



Steve Tool/Chieftain

The calm look on Enterprise High School player Coy Aschenbrenner's face when surrounded by Eagles defenders typified the low-key Outlaw response to a hyperactive Joseph defense that saw two key players foul out. The Outlaws won the game 54-47.

# CIVIL WAR

## Outlaw court discipline smokes Eagles

By Steve Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

“I feel young today,” Enterprise High School basketball coach Larry Wells said Thursday. “The birds are singing a little sweeter this morning.”

Wells was referring to the Outlaws’ 54-47 non-league win over the Joseph Eagles on Wednesday, Dec. 19. Displaying poise and courage under pressure, the Outlaws victory was more complete than the scoreboard alone indicated.

The Outlaws jumped out to an 8-0 lead to start the game. Joseph, slated for an easy victory by many, was never really in the game despite taking a brief lead in the third quarter.

Eagles play was characterized by a lack of patience that saw more turnovers than Sugartime Bakery against a man-to-man defense. The Eagles offense did not work the ball in for high-percentage shots, relying mostly on three-pointers or medium-range shots that didn’t fall. Even easy lay-ups proved a bane for the Eagles.

Devin Greer led the Outlaws with 14 points while Dylan Marr added 13 to the cause. Cason Kirkland contributed nine points and cool-under-fire Coy Aschenbrenner dumped eight points in the hoop, including important free throws down the stretch.

Coach Wells said that earlier in the week he talked extensively to his squad about eliminating emotion from the contest — something the Outlaw cagers did that paid off in spades. Wells also credited his bench for stepping up and playing stingy defense when he rested his starters.

“It was good for the program to close out a game like that,” he said. “We needed that.”

A lack of defensive discipline on the Eagles’ part resulted in more than 20 fouls, including a technical for immature behavior on the court. A number of fouls came in the waning moments of the game against players shooting solidly from the line.

Eagles coach Olan Fulfer noted the squad’s sub-par performance.

“Enterprise played insanely hard and made some shots,” Fulfer said.

The coach said that the game was fun in many respects, but that his team did not execute. He added that he would make some offensive adjustments, but told his players that a non-league loss was not the end of the world, but that their response would determine what kind of team they were.

“We’ll learn from the game, obviously,” he said. “We haven’t peaked yet. We’ll get better.”

Chase Murray and Tyler Homan led the Eagles with 17 and 16 points respectively.

Fulfer said that he enjoyed watching the effort of the Outlaws.

“Kudos to Enterprise,” he said. “We got outplayed.”

# Mixed week for Wallowa Cougars basketball

By Steve Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

The early week provided both high and low points for the Wallowa Cougars, with the boys splitting a pair of games and the lady Cougars suffering a loss.

Wallowa High School

boys varsity team took on La Grande JV Tigers on Wednesday, December 19 at La Grande and came away with a 49-40 loss. The Cougars trailed 15-9 after the first quarter and 31-16 at the half.

Cougar player Christopher Nobles led scoring with

23 points, followed by Tristin Bales with 12.

Wallowa High School boys varsity team took on the Echo Cougars on Thursday, December 20, and came away with a 45-36 win. The Cougars trailed by one after the first quarter but led 23-16 at the half.

Christopher Nobles led Cougar scoring with a big 24 points, followed by Tristin Bales with eight points. Mason Moore contributed to the cause with four points and Zane Mallory knocked in three points.

The week brings the men’s Cougars team to a 3-6

for the season. They next host a non-league battle versus Imbler on Saturday, Dec. 29.

The ladies did not fare so well as their contest at Echo resulted in a 52-37 loss. The Coug ladies, Riley Ferre and Jamie Johnston led scoring with eight points each,

followed by Shanna Rae Tillery with seven points, Ella Moeller and Ashlyn Young racked up four points each.

The loss brought the Cougars to a 2-7 record for the season. Like the boys, they next play Imbler on Dec. 29.

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