

Lady Eagles continue dominance, boys split

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

The Lady Eagles turned in another set of stunning victories over the weekend, including a thorough pounding of arch-nemesis Powder Valley. The Nixyaawii Golden Eagles also felt the talons of Joseph in defeat.

The ladies first met Powder Valley on Friday, Jan. 18, and came away with a 44-27 win.

Coach Lance Homan said the contest was a big matchup with the first-place conference team that is athletic and well coached. The Eagles were able to put up consistent pressure early, which resulted in a number of turnovers.

That defense allowed the ladies to go into halftime up 25-8. While Homan said the Eagles started out flat in the second half, they reasserted their dominance for the win.

Emma Hite led the game with 16 points, eight rebounds and three steals. Sabrina Albee had a solid game with 10 points, six assists and four steals.

"This was a big game with a lot on the line statewide, and we were able to get the job done," Homan said. "I continue to be very impressed with how well they play together and genuinely like each other."

The following day ended with



Christian Ambrosion/Chieftain

Concentration — Joseph Eagles point guard, Emma Hite, concentrates on making a free throw during the Eagles' 44-27 shellacking of the Powder Valley Badgers on Friday, Jan. 18.

the Nixyaawii Golden Eagles taking some lumps after a 51-34 defeat by the Joseph ladies.

Homan noted that the Golden Eagles are a big team that can dole out trouble if they set up in their half court offense. The Eagles got the jump early on their rivals with defensive pressure and good offensive execution. They led Nixyaawii

30-4 at half.

"We were happy to get the win which really sets us up well in the league," Homan said.

Haley Miller had a terrific game with 11 points and eight rebounds. Albee, Hite and Madelyn Nelson scored in double digits and multiple steals.

"This was a great team win, and

now we have a couple of days to get healthy and get back at it at home on Friday against Helix," Homan said.

The ladies ended the week with a 5-0 league record and 15-2 record on the season. Currently ranked third in the state, they next stay home to face Griswold on Friday, Jan. 29.

For the boys, a lack of consistency reared its head again. The Eagles got off on the right foot with a 49-44 victory over Powder Valley. The win was due in no small part to Chase Murray's 22-point performance. Murray sank seven three-pointers through the contest.

"His field goal percentage was amazing," coach Olan Fulfer said. "He was a lot of fun to watch."

Mason Ferre piled on 11 points while Hadley Miller added six points to the victory.

The following game proved less fruitful as the Eagles stuttered, going down Nixyaawii 52-35 despite sophomore Mason Ferre hitting five shots from behind the paint. At one point, the Eagles were up by four in the fourth quarter when the game got away from them.

"We were up, and when we were stuck to our game plan we did well," Fulfer said. "Then we went to panic or hero mode."

Tyler Homan contributed eight points while Murray scored six for the Eagles.

"We're inconsistent, but we're getting there," Fulfer said. "We're inching closer and closer, but we need to play with more consistency."

The Eagles boys are 3-2 in league play and 10-7 overall while ranked 11 at state. They next play Griswold on Jan. 25.

Outlaws force Rockets to fizzle, 45-36

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

The Pilot Rock Rockets launched from their hometown Jan. 19, only to crash land when they hit the Enterprise High School court.

The boys snapped a two-game losing streak with a convincing 45-36 victory over the Rockets, led by 19 points scored by Devin Greer. Coach Larry Wells called the win satisfying.

"We missed a lot of free throws, but it was a good game," Wells said. "Those guys only lost by 12 to Heppner, the best team in our league, the night before. They came in motivated."

Wells pointed out the performance of Cason Kirkland, who upped his game, knocking in 11 points while dishing out seven assists.

"This ushers in the second half of the season, so it was the most important game of the



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Is anybody out there? — EHS Outlaws player, Claire Farwell, looks for an opening during the Outlaws' 65-31 win over Pilot Rock on Saturday, Jan. 19.

year for us. We need to keep on this track," Wells said.

The win saw the boys with a 2-5 season record in league play and 8-10 overall. They next play Weston-McEwen on Friday, Jan. 25.

The Lady Outlaws came out

shooting blanks at the start of a 65-31 cooling of the Rockets' jets. The Rockets actually jumped out to an 8-2 lead before the Outlaws pulled their pistols and went to work. They stretched out to a 28-19 halftime lead before blowing the game

wide open upon their return.

"I really felt like we played well for the most part, except for the sluggish start," said coach Mike Crawford. "We had four players in double figures, and that's what we want. With this combination of players we can beat anyone. It was our best game of the year."

Shelby Moncrief led the scoring with 11 points while Ashlyn Gray, Lexie Gasset and Zari Bathke nailed down 10 points each. Bathke shot an amazing 5 for 6 from the floor for 83 percent shooting. Nearly everyone on the team scored.

Crawford selected freshman Rylin Kirkland as an up-and-comer with her eight points and 12 rebounds.

"That is not typical play for a freshman on varsity," he said.

The weekend left the ladies with a 5-2 league record and 13-4 overall, just behind John Day in league play. They next play Weston-McEwen.

Seven Enterprise wrestlers compete in Idaho tourney

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

The Enterprise High School grapplers made a trip to Parma, Idaho for the Padilla Invitational on Jan. 18-19.

"It was a big turnout with a lot of big schools," said coach Forrest Wilson.

The Outlaws were forced to take only seven wrestlers to the meet as Trace Evans was absent in the 138 lbs. slot and Shane Lund in the 132 lbs. slot is nursing a knee injury.

Still, wrestler Kennison Knifong made it to the quarterfinals at 132 lbs., and heavyweight-class Klint Norton also broke into the quarterfinals as well.

"We did fairly well although we had an ankle injury," Wilson said. "It's been a long season for that."

The squad next travels to Caldwell, Idaho, for their next tournament on Jan. 25-26.

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Emma Hite

This week's athlete of the week honor goes to Emma Hite, a Joseph Charter School senior. Hite, the Eagles' point guard, had a marvelous night as the Eagles trounced Powder Valley 44-27. Hite sacked up 16 points, eight rebounds and three steals during her masterful performance.

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