

EHS basketball teams compete in Rocket Invite

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Both Enterprise basketball teams hit the road trail for the Rocket Invite tournament in Pilot Rock on Dec. 15-16.

The boys continued their dol-drum, dropping games to Pilot Rock and McLoughlin respectively. The girls won twice and extended their winning streak to five games.

The ladies squeaked by Pilot Rock in Friday's contest, 38-34. The following day the Outlaws thumped McLoughlin 59-29.

The ladies had a tough fight against Pilot Rock, but evenly spread

scoring, led by Karli Bedard's nine points, followed by seven each from Ashley Exon and Ashlyn Gray helped seal the deal for the Outlaws.

Coach Mike Crawford said the Pilot Rock game was interesting because they've been the Outlaws' nemesis for many years.

"This was a game pretty evenly played," Crawford said. "We didn't play our best basketball, but we played well enough through the adversity to win it."

The McCloughlin game was a different story.

"We played much better basketball that day," Crawford said. "It was a good win to head into next week's

game against Pilot Rock at home."

The wins saw the ladies ranked fourth in the state with a 7-1 record. They next play Pilot Rock at home on Dec. 22 at 6 p.m.

Illness and injuries kept the boys away from the winners circle. Friday's game saw the boys surrender to Pilot Rock with a 52-37 loss that left coach Larry Wells smarting.

"It was a game that we weren't up to playing," Wells said. "We didn't execute our offense, and we had a lot of turnovers."

The coach said many team members are recovering from the winter flu and point guard Trent Walker is recovering from a tonsillectomy.

The Outlaws failed to break a 2-3 zone until late in the game. The team was 3 of 6 from the foul line while the Rockets were 24 for 35.

"We were in foul trouble early," he said. "We had to drop our press and were effectively removed from the game."

Wells pointed to the 11-point performance of Dylan Marr as one of the few bright spots. Justus Even and Rylie Hayward knocked in eight points.

The loss to McLoughlin had a dark note: The probable season loss of junior Riley Masters who suffered a severe concussion while stumbling and falling during a lay-in attempt

after forcing a turnover. The injury stopped the game for nearly 40 minutes and he was taken by ambulance to the hospital for observation. He is recovering at home.

"We were in it until the end, and we were up by 12 points early the fourth quarter," Wells said. "Then we went into a slump."

Overall, Wells thought the team played well, with good defense and some noteworthy offensive performances. Jimmy Wells raked in 12 points as did Brett Greenshields at the post. Marr contributed seven.

The losses were the fourth straight for the 3-5 Outlaws. The team hosts Pilot Rock at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22.

Wallowa girls drop league openers

By Paul Wahl
Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa High School's Lady Cougar basketball team dropped both of their games last week, both league games. The girls tumbled 92-26 against Nixyaawii and did better against Helix, losing 50-25.

Wallowa ran into the one-two punch of Nixyaawii's starting seniors Mary Stewart and Kaitlynn Melton, who scored 47 points between them, including 11 three-pointers.

"They couldn't miss," said Cougar Coach Annette Moeller.

Grace Pendarvis and Riley Ferré led scoring for the Lady Cougars with six each, Ashlyn Young added five, Shanna Ray Tillery and Jamie Johnston four each and Rylee Goller had one.

Wallowa stuck close to Helix in the first half.

"We came out flat in the second half," Moeller said. "We had our share of second and third shots, but nothing was falling."

BLADE RUNNER



Paul Wahl/Chieftain

Gavyn Poarch gets in some ice time Dec. 17 at the Wallowa Valley Community Ice Rink in Enterprise. The all-volunteer rink is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily weather permitting. Advanced adult co-ed hockey is held 7 p.m. each Monday night.

Outlaw boys fall to McLoughlin in close game

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Following the Outlaws' painful loss to Elgin on Dec. 9, the team traveled to McLoughlin High at Milton-Freewater for a Dec. 13 matchup. The Outlaws played tough, but still succumbed 40-39 in a defense-dominated battle.

"It was a low-scoring game, even though we had a 16-point fourth quarter," said Coach Larry Wells. "I felt like our defense was very good. We held Mac High to 40 points which I think is one of their lower productions for the year."

It was McLoughlin's lowest point total of the year. The school is also a 4A school with a 5-1 record.

Shooting was the weak point with coach Wells noting a performance of less than 30 percent from the floor. He said two of the Outlaws normal high-scorers combined for 2 of 13 shots in the three-point range.

"If it hadn't been for defense, you could see where it could have gotten out of hand," Wells said. "We are traditionally a better shooting team than that. We needed to make our outside shots when they ran their 2-3 zone defense against us. It made for a long night."

Wells said that the team made some fourth-quarter adjustments, which included cranking up the defense and forcing McLoughlin to switch to a man-to-man defense. The Outlaws actually led by four in the final two minutes of the contest and still had a shot in the waning seconds to tie the game.

"We got fouled on a three-point shot that put us within one, but we missed the foul shot in the last seconds of the game."

Leading scorers included Rylie Hayward with nine, mostly in the critical fourth quarter, Chris Bathke with eight and Jimmy Wells with seven.

IN BRIEF

Cougars make all-state squad

Four Wallowa High School football players have been named to the 2018 All-State 1A Football team.

Quarterback Gus Rams-

den received honorable mention in the quarterback category and Patrick Ritthaler was honorable mention for running backs. Ritthaler is a senior.

On the defensive end, Ethan Burns was named to the state second team for linebackers and Joe Robb was second team for defensive line. Burns was also named second time for offensive guards.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Caevan Murray

This week's athlete of the week is Caevan Murray, a senior at Joseph Charter School. Murray plays basketball for the school.

As the team's post, Murray, 17, standing six feet six inches tall, has come into his own in the last few games with stunning performances against Cove and Powder Valley. He scored 15 and 26 points respectively in the games. In the Powder Valley contest, Murray sank a three-pointer at the buzzer to send the game into overtime. He also snatched 18 rebounds.

"He's blown up right in front of our eyes," coach Olan Fulfer said.

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This year our office and garbage routes will **NOT** be operating Christmas Day, Monday, December 25, 2017. This will mean all Monday schedules will be picked up on Tuesday. There will be no other changes to the rest of the week.

Our office and garbage routes **WILL** operate our normal collection routes on New Years Day and the remainder of the week.

We are again, offering a one month discount if you pay for the entire 2018 calendar year. This offer is for can service accounts only. Payments must be made by the end of January

Just a couple reminders for the upcoming year:

- * If you know you will be missing a pick-up, you must call in ahead to receive credit. *
- * For those who dispose of kitty litter, please bag it up. *
- * Our trucks leave the office a 5am, have cans out the night before or by 5am. *
- * Office policy for can size is 32 gallons and one handle must be intact. *
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