

# Donkey basketball comes to Wallowa

By Christian Ambrosion  
Wallowa County Chieftain

After a competitive—at times even heated—season of High School basketball across the county, Wallowa's sophomore class decided to throw a fundraiser that would pit Joseph Charter School students and staff against Wallowa High School students and staff respectively.

On one level, the objective was to raise money to ease the financial burdens of student events, including staff trips, proms or other dances.

Dani Weaver, English teacher at Wallowa High School played a major role in organizing the event. Weaver saw a fun and unique way to raise money for her students, but also she "wanted to get two schools together in a way that would be fun and promote unity between Wallowa and Joseph students and staff."

The gym filled up and the fireworks flew. "It was nice to see a gym full of people from all over the county,"



Kristin Craig

Wallowa High School staff takes on Joseph Charter School staff.

Weaver said. "I think we should have more events like this."

The students certainly enjoyed themselves. Ryan Hafer, a senior at Wal-

lowa High School, states "I had such a fun time playing Joseph! I wish I had the opportunity to do something like this all throughout my high school years!"

While this year's event didn't turn out so well for Joseph Charter School students and staff, perhaps if they train hard enough the tide might turn next year.



Courtesy Photo/Troy Farwell

These three Enterprise Junior High School grapplers showed they could wrestle with the best in the state at the Oregon Middle School State Wrestling Championships held in Woodburn on March 9. (L to R) Xander Sarbacher, Cody Fent and Nevan Goldsmith can hold their heads high after their respective performances.

## Junior High grapplers shine at district, state

By Steve Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Three Enterprise Junior High School wrestlers who persevered in district wrestling in Boardman returned from the state championships in Woodburn with the knowledge they can wrestle with anyone. The three wrestlers, Nevan Goldsmith, Cody Fent and Xander Sarbacher just returned

from the Saturday, March 9 tournament.

Coach Troy Farwell said he is proud of the boys and their performances. Fent wrestled at 132 pounds and came away with a seventh place, as did Goldsmith at 175 pounds while Sarbacher placed in the 13th slot at 195 pounds.

"They wrestled very well," Farwell said. "Keep in mind that junior high state includes all divisions from 1A through 6A."

## OSAA finds Enterprise student ineligible

By Steve Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Oregon Schools Activities Association unanimously shot down the sports eligibility appeal of the Enterprise High School student whose question of eligibility caused the Feb. 22 resignation of the school's athletic director, Larry Wells.

Wells and EHS principal, Blake Carlsen had both determined the student ineligible for athletic status at the school. Regardless of the

determination by the AD and principal, the school board and superintendent Erika Pinkerton pressed onward with the matter.

The board and Pinkerton next submitted the eligibility request to the District Athletic Committee, which is composed of the athletic directors of three schools in the Blue Mountain Conference. Wells had to step aside as he was chairman of the committee.

Regardless, the district committee unanimously

rejected the request for essentially the same reasons Wells and Carlsen did. The board and Pinkerton forged ahead with the request nonetheless, and took the eligibility matter up with the OSAA.

Like Wells and the DAC, the OSAA also unanimously rejected the request and determined the student ineligible as a mid-year transfer.

In addition to the Wells resignation, an investigation is pending on the actions of one of the school's employ-

ees who allegedly altered school attendance records for the benefit of the student or possibly, to implicate Wells. The school was forced to consult its attorney over the matter and several executive sessions were called to debate the matter.

Because of the resources expended, the investigation of the school employee and another possible investigation into the matter at the state level, the Chieftain will pursue the story to its conclusion in the coming weeks.

## Albee: Joseph Charter School's rising star

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up her skills to her desire to succeed for both herself and the team.

"I'm really competitive," she said. "I want to win."

On occasion, Coach Lance Homan works with Albee after practice on a routine of different shots.

"He's been my coach since like, fourth grade," Albee said.

Coach Lance Homan said he enjoys coaching Albee because of her dedication to the game. Albee, with her high level of skills, understands the game so well that her intuition will often tell her what's going to happen next. He also appreciates her humility.

"She doesn't like the spotlight is uncomfortable with recognition, but you put her on the basketball floor in a packed gym and she loves it," he said. "I also really appreciate that she encourages everyone and really is a good team member."

As good as she is, Albee has things she says she needs to improve on as a player.

"I need to work on my mid-range for sure," she said. "I work on that a lot. I think I need to work on offensive rebounds." She added that team box-out drills and playing against her much taller



Ellen Morris Bishop/Chieftain

Sabrina Albee of the Eagles drives toward the bucket during her team's 49-30 loss to Crane on March 2 in their final game in the 1A state basketball championships in Baker City.

dad helps as well.

Albee does have her occasional single digit point nights, which she expects

because she's often double-teamed, and other coaches don't mind letting everyone know they con-

sider her a threat.

"I get a lot of 'guard 21' from the coaches," she said with a laugh. "I try to set my

teammates up a lot whether I'm double-teamed or not. I try to do what I can to help the team win and make my

teammates successful as well. High scoring isn't half of what basketball is."

Despite all of the natural talent Albee possesses along with the unanimous all-league selection and the multiple 20-plus point games under her belt, she doesn't have a problem stating she's motivated to do better.

"I just think, 'next shot,' I try to move on to the next play," she said. Albee doesn't discount the rest of the squad, either. "The team does a good job of keeping my spirit up."

Although Albee sets goals, those goals are not stats-oriented, but rather, mental goals she sets for herself. She said that when shots don't fall she can get frustrated, so she works on keeping her head at such times. She recognizes that as she is one of the team leaders, so she tries to fulfill that role by example.

"I'm not a big talker," she said.

Albee had advice for younger players coming up who are serious about their game.

"Always have a good mindset," she said. "Be patient; you're not going to have a good game every night. You're not going to get good shots every game. Stay with it and do your hardest."

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**ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**

**Sabrina Albee**

This week's athlete of the week honor goes to vaunted Joseph Charter School basketball player, Sabrina Albee. The 16 year-old sophomore helped lead the Eagles to the state playoffs as both shooting guard and point guard. Old Oregon League just unanimously voted Albee as the league's player of the year.

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