

Enterprise football moves to 8-man

5 seniors will be team leaders for Eschler's squad

SPORTS PREVIEW

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Enterprise High School football is entering another dimension: The eight-man football program. The school transitioned from the standard 11-man squad mainly because of declining interest in the program.

Second-year Coach Rusty Eschler said he has 15 players

on the squad so far this year despite an appearance at the state playoffs last year.

"We'll possibly get more when school starts, but we have what we need for eight-man," he said. "The difference between eight and 11-man football offense is two lineman and a skill position player while on defense. Two defensive backs and a defensive lineman are missing.

"I like eight-man football," Eschler said. "I coached eight-

man at Joseph, and with our numbers, it was something we had to do."

He said his players had no problems adjusting to the game.

"Last year, our preseason was eight-man and nine-man football games," he said.

The Outlaws only played four 11-man games last year.

The squad lost four seniors, but has five seniors this year and one junior. Only two freshmen joined the squad this year. Eschler said that some of the lack of interest is probably due to fear of injury, particularly concussion.

"There's a faction out there concerned about head trauma, and there's nothing we can do about it," Eschler said. "All we can do is make it as safe as we can. We're part of the Heads Up Football program, and we teach techniques to take the head out of the game."

Eschler said that team strengths include his five seniors, four who have played together multiple years.

"Their leadership is our strength," he said. "Our kids are hard-working and good kids, but we're not very deep, so our weakness is going to

be depth."

The coach said that he selected senior Coy Aschenbrenner as starting quarterback.

"He's one of the best kids you'll run into," he said about the starter's work ethic. "The core group of kids we have in the locker room are great."

He also noted that Trace Evans will start at running back and freshman Gideon Gray will see a lot of playing time.

some much-needed size to the squad.

Fans can expect to see the team throw the football more than in years past.

"Coy's got a pretty good arm, and the more we throw in practice, the more we like what we see," Eschler said.

The team will also throw a good amount of play-option at opponents, and team speed should make the games interesting.

"We coach these guys the best we can," Eschler said. "We make it fun, and hopefully, we have some success. I think we'll be all right."

Outlaw volleyball standout injured in first outing of the season Aug. 25

Niezen has a hurting knee

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Outlaw volleyball team traveled to John Day for its Aug. 25 season opener at the Grant Union Tournament. The ladies lost all eight sets they played, but their performance was not without its bright spots.

The tournament was "pool" played, which means the ladies only played two matches with a 25-point cap against each of its opponents.

The first losses were against Heppner by scores of 18-25, 18-25.

The Outlaws lost starter Gracie Niezen to a knee injury in the first five points of the first set on Saturday, which put the team into a bit of a tailspin. She was unable to play for the rest of the day and is a question for this week's play.

Enterprise followed with losses to Burns 9-25 and 13-25 and Jordan Valley, 12-25 and 24-25. In best of three bracket play, the Outlaws lost to Weston McEwen by scores of 12-25 and 15-25.

Despite the losses, coach Lisa Farwell noted some fine performances from her athletes. She said that senior Shelby Moncrief had 26 digs and passed well all day while sophomore Claire Farwell served 94 percent, going

15 for 16 at the serving line. Carsyn Miller had 16 assists as a setter, and Ashlyn Gray had 10 kills.

Coach Farwell noted the loss of Niezen and the challenges that faced the Outlaws afterward.

"We spent the rest of the day adjusting our lineup, which mostly involved two freshmen playing in her spot, Jada Gray and Rilyn Kirkland," she said. "They both stepped up tremendously and did a great job for us. They played with a lot of poise and heart."

Farwell said that the lineup change left Outlaws with more than the usual first game jitters.

"As difficult as it is to lose eight sets on your first day of

play, I saw some great things out of this young, relatively inexperienced team," she said. "Even with Gracie out, we were in every set."

The coach said her girls did a stellar job on serve receive and played good defense and served well.

"Our net play suffered the most from Gracie's absence, but this tournament showed me we have the hitters that can get the job done with a bit more experience," she said.

