



Ribich 67th at D-II nationals

By Scot Heisel
Wallowa County Chieftain

Former Enterprise High School standout athlete David Ribich competed at the NCAA Division II Cross Country Championships on Saturday in Joplin, Mo., and finished 67th out of 246 runners.

Ribich, a 2014 EHS graduate and

current student-athlete at Western Oregon University, qualified for the national field during a regional meet Nov. 7 in Monmouth, Ore., where he managed to beat his personal best in the 10K by a full two minutes. At the national race, he managed a time of 30:58, about 47 seconds behind his mark at regionals.

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 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.

Ribich's mother, Enterprise assistant coach Jenny Reinhardt, attended the national event, as did a few of his roommates, fellow WOU runners, who made the 29-hour drive to Joplin.



Ribich

EDITOR'S NOTE

LOOKING FOR OUR WEEKLY SUNRISE AND SUNSET INFORMATION? WE'VE MOVED IT TO OUR WEATHER GRAPHIC ON PAGE A2. THAT'S WHERE YOU'LL FIND IT FROM NOW ON.

TO THE MAT

WALLOWA COUNTY GRAPPLERS GEARING UP FOR NEW SEASON

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

With the arrival of winter chills, local wrestling teams are happy to take things inside with the start of another season of mat battles.

All three of the county's high schools — Wallowa, Enterprise and Joseph — laid out their plans for the 2015-2016 season, which starts for all teams with the Enterprise High School Kickoff tournament Dec. 4.

Joseph

Sixth-year Joseph Charter School coach Tim Kiesecker has seven wrestlers this season, two of them females — senior Jesse Woodhead at 126 lbs. and freshman Renee Seal at 152 lbs. Seal is the only one of the two with previous wrestling experience.

Kiesecker didn't want to speculate on the team's league chances.

"We'll find out what we need to work on at the Kickoff tournament," he said.

Encouraging inexperienced kids to wrestle is a priority for the coach.

"I tell them to give me a couple of weeks of their lives to see what they can do," he said. "They'll never know if they don't try."

"We've been pretty busy because we've got some inexperienced wrestlers this year, but it's going to be fun. We're a little plugged up on the higher end (heavier weight classes). The numbers are there, we just need the talent to match up."



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Enterprise High School wrestlers warm ups before practice Monday. Ten wrestlers turned out at Enterprise this year.

Wallowa

The Cougars led by Mel Beyers, who has coached there for more than two decades. Beyers has five wrestlers in the program so far, which is about average for the program. He said the sport isn't for everyone in that it needs a lot of dedication, and not everyone can stick it out.

"Kids aren't as motivated as they used to be or work as hard as they used to," Byers said.

On the other hand, he said he tells prospective kids the rewards are great for those with initiative.

"The kids who come out and go all-out get a lot of personal achievement and gain self-esteem from it," he said. "I've taken kids

who are shy and withdrawn, and wrestling really changes them and gives them self confidence." He added that wrestling is not about sitting on the sidelines and that there's a weight class for everyone and everyone gets a chance to wrestle.

Enterprise

Outlaws coach Troy Farwell, in his second year of a return to coaching at the school, is mentoring 10 wrestlers this year, twice last year's total. Unfortunately, four of them are wrestling at 120 lbs.

"I'm hoping I can get them spread out between growing and shrinking, but time will tell," Farwell said. He added that at large-

er tournaments all four will be allowed to wrestle in the same weight class, while for smaller tournaments, wrestlers can challenge each other to wrestle at their desired weight class.

Farwell is always looking for more wrestlers, but he doesn't sugarcoat the rigors of the sport.

"I don't tell them it's an easy sport. I tell them it's a lot of hard work and a long season, but it does build character and offers camaraderie other sports don't."

He said travel is another bonus, with the team visiting Washington twice, Madras once and journeys to the southeastern portion of the state as well.

Farwell didn't speculate on the

HOME MEETS

WALLOWA
None as of press time.

JOSEPH
Joseph High Invitational, Jan. 1-2

ENTERPRISE
Enterprise High School Kick-off, Dec. 4

team's season prospects, preferring to focus on the present.

"We're a young team, but having 10 kids versus the five we had last year is a big step up."

Permits for ATVs, state park day use available online

Wallowa County Chieftain

The ATV permit and Oregon State Parks day-use parking permits are now available for online purchase at www.oregonstateparks.org. On the website, follow the 'Shop' link to buy the 24-month ATV permit and 12- or 24-month day-use parking permit from the Park Store.

"We're expanding our online services in response to visitor comments and requests," said Lisa Sumption, director of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. "In the coming months, we'll offer additional items in our Park Store that we believe will appeal to our park visitors."

The 12-month parking per-

mit is \$30 and the 24-month parking permit is \$50. Both are honored at all 26 Oregon State Parks that charge a day-use parking fee. The \$10 ATV permit must be displayed on ATVs operated on public lands designed for ATV use.

The permanent permits and day-use permit hangtags are delivered via U.S. mail at no cost to the customer. Customers should print the temporary permit attached to the Park Store e-mail receipt so they can visit a park or ride an ATV immediately after purchase. The temporary permit is valid 14 days from the purchase date and is designed to fit on a vehicle dashboard or kept with visitors operating motorcycles, open vehicles and ATVs.

OUTLAWS SET THEIR SIGHTS



The Enterprise girls basketball team gets in some early-season shooting practice Monday. Look for our basketball previews next week in the Dec. 2 issue of The Chieftain.

Steve Tool
The Chieftain

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