

Kolbaba finishes PBR season in second place

Derek Kolbaba got started on the right foot but suffered four consecutive missteps going forward during the Professional Bull Riders World Finals, which concluded Sunday at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas.

The 21-year-old Wallowa County native rode a bull called RJ to a score of 87.75 during the first round of the Built Ford Tough-sponsored event to finish third and earn a check for \$12,500.

But that ride turned out to be his only qualified bull of the weekend, and he failed to make it into Sunday night's championship round.

Kolbaba, of Walla Walla, Wash., entered the finals ranked No. 1. He finished the year at No. 2 with 4,415 points and earnings of \$359,672.32.

Brazilian Jose Vitor Leme won Sunday's finals with a score of 94.5 points on Magic Train. Leme, also 21, was a perfect 6-for-6 at the five-day event and also won the fourth round with a score of 90.5 on a bull named Big Ditch.

Jess Lockwood claimed the PBR's overall championship by winning the first three rounds of the season-ending competition.

At 20, Lockwood is the youngest world champion in PBR history and is only the second rider to win the title the year after being named the PRB Rookie of the Year.

Kolbaba is great-grandson of Chief Joseph Days Rodeo founder and National Cowboy Hall of Famer Harley Tucker.



Members of the third-place in state Joseph Volleyball team are (back row, from left) Grace Hickman, Coach Jill Hite, Emma Hite, Alexis Sykora, Annie Story, Sabrina Albee, Camille Crenshaw, Josey Wearing and Elsa Steen. Front row (from left) are Natalie Gorham, Madelyn Nelson, Rylee Wilcox and Tori Suto.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

WALLOWA

Junior High Boys Basketball

Thursday, Nov. 9: Wallowa plays Imbler at Imbler 5 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 10: Wallowa plays Enterprise at Wallowa 10 a.m.



Eagles roost high at state

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Joseph Charter School Eagles didn't come home from the 1A state volleyball championships empty-handed on Nov. 3.

The ladies returned with a third-place trophy, the first time in history the team has placed at the state level.

As an added bonus, the Eagles knocked the top-ranked team in the state off their perch during their first match in Redmond.

The eighth-ranked Eagles took three sets to beat top-ranked North Douglas in the quarterfinals, 25-22, 25-21, 25-17.

"I could tell going into the first match against North Douglas that the girls were

really focused," said coach Jill Hite.

Sophomore Emma Hite was instrumental in the win with 17 kills, a block and two assists. Senior Alexis Sykora was close behind with 11 kills, a block and three assists.

Sabrina Albee tallied four kills, three aces and 18 assists while Tori Suto had two serving aces and a pair of assists.

"The girls came out very aggressive with both serving and hitting. There was a small window where they began tipping but they were able to regroup and hit the open spots on the floor," Coach Hite said.

The 8:30 p.m. faceoff saw a different match, however. Though the Eagles fought hard, they went down to eventual second-place team

Hosanna Christian in three sets: 26-24, 25-20, 25-16.

"After putting so much emotional energy out against North Douglas, I felt the girls didn't have much left to give. We just couldn't gain any momentum," Coach Hite said.

Emma Hite led the effort with 11 kills, two aces, and three assists. Sykora had 10 kills, three blocks and four assists. Albee had five kills, 2 digs and 13 assists.

The Eagles came roaring back in the fight for third place, trouncing third-ranked Crosshill Christian in three sets with scores of 25-23, 25-18, 25-19.

"In this match the girls were back with their aggressive style of volleyball. They were confident and had great

energy," said Coach Hite.

In her final high school match, Sykora led the way with 11 kills, 2 blocks and five assists while Emma Hite collected nine kills, three blocks, an ace and a half-dozen assists.

Albee notched nine kills a pair of aces and 12 assists and Annie Story knocked out three aces for the Eagles.

"This is one exceptional group of girls with the will to win and be a team. They are willing to take chances and do what it takes. It has been an incredible honor to coach them," coach Hite said.

Two Eagles were selected for top honors for their tournament play: Emma Hite earned first-team state tournament team and Alexis Sykora earned second-team honors.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Dan Moody

This week's athlete of the week is Enterprise High School cross-country coach Dan Moody. The long-time coach has spent 28 years coaching in both the school's track and cross-country programs. Over the past weekend, his girls cross-country squad traveled to Eugene and came away with the OSAA 1A, 2A and 3A state championship for the first time in the school's history. "This was the one thing that was on my bucket list," Moody said. "I wanted a girls state championship before I got out of coaching."

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CHAMPS

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friends and EHS graduates stationed themselves along the

route to encourage the ladies. At the end of the race, Moody wasn't even sure the Outlaws had won as he didn't see the finish.

"During the race, I'm out

on the course yelling for the kids," he said. "I might have felt a little easier, otherwise."

Friends convinced him that the Outlaws handily won the championship.

Kyla Hook was the top Outlaws runner, finishing in seventh place, followed by Ellyse Tingelstad in the 10th slot, Ella Coughlan with a personal record at 18th, Ashley Wilson at 19th, Eliza Irish at 24th and Hero Peters in the 54 position, also with a personal record.

Moody said two of his girls, Ashley Wilson and Ella Coughlan, stepped up their performances during the last three to four weeks of the season — not just in meets but in practices, which helped push the team to the top.

The team didn't have much time to celebrate as it had a long journey home.

"I didn't even get to see the final results," Moody said with a laugh. "This is the one thing that was on my bucket list before I left coaching: To have one of my girls teams be state champions. It's pretty neat."

Student of the Week

As a new addition to the Alternative Education Classroom, Ally Elson has continued to impress. Her diligence, attention to detail and creativity have led to a 4.0 First Quarter GPA. In addition to academic success, Ally has taken the lead on group projects and class discussions. Her hardworking, positive attitude has made our school a better place!

Ally Elson

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The Student of the Week is chosen for academic achievement and community involvement. Students are selected by the administrators of their respective schools.

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Enterprise 426-4511

Wallowa 886-9151

Darwin, Disaster, and Adventure in Peru

Presented by **David Jensen**

Thurs, Nov. 9 7pm

Colossal natural disasters are common events in the high Andes where Enterprise photographer David Jensen has twice traveled to climb mountains and take pictures. Based on his experience and research, his presentation focuses on the most appalling natural disaster ever to hit the Western Hemisphere and explores the Darwinian implications of Peru's violent natural history and the cultural impact globally of Darwin's big idea.

Wallowology!

Natural History Discovery Center
508 N. Main • Joseph • 541-263-1663 • wallowology.org