



Rich Rautenstrauch/Chieftain

Wallowa senior Cheyenne Hall scores two against Powder Valley, Saturday evening, in the Cougar Dome. The girls' regular season ended in exciting fashion with Wallowa winning the game in overtime.

WHS girls win in OT; start district play Thursday

By Rocky Wilson
Wallowa County Chieftain

The up-and-down Wallowa Cougar girls' basketball team, after winning eight straight then losing contests against Joseph and Echo, won an overtime thriller at home before a packed house Saturday night at the expense of Powder Valley. Although far from playing one of their better offensive games of the season, Wallowa's win over the Badgers — a victory that leaves WHS and PV with identical 8-4 league (third place) and 12-9 season records — should add confidence to Coach Greg Oveson's team when they open district play at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the Baker High School gym against the Tuesday-night playoff winner between Joseph and Pine Eagle. The loser of the Thursday contest can go home while the winner and three other Old Oregon League teams, including league co-champions Echo and Nixyaawii with first round byes, will fight it out for

three berths in the state tournament to be held March 5-7, again in Baker City.

Emotions ran high during the end of regulation and overtime Saturday night when Wallowa, helped with some timely free throw shooting, pulled out the slim OT win.

With slightly more than 10 seconds remaining in regulation, Wallowa's Cheyenne Hall, playing one of her best games of the year, drove and scored two of her 11 points. The partisan gym exploded, only to deflate just before time elapsed when a player from North Powder returned the favor.

Oveson said his squad won the game on aggressive defense and rebounding, plus an ability to knock home some key free throws at the end.

Sophomore Lauren Makin netted three triples during the contest for Wallowa, but possibly plays of more importance in the closing moments came when she was fouled

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Eagles win two of three, and a coin toss

By Rich Rautenstrauch
Wallowa County Chieftain

When it was all said and done, the Joseph boys' basketball team tied for second place with Echo in the Old Oregon League. The two teams, both 7-5 in league, flipped a coin for their respective seedings in upcoming district play. Joseph won the toss and is seeded second behind the Nixyaawii Eagles.

District contests will start on Thursday at the Baker City High School, but the Joseph boys will wait until Friday to play whoever moves into their bracket.

The Eagles began last week with a makeup game with Wallowa on Tuesday evening, Feb. 10, and beat the Cougars, 42-39. Next up for the Eagles were the Helix Grizzlies on Friday with Joseph winning that game also, 57-30. On Saturday Joseph lost to Nixyaawii,

24-58.

Tuesday evening's game against Wallowa was a bam-bum, giving the fans all they could ask for. Wallowa outscored Joseph 12-8 in the first quarter, and in the second period Joseph turned the tables, outscoring Wallowa 12-7.

In the third each team scored 10 points and Joseph was still up by one. Things heated up in the fourth with Joseph scoring 12 to Wallowa's nine. Karl Wellens of Wallowa hit a big, deep three to keep the Cougs in it, but late free throws by Joseph's Deni VanWinkle and Sam Beckman sealed the deal for the Eagles.

Jake Chrisman and Cayden DeLury each scored 11. Sam Beckman scored six. Deni VanWinkle and Noah DeLury each scored five, and Aaron Borgerding added four.

Coach Olan Fulfer said, "The

game was super-tough and could have gone either way. We have a ton of respect for the Wallowa team and the coaches and were happy to come away with the win."

In the game against Helix, Joseph came out really strong and outscored the Grizzlies 26-9 in the first half. At the end of the third the score was 37-22. Joseph gained even more distance for itself with an impressive 18-8 advantage in the final stanza.

"Jake and Aaron rebounded well," Fulfer said. "Helix did get within nine, which was a good wake-up call for the boys."

In the game Borgerding scored 18, Cayden DeLury 16, Cody Stone 11, Noah DeLury seven, and Deni VanWinkle two.

As for his team's loss to Nixyaawii, Fulfer said, "We had way too many turnovers and we didn't play our game."



Rich Rautenstrauch/Chieftain

Joseph Eagles sophomore Cayden DeLury scores two playing against Wallowa last Tuesday evening on Sather Court. Joseph came out on top in the hard-fought contest with late heroics on both sides of the court.

Emotions abound as EHS boys win finale

By Rocky Wilson
Wallowa County Chieftain

Good things come to those who wait.

The 2014-2015 Enterprise High School boys' basketball season has been long and arduous, but what transpired on Senior Night to end the season for the Outlaws long will be remembered with both joy and tears.

