



Joseph Eagles girls stop Wallowa Cougars 53-38

By Ellen Morris Bishop
Wallowa County Chieftain

Joseph's Sabrina Albee chalked up 19 points to lead the Eagles over the Wallowa Cougars 53-38 in the season's final game. Although Joseph committed 17 turnovers to Wallowa's 11, the Cougars girls couldn't get their shots to fall.

Eagles' coach, Lance Homan, said his squad put in a solid effort. He noted the team had early foul trouble which hurt both offensive and defensive play. Homan added that the Cougars are a tough team.

Albee's efforts included a three pointer and 4 of 6 foul shots. Brianna Micka contributed 12. For Wallowa, Kyla Hook led scoring with 11 points, while Jamie Johnston contributed 10.



Joseph's Brianna Micka brings the ball down court and shoots.



Joseph's Sabrina Albee shoots to widen the lead in the 4th quarter.



Steve Tool

UP FOR THREE, ANYONE? Joseph Eagles player, Madelyn Nelson, sets for a three-pointer during the Eagles' 54-40 win over Nixyaawii.

Joseph girls are league champs after weekend win

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Joseph girls cagers proved that JCS Eagles are tougher than Golden Eagles after trouncing Nixyaawii 54-40 on Saturday, Feb. 15. The game started as a defensive battle with the Eagles leading by seven midway into the third quarter before they caught fire. The Eagles' offense and defense shifted into high gear, as buckets flowed through the hoop while the defense forced a number of turnovers, putting Nixyaawii seriously into the hole.

The fourth quarter saw the Eagles maintain their momentum, leading 40-28 at the beginning of the quarter and coasting to victory before the helpless Golden Eagles knew what was happening. The end was anti-climactic.

Sabrina Albee led the

scoring with 23 while Madelyn Nelson chipped in with 13 and Brianna Micka put in 10 for the cause.

Coach Lance Homan said that the Saturday win was huge for the squad as it allowed them to be league champions again. He also noted his pride of the team and how they have refused to let down and feel sorry for themselves after the destruction of their gym and much equipment, but they came together as a team and finished the regular season off on a high note.

"We played a great game," coach Lance Homan said. "We're ready for District." The Eagles ended the regular season at the top of the Old Oregon League with an 11-1 record and 18-6 overall. They meet an undetermined opponent at District in Baker on Friday, Feb. 21 at 6 p.m.

Eagles boys outdistance the Cougars 64-42

But Wallowa cuffs Grizzlies 78-35

By Steve Tool and Ellen Morris Bishop
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Joseph Eagles boys squad outdistanced the Wallowa Cougars 64-42 in a game Feb. 14 in Wallowa. The halftime score was 33-21, but in the second half the Eagles pulled steadily away. The game was fast paced and frenetic, with Wallowa committing 29 turnovers, and Joseph giving up the ball 24 times. Chase Murray dropped in 16 points for Joseph. Hadley Miller posted 12, and Mason Ferre' scored 11. For Wallowa, Tristin Bales scored 15 and Quinten Tillery tallied 12.

Despite the 22-point spread, Joseph coach Olan Fulfer said the Eagles had their work cut out for them.

"They played hard and they've improved a lot since



Ellen Morris Bishop

Zeb Hermens takes the ball downcourt.

the last time we played them," Eagles' coach Olan Fulfer said. "They took the momentum from our second half. They were able to come out and make it tough on us for a long time."

Coach Cody Lathrop said the Cougs played well against the Eagles, but 14 missed open shots helped lead to the defeat.

"The offense was work-

ing well," he said. We were creating turnovers, and if we'd made the shots we normally make, we probably could have been right there with them."

Saturday saw the Cougars' machine travel to Griswold to deliver a walloping and then some to the hapless Grizzlies, 78-35. The Grizzlies were short on men as only six players

suitied up.

"We executed at a very high level on the road," coach Cody Lathrop said. "We shot the ball well and did what we wanted when we wanted to."

The coach said that the half-court trap defense worked exceptionally well on the Grizzlies, resulting in a 24-4 first quarter score for the Cougs, led by Tristin Bales' 14 points in the frame.

The Cougs, working within Lathrop's offense, suddenly realized their potential, and one three-pointer led to another — and another. The team sank nine by game's end.

"We played really well last night, and it's a shame that we figured it out when we did (at the end of the season)," Lathrop said. "We have a lot of hope for the future."

The Cougars ended the season with a 3-9 Old Oregon League record and 7-15 overall.

Joseph boys lose heartbreaker to league champ Nixyaawii

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

February 15 saw the Joseph Eagles boys playing at their temporary home court in Enterprise, hosting Nixyaawii on Senior Night. The highly anticipated game provided plenty of action. But the Joseph team lost by a narrow 67-61 score, although they tied the game and led for a short time in the fourth quarter.

Fulfer said that the loss gave him hope for the team's future at state, and he was happy with the squad's second half performance, while he felt the first half was lacking, with the Eagles down by 13. The coach blamed himself for the lackluster first half. He said the Eagles started with a zone offense, which failed to stop the Golden Eagles.

"They burned us in the zone and built up a big lead and we ended up going back to man and that worked a lot better," he said.



Ellen Morris Bishop

Tyasin Burns loses the ball to Mason Ferre and Reece Nelson.

After a half-time pep talk and discussion the Eagles went to work with their offense, patiently moving the ball and working their way into high-percentage shots while chopping away at Nixyaawii's lead. Joseph outscored the Golden Eagles 23-11 in the third quarter,

setting the stage for the exciting final quarter.

The fourth quarter battle saw the two teams exchanging leads, but the Golden Eagles had slightly better luck at the basket, ending with the 67-61 defeat for Joseph.

Fulfer said he was proud

of the team.

"They didn't let all the little things get to them and they battled back," he said. "I really like coaching these guys and they make my job a lot of fun."

Fulfer also gave the Golden Eagles credit for making shots when it counted while noting the Eagles came a hair's breadth from defeating the best team in the state.

Chase Murray led the scoring with 28 points while Mason Ferre' followed with 11 and Miller with nine. Fulfer also noted the defense of Reece Nelson and called him a player of monster potential. Littlepage also came in for defensive kudos from the coach.

The weekend left the Eagles with a 9-3 League record and 18-6 overall while holding down third place in the Old Oregon League. Joseph will face Pine Eagle at Baker on Thursday, Feb. 20, for their first District game.

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