



Courtesy of Western Oregon University  
David Ribich makes a push at the end

## Ribich to compete nationally

Enterprise runner qualifies for Division II event in Missouri

By Scot Heisel  
Wallowa County Chieftain

When the NCAA Division II cross country championships get underway in Joplin, Mo., on Saturday, rest assured that Eastern Oregon will be well represented.

David Ribich, a 2014 graduate of Enterprise High School and current student-athlete at Western Oregon University, qualified for the national field during a regional meet Nov. 7 in Monmouth, Ore.

Ribich won state championships for the Outlaws in cross country and both the 1500-meter and 3000-meter races in track before moving on to Western Oregon. He also qualified for the regional D-II championships last year as a freshman.

During his sophomore campaign he found an extra gear and managed to beat his personal best in the 10K by a full two minutes with a time of 30:11.95. He finished 11th in the field of 162 runners to qualify for the trip to nationals, his first.

So, how does one prepare for national competition?

"No point in changing anything now," Ribich said Monday. "You treat it like just another meet but with a bigger title. I just need to focus on it and believe in myself like I have all season and just go after it."

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# SKI SEASON PREVIEW: LET IT SNOW

A snowboarder on Ferguson Ski Ridge demonstrates the style (both snowboarding and dressing) that marks a true Fergi fan.

Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain Archives

## SKIING COULD COME EARLY TO REGION THIS YEAR

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Fingers crossed, skiers. Big storm a'coming, so they say, and we could be looking at early skiing conditions this year. Here's the skiing wrap up as of Nov. 18:

### FERGUSON RIDGE AND EAGLE CAP SKI CLUB

Charlie Kissinger, president of the Ferguson Ridge Ski Club reports that the last batch of snow stuck and Fergi volunteers have done some grooming and packing. "We got about a foot of snow at Fergi this last go-round, and we'll do some grooming and try to pack it down so it will stick," Kissinger said. "If we get more snow on top of that, we could have something."

Or not. No one wants to jinx it with early boasts.

The last few years have seen skimpy snow on the Ferguson Ski Ridge 9 miles outside of Joseph and a traditional Christmas-break opening. "Let's just say if we have snow we'll

be open," a cautious Kissenger said.

In any case, there are still some mechanical repairs to be done up at the ridge and a work-day and potluck is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 22. The annual meeting of the Ski Club will follow at 4 p.m. at Fergi Lodge.

"We've been getting quite a few volunteers this year and it's been nice," Kissenger said. "But we're always happy to have more."

### EAGLE CAP NORDIC CLUB

No need for fingers crossed if you're a cross country skier, according to Jerry Hustafa, president of the Eagle Cap Nordic Club.

Hutafa was up on Salt Creek Summit (elevation 6,120) Nov. 12 and reported 12-14 inches of snow.

"That was before it got warm and rainy overnight," he said, "but it's pretty good cross country skiing. It's a good forecast from now on out and I think this will help settle it and we'll have a pretty good base."

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### THE STATE OF SKIING IN WALLOWA COUNTY:

Wallowa County has seen quite a growth in ski tourism in the last 10 years, according to Hustafa.

"Quite a bit of backcountry skiing goes on in Wallowa County," he said. "We have quite a few locals who back country or cross country ski and we get a lot of use from Hood River, Boise, Spokane, Tri-Cities, Portland and Seattle as well."

Even last year, when the Pacific Northwest had a bad snow year, Wallowa County had better snow than almost anywhere else, "except for maybe Anthony Lakes," Hustafa said.

"Generally our snow pack is a higher quality in that it is less wet and dense than it is in the Cascade Range. We have very good terrain and good access, and even with the growth we have had we're not very crowded."

## Cougars fall to Perrydale in quarterfinals

By Steve Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

No. 3 Wallowa's 2015 football season came to a shocking ending Saturday afternoon as the Cougars fell to No. 6 Perrydale 42-36 in a state quarterfinal game in Wallowa.

The Cougars led 30-8 midway through the third quarter but Perrydale found its stride and ousted the home team in dramatic fashion.

Three third-quarter incidents turned the tide the Pirates' way: Wallowa's Chandler Burns left the game with a knee injury shortly after a score, a penalty wiped out a long touchdown run by Noah Allen and Cole Hafer suffered a game-ending injury at the

quarter's close.

From there, the Wallowa defense lost its edge. While the Pirates found little running room up the middle, they solved the Wallowa riddle with power sweeps and a proficient passing game.

Perrydale tied the game at 30 with about three minutes left. The Cougars answered with a Gus Ramsden touchdown on a 54-yard run, but the conversion failed. Perrydale answered with 1:20 remaining and also failed on their conversion. The game looked destined for overtime, but Perrydale's defense scored with a late interception for a touchdown, leaving Wallowa with just 44 seconds to answer.

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Steve Tool/Chieftain

The Cougars' Gus Ramsden takes one the long way around in the state quarterfinals game in Wallowa on Saturday. The Cougars lost the game 42-36.

### Wallowa County sunrise and sunset November 18 - November 24 (from the U.S. Naval Observatory)

Wednesday, Nov. 18	Thursday, Nov. 19	Friday, Nov. 20	Saturday, Nov. 21	Sunday, Nov. 22	Monday, Nov. 23	Tuesday, Nov. 24
Rise ..... 6:52	Rise ..... 6:53	Rise ..... 6:55	Rise ..... 6:56	Rise ..... 6:57	Rise ..... 6:58	Rise ..... 7:00
Set ..... 4:16	Set ..... 4:15	Set ..... 4:14	Set ..... 4:14	Set ..... 4:13	Set ..... 4:12	Set ..... 4:11

## Our Annual Charity Drive Is on Now - December 18th, 2015

Community Bank will match up to \$500 (per branch) at 50¢ on the dollar

Funds collected at the Joseph & Enterprise branches will be

at the Wallowa Branch will be donated to the Wallowa Food Bank.

Offer your helping hand by donating at any branch of Community Bank



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