

Late spin drops Outlaws to another loss

By Rocky Wilson
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Enterprise boys' basketball team (0-7 league and 6-10 overall) found itself in an unaccustomed position Saturday night at home against the Elgin Huskies (3-4 league and 7-12 overall): a chance to win the game going into the fourth quarter. It wasn't to be, however, as EHS, only trailing 24-23 with eight minutes to play, proceeded to lose its ninth straight by a 42-32 score.

accustomed to losing to know how to win close games, and it was the ingrained winning instinct to do the little things right at the end of the game that was missing in last Saturday night's loss.

"We made turnovers and they out-rebounded us at the end," said Enterprise coach Jeff Micka. "The wheels fell off the cart. We just can't get over the hump."

The death knell at game's end came from the free throw line. Elgin, playing with a total of six players the entire game, marched to the free

throw line 17 times in the closing period alone, concluding the evening by knocking home 23 of 32 charity casts compared to five of 10 for the home team.

That amounts to an 18-point differential from the free throw line in what ended to be a 10-point game.

Husky senior Jake Burgess nailed 13 of 15 free throws and led all scorers with 23 points.

Already missing two of their three big men — 6'4" Nikolai Christoffersen and 6'6" Blaze Lepper — with back and ankle problems re-

spectively, EHS played hard yet had no answers at the end when Elgin outscored the red-and-black 18-9 in the final stanza.

Kaden Lathrop paced Enterprise with 12 points, followed by Christian Ruckdashel with seven.

Ruckdashel and Kobe Ketcher marched to the bench with five fouls each in the closing minutes, causing Coach Micka to look even deeper for answers.

One Outlaw player whose hustle and rebounding earned the vocal respect of his coach this game was

Wade Isley, a 6-foot sophomore.

The path will get no easier this weekend for Enterprise as the team goes on the road to face Imbler (4-2 league and 13-3 overall) on Friday and Union (6-1 league and 11-6 overall) on Saturday.

Last weekend, also on the road Jan. 17 and Jan. 18, Enterprise lost 77-33 to Grant Union and 71-46 to Burns. Versus Grant Union, Ketcher scored 11 points and Lathrop 10 for EHS. Lathrop, with 17 points, was Enterprise's only player in double figures against Burns.

JOSEPH: Eagles split games

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Joseph led the whole way, scoring in double-digits in each quarter with Helix staying in the single. Those quarter scores, respectively: 18-7, 15-7, 14-7, 10-5.

The "Splash Brothers," Cayden and Noah DeLury, lit

things up with Noah scoring 17 and Cayden scoring 16. Jake Christman and Sam Beckman each scored six. Aaron Borgerding scored five, Deni Vankle four, and Tyler Johnson two.

"The bright spot in the Nixyaawii game was that we held such a high-scoring team

to 43 points," Fulfer remarked about Friday's loss. "The Eagles are great three-point hooting team. The (Joseph) boys got out there and defended this, and they only scored one (tre) on us. The score was a lot closer than it looked. We came within six at one point in the game."

Scores by quarter, with Joseph's points listed first, were 5-13, 6-10, 8-14 and 9-6.

Fulfer praised the play of Christman and Borgerding in this game. "Jake was especially good. He gets his teammates going, his rebounding and passing was excellent, and he helped control the game. Aaron is looking better in every game. His leg is healing up, he's rebounding well, and getting good looks at the basket."

Christman was the leading scorer for the Eagles with 10 points, Borgerding and Noah DeLury were next with six apiece, while Cayden DeLury and Tyler Johnson both contributed three.

OUTLAWS: Enterprise girls strong

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Early in the third period Elgin bounced back and closed the gap to one point, but after that the Outlaws took over the game completely. The quarter score in the third was 13-8 in favor of Enterprise, and Enterprise's defense was powerful in the fourth quarter, holding Elgin to four points while the Outlaws scored 14.

Enterprise sophomore Tifanie George was the player of the game. She had a double-double with 11 points and

10 rebounds. George was seven-for-eight at the free throw line, and elsewhere on the court had four steals and two blocks. Senior Emma Hall scored 12 with two rebounds, one assist and two steals. She also had a stellar night at the line, shooting six-for-six. Sophomores Reagan Bedard and Sarah Aschenbrenner each scored seven with Aschenbrenner adding six rebounds. Bedard hit three out of four at the charity stripe. Carsen Sajonia had good numbers all across the board: she scored five, had three rebounds, two

assists and three steals. Freshmen Riley Gray and Reece Christman each contributed, Christman scoring four with four rebounds, two assists and three steals, and Gray pulling down three rebounds. Darby Gassett had an unusual night without any points, but she had three rebounds, one assist and a steal. Gwen Nohr, Madison Plew and Ashley Exon all contributed.

The Outlaw girls go back on the road this weekend, facing off against Imbler on Friday and Union on Saturday.

SHOOTING: WHS to host winless team

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"We're thinking too much," says Oveson. "We're better than that. We just have to discover some way to get our confidence back. We're getting good looks, just rushing our shots."

Oveson called the loss at Powder Valley the low point of

the season. Not only were the Cougars held to a total of 18 points during the course of the final three quarters, but WHS as a whole only converted three of 18 free throw opportunities. In that game, Gareth Murray scored 13 and Karl Wellens nine to tally 22 of WHS's total 30 points, with Cole Hafer and Noah Allen scoring three each and Koby Frye two.

Unlike Powder Valley, which Oveson called aggressive, the mantle of being a "re-

ally good team" was the Wallowa coach's descriptor for the Nixyaawii Eagles.

WHS reached a point of sheer frustration during that game, however, scoring zero points on zero of 10 shots from the field during a second quarter where the host Eagles upped a 15-10 first-quarter lead to a 29-10 lead at the half.

Wellens and Murray scored 10 and nine points respectively to account for the bulk of WHS's scoring versus Nixyaawii.

STREAK: Cougars squeak out win in OT

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The ladies from Wallowa were led by three players scoring in double figures. Harsh-

field scored 17 points, Frei 16, and Makin 10. Wallowa next will play at home Friday against Griswold and then travel to Pine Eagle on Saturday.



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