

Where have all the ring-necks gone?



BIRD-WATCHING
EH Van Blaricom

I confess I took this picture of these beautiful Chinese pheasants from a larger picture that is on my wall. There used to be quite a lot of these ring-necked birds here in the Wallowa Valley. We even had an organization called "Pheasants Forever" which I belonged to. Today it is rare to get to see one of these roosters. What happened? I'm not sure what ODFW has for an answer, but from my observation, I think I know what happened to them. When I first moved here in 1969 there were quite a lot of these "Chiney" pheasants and there weren't any red foxes. Then we began to see more and more foxes and less and less pheasants.

These pheasants roosted on the ground and they made their nests on the ground. Therefore, they were very vulnerable to the keen sense of smell of foxes. I noticed in my



hayfields little piles of feathers that showed where a pheasant had been killed and eaten. There are far too many foxes here today and they inhabit the same areas around farmland where the pheasants used to be. There are too few trappers today that trap these predators as it's hard to catch them in people's

back yards without catching farm cats and dogs. Sometimes these foxes have their litters in plain view of a house and people think they are cute. They are cute, but so are baby pheasant chicks that we rarely get to see anymore. So that's my diagnosis of why we have so few Chinese pheasants today.

COUGARS: Tough road ahead

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Spartans a run for their money all the way (25-19, 23-25, 24-14, 25-18).

"We were up and down the whole match," Hulse said. "There were some very good moments and I'm proud of them for that. Both Jordan and Beth were leading the team and trying to keep everyone positive. Riley Ferre is stepping up and becoming a leader on the court too. She brings a level of intensity to the court that the other girls can follow."

Communication and leadership will be key for the team when they play against the number 16-ranked Echo Cougars Oct. 13 and then the number 22-ranked Joseph Eagles Oct. 17.

Coach Hulse is doing a good job at keeping the flame of spirit going as the young team develops. The

team's watchword for their first game was "intensity" a word that encompasses both focus and fight.

The Lady Cougars' last out against Echo saw them gaining confidence to end their third game with a score of 25-23 in Echo's favor. The Cougars' last fight against Joseph saw the team win two in tight games and go for tie-breaker (15-8) in Joseph's favor.

If this Cougar team can stay healthy for the next couple weeks and give the ladies a chance to jell as a team, we could see some impressive play in the coming weeks.

"All in all, with all the injuries and sicknesses that we are having, the girls are still working hard and keeping the right attitude," said Hulse. "I am proud of them. As long as they keep pushing themselves and striving to get better, I will be proud."

OUTLAWS: Team spirit is alive and well

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tell the story of the battles. It was 9 to 9, and then 11 to 11, and then 12 to 12 in that second game before the Prospectors managed to pull into the lead.

The Lady Outlaws made them work for it all the way.

"We played great against Grant Union," Coach LaShanda Gill said. "We played great defense and dug the ball well. We played as one and worked hard for every point."

Number one-ranked Burns, however, proved to be too much for the ladies, winning handily (25-11, 25-14, 25-9).

What's obvious watching the Outlaws is they love this

game – and kudos to Coach LaShawnda Gill and Assistant Coach Amy Stangel.

Every girl was firing on all cylinders over the weekend and the enthusiasm and spirit of the team continues to be infectious.

The coaches know how to develop their team's stamina and skill. Every week we look into the mirror of the opposing team see some little area where our ladies can improve and the next week we see the Outlaws in warm up demonstrating new skills in exactly those areas.

The Lady Outlaws meet Elgin in Elgin Oct. 15 and then to the Union 3-way followed by the Imbler 3-way, both in Union, Oct. 17.

E-gals trounce three opponents in marathon week

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Joseph Eagles volleyball team had an amazing week, winning three out of four matches and ending with an Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) number 22-ranking.

The first match was against the number seven-ranked Powder Valley Badgers at home, Oct. 8, and it was a fight with a large noisy crowd cheering the E-Gals on.

The team came out with a lot of energy that night and started off winning the first two sets 25-21, 25-16. Powder came back in sets three and four winning 24-26 and 23-25. The tie necessitated the final 15-pointer where Joseph put the Badgers away for the night (15-10).

