

Ramsden leads Cougars to first win

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA — The Wallowa Cougars were able to shake off a tough season-opening loss to Adrian to get into the win column.

Lute Ramsden rushed for two touchdowns, passed for a third, added two in special teams and amassed 320 yards of offense as the Cougars opened an early 30-point lead and held on for a 36-22 victory over the Union Bobcats on Friday, Sept. 24.

“He had a heck of a game,” head coach Jeremy McCulloch said. “We knew coming in he was going to have to carry a lot of the load, as well as Jesse Duncan at running back, just with where we were at personnel wise for the week. Main goal was for our kids to play physical, downhill football. I think they accomplished that, particularly in the first half.”

McCulloch noted the Cougars had just 14 players available Friday night, and among the players were some recovering from illness or even a quarantine, though McCulloch said players who had



Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain
Wallowa's Lute Ramsden turns upfield against the Union Bobcats on Friday, Sept. 24, 2021. Ramsden accounted for 320 yards of offense and scored five touchdowns — including two in special teams — to help the Cougars to a 36-22 win.

been out were not necessarily sick with COVID-19.

Ramsden totaled 238 yards on the ground on 25 carries, making up the large majority of Wallowa's

283 rushing yards. The junior quarterback actually scored four different ways, not only throwing and rushing for scores, but adding an 85-yard kickoff return and

a 65-yard punt return for touchdowns as the Cougars built up a 36-6 lead at the half.

“For the most part trying to get our tight ends vertical, setting up some of that and then just allowing Lute to improv and play downhill and be able to read the field and use his legs a lot (was the first-half key),” McCulloch said. “... The special teams plays were important as well, that allowed us to get going. Scoring the first play of the game set the tone. Definitely multiple factors, but probably our open sets where we were able to allow Lute to survey the field, hit our tight ends appropriately and our backs, and certainly allow him to use his legs.”

Lucas Hulse added 73 yards receiving and a touchdown through the air, and Duncan had 42 yards rushing. In all, Wallowa had 365 yards of offense.

Union drew closer with two touchdowns in the fourth quarter to make the score more respectable at the end.

Wallowa (1-1 overall) visits Cove on Friday, Oct. 1.

Knapp sets school record as Wallowa Valley rolls

Chieftain staff

STANFIELD — It was another 1-2 finish for Zac Knapp and Bayden Menton.

And for Knapp, it was a record-breaking day.

The top two runners for the Wallowa Valley cross-country team claimed the top spots to lead the Outlaws to a dominant win Thursday, Sept. 23, at the Stanfield Fun County meet.

Knapp ran away from the competition yet again, posting a winning time of 15:24.9 to set a program record in the 5K and, for the second week in a row, beat out second place by more than a minute. Menton clocked in at 16:26.0, edging Heppner's Trevor Nichols by 0.8 seconds for second place.

Ian Goodrich cracked the top five, placing fifth in 17:32.8. Following in seventh was Levi Ortswan in 18:02.5, and rounding out Wallowa Valley's top five in 10th was Chase Homan in a time of 18:24.4.

Andrew Hurley and Andrew Nordtvedt followed in 16th and 17th in a time of 19:13.0 and 19:16.0, respectively, and Westin Wolfe was 20th in 19:49.4. In all, Enterprise had five runners in the top 10, eight in the top 20 and 12 in the top 30.

The Outlaws finished with a team score of 21 points, far outpacing Baker (55 points) and Heppner (60).

On the girls side, Wallowa Valley took second with 46 points behind Baker (24 points) but ahead of district rival Heppner (52).

Iona McDonald and Maddie Nordtvedt led the Outlaws in sixth and seventh in times of 23:14.2 and 23:23.0, respectively. The other three runners also finished together: Lannie Stonebrink in 11th, Nevaeh James in 12th and Michaila Caine in 13th. Stonebrink's time was 24:57.0, James came in in 25:02.5 and Caine followed in 25:17.3.

Wallowa Valley cross-country next competes at the Baker Invite on Friday, Oct. 1.

