

Lady Cougars lose two road matches

By Rob Ruth

Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa High's varsity volleyball team continued along its early-season learning curve this past weekend, gaining more experience even as the young squad dropped matches to Adrian

and Enterprise. Both matches were on the road.

At Adrian on Friday, the host Antelopes beat up on the Cougars in game one, 25-8, but Wallowa looked better in a 25-14 game two loss, and performed downright competitively in game three, which again went

Adrian's way, 25-19.

"Friday they had a slow start, but I saw a lot of improvement by the third game," remarked Wallowa coach Janea Hulse.

The team didn't return home from Adrian until around 1:30 a.m., though, a circumstance which took its

toll.

"Saturday it was pretty apparent that they were very tired," Hulse said, referring to her team's match at Enterprise. The Outlaws won in three games, by respective scores of 25-10, 25-9 and 25-18. Again, a third-game resurgence for Wallowa

made it a night worth the trip, and Hulse singled out a couple of players for praise.

"Rylee Goller (a freshman outside hitter) played her best game to date," Hulse said, and middle blocker Jordan Ferré, a junior, showed herself to be "a team leader."

This week's schedule included a Monday trip to Elgin, followed by a nice, long lull until Saturday's Joseph Invitational Tourney. In the interim, Hulse said, her Cougars would concentrate "on coming together as a team. That's what we'll be working on this week."

JOSEPH: Girls win a pair of matches

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Joseph has three games scheduled for the upcoming weekend: one away game on Friday at 1 p.m. at Pine Eagle and two games in the Joseph

Invitational Tournament on Saturday. Joseph's first game starts at 9 a.m., against a school that remains to be determined, and that's followed by a second game at 10 a.m. vs. Riverside, of Boardman.

COUGARS: Wallowa football team loses after strong showing

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After the Antelopes tied the game with a 2-yard TD run and successful 2-point conversion, Wallowa capped the first-half scoring, Frye first connecting to Travis Haga on a 28-yard TD pass, and then running the ball in for the conversion and Wallowa's 8-point advantage at the break.

Unfortunately, the Cougars' offensive magic was missing during a second half dominated by the Antelopes, who scored two touchdowns in the third quarter, and one in the fourth, and succeeded in all their conversions.

Wallowa stats: Chandler Burns had 89 of Wallowa's 163 total rushing yards to lead the team, and quarterback Frye, who was 3-of-14 passing with one interception, twice found Cole Hafer in addition to the TD toss to Haga. Frye and Wallowa had 69 yards through the air. On defense, Gus Ramsden led with 6 tackles, Allen, Haga and Chandler Burns had 5 tackles each, and Patrick Ritthaler was next with 4 takedowns. Ramsden intercepted an Adrian pass.

This Friday the Cougars travel to Notus, Idaho, for a game starting at 7 p.m. Mountain Time, 6 p.m. Pacific.

FAMILY: 'I'm pretty happy'

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The ride, it turned out, was their easiest leg.

And then came the run, and Ashlie was tired but game. Dad, it turned out, was game — but he'd uttered a prophecy earlier: the limiting factor was the legs. Halfway through the 5K, he got a cramp in his leg that never let up. They didn't have time for that, either.

Ashlie sprinted across the finish line and then went back to jog beside her limping father as he, too, crossed the finish.

He grimaced and grinned, one after another as he tried to stretch the cramp.

"I'm pretty happy," he said. "I don't know how many other 57-year-olds beat our time today."

And it looked like another prophecy was uttered earlier that

day, too. They had each other.

The winner of the Triathlon was Javin Berg, 47, of Dixie, Wash., with a time of 1:04:47. Berg came with several other runners from the Blue Mountain Endurance club of Walla Walla. "We've been here before and we've been looking at coming again for a while. The run is a fundraiser for a good cause and it's a good crew and good event," he said.

The competitor who came the furthest for the event was Timothy Finn, 38, of New Orleans, La.

Ashlie and Ron are already committed to doing it next year. "I'm proud of myself and I can't wait until next year," Ashlie said.

