

Eagles lock up district volleyball title

Chieftain staff

Joseph's winning streak continues into the state playoffs.

The Eagles won the Old Oregon League District Tournament Saturday, Oct. 23, in Baker City, sweeping Imbler in the semifinals, 25-8, 25-17, 25-19, and getting past Powder Valley in five sets in the championship match, 26-24, 25-14, 20-25, 20-25, 15-13.

In the title match, Cooper Nave tallied 19 kills to power the offense and 40 digs to lead the defense.

Aimee Meyers had 30 digs and was the team leader in assists and aces.

Molly Curry added 14 kills, Maggie Miller had 20 digs and McKenzie Keffer tallied 19 digs.

"Very proud of the girls for their performance," head coach Jill Hite said. "They fought hard."

In the earlier match against the Panthers, Nave had a team-leading 13 kills. Curry had nine kills, and Meyers had 22 digs and seven aces.

Earlier in the week, on Oct.

20, the Eagles sunk Weston-McEwen in straight sets, 25-20, 25-20, 25-17.

The victories extend the Joseph winning streak to 19 matches in a row.

Joseph heads into the state playoffs with a record of 23-3 overall, and will play a second-round home game Saturday, Oct. 30, though the time and opponent are yet to be determined.

Cougars, Outlaws see season end

Both the Wallowa and Enterprise volleyball teams saw their seasons end last week.

The Cougars won their first district playoff game Tuesday, Oct. 19, taking down Elgin in four sets, 25-11, 25-23, 19-25, 25-23, before losing to Imbler Thursday, Oct. 21, in straight sets, 25-17, 25-17, 25-18.

Enterprise saw its season end Tuesday with a home loss to Weston-McEwen in four sets, 25-13, 25-18, 19-25, 25-13. Enterprise fell short of qualifying for the



Alex Wittwer/The Observer

Abby Orr, left, and McKenzie Keffer dive for the ball during a match against North Powder at the Old Oregon League District Tournament held in Baker City on Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021.

district tournament.

Maddie Wigen had seven kills in the match for the Outlaws, Maci Marr had 10 digs and Rilyn Kirland had three aces.

"While we could play most

teams in our league closely for a set or two, we couldn't convert that into wins, and at the end of the season, it comes down to wins," head coach Lisa Farwell said. "I'm proud of the work ethic and

good attitude my gals have demonstrated all season."

Wallowa finishes with a record of 6-15 overall.

Enterprise wraps up the season at 10-11.

Outlaws run strong at John Day

District cross-country meet is Friday, Oct. 29

Chieftain staff

JOHN DAY — Zac Knapp will go into the district cross-country meet having won each race he has been in.

The Wallowa Valley senior won the Gold Rush Run in John Day on Thursday, Oct. 21, with a top time of 15:34.2, besting the field by more than 35 seconds. Pine Eagle's Caleb Brown was second in 16:09.7.

The Outlaws won the meet with a total of 36 points. Union/Cove was second with 52. Burns (61) placed third, and Heppner (91) was fourth.

Knapp's teammate, Bayden Menton, was the second runner across the line for Wallowa Valley, taking sixth overall in 16:29.1.

Ian Goodrich broke into the top 10 in 10th with a time of 17:28.9. Rounding out Wallowa Valley's top five — all of whom were in the top 20 — were Levi Ortswan in 14th (17:49.9) and Weston Wolfe in 20th (18:09.5).

The Wallowa Valley girls took third overall with 78 points, behind Union/Cove (43) and Burns (69).

Maddie Nordtvedt paced the Outlaws in 11th in 22:45.0. As they have several times this year, the rest of the team arrived in bunches. Nevaeh James and Iona McDonald placed 18th and 19th, finishing nearly neck-and-neck with times of 23:12.5 and 23:12.9, respectively. In 22nd and 23rd were Lannie Stonebrink and Michaila Caine in respective times of 23:17.0 and 23:24.4.

Up next for Wallowa Valley is the 3A/2A/1A Special District 3 Championships back in John Day Friday, Oct. 29.