The Outlaws played Helix, Weston McEwen and Irrigon at an Athena tournament on Tuesday, Aug. 28. The team then travels to Wallowa on Thursday, Aug. 30, before traveling to the the Prairie City Tournament on Saturday, Sept. 1.

HAYWARD WINS HONORS



Several weeks back, the Chieftain ran a story about the highly successful baseball season of last spring. In so doing, the photo of Rylie Hayward was not the correct photo. Rylie won the Cody Gollihue Memorial Scholarship (Outstanding Senior), first team all league infielder, second team all league pitcher, second team all State infielder, second team all State pitcher and among the top 20 best players in Oregon 3A.

Cross country team in the running

SPORTS PREVIEW

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

The 2018 cross-country season is here and coach Dan Moody is ready for it. Last year's girls squad, made up all of students from all the county's schools, took the state championship.

Moody is coaching both the junior high and high school boys and girls teams. He has more than 40 volunteers for this season with about 30 high school participants.

The team started practice Aug. 13. Moody said he has a good crop of freshmen and a solid returning squad.

"We don't have a senior boy on the squad," Moody said. "That's a plus for us. The team only lost one girl from last year's championship

squad. By the end of the year we should be running pretty well."

The team has six freshmen, something Moody is happy about. Those runners will be among the top seven on both high school squads. He also has several runners who haven't previously participated in cross-country but show talent.

"When you get six kids out of one class, that's really good," he said before adding, "Except when you lose them, you lose a lot, too."

The Outlaws also have several runners who haven't previously participated in cross-country. He said it's too early in the year to make accurate assessments about their talent. He also said that some of the team is also just now showing up because of work commitments.

"In the first two weeks, I don't put a lot of emphasis on their running," he said. "I just

let them work into it."

Moody doesn't let the upcoming defense of the state title dictate the way he coaches now. He said he works his athletes a little harder because sometimes the athletes want to back off because they think it's "going to be easy."

Nonetheless, the coach likes the overall attitude of his team. He's already told them that cross-country isn't like other sports. Each week is tougher than the week before and it never lets up until the week before the last meet.

For that reason, he expects his numbers to stay steady as some kids quit because they didn't realize the amount of effort involved and others join as the school year starts.

The coach hopes to see the boys squad come into their own this season. No one from the boys squad made state last year.

"I'm hoping it's going to be a little different this year," he said. "It'll be nice to take both teams to state."

ENTERPRISE OREGON

HELLS CANYON MULE DAYS

EVENT SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 7-8-9, 2018

Wallowa County Fairgrounds
Enterprise, Oregon

Three Days of Family Fun

FEATURING TENNESSEE MULE ARTIST BONNIE SHIELDS

Friday - September 7th *Please Note: Times may vary for Class Events*

- 8:30am Gates Open
- 9:00am Mule Show - Driving Events: Singles, Teams & Youth Classes
- 9:00am Exhibitors, Vendors & Western Gear - The Green, Quonset Building & Exhibitors Barn (To follow Driving events) Log Pull, Mule Races & More!
- Noon Trail Class - Track in front of grandstands
- 11:00pm Timed Trail Class - Main Arena
- 2:00pm Max Walker Memorial Scholarship Cowboy Poetry Gathering Indoor Arena • Admission is free, but \$5 donation suggested

Saturday - September 8th *Please Note: Times may vary for Class Events*

- 8:30am Gates Open
- 8:00am Mule Show - Halter and Showmanship Classes
- 8:00am Exhibitors, Vendors & Western Gear - The Green, Quonset Building & Exhibitors Barn
- 9:00am Matt Fournier FREE Mule Clinic - Warm-up Arena
- 11:00am Non-Motorized Parade - Downtown Enterprise
- 12:45pm Spectator Kids Events - Stick Mule Race & Boot Scramble • 4-9 yrs
- 1:00pm Grand Entry & Mule Show - Main Arena
- Fun and Entertaining Events: Fast Ass Express, Speed Ball, Rescue Race, Red Neck Golf, Jump-Off Challenge, Pole Bending, Flap Jack Race and more.
- 5:30pm Pit B-B-Q Dinner \$10 (Scholarship Fundraiser) - On The Green
- 6:00pm Private Treaty Mule Sale - Indoor Arena
- 7:00pm Cale Moon Concert - "Making Music • Making Memories" Cloverleaf Hall - Showtime: 7pm • Doors Open at 6:30pm Tickets: \$10 Advance - \$15 Door - Children (12 & Younger) \$5

