



BASKETBALL PREVIEWS

Young Wallowa girls team up for challenge

By Paul Wahl

Wallowa County Chieftain

This will be a rebuilding year for the Wallowa High School Cougar girls basketball team with five freshmen, two sophomores, three juniors and one lone senior on the court.

Coach Annette Moeller said that's a bit younger than usual, but the team has height going for it this year.

Two players — sophomore Jamie Johnston and junior Riley Ferré — top out at 5-9.

"We're excited to have some true forwards this year to give us that advantage on rebounding," said Moeller, who is in her sixth year coaching the team.

The team fielded two seniors last year.

Moeller said it can be an advantage to have younger players because they're not

ON THE COURT

5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29 — Wallowa vs Enterprise in Wallowa

Friday, Dec. 1 — Wallowa competes in the Joseph Basketball Tournament in Joseph. Play continues Saturday.

afraid to take shots. "We've struggled with confidence when it comes to shooting," said Moeller, who is a sixth-grade instructor at Wallowa Elementary School. "Younger players aren't afraid to step up."

Moeller also expects her squad to have speed on the court and points to the team's history of being hard-workers as harbingers for success.

"I've coached some of

these girls in JV, and they have a lot of heart," Moeller added.

Rounding out the roster this year are senior Josie Scott, juniors Grace Pendarvis and Rylee Goller, sophomore Ashley Young and freshmen Ella Moeller, Bailey Hafer, Shanna Rae Tillery, Samantha Wightman and Austin Post.

Moeller is assisted this year by Bill Williams.

Wallowa opens its season Wednesday night against Enterprise.

"It's always a good rivalry," Moeller said.

Ella Moeller, Jamie Johnston and Riley Ferré, members of the Wallowa High School girls basketball team, dribble their way around the Wallowa High School Gym during practice Nov. 21.

Paul Wahl/Chieftain



Enterprise High School boys basketball coach Larry Wells directs his squad in a drill at Quinn Court. With eight seniors on his team, he expects the Outlaws to present a formidable force to the rest of the Wapiti League.

Outlaws boys aim for top of the league

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

Larry Wells, first-year Enterprise High School coach has a seniority problem: It's not so much of a problem, actually, but his basketball squad has eight seniors. Two weeks of practice has the team looking sharp. They should be, the team lost only two seniors and the remaining four on the 12-man squad are juniors.

"We retained most of our power for this year," Wells said through the echo of dribbling basketballs. "We had a bigger summer program and got a lot of games this year. I think the juniors we have on the team

ON THE COURT

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29 — Enterprise plays at Wallowa

Friday, Dec. 1 — Enterprise plays in the Lone Basketball Bonanza at Lone High School. Play continues Saturday.

had a great season as JV."

Compared to last year, this team has more experience and depth under their belts according to Wells, which should put the squad in the fight for the Wapiti league's top spot.

"We were last in districts last year," he said. "Given that,

we can't look past anybody, but Grant Union is very strong and Elgin beat us in districts, and that's a game we want to focus on."

The team's strength lies in its guards, according to Wells, although he noted he had three outstanding post players along with eight or nine good perimeter players as well.

"I think we'll be good defensively, but I think we need to focus hard on our man-to-man defense this year," Wells said.

While many of the starters are well-known to fans, Wells pointed to junior Riley Masters as someone to watch.

"He's coming along well,

and I have high expectations for him," Wells said. "I'm also looking for great post play from Brett Greenshields and Brycen Locke."

Wells said fans can expect to see a quick transition offense that gets the ball upcourt in a hurry.

"We're going to cross the line from rat-ball to transition ball and have the discipline to do that," he said. "You can expect to see some really good defense."

The Outlaws' first game is against Wallowa on Wednesday.

"It's a game you want to go into and set the tone for the rest of the season," Wells said.

Enterprise girls hope to use strength, speed to reach state playoffs

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

Things are looking bright as the Enterprise High School girls run through basketball drills at Quinn Court. Coach Mike Crawford is in his 29th year leading the Outlaws girls. The team has been practicing for two weeks.

The program is popular: Crawford has 24 girls out with a dozen on both the varsity and junior varsity squads. The team lost four seniors to graduation, but Crawford doesn't look at it as a rebuilding year.

"This year, I've got five seniors and three juniors," he said. "We're pretty much a veteran group with good experience and team speed and very good athletes. We'll be very competitive."

Crawford said he won't be able to see how the team is different from last year's squad until he sees them compete, but he's confident in their abilities.

"We don't have the same size as we did

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a year ago," he said. "I think that we're every bit as athletic, maybe even more so as a team."

Crawford noted that the team's strength and speed are the team's outstanding qualities.

"Maybe at this moment our weakness is patience, and we're going to have to figure out how to have some patience, so we can be as good as we can be," he said.

"Some of those things won't show themselves until you get in a game situation. We've got three games this week, and we'll know more."

Crawford said that three-time captain

and three-year starter Reece Christman will lead the team this year.

"The others are new starters, but they've all started some," he said. "I think that off the bench, Lexie Gasset and Shelby Moncrief will be names to watch."

The coach pointed to John Day as the team to beat in the league as they didn't lose a single player. He added that most of the league competition is still very tough.

"To go to state, we've got to finish in the top two," he said. "I think that's doable, and that's our goal."

The Outlaws play their first game at 5 p.m. Wednesday at Wallowa.

Enterprise High School girls basketball coach Mike Crawford directs his varsity squad during practice. Crawford said that the team's speed and athleticism should make up for the loss of four seniors from last year's squad.

Steve Tool/Chieftain



SPORTS CALENDAR

ENTERPRISE WRESTLING

Friday, Dec. 1 — Kickoff event at Enterprise High School, 10 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 2 — Northeast Oregon Wrestling Club tournament at Enterprise High School, 10 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 2 — Dick Griswold Tournament at Pottlach (Idaho) High School, 9 a.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Wednesday, Nov. 29 — Enterprise plays at Wallowa, 5 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 1 — Enterprise plays in the lone Basketball Bonanza at Lone High School. Play continues Saturday.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Wednesday, Nov. 29 — Enterprise plays at Wallowa, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 1 — Enterprise plays in the lone Basketball Bonanza at Lone High School. Play continues Saturday.



JOSEPH GIRLS BASKETBALL

Friday, Dec. 1 — Joseph competes in the Arlington Snow Ball Basketball Tournament at Arlington High School. Play continues Saturday.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Friday, Dec. 1 — Joseph competes in the Arlington Snow Ball Basketball Tournament at Arlington High School. Play continues Saturday.



WALLOWA GIRLS BASKETBALL

Wednesday, Nov. 29 — Wallowa vs Enterprise in Wallowa, 5 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 1 — Wallowa competes in the Joseph Basketball Tournament in Joseph. Play continues Saturday.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Wednesday, Nov. 29 — Wallowa vs. Enterprise at Wallowa, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 1 — Wallowa competes in the Elgin Basketball Tournament in Elgin. Play continues Saturday.



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