

Joseph teams fare well vs. Cove

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

Both Eagles basketball teams whopped hard on the Cove Leopards, who barely escaped with their lives during a Dec. 15 matchup at Joseph.

The Eagles girls toasted the Leopards 49-28 in a game that included junior varsity players getting plenty of floor time as the defenseless Leopards could do little to stop the Eagles onslaught. The end of the game seemed more a mercy than a victory.

No game stats or comments on the game were given to the Chieftain in time for publication.

The boys performed equally well as they beat the spots off the luckless Leopards, 61-27. The Leopards kept it interesting in the first few minutes, but quickly lost any semblance of control midway through the first quarter.

The Eagles fast-paced game and merciless press forced numerous turnovers. Senior Caevan Murray proved a huge force on the floor, dominating both offensively inside and out while snatching a number of offensive rebounds from the Leopards, who looked dazed when they did have possession of the ball.

Murray led the scoring with 15 while Tyler Homan followed with 10 in the net.

"Pretty much everybody scored," said coach Olan Fulfer.

Both teams fell victim to razor-edge losses at Powder Valley the following day.

The Joseph boys and girls played stellar ball throughout, with the girls nearly knocking off the top-ranked Badgers, coming out on the bottom end of a 46-44 score. The boys came up just short in a 79-76 overtime shootout that saw nearly all the starters fouling out.

The lady Eagles played tough on both sides of the court in their loss to the Badgers. No comments or game stats were made available to the Chieftain in time for this week's publication.

The weekend left the ladies with a 1-1 record in league play and 5-1 overall. They next play Dufur on Dec. 28.

The Eagle men were short two key players who were benched for disciplinary reasons. Nonetheless, the amazing Murray once again exerted his court dominance with a 26-point performance of his own, including a three-pointer at the regulation buzzer to send the game into overtime.

"Powder Valley is the toughest game in the state for our kids to play," Fulfer said. "They have a rowdy crowd and a small court. When they're pressing us, it's tough because the crowd is right at the sidelines."

Next to Murray's 26 points, Homan cleaned up with 17 and Jean Luc Palma nailed 13.

The game left the Eagles 1-1 in Old Oregon League play and 4-2 overall.

They next play at Country Christian on Dec. 29.



Courtesy photo/Kristen Ruckdashel

Miguel Lizosoain shoots for the hoop during the Joseph versus Cove boys varsity game Dec. 15. Lizosoain is an exchange student who has worked hard to play on the varsity team. He had played little basketball before his arrival, and his host parents Chantay and Lem McBerney have practiced with him.



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Eagles senior Alexis Sykora adds two points to the Eagles' systematic massacre of the Cove Leopards, 49-28.

Outlaws, Eagles both shine at wrestling tournaments

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

Both the Outlaws and Eagles had made their mark at separate tourneys Dec. 8-9 weekend. The Outlaws traveled to La Grande for the Muilenberg Invitational, while the Eagles visited Culver.

The Outlaws, competing with 19 schools, many much larger, came away from the tournament with the small schools trophy, while Shane Lund (12-0), Cole Farwell (12-0) and Dylan Staigle (10-4) each made their mark in the 120 lb, 132 lb and 138 lb weight classes respectively.

Coach Troy Farwell noted that Lund and Cole Farwell won tops in their weight division while seeing some stiff competition.

"Shane wrestled Alex Kehr, a really tough kid from La Grande, and Cole wrestled two kids who challenge him a lot," the coach said. His quarter-final and semi-final matches were the toughest he had. In his quarter-final match (Zyle Blas of Bethel), he was down by two going into the final minute, and with 30 seconds to go, got a reversal to tie it up." A near-fall followed, along with a Farwell victory.

Coach Farwell said that he's looking forward to the rest of the season. He said he and the team enjoy wrestling teams from other areas, so they're not wrestling the same kids over and over. No one on the team has twice wrestled the same opponent.

"These are the kinds of matches we go up there for," Farwell said. "We get matches that push us, and it's



Courtesy Photo

The combined Joseph/Wallowa wrestling team with their trophy for best small-school team at the John Rysdam Memorial tournament in Elgin on Dec. 15-16. Austin Brockamp, left, Zeb Ramsden, coach Tim Kiesecker, Steven Beckman, team supporter Micah Fuller, Gus Ramsden and Cole Kiesecker.

exciting when we come away with a win."

The Outlaws traveled to Elgin for the John Rysdam tournament Dec. 15-16, coming away with mixed results. They finished sixth of 11 teams on the opening day with first-place performances of Lund and Cole Farwell in their brackets. Wrestlers Clint Norton and Dylan Staigle also placed in the top three.

The following day was a bit of a letdown. Although Lund and Farwell won their categories, two members of the team didn't make weight, which sent the coach scrambling to find matches for them. "We did OK," said coach Farwell. He added that Staigle turned in an impressive performance at 138 lbs.

The Outlaws next wrestle at Pasco, Wash., Dec. 23.

The combined Joseph/Wallowa Eagles also wrestled well at Culver on Dec. 8-9 and the Rysdam tournament on Dec. 15-16.

Culver saw the team led

by Steven Beckman winning at the 113 lb. slot, while Zeb Ramsden placed third in the 120 lb category. Overall the Eagles placed 10th in a field of 14.

The Rysdam tournament proved more fruitful for the Eagles with the team winning the small school trophy. The Eagles were led by another first-place performance of Beckman's and third-place finishes by Zeb Ramsden, Gus Ramsden and Austin Brockamp in the 120, 160 and 170 pound brackets, respectively. Cole Kiesecker placed fourth in the 220 pound slot. Joseph placed fourth in a field of 11 teams.

"They all wrestled really hard and they wrestled well," said coach Tim Kiesecker. "There were a lot of 4A schools." He added that the larger schools also brought along their first-string wrestlers to compete. "It was a tough tournament," he said.

The Eagles next wrestle at Pomeroy, Wash. on Dec. 29.

True Value
BARGAINS OF THE MONTH
 While supplies last.

YOUR CHOICE 11.99
 16 pk. AA or AAA Batteries
 E 137 891, 896 B12

YOUR CHOICE 12.99
 8 pk. C or D or 4 pk. 9V Batteries
 E 171 831, 703 423, 437

M-F 8AM-6PM • SAT 8AM-5PM • SUN 9AM-3PM

Hurricane Creek Road Enterprise, Oregon 541-426-3116

GRAIN GROWERS BEHIND EVERY PROJECT IS A **True Value**
 Sale Ends 12/31/17

JO HARD MEN'S NIGHT

FRIDAY from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
DEC 22

DRINKS - FOOD - SALES
WIN A GUN
 AND MANY OTHER ITEMS IN OUR CHARITY RAFFLE TO BENEFIT COMMUNITY CONNECTION FOOD BANK

JA JOSEPH HARDWARE
 WORK HARD. PLAY HARD. JO HARD.
 101 S Main St Joseph 541-432-9050

Whether you're planning for next year's working capital, expansion, or equipment... now is the time to come visit BEO.

Happy holidays from our family to yours.

Term Loans • Lines of Credit • Ag & Commercial Real Estate

Enterprise Branch

Bank of Eastern Oregon
 beobank.com Member FDIC