



Joseph Eagle Tyler Homan comes up short as Wallowa Cougars' Zeb Hermens (33) puts in a layup during Wallowa's Saturday, Jan. 12 upset victory over formerly 10th-ranked Joseph.
Amber Mock/Chieftain

UPSET!

Cougars humble Joseph Eagles in 'dog fight'

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

It must have seemed like a lock. The Joseph Eagles boys, ranked at or near the top 10 facing off in an away game against the 48th-ranked Wallowa Cougars. What could go wrong?

Everything, if you're Joseph. The Cougars shot the Eagles from the sky, 44-37, in a hard fought contest that Cougars coach, David Howe, called a dog fight from the get-go.

Howe said the Cougars struggled early, after

football playoffs kept several players from fully participating in practice. Injuries also played a role.

"I am hopeful that maybe after Saturday's win that we have turned the corner," he said. He also noted that Zeb Hermens played lights out at point guard while Mason Moore hit some timely shots. Christopher Nobles got accolades after he came up with some timely steals for Wallowa, which were key to the victory.

Nobles held the scoring torch with 15 and Tristin Bales placed nine. Wyatt Prince added eight for the cause.

Joseph coach, Olan Fulfer, was not pleased with

his team's performance.

"We're not making shots," he said. "We need to work harder. We missed more lay-ins and close shots, and it hurts our defense. We have to make it a habit."

Mason Ferre led the scoring with 10 while Hadley Miller added seven and Kade Kilgore knocked two three-pointers through the hoop down the stretch.

"He's been stepping up big-time; I can't say enough good things about him," Fulfer said. "He hits shots, he plays defense — Kade's our most consistent player."

Enterprise girls split; Outlaw boys drop two

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Enterprise girls basketball team had a bittersweet weekend: Losing to Heppner in overtime 64-61, but breezing past Stanfield 53-43 the following day.

Despite the loss, Coach Mike Crawford saw some positives in the Heppner game.

"We had opportunities over and over, but we didn't convert," he said. "It was a one-point game for minutes and minutes."

Karli Bedard put up 20 points and 14 boards in the effort while Lexie Gasset scored 12, going

6-for-6 from the free throw line. Senior Shelby Moncrief added 10 points to the effort and Ashlyn Gray hauled in 12 boards.

"We took enough out of them (Heppner) that they lost the next night," Crawford said.

The following game saw the ladies pull their pistols for the 53-43 victory behind three 14-point efforts by Gray, Moncrief and Bedard.

"We didn't get the rest we needed, but we got enough," Crawford said. "We got through double travel for the weekend and won."

The coach also noted that the

ladies were 4-2 halfway through the league season and if the second half went that well, the team could expect to make a trip to state.

"We know who we can beat and who we can play with," Crawford said. "Everybody circles the day they play us because they have to bring it that day."

The week left the ladies with a 4-2 league record and 12-4 overall. They next play at home versus Pilot Rock on Saturday, Jan. 19.

EHS boys

The Outlaws boys continued to struggle, succumbing in two consecutive games over the week-

end. The Friday, Jan. 11 game vs Heppner proved a major stumble, with the boys reeling after a 68-31 defeat.

Coach Larry Wells noted that Heppner is at the top of the league. The Outlaws also lost the services of point guard Riley Masters, who was out with an illness.

"We didn't shoot the ball well against them and our perimeter shots were not consistent," Wells said. "You can't win many games with 31 points."

The following day's game against Stanfield showed more hope, but the Outlaws fell short, 39-34.

Coach Wells said that the team came out strong and stayed strong through most of the contest, leading by as many as nine points and playing excellent defense until the closing minutes. Once again, clock management and turnovers cost the game.

"We lost in the last three or four minutes," Wells said. "We have leads in these games and have given them away. It's a little frustrating our losses have been in our control."

The weekend left the boys 1-5 on the season in league play and 7-10 overall. They also play Pilot Rock at home on Jan. 19.



ADVERTISE TODAY!
in Wallowa County's only newspaper!
Wallowa County
CHIEFTAIN



Call Jennifer Cooney today at 541-426-4567 or 541-805-9630 to place your ad