



PREP ROUNDUP

Wallowa boys undefeated over weekend

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

Only Wallowa boys basketball emerged unscathed from the weekend, winning both of their weekend games. Friday, Jan. 27, saw the boys eeking out a 35-34 win over Griswold while the following day's games saw the Cougars come out on top of Pine Eagle, 38-34.

Stats were not made available to the Chieftain.

The boys are 4-6 in league play and 4-14 overall.

Wallowa girls

The Wallowa girls were 1-1 over the weekend, getting scorched Friday by Griswold, 58-17, and defeating Pine Eagle, 27-23, the following day. Scoring against Griswold saw Jamie Johnson leading the charge with 13 points while Breanna Phelps and Ashlyn Young contributed two points each. Saturday's Pine Eagles game again saw Johnson as leading scorer with 11 while Savannah Nobles rocked in eight points.

The Cougar girls are now 3-7 in league play and 3-15 overall. The Cougars next play Feb. 3 at Joseph and at home against Cove the following day.

Both the Enterprise boys and girls teams lost their lone weekend games on Jan. 27 to Grant Union High School. The Prospectors handily beat the boys, 50-35, leaving the boys 2-2 in league play and 9-8 overall. The girls suffered a 52-39 loss to Grant Union on the same day. The loss left the Outlaw girls at 2-2 in league play and 12-4 overall. The team's next scheduled games are Friday at Elgin and at home against Union on Saturday.

Joseph boys

The Joseph Eagles boys and girls split their weekend games both teams losing at Powder Valley on Friday while prevailing at home over Echo on Saturday. The Eagles boys fell to Powder Valley 52-35 on Friday's game. Although the Eagles led early on, some technical



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Joseph Charter school senior Cayden DeLury puts up two of his points during last Saturday's win over Echo, 53-44.

issues took the wind from their sails, and they never recovered. Caevan Murray led the Eagles offense with 10 points while Aaron Borg-erding added nine and Jake Chrisman added five points to the Eagles cause.

Saturday's home game against Echo saw the winds of fortune smiling on the Eagles with the team cruising to an easy 53-44 win. The

bench got lots of playing time with the Eagles leading by as much as 20 points at times.

"They scored a little more in the fourth quarter than we wanted them to. We were mainly playing all bench. They're getting better and it's good they're making some noise," Coach Olan Fulfer said.

Jake Chrisman and Aaron Borgerding led the scoring

with 15 points each while Cayden DeLury and Tyler Homan contributed eight and seven points respectively. The weekend left the Eagles 7-3 in league play and 13-5 overall.

Joseph girls

The Eagles girls suffered the same fate as the boys in their Powder Valley contest, losing 60-25.



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Joseph senior Cayden DeLury drives to the hoop for two o points during the Eagles' win over Echo last Saturday.

"Powder is a very good team that is a tough match-up for us. We played with a lot of energy, but we really struggled to make shots, which is partly due to their defensive pressure and partly due to just not being able to finish shots," said coach Lance Homan.

Alexis Sykora led the offense with nine points while Emma Hite cashed in seven points. Camille Crenshaw and Lauren Makin contributed three points each.

Echo proved a tough fight for the Eagles, but Joseph finally prevailed, 39-37.

"Coming off a loss the night before at Powder I was concerned with the potential let down, but the girls responded very well. Echo is a good team and it was good to get the win. The defense we played was some of the best we have played all year. We were also able to get a few more kids involved in the scoring column. This is a total team win and one that we are very excited about," Homan said.

Once again, Sykora led the scoring with 15 points while Hite sank nine points, Madelyn Nelson and Lauren Makin contributed six and

four points to the win, respectively. The weekend left the Eagles 6-4 in league play and 12-4 overall. The boys and girls teams play Feb. 3 at home against Wallowa and away at Pine Eagle on Feb. 4.

Wrestling

Enterprise wrestled a dual match at John Day against Grant Union and Prairie City high schools. Enterprise lost the match, 42-21, but Cole Farwell at 120 lbs., Evan Johnson at 126 lbs., Dylan Staigle at 132 lbs. and Jonny Sarbacher at 182 lbs. won their matches.

Jan. 28 saw the Outlaws wrestling at the Caldwell JV tournament against 18 other schools.

"We were definitely the smallest school there and the smallest roster there," said coach Troy Farwell.