The fact that Coach Jeff Micka's team broke a 13-game losing streak with an upset 45-37 win over Grant Union to record their one and only 2A-6 Wapiti League win of the season was huge, but only one of several emotional highs on a memorable night in Dick Quinn Court.

The tears started when EHS's 6'6" senior Kaden Lathrop, by far the team's top scorer on the season — as part of a planned surprise orchestrated by his father, assistant coach Ron Lathrop — waded through his hands-slapping lineup of teammates prior to the game to discover his three older brothers standing there in street clothes, having arrived to watch Kaden play his final high school game. The oldest, Cody, came from Minneapolis, Minn., the next-oldest, Cole, from Portland, and the third, Kenny, still lives locally. Ron Lathrop now has coached all four of his sons in basketball, with Cody (2002), Cole (2004), and Kenny (2010) graduating from Joseph High School, and now Kaden (2015) from En-

terprise.

If that wasn't enough to get hearts pumping, the Enterprise loyal were thrilled by another milestone event when Randy Morgan, the sometimes Athletic Director, 37-year band instructor, and constant Enterprise loyalist, was called to center court to be honored for his service and handed flowers by his daughter.

Then, of course, there was the game.

And by no means did the game lack in drama.

Three freshmen came off Micka's bench to rally the Outlaws from a 31-26 three-quarter deficit to help post the victory that saw players and fans alike storm the court at game's end to celebrate one of those unparalleled moments that brings the best out of high school sports.

"Everyone was jumping up and down as if we'd won the state tournament," said Micka.

The three freshmen, allowed extra playing time because the junior varsity game only lasted two quarters, who helped turn the tide were Jimmy Wells, Rylie Hayward, and Blaze Lepper. And their respective contributions came in different aspects of the sport of basketball.

Wells came into the game in the second quarter and helped the Outlaws handle a full-court press that the Prospectors, who had thumped

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Rich Rautenstrauch/Chieftain

Enterprise Outlaws sophomore Kobe Ketscher soars while taking a shot against Grant Union at home Friday evening when EHS staged a season-ending upset, causing players and fans to storm the court in pandemonium at game's end.

EHS girls lose, but head to post-season

By Rich Rautenstrauch
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Even though the Enterprise Outlaw girls lost to Grant Union Friday night at Quinn Court, their 4-8 league record fulfills a big goal to make it into district play. The Outlaws will travel to Eastern Oregon University's Quinn Coliseum on Friday and will play

fifth-seeded Imbler to try to extend their season and possibly go on to the state playoffs.

Friday evening's game against Grant Union went bad for Enterprise right from the beginning with Grant Union outscoring the Outlaws 17-4 in the first quarter. Enterprise coach Mike Crawford reflected, "The refs were calling the

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Rich Rautenstrauch/Chieftain

Outlaw senior Carsen Sajonia shoots over a Grant Union player. The Outlaw girls lost this final league game of the regular season.

Wallowa boys split two, seek to score district spot

By Rocky Wilson
Wallowa County Chieftain

Playing before the most boisterous Wallowa crowd in years, the Cougar boys drilled home 10 three-pointers en route to besting Powder Valley 61-56 in their regular season finale.

The Cougars ended the regular season 5-12 in league and 9-12 overall, and played at home against Griswold (0-12

league and 2-20 overall) last night in hopes of securing a spot in the six-team 1A-7 Old Oregon League District Tournament that begins Thursday.

Because Wallowa and Powder Valley ended up tied for fifth place in league standings and the seventh place squad is guaranteed one play-off game for a chance to earn a berth in the district tournament, a coin flip was held after Wallowa's Saturday night

victory. The Cougars lost the coin flip, hence last night's contest against the Grizzlies, who fell to Wallowa by 13- and 10-point margins during the season.

If the Cougars were victorious over Griswold (those results weren't in as this issue was heading to press), their next test would be Thursday, Feb. 19, in first-round Old

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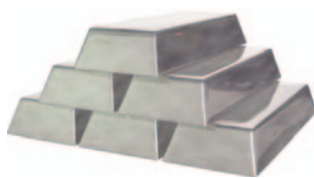
Wallowa County sunrise and sunset February 19 - February 25 (from the U.S. Naval Observatory)

Thursday, Feb. 19	Friday, Feb. 20	Saturday, Feb. 21	Sunday, Feb. 22	Monday, Feb. 23	Tuesday, Feb. 24	Wednesday, Feb. 25
Rise6:45 Set5:22	Rise6:43 Set5:23	Rise6:41 Set5:25	Rise6:40 Set5:26	Rise6:38 Set5:28	Rise6:36 Set5:29	Rise6:35 Set5:30

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