



Eagles head to state

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

The Joseph volleyball squad is in the running for a state title after sweeping Echo Oct. 21 for the district title during a busy week.

The high-flying Eagles suffered a rare loss on the court on Oct. 13, a day after Nixyaawii forfeited a match to the ladies. The ladies fell three sets to two in Echo.

Coach Jill Hite said the team made some uncharacteristic errors during the contests.

"We missed way too many serves and lacked overall energy, but Annie Story had an amazing serving night," she said.

Team standouts included Story's rocketing nine serving aces and eight digs while Sabrina Albee tallied six serving aces and 18 assists. Emma Hite scored 11 kills while adding 10 digs and an assist while Alexis Sykora bagged 14 kills, four blocks and seven digs.

On the following day the Eagles made short work of their relatives over the hill, beating Pine Eagle in three straight.

Hite led the team with 10 kills, 2 blocks, 6 serving aces, 1 dig and 2 assists with Sykora adding 10 kills, a block and a serving ace while Albee contributed two kills, two aces and 16 assists.

The Eagles defeated Union

in five sets on Oct. 17 with Hite again leading the way with 19 kills, three blocks, two serving aces and seven assists while Albee notched seven kills, two serving aces and 23 assists. Crenshaw had seven kills and two serving aces and Sykora added eight kills, three blocks and three assists.

"The girls had great energy," Hite said. "We missed a lot of serves but were very aggressive at the net. Emma really added energy with her hitting and back row play."



The Old Oregon League district playoffs were Oct. 21, which first saw the Eagles facing off against Helix, prevailing in four sets, 11-25, 25-18, 25-10 and 25-22 behind the stellar play of Hite, who garnered 12 kills, four serving aces and two assists followed by Albee's seven kills, three serving aces and 14 assists.

Sykora bagged six kills, stuffed three blocks and had serving aces for the cause while Crenshaw bagged four kills and a serving ace.

The Eagles faced off against Echo for the district championship later in the day, this time easily defeating them, sweeping three straight from the floor. 25-12, 25-21 and 25-9.

Sykora led the squad with eight kills, a block and three assists to her credit while Hite added six kills, five serving aces and four assists. Cren-



Courtesy Photo/Ann Story

We're Number One! -- The Joseph Eagles celebrate their district playoffs victory after defeating Echo in three straight sets in La Grande on Oct. 21. The Wapiti League champs will play an undetermined opponent in the first round of the state championships at home on Oct. 28.

shaw contributed six kills and four serving aces and Albee handed out 16 assists in the victory.

Coach Hite said the girls struggled a bit against Helix but quickly got their feet under them, losing only the first match. She said she later realized only three of the seven

players had prior district tournament experience.

"The girls came into district with a good mindset," Hite said. "They were prepared to play their game and they did." Their excitement and energy was incredible, so once they got their jitters out we were on our way."

Along with winning district, the team also had plenty else to crow about: Hite and Sykora earned first-team all-league while Albee found a spot on second-team. Tori Suto garnered an honorable mention. Hite and Albee also made the all-tournament team.

"I am extremely proud of

where these girls are and it is an honor to be their coach," Hite said.

The Eagles ended the regular season with an 11-3 record. They start the opening round of state at home Saturday. Opponent and game time were not available prior to press deadline.

Cougar football team will play in state tournament

Crane match-up will be Friday

By Paul Wahl

Wallowa County Chieftain

It hasn't been usual this season to see a Ramsden at the top of the stats for the Wallowa Cougar varsity football time. Usually, it's Gus, the team's quarterback. This week it was

his brother Zeb's turn on top. Zeb Ramsden, a 5-9 125-pound freshman, led the team in tackles with seven and tossed in 126 yards rushing as the squad walked all over a hapless Powder Valley team, 74-6. His efforts included scoring two of his team's touchdowns.

Patrick Ritthaler led the offense with 153 yards, followed by Austin Brockcamp

with 135 and Gus Ramsden with 96. Zane Hermens ran for 70 yards and Mason Moore, Tristin Bales and Kolby Moore also recorded yardage.

Ritthaler and Bales chipped in four tackles apiece on defense. Others with tackles included Sam Hilliard, Quinten Tillery, Ethan Burns and Kolby Moore. Zane Hermens, Mike Diggins, Daniel

Araya, Brockcamp, Gus Ramsden, Joe Robb and Freddy DeVore each had one tackle.

The Cougars turn in a total of 587 yards rushing to Powder Valley's 155 with five touchdowns in the first quarter. Powder Valley did not score until the final stanza.

Wallowa will take its 7-1 season record into battle against Crane, the top team in the High Desert League, 3

p.m. Friday at Ontario High School. Wallowa finished atop the Old Oregon League.

Both teams will move into post-season play; however, if Wallowa wins, it will have homefield advantage, according to Coach Matt Brockcamp.

Crane was ranked fifth and Wallowa sixth in the state in the final season statistics.

Brockcamp said Crane has allowed the fewest points of

any team during the season and Wallowa has scored the most points of any team.

"Crane has historically had a quality team and is well-coached," Coach Brockcamp noted. "We will continue to lean on what we've been doing all year — physical football."

Brockcamp said everyone on the Cougar team is healthy and ready for the final games of the season.

JOSEPH FOOTBALL TEAM WRAPS SEASON



Above, Joseph quarterback Tyler Homan ekes out an extra couple yards against Pine Eagle on a rain- and snow-soaked field in Joseph. At right, Jean Luc Palma puts the stop on a Pine Eagle player during Friday night's home game in Joseph on a wet and cold Friday night Oct. 20. Joseph won the game, 32-20.



Juston Rodgers ranked the ball for the Joseph Eagles varsity football team in a game against Pine Eagle. Guylen Snyder (58) and Caeven Murray (4) were in on the play.



Jean Luc Palma puts the stop on a Pine Eagle player during Friday night's home game.

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