Nevertheless, Shane Lund won his class at 113 lbs while Cole Farwell took a rare loss at 120 lbs., still winding up in second place. Dylan Staigle placed second at 132 lbs. and Jonny Sarbacher placed third at 182 lbs. The Outlaws next wrestle at the Bank of Eastern Oregon wrestling tournament at Heppner on Feb. 4.

Ribich keeps running

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

David Ribich, a 2014 graduate Enterprise High School graduate and track star, is gradually running out of mountains to climb.

The Western Oregon University junior, 21, won a triple crown of sorts last week with his indoor track performances.

After a stunning 4:02 mile on Jan. 27 at the University of Washington Invitational, Ribich is currently ranked No. 1 on the NCAA Division II list of the top milers in the U.S.

The WOU men's distance medley team, of which Ribich is the anchor, also entered the nation's top spot in their event.

As a crowning achievement, he also received the nod as the NCAA's national indoor track athlete of the week.

Two weeks ago, Ribich also broke a 24-year-old WOU school record in the indoor 3000 meters by 17 seconds, with

“IT'S SURREAL COMPETING AGAINST GUYS I WATCHED IN THE OLYMPICS.”

David Ribich

a time of 8:13.

"Last year I was ranked seventh in the mile going in to nationals, and in this year, with heats I've been able to get from previous (personal records) I got into a professional heat this last weekend and ended up taking fifth with a 4:02," Ribich said. He competed against nine professional runners and several top-ranked college runners. Several of the runners Ribich bested had previously qualified for the Olympics, which is also a goal for Ribich.

The next mile race for Ribich is at the conference meet in four weeks.

"I'm going to try and get the conference title before going to the nationals in March," Ribich said. With his current No. 1 rankings, Ribich isn't resting on his laurels. He's returning to the University

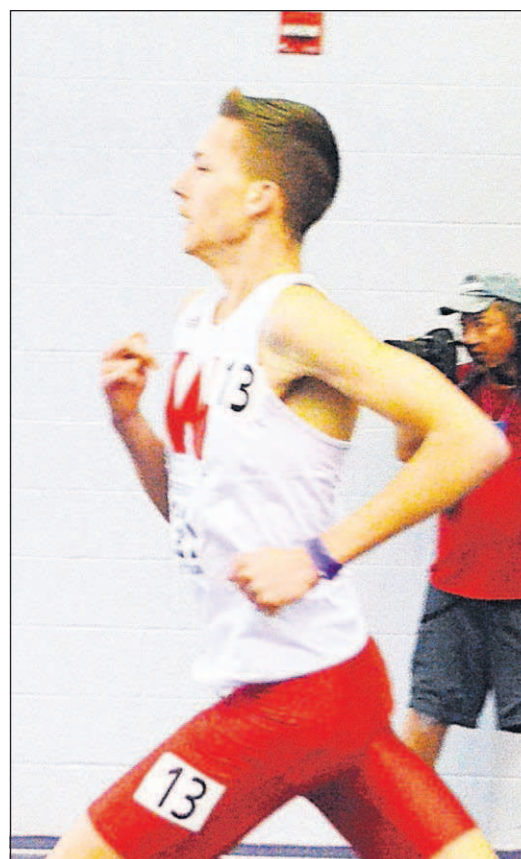
of Washington to compete in the 800 meters.

"I'm not an 800 runner, but I need to have that closing speed for the mile once I get to the nationals if I want to win or do anything competitive after that."

His high school dream of running in the Olympics is never far from his mind.

"I'm getting closer and closer. I'm getting to be placed in races with current and past Olympians, and it's surreal competing against guys I watched in the Olympics," he said.

Even with his continuing achievements, Ribich always remembers where he came from, even during his events. "My performances are always made easier knowing that I have 7,000 people in Wallowa County cheering me on," he said.



Courtesy Photo/Geneva Reinhardt

Enterprise High School graduate David Ribich competes against professional and Olympic qualifying runners in the mile race at the 2017 University of Washington Invitational indoor track meet, running a 4:02.30 mile on Jan. 27. Ribich is the top ranked Division II mile runner in the U.S. and is also a member of the top-ranked Men's Distance Medley team as well. Ribich competes for Western Oregon University in Monmouth. He is also on the Dean's List.

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