

## SPORTS

### Late score dooms Cougars in Crane

Wallowa suffers first loss, 28-22

By ELLEN MORRIS BISHOP  
For the Wallowa County Chieftain

CRANE — It was a perfect sunny afternoon for football in the small desert community of Crane — unless you were the Wallowa Cougars.

On Tuesday, March 23, the Cougars (2-1 overall) suffered a painful last-minute loss to the Crane Mustangs by a score of 28-22.

“It was disappointing. We just had a lot of little timely mistakes that cost us the football game,” Wallowa head coach Matt Brockamp said.

The Cougars kept pace with the Mustangs throughout the contest, keeping the game tied or within one score until they pulled ahead, 22-20, in the fourth quarter.

Zeb Ramsden’s dazzling 53-yard catch and run to the end zone gave Wallowa the lead in the fourth. Ramsden broke four Mustang tackles on a power-ramble to give the Cougars the lead. A win seemed in sight.

“Zeb’s a heck of a football player, and that was a great play when we needed one,” Brockamp said.

But the Mustangs bowed their necks, took the bit in their teeth and scored on the next possession. It was 28-22.

It was Wallowa’s turn. With Lute Ramsden under pressure, several of his passes were out of reach of receivers in the last critical downs of Wallowa’s final fourth-quarter possession. But Wallowa moved the ball ably on the ground. They did, at least, until they fumbled.

With less than 2 minutes to go, the fumble was disastrous. Crane recovered.



Ellen Morris Bishop/For the Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa’s Zeb Ramsden makes a flying tackle of Crane ball carrier Mitch Clark while Lute Ramsden assists Tuesday, March 23, 2021, in Crane.

Crane took a knee and ran out the clock.

“We had them on the ropes. We were ahead by 22-20 with 3-½ minutes to go. We were moving the football and running the ball well. And then (we) coughed it up,” Brockamp said. “That was a killer.”

Crane completed three passes for 53 yards and one TD.

Lute Ramsden was second in rushing with 35 yards. Despite playing injured, Cougar running back Tristin Bales amassed 39 yards rushing. Zeb Ramsden and Hermens also contributed to the Cougars’

down on his ability to turn his head and to tackle.

“You could tell he was really uncomfortable, and he was just in pain the whole game,” Brockamp said.

“Tristin Bales had continuing lower back problems from an injury from the Enterprise game when he got hit in the end zone,” Brockamp said. “After X-rays and ultrasounds, he was cleared to play by his physician, but he just was not right. Especially his lateral motion was not what he can do.”

“Crane is a hard place to win football games,” Brockamp continued. “They are a talented team and a tough opponent. The kids played hard. In the end they were all bloody and exhausted.”

“Wallowa really should have won that game,” Crane Mustang assistant coach Fred Maupin said after the game concluded. “They were really the better team.”

Wallowa hosts Powder Valley Friday, April 2.

**“ZEB’S A HECK OF A FOOTBALL PLAYER, AND THAT WAS A GREAT PLAY WHEN WE NEEDED ONE.”**

— Matt Brockamp, Wallowa head coach

But there were many bright spots in Wallowa’s loss.

Lute Ramsden went 18-for-34 in passing for a total of 241 yards in the air and three touchdowns. Zeb Hermens tossed the ball twice for 55 yards after taking a pitch from Ramsden. Zeb Ramsden was his brother’s favorite receiver, snagging eight passes for a total of 163 yards and two touchdowns. Hermens cor-

total of 87 rushing yards.

Defense was a whole-team effort led by Zeb Ramsden led on tackles (eight) and assists (10) followed by Jesse Duncan with six tackles, seven assists and one sack.

The fact that two of Wallowa’s hardest-working stars played injured may have contributed to the team’s loss.

Hermens had back and neck problems that cut

### Eagles pull away from Echo, now 4-0

Chieftain staff

JOSEPH — The Joseph football team heads into its final regular-season game of Season 2 undefeated following a 46-24 road victory over Echo on Friday, March 26.

“It was a great game,” Eagles head coach Duncan Christman said. “Kane Johnson really stepped up for us. We were missing some kids due to spring break, so it was big for him and others to step up.”

Justin Rogers powered the Joseph offense, rushing for 199 yards and three touchdowns, and catching a fourth touchdown pass. He also had 13 tackles on defense. Harley Miller added 67 yards rushing, and quarterback Trace Collier had 76 passing yards and a touchdown, rushed for another score and added eight tackles.

Defensively, both Kale Ferguson and Jonah Staigle had 10 tackles. Ferguson also returned an interception 55 yards for a touchdown, and Johnson returned a fumble 44 yards for a touchdown.