Eagle volleyball runs winning streak to 10

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — The Joseph volleyball team is on a hot streak, and, with its win against Imbler Thursday night, Sept. 23, is in first place in the Old Oregon League.

Cooper Nave and Molly Curry each had 12 kills as the Eagles swept Imbler, 25-18, 25-14, 25-23, in a battle between teams who were unbeaten in Old Oregon League play, then followed with sweeps of Nixyaawii and Griswold on Saturday, 25-5, 25-6, 25-6, and 25-8, 25-8, 25-11.

“We have definitely grown together as a family,” Emma Orr said. “I feel like we are meshing really well at the moment. A little bit in the beginning we were not quite mixing, but now we're mixing, we're playing as a team, playing together as a family. I think we've grown a lot as the season's gone on.”

The victories ran Joseph's winning streak to 10 games in a row, moved the Eagles to 5-0 and in first place in the OOL, and 14-3 overall.

“I think we got a lot of hitters that are coming on right now which has been kind of fun,” head coach Jill Hite said. “It's like we are a little bit more rounded in our front, between Cooper and Emma



Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain
Joseph's Emma Orr tips the ball over the net during a match against Imbler on Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021. Orr and the Eagles swept Imbler, and have run their winning streak to 10 games in a row.

and Molly right now, and Sarah (Orr), we have some diversity up there.”

Thursday's match against the Panthers, which on paper should have been a tight battle, was a

runaway during the first two sets. Nave ended the first set with a kill, and the Eagles broke open the second set with a finishing 10-2 run, which ended with an Aimee Meyers kill and an error

by Imbler.

Joseph seemed ready to run away in the third as it opened with a 7-3 lead, only to see Imbler

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Shorthanded Outlaws fall to Dufur, 42-14

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — For 2½ quarters Friday, Sept. 24, a shorthanded Enterprise Outlaw football team gave perennial power Dufur all it could handle.

But the visiting Rangers pulled away with the last 20 points of the game to secure a 42-14 victory over Enterprise in Special District 2-West action.

“We gotta be a lot more determined,” Enterprise head coach Rusty Eschler said, adding the Outlaws didn't match Dufur's intensity for four quarters. “It's aggression, it's matching their physicality; we gotta match that.”

Enterprise was down one of its senior leaders, Gideon Gray, whom Eschler said was out sick. Other players on the field Friday



Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain
Enterprise running back Trey Stewart, left, follows the blocking of Jesse Duncan during the Outlaws' game against Dufur on Friday, Sept. 24, 2021.

played through an illness. Eschler said, though, nobody who was sick had COVID-19.

Enterprise never led in the con-

test, and Dufur often threatened to break the game open in the second and third quarters. The Rangers scored a touchdown late in

the half on a 43-yard touchdown reception by Kaleb Pence to take a 14-6 lead into the break, then opened the second half with a short field thanks to a Joshua Taylor interception and went ahead 22-6 on a 10-yard scoring run by Pence.

But Caden Fent took the ensuing kickoff 85 yards for a touchdown, and the two-point conversion kept Enterprise in the game at 22-14 with 9:29 to play in the third quarter.

The teams traded possessions — and fumbles — before Dufur put the game away. Cody Phillips broke away for a 36-yard touchdown run with 1:25 to play in the third to put the Rangers up 30-14 after three. Dufur then took its opening possession of the

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Joseph football, Enterprise volleyball see games moved

Chieftain staff

Joseph's game at Prairie City/Burnt River, scheduled for Friday, Sept. 24, was moved to Friday, Oct. 22.

The Eagles (3-0 overall) are next scheduled to visit Pine Eagle on Friday, Oct. 1, though the Spartans (1-1) have been forced to forfeit two games this season due to a lack of players.

Meanwhile, Enterprise's volleyball game on Tuesday, Sept. 21 against Imbler was canceled, and the Outlaws' Thursday match against Stanfield and Saturday matches against Union and Heppner were all postponed due to members of the team being quarantined due to COVID-19.

Enterprise hopes to be back at full strength and return to the court Thursday, Sept. 30, against Weston-McEwen.

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