"The girls were working together as a team," said Coach Jill Hite. "Their hitting was amazing as well as their serving."

Team Stats: Satori Albee (senior middle hitter) led the Eagles with 12 aces, eight solo blocks and 13 kills; Natalie Williams (senior middle hitter) contributed five blocks and 14 kills; Emma Hite (freshman setter) had two aces, nine kills, and 21 assists; Ally Cooney (junior outside hitter) had three aces and seven kills; Johnelle Suto (junior setter) had three aces and 27 assists; Haven Johnson (junior outside hitter) had two aces and six kills; Tori Suto and Annie Story continue to assist the team off the bench in both serving and playing back row.

The team then headed to Echo Oct. 9 and their energy flagged in that game, ending in a loss to the number 17-ranked Cougars (3-1). Official game scores were not available at press time.

Team Stats: Satori Albee had one ace, seven blocks, 18 kills and eight digs; Natalie Williams had two blocks, four kills and twelve digs; Emma Hite scored two aces, two kills, 12 digs and 22 assists; Ally Cooney racked up two aces, seven kills and one block; Johnelle Suto had two aces, 10 digs and 12 assists; Haven Johnson scored three aces, three kills and 12 digs; and Tori Suto served an ace.

The next two games were played Oct. 10 against the Nixyaawii Eagles and Helix, winning against the Nixyaawii Eagles in three games (25-7, 25-20, 25-13).

Helix, with only two losses this season, came out fighting and the E-gals fought in five hard-scrabble games and dished out some stellar serving to put the number 14-ranked Grizzlies away (13-25, 25-21, 21-25, 25-19, 15-10).

"As a team we had nothing to lose," said Coach Hite. "We played smart and continued to swing at the ball."

Team Stats: Natalie Williams and Satori Albee (both senior middle hitters) led the team with 10 kills each. Satori also had six blocks, one ace and 12 digs. Natalie had two blocks and five digs; Emma Hite (freshman setter) had three serving aces, four kills, 15 digs and 20 assists; Johnelle Suto (junior setter) had three serving aces, one kill and 13 assists; Ally Cooney (junior outside hitter) served very strong with six serving aces and four kills; Haven Johnson (junior outside hitter) had two serving aces, four kills and 12 digs; Tori Suto and Annie Story each contributed a serving ace.

"We look forward to this weekend where we wrap up league play with Pine Eagle and Wallowa," Hite said.

EAGLES: Next win is a must for team to stay alive for playoffs

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"It was nice to see him throw the ball a little bit," Coach Koehn said. He added Logan Welch also ran the ball hard for Joseph.

Ministers of defense included Raymond Seal, Ben Lopez and Riley Warnock.

"They played a good tough game and we spread our tackles," Coach Koehn said. "They're all learning to read plays and Tyler Homan and Cayden

DeLury each intercepted a pass and returned them for touchdowns."

The next Eagles' game is at home Oct. 16 against Pine Eagle and the coach is hoping for a win.

"This is a must if we want to stay alive for playoffs because they beat Powder (Valley). I think they're a little bigger and stronger than us, but we have a little more speed. If we make them play our game of football, we should be able to play with them," Coach Koehn said.



M. CROW · LOSTINE, OR



Lady Outlaw Jacklyn Jensen shows the focus and stamina the ladies exhibited as they kept the Union Grant Prospectors on their toes throughout the Oct. 10 game.

Kathleen Ellyn/
Chieftain



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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Our athlete of the week this week is Joseph football player Cayden DeLury. The JCS junior ran wild over the Echo defense in the Eagles' 62-22 victory.

DeLury averaged more than 10 yards per carry, garnering an astounding 200-plus yards on 19 carries while hauling in over 100 yards on six passes, accounting for more than 300 yards of the team's offense.

On defense, DeLury intercepted one pass that he returned for a touchdown as well. DeLury is 16 and is the son of Sarah Crist and Dan DeLury of Joseph.



CAYDEN DELURY

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