



Amber Mock/Chieftain

Wallowa Cougars player, Riley Ferre, goes up for two during her team's 47-41 win over Nixyaawii on Saturday, Jan 26.

EHS BASKETBALL

Ladies still on a tear, boys split

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Enterprise girls continued their four-game hot streak with convincing wins over Weston-McEwen and Union on Jan. 25-26. Friday, Jan. 25, saw the ladies melt the Weston-McEwen TigerScots down to puddles behind the one-two punch of Zari Bathke and Ashlyn Gray, who scored 12 and 13 points respectively.

The team upped their game by shooting 45 percent from the field with Bathke shooting 83 percent and Gray at 63 percent to lead the squad. Senior Karli Bedard had her usual stellar night on the boards, snatching nine.

The following night at Union saw the ladies doing more of the same, decimating the Bobcats, 51-38 with senior Shelby Moncrief racking up 16 points for the cause, mostly scored on blistering fast breaks by the Outlaws. Bathke stood next in line with nine points while shooting 75 percent from the floor and 100 percent from the free throw line.

Rebound fiends, Karli Bedard and Ashlyn Gray, had 16 and 15 boards respectively, more than the entire Bobcat team combined.

"These were big wins that assure us of top three in league, which gives us a chance to play games for a shot at the championship," Coach Mike Crawford said. "We're moving toward a trip to the state playoffs."

The coach noted Bathke's continuing improvement as she gains more minutes and confidence on the floor. He also said that the team still has room for improvement with both turnover and at the free throw line. "We're getting a little better each week, if we continue we'll be perfect. There's room to be better. We had 21 turnover, more than lately. With decent free throw shooting, we'd have gotten 65 points," Crawford said. He also said the team had fifteen fouls at halftime with three starters who had accumulated four each although none of the players fouled out due to good self-discipline and a strong bench when the players needed a break from the floor.

"Depth gives us energy to keep playing," he said. "We've just got to keep going."

The ladies are now 15-4 overall and 7-2 in league play while ranked seventh in the state. They next play at home versus Heppner on Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m.

The boys split their two games, first beating the Weston-McEwen TigerScots 70-55 in an away contest. Devin Greer's sparkling performance netted 19 points with Dylan Marr hot on his heels at 16. Timmy Wells aced 13 points and Cason Kirkland and Coy Aschenbrenner had 10 each.

Coach Larry Wells was impressed with the teams performance. He noted that a number of players scored in the double-digits, and the team followed the game plan.

"We moved the ball really well, we were up 8-0 or 10-0 before Weston scored," he said. "We came out, broke the press moved the ball better than we have all year. We had a great game."

The boys just missed versus the Union Bobcats on the following night at home, losing a close-fought 46-40 contest.

"We didn't move the ball, and when we took shots they weren't the best shots," Coach Wells said. "On the other hand, we had great defense and we kept their top scorer to 13 points. Cason Kirkland did a fantastic job on defense with that."

Coy Aschenbrenner led the squad with 10 points while Devin Greer shot eight through the hoop and rising star Kirkland popped through seven.

The boys now harbor a 3-6 league record and are 9-11 overall. They next play Heppner at home on Feb. 1.

Wallowa girls add to win column

Boys beat Elgin, lose to Nixyaawii

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Wallowa High School girls varsity team took on the Elgin Huskies Friday, January 25, at Elgin and came away with a 45-37 win despite a slow start. The Cougs trailed 3-10 at the first quarter but closed the gap to three, 15-18 at the half. The third quarter ended with the girls down 23-26 before catching fire in the fourth and won going away. Coach David Howe said that sickness overcame several of the players over the week, causing several missed practices.

Jamie Johnston led Cougs' scoring with 16 points, followed by the always reliable Shanna Rae Tillery with 10 in the till. Riley Ferre snagged eight points while Ella Moeller donated six points to the win.

Howe noted the offensive and defensive performance of Riley Ferre, whom Howe said ties other teams in knots.

"Several of our younger players also stepped up and contributed, in particular Haley Brockamp," Howe said. "Ella Moeller hit some key shots in the fourth quarter to pull us through for the victory."

The girls took on the Nixyaawii Golden Eagles at Wallowa on the following day and came away with a 47-41 win, leading from the get-go after scoring seven points before Nixyaawii answered with points of their own.

Howe attributed the team's success to an improvement in outside shooting, which he said helps open lanes for players in the post position.

"We made great strides in our mental approach to the game, now we know we can win rather than hoping we can win," he said. "That is a huge shift from the beginning of the year. We still have a lot of work to do and I feel like we are just scratching the surface of what we could be. I'm very proud of the girls and the effort and sacrifices they are making."

Johnston again led scoring with 17 points, followed by Tillery with lucky 13 through the hoop. Kyla Hook and Ella Moeller each scrawled five points in the playbook.

"We still have a lot of work to do, and I feel like we are just scratching the surface of what we could be," Howe said. "I'm very proud of the girls and the effort and sacrifices they are making."

The win was the fourth straight for the lady Cougs. They now have firm grip on third place in the league with a 6-2 record while sitting at 9-9 overall. They next play on Friday, Feb. 1 at Imbler at 6:00 p.m and Saturday, February 2 at Wallowa at 4:00 p.m.

The tom Cougs also made their presence known over the weekend, knocking the Huskies off the stoop, 36-35 in pitched battle. The boys didn't make the victory easy, as they committed 39 turnovers but still managed to pull out the victory. Coach Howe noted that Elgin has great team quickness that cannot be simulated in practice, which accounted

for some of the turnovers.

"Tristin Bales went to the free-throw line for 2 shots with the game tied and 2.5 seconds remaining. Howe said. "He missed the first and made the second after the ball touched every part of the rim."

Iron man Christopher Nobles took on all comers and led scoring with 16 points, followed by Tristin Bales with eight through the hoop. Zeb Hermens placed seven through the net while Wyatt Prince chipped in with five.

"This was a game we really needed in order to give ourselves a chance to get into the district tournament," Howe said.

The Cougs narrowly lost to Nixyaawii the following day, 48-38. Bright spots included a team low 11 turnovers and hit 42 percent of their shots.

The always double-teamed Nobles led scoring with 26 points, followed by Zane Mallory with five on the books. Bales added three points to the total.

"Even though we lost on Saturday versus Nixyaawii, we played a lot better than the night before," Howe said. "We played without one of our starting posts, Wyatt Prince, and sixth man Mason Moore." The coach also noted that Mallory stepped up big for the squad on defense and on the boards in the absence of the missing players.

The tom Cougs are 3-5 in league play and 6-12 overall. Like the ladies, they next play Feb. 1 at Imbler while playing from home the following day at 5:30 p.m.



MAN ON A MISSION — Enterprise Outlaws player, Devin Greer, brings the ball upcourt during the Outlaws' 46-40 loss to the Union Bobcats on Saturday, Jan. 26.

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