"And we're trying to talk Mom into it," Ron added. "She's uncommitted right now, but I think she'll do it."

EAGLES: Young team loses in solid effort

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touchdown. "He's learning a lot, but playing well," Koehn said.

The Eagles didn't give up, roaring back in the second half to outscore Wilder 22-7. "We made our adjustments at half-time, and came out and stopped

them on their first drive and we scored when we got the ball back. Our goal was to turn the game around when we came back out, and that's what we did," Koehn said.

The Eagles had 231 yards rushing on 31 carries. Logan Welch had 78 yards on 10 carries. Raymond Seal stood out

defensively with 11 tackles. DeLury had 8 tackles on the day.

Koehn said he was also impressed with the coaching staff as it was the first time all three coaches worked together in a game scenario. "We communicated well and look forward to growing as a coaching staff," he said.

The team attitude after the loss made a good impression on Koehn. "The kids were very optimistic, discussing the things the team needs to do better, so we'll be all right. They're excited," he said. The team's next game is in Baker playing Dayville/Monument on Sept. 19.

ENTERPRISE: Irrigon shuts out Outlaws

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Junior Trent Bales had the best rushing game on the day, taking 19 carries for 69 yards, which included a 13-yard run.

On the receiving end, sophomore Trent Walker hauled in two passes worth 50

yards, the longest resulting in a 40 yard gain. Junior Tate Olsen snagged 1 pass for 17 yards.

Defensively, Olsen, Exon and Bales had three tackles each. Bales and senior Nathan Perren each recorded one sack in the effort.

Juniors Clayne Miller and Grant Jones snagged one in-

terception each, as did senior Isaac Rowley.

"This is not the Irrigon team of old. They have 50-plus kids out and they have speed they used to score big plays on us," said EHS coach Mike Rowley.

The Outlaws are running a new offense with new receivers and a new line and even so,

managed to get within scoring distance a few times without being able to punch in for a score. "We're in the pre-season and we're learning. We'll get better as time goes on," Rowley said.

Enterprise is 0-2 on the season and traveling to Heppner for a Sept. 18 contest.

OUTLAWS: Enterprise girls lose to Cove

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Cove took the third set, 25-18, but barely squeaked a win in the fourth set when the score went 25-23. Enterprise came back too late and slipped to a 43 ranking.

The good news is: the Lady Outlaws showed both improvement and promise. They are clearly coachable and coaches

Gill and Stangel are dialed in and developing the team week by week. The proof in the pudding came on Saturday, when the Outlaws went up against Wallowa. Enterprise won 25-10, 25-9, and 25-18.

Andrea Butterfield was out with an injury, so Gill had sophomore Reece Christman swing varsity and play in the middle spot, where she did an excellent job and recorded three kills.

One of the more notable improvements was in communication. Cove had demonstrated remarkable communication

skills on Thursday and the Enterprise girls took notice and brought their own communication up a notch.

Standout players included Jacklyn Jenson (#7) who led with a whopping 23 serves and was top in aces besides. Darby Gasset (#9) reprised the killer serve that stunned Cove and in one set against the Cougars served 14 times in a row.

"The team as a whole served extremely well with only three serving errors, of which two were from us trying jump serving for the whole match," Gill

said.

Riley Gray and Tiffany George were also notable.

"Tiffany had a great game and seven kills," said Gill. "And Riley's confidence level is becoming stronger. When she's got confidence she plays better. When she matures she's going to be awesome." Gray had three kills and a block — and dozens of smart assists.

"The team as a whole left everything on the court," Gill said. "They played hard, had very few errors and flowed together as a team." They were so good it was hard to pick, but Jacklyn Jenson gets the MVP for this game.

A shout-out must also go to the JV team, romping over both Cove JV and Wallowa JV with energy and spirit.

"Our JV team is always like this," said Gill with a laugh. "We talk about this all the time. When they come up to varsity, it gets tougher; the games count at league and there's more pressure."

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