Sunday - September 9th *Please Note: Times may vary for Class Events*

- 7:30am Cowboy Church - Outdoor Stage
- 8:30am Gates Open
- 8:30am Mule Show - English & Western Pleasure, Ranch & Western Riding, Barrel Racing, Jousting, Team Penning & lots more!
- 9:00am Exhibitors, Vendors & Western Gear - The Green, Quonset Building & Exhibitors Barn
- 9:00am Dutch Oven Cook-Off
- Two member teams, One pot cook-off - Main Dish and/or Dessert Buy your People's Choice Packet and be part of the tasting and judging.
- 10:00am Matt Fournier FREE Mule Clinic - Warm-up Arena
- 3:00pm Show Awards Presentation

SONDRA LOZIER 541-426-3271 / 541-263-0104 • Visit our website - HELLS CANYON MULE DAYS.COM

*ADMISSION

Adults \$10 • Seniors \$8 • Youth \$3 7-12 yrs • Children 6 and under FREE
Return Privileges All 3 Days • Dailey Admission - Adults & Seniors \$5, Youth \$2
Free parking • Covered seating

Golfing days roll to an end tee time

Rochelle Danielson

Summer's slowly slipping away. Suddenly, it is "sweater time" as brisk morning air moves in, but surely warm "short sleeve" weather will continue in afternoons.

September's Labor Day holiday reminds us it's back to school for the youngsters, back to work for parents and for Alpine Meadows golfers, six more weeks of golf.

Two tournaments are scheduled before season's end. The popular annual High Country Rat Race tournament is on taps this weekend with the Cats, the Rats and the Cheese battling it out for honors, and a "last hurrah" local Fall Scramble tourney Sept. 15.

Before too many hurrahs, the ladies owe an apology to Bill Beck. Somewhere in editing last week's Tee Time column part of a sentence was omitted. The copy should have read ... "Carol Marr, tourney chairman, along with AMGC ladies give special thanks to Gail Beck's stepson, Bill Beck, and also Gail's brother, Tom Greenawalt for their \$200 cash gift to the invitational in honor of Gail."

The Tuesday Ladies appreciate the Beck family's thoughtfulness. Gail loved

the game of golf, and she especially cared for Alpine Meadows Golf Course upkeep.

Now, notes of Interest:

• Please welcome the following Board of Directors for the 2019 season: Mike Harshfield (returning), Brian Rahn and Kathy Reynolds. This is a 3-year term.

• Alpine Meadows 2018 Men and Women Club Championship is Sunday, Sept. 16, all day starting at 9 a.m. at the course. Any member can play. 18-Hole Stroke Play with handicap. You must play with another player entered in Club Championship. Sign up at clubhouse through Sept. 16. Cost \$10 per player ... money goes to Wallowa County golf programs.

• From the AMGC Newsletter by Judy Ables. Don't forget about the Golf Ball Drop! Buy raffle chances at clubhouse to win a club 2019 Membership, and Unlimited Range Balls, if present. Drawing Sept. 15. More details later.

Skins Game Winners: Jerry Hook, 2 Gross skins/4 Net skins. Dale Johnson, 2 Gross/1 Net skin. Gary Marr, 1 Gross/1 Net skin. Terry Lamb, 1 Gross/2 Net skins.

Due to lack of participation, there will be no more Men's Day games this year.

Friday Scotch Ball-8/24: Terry/Cheri Lamb, Low Gross. Bill/Judy Ables, Low Net.

Rat Race results next week.

Rochelle Danielson writes a weekly golf column for the Chieftain.