

Out-of-town trip good PR for players

By Rochelle Danielson
For the Chieftain



Birdies, Bogeys & Bunkers

The urge to travel — a get-out-of-town day — inspired a quartet of Alpine Meadows ladies to load up their clubs and tool down Highway 82 for a round of golf at Buffalo Peak.

The wanderlust foursome kept a gala conversation going as they made the 85-mile trip through the canyon, up Minam grade, across farmland on the outskirts of La Grande, past Hot Lake Resort, and Union's Victorian Main Street.

The verdant 18-hole course nestles around a treeless hillside of golden vegetation. From the highest elevation, at the No. 1 tee box, the

golfer is rewarded with a panoramic view of the Grande Ronde valley and a close-up look at the link-style course below.

As their Web page states, "Buffalo Peak offers challenges to players of all levels." What fun Carol Marr, Ernestine Kilgore, Pat Patterson and I had judging distance, choosing clubs, crossing ditches running through, driving tee

shots over ravines, grass bunkers and a small lake. And then there was a cardiac climb on No. 11, a 400-yard, par 5, but, wow, the aerobics. My Fitbit registered many steps, and offered praise.

It's always a treat to visit courses in north-eastern Oregon. It creates good PR between clubs, and also gives the individual golfer a broader perspective of the game.

Buffalo Peak welcomed our Enterprise group. Along with giving winter rates — of \$30 for 18 holes including a cart — a greens crew worker and local golfers gave a friendly smile as they offered helpful directions in the labyrinth of cart path choices. Scott and Sylvia Marcum, formerly of Enterprise, operate the

golf course, but weren't available Monday.

Now for local scoring: Ladies first: Cindy Parks/Ruby Zollman won the big bucks in Best Ball play. August games: Odd Clubs, Carol Marr. Blind Nine, Ernestine Kilgore and Blind Partners, Cheri Lamb/Ernestine Kilgore. Zilch to those who tear up their scorecard.

Men's scores for Sept. 10 include Blind Partner Scores: Terry Lamb/Dan Cornett, 152. Gary Marr/Lee Weaver, 156. Jerry Hook/Harlan Menton, 161. Buck Beier/Bill Ables, 166. Skins: Dan Cornett took skins on #7, 13, 14 & 18.

Colder air and frost has halted early morning play, but there are mighty fine falls day left to enjoy the game.

OUTLAWS: V-ball team improving, fun to watch

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The team is gelling and is a blast to watch, particularly when the game gets close.

"We've been really working on just playing for each other

and having fun," said Gill. "We play better when we're smiling. When we're too focused is when we don't do as well."

The next game is at home versus Elgin, 5 p.m. on Sept. 24.

WALLOWA: Cougars gridders impressive against larger team

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This description would also be apt for the team as a whole. Going up against a Notus team with noticeably larger players, including a few possessing remarkable speed, the Cougars weren't at all intimidated, winning the war on the line and also the contest downfield.

The Pirates had their best look at making this a close game in the second quarter, when a couple of scoring passes burned freshman free safety Gus Ramsden, but only because he was making the run his primary defensive focus. The Wallowa coaching staff then helped him adjust to a pass-first style, and from that point forward the Notus quarterback

and receivers could achieve precious little against Mr. Ramsden. He finished with 4 tackles, including one for a loss, and a whopping 7 assists.

"He came back and played really well," Brockamp remarked.

Ramsden also made his way into the Wallowa offensive highlights reel while he filled in at quarterback for a few downs late in the second quarter. He hit Hafer for a 51-yard score, the third of Hafer's four TD catches.

On the night, starting QB Frye was 4-for-8 in passing for 72 total yards, and Noah Allen went 1-for-2 with his throws on conversion plays after touchdowns. Ramsden was 1-for-1.

The Cougars put up 119

yards of passing offense to complement a 281-yard rushing attack while the Pirates' comparative marks were 136 and 145 yards, respectively. Wallowa out-gained Notus, 400 to 281, Notus' combined yardage total coincidentally equaling Wallowa's rushing total.

Other players who scored for Wallowa included Allen (40-yard run) and Travis Haga (4-yard reception).

Aside from Hafer and Ramsden, Cougars frequently in on tackles were Haga (5 tackles, 4 of them sacks, and 3 assists), sophomore Ethan Burns (4 tackles, 1 sack, 3 assists), Allen (3 tackles, 2 assists), and sophomore Patrick Ritthaler (2 tackles, 4 assists).

"We played pretty tough

physical football against a big, strong football team," Brockamp said.

Wallowa prides itself on conditioning, and Brockamp says this was one of the keys to knocking off the power-rushing Pirates. "We like to think that we condition harder than everyone else, and we try to just play physical, aggressive defense," the Wallowa coach said.

Now an encouraging pre-season has ended, and here comes the Cougars' league opener, which also happens to be their home opener, this Friday against Echo at 2 p.m.

"We are excited for league play to begin," Brockamp said, adding that preseason had served as "a good test to see where we were at and get us ready for league play."



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OFFENSE: Players optimistic despite loss

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Defensively, Bales also led the team in tackles with six and three assists. Rowley also lauded the defensive play of junior Wade Isley who had two tackles with five assists and Walker with

four tackles. Junior Tate Olsen intercepted a pass, running it back for 44 yards. Overall, Rowley felt optimistic about the team's performance. "We had a rough first half, but we made some adjustments, and things picked up in the second half. It's a relief to get some points on the board," Rowley said.

COUGARS: First league match next

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Mary Beth went on a 9-in-a-row serving spree during the game. Her serves totaled 16, including 3 aces.

Coach Hulse also noted freshman outside hitter Rylee Goller's marked improve-

ment. "Her net play is solid. She is very consistent," the coach said. Goller had 3 kills against Riverside, Wallowa's next foe.

"Her movement from net play to defense has improved a lot and that has been a game-changer for our team," Hulse said of Goller.

Riley Ferré led with 5 kills against Riverside.

It wasn't until Wallowa faced Condon in bracket play that the Cougars' play began to slip noticeably. Coach Hulse said team communication was faltering. "They couldn't seem to come together as a team like I saw earlier in the day. One mistake started a domino effect," she said. She added that her team will be working on the mental part of the game during practices this week.

Coming up is Wallowa's first league match — against Echo on Friday, Sept. 25, in the Wallowa gym.

Wallowa County
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