“Overall we played well, and are looking forward to this Friday’s game against South Wasco,” Christman said.

The Eagles (4-0 overall) visit South Wasco County on Friday, April 2.

#### Knapp, Outlaws win in Heppner

HEPPNER — Wallowa Valley’s Zac Knapp edged out Union/Cove’s Taylor Fox to claim victory and lead the Outlaw cross-country team to a first-place finish in their most recent race at the Mustang Invite in Heppner on March 18.

Knapp crossed the finish line in 17:11.9 to just slip past Fox, who finished in 17:15.5. Knapp was one of two Wallowa Valley runners in the top four, with Bayden Men-

#### THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

- APRIL 1 Volleyball**  
Enterprise at Elgin, 5:30 p.m.  
Wallowa at Joseph, 5 p.m.
- APRIL 2 Volleyball**  
Powder Valley at Joseph, 1 p.m.  
Damascus Christian at Wallowa, 2 p.m.  
Imbler at Enterprise, 3:30 p.m.  
Powder Valley at Wallowa, 4 p.m.  
Damascus Christian at Joseph, 5 p.m.
- Football**  
Joseph at South Wasco County, 3 p.m.  
Enterprise at Elgin, 7 p.m.  
Powder Valley at Wallowa, 7 p.m.
- Cross-Country**  
Wallowa Valley at 3A/2A/1A Special District 5 Championship, Heppner, 3 p.m.
- APRIL 3 Volleyball**  
Joseph at Elgin, 1 p.m.
- \*schedule subject to change

ton taking fourth in 17:21.3.

Ian Goodrich cracked the top 10, taking 10th in 19:33.4, just in front of teammate Brenden Moore, who was 11th in 19:36.5.

Rounding out the top five for Wallowa Valley, which finished with 28 points to beat the rival Bobcats (44 points) was Weston Wolfe, who placed 16th in 20:37.1.

Only one Outlaw runner took part on the girls side, with Kyla Hook placing fourth in 22:52.8.

Wallowa Valley next runs back in Heppner on Friday, April 2, at 3A/2A/1A Special District 5 Championship.

### Recycled Art Contest!

sponsored by Friends of Wallowa County Recycling  
To celebrate EarthWeek

Open House and Spring Clean-up  
APRIL 23rd at the Recycle Center on Fish Hatchery Road.

We need volunteers for “spruce up” projects to tidy up our recycling center. Also we’ll have a recycled art contest, games, recycling information, and prizes. We hope you can join us and vote for your favorites!

#### CONTEST RULES

MATERIALS— anything found at the Recycle Center (cardboard, tin & aluminum, glass, plastic, paper) or in your backyard/barnyard (scrap metal, baling twine, scrap wood) is fair game! Must be previously used. There will be prizes for top entries in Youth (<18 yrs) and Open categories. Public voting will be from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on April 23rd. PRIZES include donated merchandise and gift certificates from local sponsors. Champion entry will be displayed at the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture following the contest. Drop off submissions April 22nd, 3-5 p.m. or call, e-mail us for special arrangements (wallowacountyrecycling@gmail.com or 426-7131). Pick up art entries 4-6 pm, April 23.



Paisley is a spayed female torbi (tabby-tortoiseshell mix) born on September 11, 2020. She is up-to-date on vaccines, dewormed and is litter box trained. Paisley is a sweet little girl who loves to have her fur brushed while she lays beside you. She would do well in a home with older children.

Brought to you by,

Available for Adoption  
Call Mary at 541-398-2428  
\$65 adoption fee

Susan Gilstrap - CPA  
541.426.4070

<http://www.wallowacountyhumanesociety.org/>

This week at

## Josephy Center

FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

#### Motherhood Exhibit

Come visit before it closes on April 6!

#### Youth Arts Festival

Open House Sat. April, 10 from 12-5 p.m.

#### Wine Glass Painting Class

Fun and Free, every Wed. from 5-7 p.m.

#### Key To Our Future Fundraising Event

April 15 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

#### Foundations in Clay adult session

Every Monday, April 19-June 7; must pre-register

#### Adding Color to Copper workshop

April 15 from 1-4 p.m.; must pre-register

josephy.org  
541.432.0505



## KEY TO OUR FUTURE

SAVE THE DATE

04.15.21

Save the Date for the  
Key to Our Future Virtual Fundraiser

Proceeds go toward the purchase  
& repair of the Josephy Center

MJ Murdock Trust will match donations up to \$50K

Let's get all the way...to \$50K!

Register @ [josephy.org/capital-fundraiser](http://josephy.org/capital-fundraiser)



JOSEPHY CENTER  
Wallowa County's Home for  
Arts and Culture