Wallowa County Chieftain, File

Enterprise's Bud Magera runs during the 1984 state championship game, won by Enterprise, 17-14, over Yoncalla.

Looking back

Assessing the best decade of each Wallowa County football team

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — When it comes to high school football, success has been had at all three schools in Wallowa County.

Wallowa, with four state championships, arguably has the best all-time local resume. Enterprise, one could argue, had the most consistent stretch. Joseph has reemerged at the six-man level.

With the state playoffs just around the corner, what better time to ask the question of what has been the best decade for each team throughout its history?

That is what will be looked at here.

Full disclosure: OSAA

didn't start recognizing state championships until 1940, and inconsistently until 1943, so this exam of the decades will begin with the 1950s.

Wallowa Cougars

Two decades clearly stand out when looking at the Cougars' history: The 1950s and the 1990s.

An argument could be made for both, as well. The early 1950s were a time of dominance by Wallowa, which won its first two state championships back to back in 1951 and 1952 — going undefeated in the process both seasons. The 1951 squad registered two shutouts in the playoffs, including a 34-0 blanking of Gervais to claim the program's first state title. A year later, another 12-0

season followed, and while Wallowa was tested a bit more in the postseason, there still was little issue in the championship game, a 27-12 win over Drain. That, though, was the team's last playoff victory for 14 years.

The 1990s were highlighted by the 1993 team's undefeated season and a 48-18 thumping of St. Paul to cap a 13-0 campaign. It was also a decade of "what ifs" for the Cougars. Five years in a row Wallowa reached the state semifinals, and only once did they win it all, despite being a team that, in that five-year stretch, went 49-6. Four years in a row the Cougars played Dufur in the state semifinals, and fell three of the four, the exception being a 20-14 win in 1993 en route to the

state title. The most painful of those losses was a 30-26 setback to Dufur in 1994, not only due to the tight score, but due to the Rangers running away with a state title over Eddyville the following week, 50-14. In fact, the three teams to defeat Wallowa in the semis in 94-96 (Dufur twice, and Powers) all won state crowns.

Wallowa went 6-2 in the postseason in the 1950s, and 7-4 in the 1990s. The 1992 semifinal trip also ended a 25-year playoff drought that had gone since 1967, the team's other state championship campaign.

It's close, but we're calling the 1950s as the best decade in Cougar history. While the overall

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Outlaws win in a rout, wait for playoff berth

Chieftain staff

ENTERPRISE — It was a win that would have locked up a playoff berth.

Instead, the Enterprise football team will have to wait.

The Outlaws secured their fourth win in a row when they thumped Lyle/Wishram/Klickitat on the road Friday, Oct. 22, 50-14.

It was a win that earned Enterprise the No. 2 seed from Special District 2-West and should have given the Outlaws a playoff berth, which would have been the first since 2017.

Instead, Enterprise will be forfeiting its district playoff game this week — and the automatic playoff berth it had earned — with the vast majority of its players taking part in the national FFA convention, head coach Rusty Eschler said. Enterprise will take a loss for the forfeit, and will instead have to hope its OSAA ranking — which is currently ninth — stays high enough to earn one of four at-large bids to the state playoffs.

Stats were not available for the win against Lyle, but it gave Enterprise its most wins (five) since the team went 6-4 in 2012. It also was the third straight time on the field that the Outlaws scored at least 50 points in a game.

Enterprise, which will have a 5-4 overall record after the forfeit, will wait to see if, indeed, it earns that playoff bid. The final OSAA rankings will be set Oct. 30.

Joseph toppled by Panthers

The Joseph football team enters the postseason on a sour note after suffering its worst loss in four years of

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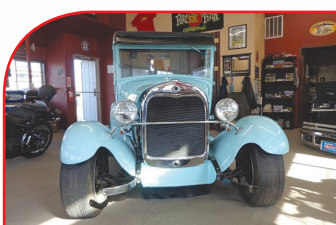
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