

ENTERPRISE
RESULTS, A12

Alexis Sykora (31) looks for a shot as Imbler defenders close in Saturday during the JEF Tournament championship game. In the foreground is Joseph's Emma Hite.

Scot Heisel/Chieftain

EAGLES DEFEND THE NEST

JOSEPH GIRLS HOLD OFF IMBLER TO CLAIM JEF TOURNAMENT TITLE

By Scot Heisel

Wallowa County Chieftain

New season, new coach, same stellar play from the Joseph girls.

With Superintendent Lance Homan returning to the coach's seat, the Eagles opened 2016 with a pair of victories over Class 2A opponents Heppner and Imbler and a JEF Tournament championship trophy for good measure.

"Our ball handling has been really good and our offensive execution is improving," Homan said. "The way they're communicating and moving together ... it was fun."

Junior Alexis Sykora hit 10 of 14 free throws and scored 26 points to lead Joseph to a 51-49 win over Imbler in the title game Saturday.

Teammate Emma Hite hit a pair of buzzer-beaters in the game — a 3-pointer to end the first half and a layup to give the Eagles a 45-33

lead at the end of the third period. Hite finished with 15 points.

But the Panthers weren't about to lie down. The Imbler defense clamped down and held Joseph to just six points in the fourth period. Meanwhile, Lexee Robertson and Kailey Smith started hitting shots and pulled the Panthers to within two points at 47-45 with 1:15 on the clock.

See NEST, Page A16



Cayden DeLury looks for an opening from the corner against Heppner on Friday.

Scot Heisel/Chieftain

Mustangs upend Eagles at buzzer

By Scot Heisel

Wallowa County Chieftain

After getting a taste of state tournament play last season, the Joseph boys were looking to start the 2016 campaign with a statement win at home Friday against 2A Heppner in their opening game of the annual JEF Tournament.

Despite a great start and a

gritty performance late, a dramatic victory turned into the season's first loss in the blink of an eye.

Kevin Smith grabbed an offensive rebound and put back a reverse lay-in with 0.7 seconds left in the game to give Heppner a 55-54 win over Joseph and send the Mustangs to the title game.

The Eagles came out

strong early on and built a 19-5 lead after the first period. That 12-point lead was trimmed to three late in the second period. The Eagles' Tyler Homan hit a 3-pointer late in the half to push the lead back to six points, but it was clear that Joseph was in for a battle.

See BUZZER, Page A16

PREP ROUNDUP

Enterprise Kick-off finds local grapplers in good shape

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

In the season of peace and goodwill toward men, wrestlers for the eight teams at the Enterprise Kick-off meet celebrated their brotherhood by throwing each other to the mat in a quest for domination Friday at Enterprise High School.

The Joseph Eagles finished tied with Adrian for third in the team standings with 64 points, a single point behind second-place Imbler. The host Outlaws placed sixth with 48 points. Hermiston won the meet going away with its 30 wrestlers seizing 124 points.

Fall is the word that best describes the performances of Joseph junior Cole Kiesecker and sophomore Steven Beckman as combined for seven wins — all by fall. Kiesecker won at 285 pounds after weighing in at a mere 198 pounds, while Beckman won at 113 pounds after weighing in at 106.4 — just above the 106-pound class he usually wrestles.

Joseph's Ben Lopez placed second at 182 pounds with a 1-1 record,



Courtesy photo

The referee raises the hand of Enterprise senior Adrian Widener, who won the 7th/8th-place 170-pound match at the Dick Griswold Invitational in Potlatch, Idaho, on Saturday. On Friday, Widener placed third at the Enterprise Kick-off.

while Ronny Morello and Justice McQuown took third at 152 pounds and 113 pounds, respectively.

