

E-Gals lose pair Union County out-pins locals

By S.F. Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

The E-Gals suffered defeat in two road games, at Echo on Jan. 9. and Wallowa on Jan. 10. Echo, the top-seeded team in the league, did away with the E-Gals 62-46. Joseph coach Travis Huffman said, “It’s frustrating, because we’re right there. Echo is the number one team in the league, but we made too many mistakes playing them.” Huffman said he planned to focus on turnovers during the coming week of practice. “We need to get our confidence back, get more positive, and get things going better. Echo is beatable, but they have more experience and they’re more confident,” Huffman said. Alexis Sykora and Satori Albee had 16 points each in the effort against Echo. Joseph lost to Wallowa by

a 40-35 score. “We had the score tied at the end of the third quarter,” Huffman said, “but we only scored three in the fourth and that killed us. We had opportunities to capitalize on, and we didn’t do it. Their player Taylor Harshfield took over the whole game and made us hurt.” Huffman had high praise for Joseph freshman Sykora, who scored a team-high 20 points. “She just doesn’t give up; because she doesn’t know what the word means. She’s a real competitor.” Despite the 0-3 league start, Huffman still has high hopes for the squad. “We need to try to stay the course, be positive and have more energy. It’s frustrating when you lose so much, but they have to realize they’re as good as anyone else and play hard. We’ve just got to find some confidence somewhere,” Huffman said.

By Rocky Wilson
Wallowa County Chieftain

On a night when wrestlers in only one weight division completed a full three rounds of wrestling, a team composed of grapplers from Union, Elgin, and Imbler high schools outscored a team made up of wrestlers from all three Wallowa County high schools, 48-34, in a dual wrestling meet held Jan. 7 in Wallowa. With the exception of one forfeit received by each team and one 10-point major decision, 11 of the 14 weight classifications were settled by pin. And five of those pins came in the first round. Possibly for wrestling enthusiasts, the biggest drama was not contingent on who would win a match, but if a pin would beat round’s end. At 145 pounds, Joseph’s



Rich Rautenstrauch/Chieftain
Enterprise freshman Cole Farwell makes a move just before pinning Ty Hook of Elgin. Wrestlers from Union and Wallowa County gathered in the Cougar Dome Wednesday evening, Jan. 7, for the Border Battle.

Raymond Seal was winning his match over Elgin’s Tanner Owen handily, yet could not register the desired pin until one second remained in

their three-round tussle, or at the 5:59 mark. In similar fashion with opposite results, Enterprise’s 152-pounder Zylar Hermans was within one second of disentangling and moving on to round three when Imbler’s Tyler Tandy pinned his shoulders to the mat at 3:59. The solitary match that went the entire three rounds was between Joseph’s Jared Wilcox and Elgin’s Jordan Vermillion at 160 pounds. Wilcox was in control throughout, yet settled for a 10-0 major decision and not a pin. Wrestlers from Wallowa County who pinned their op-

ponents were Clayne Miller (106 pounds) and Cole Farwell (113 pounds) of Enterprise, and Wallowa’s Micah Fuller at 220 pounds. Wallowa mat man Cameron Salmon scored six points for the local team at 138 pounds where he drew a bye, while losing their matches by pin were Enterprise’s Nate Anton (120 pounds) and Gotro Thamadrit (132 pounds), plus JoHi wrestlers Lars Skovlin (126 pounds), Cole Kiesecker (170 pounds), Riley Warnock (182 pounds) and Ben Lopez (195 pounds.) Union County’s forfeiture came at the 285-pound heavy-weight class.

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Rich Rautenstrauch/Chieftain
Joseph's Tyler Johnson shoots inside against Wallowa in the Cougar Dome Saturday evening. The Eagles were rallying late but lost their momentum and the game.

Eagles endure pair of losses

By Rich Rautenstrauch
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — Second-year Joseph boys’ basketball coach Olan Fulfer continued his process of building a program, but was set back by two losses last weekend. The Eagles traveled to Echo on Friday, Jan. 9, and left there with a bitter taste in their mouths after losing to the Cougars 83-52. The EHS boys then came home for a cross-county game on Saturday and lost to some more Cougars, the ones from Wallowa, 42-47 (see related story). Fulfer said he only wanted to say one thing about the loss to Echo: “I was proud of my boys and the way they responded to the Echo team and their fans. They kept their heads above the fray and played like sportsmen should.” Scores by quarter, first

through fourth, with Joseph’s number appearing first: 5-23, 15-16, 16-14, and 16-24. Cayden DeLury was the top scorer for Joseph with 14 points; Deni VanWinkle and Noah DeLury were next with 13 apiece, Aaron Borgerding scored six, and Jake Christman, Sam Beckman and Johnny Stein all scored two. Although the Wallowa contest also ended in a Joseph defeat, Fulfer was more upbeat about the experience. “It was a fun game. Wallowa hit some big shots and are a well-coached team. We’re having good quarters but we need to have a good complete game,” Fulfer said, adding, “Winning is a process. We are building a foundation for the overall program.” The Eagles travel to Pine Eagle on Friday, Jan. 16, and then Griswold comes to Sather Court for a Saturday game.



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