

Enterprise falls to Kennedy in Round 1

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Lost opportunities, mainly in the form of turnovers, brought an end to the Outlaws 2017 2A state football champion hopes Saturday. The Outlaws lost to Kennedy High School from the Salem area in the first round, 33-0.

The game started evenly with neither team scoring until Kennedy hit paydirt with 4:32 remaining in the first quarter.

The Trojans controlled the rest of the game. Although they passed the ball enough to keep the defense honest, they focused on a running game that ate up both huge chunks of yardage and clock time.

Enterprise opportunities included a fumble after a 20-yard kick return, which later became a touchdown. An intercepted pass had the same result. The score stood 20-0 at the half.

The Outlaws held Kennedy scoreless in the third quarter and a good portion of the fourth quarter, but the sputtering offense left the defense on the field for extended periods, which contributed to the two fourth-quarter Trojans scores. The offense sustained a drive to the Kennedy 34-yard line but stalled on an Outlaws fumble.

Both Cole Farwell and Trace Evans ran well for the Outlaws and quarterback Justus Even saw some success with short yardage passes up the middle. The defense remained steadfast for the most part but spent the vast majority of the game on the field.

Senior Brett Greenshields blocked two PAT attempts.

Farwell led the rushing with 44 yards and Jake Coggin gained 27. Dylan Marr had 21 yards receiving and Trace Evans was good for 34 yards airmail. The offense gave up two fumbles and three interceptions.

“We were in the football game, but we didn’t do anything to give ourselves more momentum,” Coach Rusty Eschler said. “Anytime we started a drive or had anything positive, we’d turn the ball over.”

Eschler gave his team credit for a hard-fought game. He noted that the Outlaws last appeared in a playoff game in 2013 and last hosted a playoff game in 2002 or 2003.

“We came out and fought a lot harder in the second half, and the first half was turnovers. We easily could have gone into half time only down 7-0,” Eschler said. Those back-to-back turnovers ended up being 14 points — that killed us.”

Eschler noted that the team is young and played without one of its leading rushers.

“Considering no one expected us to be here in the first place, the kids played well — all season,” Eschler said. “The kids did an outstanding job. They’re pretty special.”



Brett Greenshields strips the ball out of the hands of Kennedy running back Emorej Lynk during Saturday’s state championship playoff game in Enterprise. The ball is behind Lynk’s right foot. The Outlaws took possession on the play.

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Rusty Eschler
Enterprise football coach



Cole Farwell hangs on to the ball after a rough tackle in the early going of Saturday’s state champion playoff game in Enterprise against Kennedy High.



Enterprise quarterback Justus Even makes a play in Saturday’s state playoff game against the Kennedy Trojans.

Cougar gridgers trounce Elkton, 44-6

Will face top-ranked Triad in quarterfinals Saturday afternoon

By Paul Wahl
Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa High School’s varsity football team met with huge success in the opening salvo of the Class 1A football playoffs Saturday in Elkton.

Patrick Ritthaler sparked the 44-6 win with a season-high 235 of the team total 441 yards rushing and another 20 yards receiving. Ritthaler also led the Cougars defensively with seven tackles and eight assists. He was key player in three of the team’s six touchdowns, including a 65-yard run.

Wallowa scored twice in the first quarter and three times in the second with a final touchdown in the third quarter.

Austin Brockamp tallied 134 yards rushing, along with quarterback Gus Ramsden’s 69 yards.

A feckless Elkton squad managed one touchdown in the second quarter and came up short with only 154 yards rushing in the game, 56 yards passing.

Coach Matt Brockamp said the



Wallowa High School’s Gus Ramsden, middle, leads a blitz on Elkton quarterback Austin Luzier during a playoff game in Elkton on Saturday.

second half degenerated into a hostile environment for the Cougars.

“We just ran the clock out and got out of there without any problems,” he said.

The team had traveled Friday, played Saturday and returned at around midnight.

“We had a good crowd and really appreciated the fans who traveled that

far,” Brockamp said.

The Cougars will be back on the road this week traveling to Klamath Falls to play Triad at Klamath Union High School’s Modoc Field 1 p.m. Saturday.

Triad advanced to quarterfinal play Friday night defeating Yoncalla, 70-22.

Brockamp said Triad came to



Wallowa High School’s Patrick Ritthaler gains yards for the Cougars during a playoff game against Elkton on Saturday. Ritthaler was key in three of the team’s touchdowns.

Wallowa two years ago for a playoff game and the Cougars came out on top. He’s hoping for a similar result in this year’s matchup.

Triad is 9-1 thus far on the season. Wallowa is 8-2. Triad came into post-season play ranked No. 1 in the state.