and got into some good spots to score," Carollo said. "Definitely give a lot of credit to their efforts tonight, but I am proud of how our team battled back and kept with it."

In their final prep basketball games, Hutchins and Bell finished with a combined 35 points for the Tigers. La Grande is set to graduate eight seniors from a team that finished

16-3 overall.

"I'm just really proud of all those seniors," Carollo said. "Obviously Devin and Brady both had great years, but all of them have such good attitudes and are great kids. It's really a coach's dream to have nice kids that will run through a wall for you."

The buzzer beater was a tough blow for La Grande, having fought back from a large deficit. The loss caps off the Tigers' season in round one of the 4A state tournament, while Banks will advance to the quarterfinals.

"Obviously disappointing to end it, but overall I'm super proud of the kids," Carollo said. "I thought they played well all year and rose to the occasion."

Badgers place 5th in state

By RONALD BOND and DAVIS CARBAUGH
EO Media Group

BAKER CITY — For the second consecutive game, Powder Valley got off to a slow start, falling behind 23-10 after the first quarter in a 61-44 loss to Crosshill Christian on Saturday, March 5, in the third-place matchup of the OSAA Class 1A Boys State Basketball Tournament.

Powder Valley finishes its season 24-4, tying a program record for second most wins in a single season, and a fifth-place finish at state.

Junior Cole Martin, who was named to the all-tournament second team, had a quality showing for Powder Valley in the loss, leading the team with 14 points.

The loss signals the end of an era in North Powder, with seven seniors on this year's roster set to graduate. Seniors Reece Dixon, Kaden Krieger, Kaiden Dalke and Clay Martin all had solid contributions on offense for the Badgers.

Freshman Landon Knox, an all-tournament first team performer, led Crosshill Christian with 31 points, finishing 6-for-15 from the floor and 14-for-18 from the free-throw line. Owen Spaulding was the only other Eagle in double figures with 10 points.

In the Badgers' loss on Friday, March 4, Oscar

Thomas couldn't miss for South Wasco County.

Thomas hit seven three-pointers and finished with a game-high 25 points. Ian Ongers posted a double-double, and the Redsidies reached the state title game with a wire-to-wire 59-40 win over Powder Valley to stay undefeated and send the Badgers to the March 5 third-place game against Crosshill Christian.

Badgers head coach Kyle Dixon said the 1-3-1 zone defense "they ran against us was pretty tough. We just missed some shots early, some easy shots, and our offense went down. I thought we had some good looks at the hoop and we just missed, and when you miss so many shots in the first quarter, it takes a little bit out of you."

The Badgers pulled within 13 early in the fourth on a layup and two free throws by Cole Martin before the Resides put the game on ice with a 13-0 run.

Powder Valley was held to its lowest point total of the season, and nearly 25 points below is average of 64.6 points per game coming in. Just one player — Martin — reached double figures for the Badgers, finishing with 13 points and 10 rebounds. Case Olson added seven points.

The Badgers trailed for just 51 seconds in their quarterfinal win over Nixyaawii, while the Redsidies led for just 78 seconds in their come-from-behind win over Rogue Valley Adventist.

CHAMPIONS

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the momentum shift and put Union in the driver's seat heading into the final 16 minutes.

In the second half, Union took advantage of its momentum and heavy support in the stands to continue building its lead. In a low-scoring 11-6 third quarter, Glenn started to find her rhythm. She scored five points and helped the Bobcats take a 36-21 lead into the final frame.

Just eight minutes away from championship glory, it was Glenn who put the game on ice for Union. The senior nailed a three-point basket and put away any comeback attempt from Salem Academy with a strong showing at the free-throw line. Glenn went 12-for-15 at the line en route to a game-high 20 points.

As time expired, the Union bench stormed the court and the crowd erupted. The win for the Bobcats marked the first ever girls basketball championship in school history and the first basketball title since the boys team did so in 1949. This year's roster, which consisted of four seniors, finished the season 25-3.

"The kids deserve it," Klebaum-Johnston said. "This group of girls has that quality. They do the little things and work their butts off. They get on the floor and play for each other."

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LHS

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pointers in the fourth quarter en route to a team-high nine points on the night.

Makenna Shorts (7), Kayle Collman (7), Maezie Wilcox (8) and Addy Dunlap (6) all contributed to a balanced scoring effort for La Grande.

Six more points from Tobiasson helped Cascade hold on to its lead, coming away with the 10-point victory.

The loss ends the season for the Tigers, while the Cougars will advance to the 4A state quarterfinals. La Grande is set to lose two seniors, Wilcox and Isabelle Kump. The Tigers have 12 players on the official roster set to return next season.

ON THE SLATE

Friday, March 11
COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Eastern Oregon vs. Sterling College, Park City, Kansas, TBA

COLLEGE WOMEN'S WRESTLING

Eastern Oregon at NAIA National Invite, Jamestown, North Dakota, TBA

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

British Columbia at Eastern Oregon, 1 p.m.

British Columbia at Eastern Oregon, 3 p.m.