Eagles coach Tim Kiesecker brought eight wrestlers to the meet and liked what he saw for the most

Local Top-3 finishers

113 pounds: 1. Steven Beckman, Joseph, 3. Justice McQuown, Joseph; 113 pounds: (B): 2. Kennisen Knifong, Enterprise; 120 pounds: 2. Shane Lund, Enterprise; 132 pounds: (B): 1. Cole Farwell, Enterprise, 2. Evan Johnson, Enterprise; 152 pounds: 3. Ronny Morello, Joseph; 170 pounds: Adrian Widener, Enterprise; 182 pounds: 2. Ben Lopez, Joseph; 182 pounds (B): 3. Jacob Falk, Enterprise; 195 pounds: Gavin Baldwin, Joseph; 285 pounds: 1. Cole Kiesecker, Joseph.

part.

"There was some talent here, and we're pretty happy with that. I'm really encouraged by a couple of the freshmen and their strength and willpower. They did pretty good."

Kiesecker said his team needs to work on following through after making shots at opponents.

Beckman said his last match was toughest.

"I came into this one knowing he

was a little better. I got him a couple of times where I could have pinned him while he was on his back, but he kept shifting positions, and that was the hardest part."

Beckman thought his victories were a good precursor for the rest of the season.

"Especially since I was wrestling above my weight class, I should be looking good."

Outlaws coach Troy Farwell brought 10 wrestlers to the meet and said it felt good to get started on the season.

"I got to see what I need to work on with the kids, and what the kids need to work on more. I'm happy. We're still a young team, and I'm happy with what the young kids are doing and my veterans are wrestling like they can and doing well."

Farwell said he plans to work more on technique with younger wrestlers, some of whom have not wrestled before.

Enterprise freshman Kennisen Knifong is the lightest member of the team and wrestles at 106 pounds.

See ROUNDUP, Page A10

SCOREBOARD

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 30

Boys Basketball
Enterprise 49, Wallowa 25

THURSDAY, DEC. 1

Girls Basketball
Enterprise 64, Wallowa 17

FRIDAY, DEC. 2

Girls Basketball
Ione Basketball Bonanza
Irrigon 29, Enterprise 27
JEF Tournament at Joseph
Imbler 52, Wallowa 17
Joseph 63, Heppner 31

Boys Basketball
Ione Basketball Bonanza
Enterprise 42, Irrigon 40
JEF Tournament at Joseph
Imbler 51, Wallowa 18
Heppner 55, Joseph 54

SATURDAY, DEC. 3

Girls Basketball
Ione Basketball Bonanza
Enterprise 67, Ione 16
JEF Tournament at Joseph
Heppner 37, Wallowa 23
Joseph 51, Imbler 49

Boys Basketball
Ione Basketball Bonanza
Weston-McEwen 67, Enterprise 47
JEF Tournament at Joseph
Joseph 49, Wallowa 23
Imbler 39, Heppner 32

MONDAY, DEC. 5

Girls Basketball
La Grande JV at Wallowa

SPORTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, DEC. 9

Wrestling
Enterprise at Muilenbug Tournament in La Grande, 4 p.m.
Joseph at the Culver Invitational, noon

Girls Basketball
Wallowa Lions Tournament
Joseph vs. Baker JV, 3 p.m.
Wallowa vs. Monument/Dayville, 4:30 p.m.
Enterprise Winter Classic
Enterprise vs. Pine Eagle, 6 p.m.

Boys Basketball
Wallowa Lions Tournament
Joseph vs. Monument/Dayville, 6 p.m.
Wallowa vs. Baker JV, 7:30 p.m.
Enterprise Winter Classic
Enterprise vs. Pine Eagle, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 10

Wrestling
Enterprise at Muilenbug Tournament in La Grande, 9 a.m.
Joseph at the Culver Invitational, 10 a.m.

Girls Basketball
Wallowa Lions Tournament
Joseph vs. TBD, TBD
Wallowa vs. TBD, TBD
Enterprise Winter Classic
Enterprise vs. TBD, TBD

Boys Basketball
Wallowa Lions Tournament
Joseph vs. TBD, TBD
Wallowa vs. TBD, TBD
Enterprise Winter Classic
Enterprise vs. TBD, TBD



Merry Christmas
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