



Eagles volleyball continues to SOAR

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain



Madelyn Nelson, a junior at Joseph Charter School, goes up for a successful kill versus Nixyaawii on Saturday Oct. 6. The Eagles won the match in three sets.

Joseph Lady Eagles volleyball had a busy and undefeated week, meeting four opponents and defeating each in straight sets.

Imbler, Elgin, Nixyaawii and Griswold all felt the Eagles' talons in their respective hides.

Oct. 2 saw the luckless Imbler Panthers facing Joseph, who promptly decimated them in three straight sets, 25-14, 25-17 and 25-16.

Senior Emma Hite continued her dominance on the court recording a dozen kills, two blocks and five serving aces while Sabrina Albee also notched a dozen kills and two serving aces. Juniors Madelyn Nelson and Camille Crenshaw had three kills each.

"The girls played with amazing energy and a lot of focus," said Coach Jill Hite.

On Friday, Oct. 5, the Lady Eagles met the Elgin Huskies. Again, the Eagles won in straight sets with the Huskies showing little bark and no bite whatsoever. Set scores were: 25-17, 25-11 and 25-13.

Emma Hite led the kills game with seven, while Albee and Crenshaw followed with five and four kills, respectively. Crenshaw also nailed three serving aces to lead the Eagles in that category.

"We had a hard time getting going, because some of the girls are battling sickness," said Hite. "We had a pretty good distribution of stats."

The following day saw the Eagles pull off a doubleheader with ease, defeating both Nixyaawii and Griswold. Nixyaawii put up a fight at times, but still succumbed 25-9, 25-14 and 25-15.

Albee chalked up nine kills while Emma Hite racked up seven kills and numerous assists. She also added seven serving aces while Nelson added four to the cause.

"Nixyaawii's improved a lot," said Hite. "They had good serving but we had the teamwork, too."

The afternoon game saw the Eagles facing off against Griswold, who went down by scores of 25-16, 25-9 and 25-12.

Emma Hite's torch led the squad with 12 kills, five assists and a nickel's worth of serving aces. Albee did her part with eight kills, two assists, two aces and a block. Crenshaw contributed five kills and six digs to the victory while Nelson added two blocks and three serving aces.

The week left the Eagles with an 8-1 league record and 18-7 overall. The squad is holding down the seventh spot in state rankings. The Eagles next play at home versus Wallowa on Thursday, Oct. 11. They finish out league play with away contests at Nixyaawii and Griswold on Saturday, Oct. 13.

Outlaws look for way to close tight games

By Steve Tool
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The Enterprise Outlaw volleyball team started out the week with a wild five-set league victory at Cove on Friday, Oct. 5 that featured 14 kills by Ashlyn Gray. Set scores were: 25-19, 25-17, 22-25, 20-25, 15-12.

Along with Gray's herculean performance, Carsyn Miller added 14 assists. Senior Shelby Moncrief had 23 digs and Lexie Gassett added 20 for the hard-fought victory.

Coach Lisa Farwell said she was pleased with the team's performance. She noted that the girls did not make many unforced errors while the squad turned up serving and serve/receive a notch, although the win wasn't easy.

"We had a little trouble finishing the match out," she said. "We had numerous attempts during set three and set four, and just couldn't get it done without going into the fifth set."

The Outlaw squad didn't fare as well traveling to Heppner for contests versus Heppner and Union on the day following the Cove victory. The hosts took four sets

to defeat Enterprise by scores of 18-25, 26-24, 20-25 and 23-25.

It took five sets for the Union Bobcats to send Enterprise down to defeat in the week's final match. Set scores were 14-25, 25-23, 25-20, 13-25, 11-15.

Despite the losses, Coach Farwell noted several key performances. Gassett had an extraordinary day with 22 kills and 40 digs. Moncrief contributed notable defense and had 41 digs. Gray went 27 for 28 from the service line, and Miller went 26 for 28 serving.

Farwell said that while the squad played some excellent volleyball, it also committed a number of unforced errors.

"For much of the season, we've had trouble finishing sets and matches, and that was our problem again," she said. "We seem to be able to compete with nearly everyone in the league, but we can't do it for three straight sets."

The week left the Outlaws with a 1-7 league record and 6-11 overall. The squad ranks 25th in the state.

The team hosts Stanfield on Thursday, Oct. 11, then head to their last three-way tournament in John Day to play Grant Union and Pilot Rock.

Cougar volleyball claws to four straight victories

By Steve Tool
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Wallowa Cougar volleyball had a busy week that brought four wins, stretching the squad's win streak to seven. All four matches were won in straight sets.

Oct. 2 saw the Cougars face off against the Elgin Huskies, who left the court badly mauled after set scores of 25-17, 25-14 and 25-9. Coach Janae Hulse said that the squad's efforts to maintain a positive attitude and enhance its intensity and momentum have paid off.

Hulse noted the play of Grace Pendarvis' feat of 11 serves in a row. Pendarvis placed the ball well and moved her serves around. Shanna Rae also received kudos for tough play on the net. She led the team with 10 kills and 2 solo blocks. Rylee Goller had 14 digs and five kills while Ashlyn Young played stel-

lar defense with 15 assists and 3 kills.

Coach Hulse said she's proud of the team's effort.

"They are proving to be tough and playing with heart on every play. Our success is based on giving it all on every point," she said. "It's one point at a time."

Oct. 5 saw a joyous homecoming with the team shooting down Pine Eagle in three sets. Again, the Cougars moved the ball well, getting more comfortable with offense and defense and played outside its comfort zone, to which the ladies responded well.

Ashlyn Young played aggressive on the court with 21 assists and three kills. Bailey Hafer picked up her defense and added six kills for the victory.

"This team is working hard," Hulse said. "They are one unit and a family."

The following day saw Helix as the next squad to fall to the

Cougar attack, the sets scored at 25-7, 25-22 and 25-14.

Hulse noted that Rylee Goller played well and showed continued improvement. She led the defense with 23 digs and played controlled offense, adding five kills to the total. Shanna Rae Tillery kept up the intensity with 14 kills and three blocks.

Nixyaawii fared no better against the Cougs. Set scores were 25-9, 25-11 and 25-10.

Tillery spaded nine digs and dished up six kills. Ella Moeller got coach kudos for her court communication skills, along with her attitude and work ethic. Rylee Ferre smashed eight kills in the match and exhibited great leadership skills, according to Hulse.

The week left the Cougars with an 8-3 league record and 10-11 overall. They next travel to Joseph on Thursday, Oct. 11, and end league play with a road trip to Crane.

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