

WINS: Coach praises team's effort

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But even then, the damage wasn't that great because Griswold is an offense-challenged team and could only eke out a 14-12 halftime lead.

Gareth Murray, one of those two senior players, stepped to the forefront with his first trey of the night to give Wallowa its initial second-half lead, and watched with high interest as his teammates took spark and converted four fast-break lay-ins in slightly more than two minutes to erect what looked to be

a safe 24-16 lead.

But it wasn't safe.

Described by Coach Oveson as playing sloppy defense, the Cougars left chunky Griswold senior Jason Bushman, 13 points, open to convert a three-point goal and a long two from about the same spot in the final 25 seconds of the third quarter, and suddenly a team with only two wins on the season was back in the hunt.

But that's when Gareth Murray was at his best. With 3:15 remaining in the game and WHS only leading 27-26,

Murray drove the lane and converted an old-fashioned three-point play, cranked his third three-pointer of the second half, and aggressively drove the lane for two additional field goals assisted by Noah Allen.

Murray concluded the contest with 20 points, 13 of them in the fourth quarter. Wellens netted 10 more.

Saturday proved to be a wake-up call for the Wallowa Cougars when a team that's struggled to score points all season put 56 markers on the scoreboard during that 56-45

victory against Pine Eagle. Oveson passed praise around when speaking of the team effort, yet the name of Karl Wellens dominates the score book.

The red-headed senior guard, as he did in one game earlier this year, moved exceedingly well without the ball, was ready to square up and shoot whenever he got it, nailed a high percentage of the shots he took, and scored 29 of Wallowa's 56 points.

"He was actively moving around and people were finding him," said Oveson of his

senior guard.

But the coach's accolades certainly were not isolated to his hot-shooting guard. "We did a great job on the boards and everybody had open shots."

Although five Cougars racked up Wallowa points in the win, Oveson had much praise for a player whose overall contributions far exceeded his point tally. That was junior Koby Frye. Although only scoring two points, Oveson said Frye's passing, hustle, and rebounding were instrumental in the

victory.

In addition to Wellens and Frye, Gareth Murray scored 11 points versus PE, Cole Hafer eight, and Noah Allen six.

Wallowa only has one game scheduled this weekend, at Joseph Friday night. The two teams from Wallowa County have similar records. Wallowa is 4-5 in league and 8-10 overall, and the Eagles 4-4 in Old Oregon League play and 8-8 overall. During an earlier Jan. 10 meeting in Wallowa, the Cougars won 47-42.

VICTORIES: Eagles win big

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Saturday's match-up against Echo had everything a basketball fan could want: two teams playing hard, not giving in at all, and a bonus period to settle it. Joseph led after one 8-5. In the second period Echo scored 11 to Joseph's eight (again), so the score was tied at the half 16-16.

Joseph forged ahead in the third period, outscoring Echo 15-10, but Borgerding fouled

out in the fourth quarter and this, said coach Fulfer, gave Echo the chance to get back in it.

For Joseph, it helped that Noah DeLury hit three out of four free throws late in the game. With 1:09 left, Joseph was ahead by five, 38-33. Echo was fouling, trying to stay in it, and then hit a big three-point shot, followed by a tying basket with no time on the clock, concluding regulation with the teams knotted, 44-44.

Cayden DeLury poured it on in OT. "Cayden's clutch gene came through for us, it was like he had ice water in his veins," Fulfer said.

In the overtime period, DeLury scored five points from the field, including a three, and he went three-for-four at the free throw line. Christman likewise hit three-of-four from the stripe in OT.

Fulfer added praise for Borgerding. "Aaron also came up big in this game. He's still healing, and the Echo kids came up to him after the game and told him he made the difference between this game and their last."

With the Joseph boys' record standing at 4-4 in league play, things are really going to heat up this weekend with two home games. Cross-county rival Wallowa comes to Sather Court Friday evening with Pine Eagle at Joseph on Saturday.

STREAK: Girls eye ninth straight victory

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Macey Frei next put in an offensive rebound to give WHS the lead for good, Makin hit a bomb from outside to extend that lead, and Wallowa, with perseverance, was off to another win.

Probably the lasting memory from that game, however, came during a span of less than two minutes midway in the fourth quarter when Makin, in addition to netting two free throws, popped in three consecutive three-point field goals that suddenly left the Grizzlies (3-5 league and 8-10 overall) at a 36-23 deficit. Makin scored 21 points to lead all scorers.

Coach Oveson did note that team rebounding improved dramatically following

the halftime break, a positive contributor to the second half surge.

Wallowa outscored the school from Helix 24-8 in the second half, with Frei contributing eight points to the Cougar cause during the home contest and Taylor Harshfield seven.

Frei was the workhorse Saturday in Halfway, especially during a colossal first half where she scored the first eight points of the game and grabbed 10 of her team-high 11 rebounds.

The victory at Halfway was a perfect example of Oveson's mantra for his team in regard to adjusting one's game both to what their opponent is giving them and how they, the Cougars, are playing.

"We could not hit from the outside," said the veteran coach. "And so we patiently moved the ball around until we could attack inside. It was not pretty, but we just slowed the game down and played good defense."

Oveson noted that two critical third-quarter steals by quick senior guard Harshfield that were converted into quick field goals were timely factors in the win over the Spartan ladies (0-8 league, 2-13 overall).

HOPES: Playoffs possible

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The trip to Union wasn't much different from the night before, "They absolutely destroyed us," Crawford said. "There's a reason they're ranked so high. At the end of one the score was 19-8. They were almost up 30 at the half. Both benches played in the fourth and they still outscored us 16-3," Crawford said.

Throughout the season, Crawford has stressed that he has a young team, and he is well aware of how tough the Outlaws' regular competitors are, but he's never been pessimistic and he does want to give his girls a shot at a playoff spot. With three more games left the coach is still optimistic. "We need to get off the road and that's going to happen with the final three games played at home. We need a stretch of playing well to extend the season."

The Cove Leopards come to town Friday night. A win against Cove will keep the girls' goal alive. If that doesn't happen, the Outlaws will still have a chance, but will need some help from another team.

Did You Know...

There are two types of sweet potato, firm and soft. After cooking, firm sweet potatoes still remain firm and waxy, while the soft variety becomes creamy, fluffy, and moist.



Soft sweet potatoes have copper skin and orange flesh. Firm sweet potatoes have golden skin and paler flesh. Yams, now that's a whole different story.....next time!

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