

CROSS-COUNTRY

Wallowa Valley boys win district; girls finish in fourth

Outlaws will compete in state meet Nov. 6 in Eugene

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — It was yet another solid performance for Zac Knapp and the Wallowa Valley boys cross-country team, and a solid gear-up for the state meet this weekend.

Knapp set the school record for the second time this season, winning an individual district title in a time of 15:14.7 to lead the Outlaws to a 3A District 3 title Friday, Oct. 29, in John Day.

“They have been working harder than any team I have had, ever,” head coach Dan Moody said. “They want to make a statement. They did that this weekend, but want to at state.”

Knapp won by nearly a minute, and was one of five runners in the top 10. All seven Wallowa Valley runners, in fact, finished in the top 15 as the Outlaws scored 26 points, outpacing Burns (46) and La Pine (80) for the district title.

Bayden Menton was the second Wallowa Valley runner to cross the finish line, placing third with a time of 16:23.9. Ian Goodrich followed in fifth (17:05.1), Levi Orswam placed seventh (17:32.4) and Chase Homan rounded out the top five for Wallowa Valley in 10th (17:37.8).

The rest of the Wallowa Valley runners included Weston Wolfe in 12th (17:49.8) and Andrew Nordtvedt in 15th (18:29.4).

“This is possibly the best team I’ve ever had,” Moody said. “They want to let everyone know this is one of the best teams that has run at state. They are going there to win it no matter what.”

“Hopefully, in the process, we are going to have everybody (set a personal record) again.”

The Wallowa Valley girls placed fourth with a team score of 78 points, behind Union/Cove (33) Burns (52) and Heppner (68) in 3A/2A/1A District 3. The fourth-place finish left the girls team two spots shy of qualifying for state.

“They did a great job,” Moody said. “We had a bunch of PRs in that race, too. They did everything we could, and we fell short.”

Maddie Nordtvedt was the top finisher for the Outlaws, taking 11th with a time of 21:50.6. In 18th was Lannie Stonebrink, who posted a time of 22:18.6, and close

See Outlaws, Page A10

VOLLEYBALL

Joseph rolls to 20th consecutive win

Eagles sweep Wolves in second-round home playoff game

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — The Joseph volleyball team ran its winning streak to 20 straight matches, exacted a little revenge for a 2019 playoff loss and reached the state quarterfinals for the first time in three years by sweeping Days Creek in a second-round home match Saturday, Oct. 30, 25-16, 25-14, 29-27.

Players and coach Jill Hite alike said that the Eagles had really good energy during the first two sets, and managed to complete the sweep despite lacking some of that energy in the third.

“I think in the beginning we did a good job of talking, but toward the end we kind of fell out (of rhythm),” setter Aimee Meyers said. “But that just goes to show when we put our mind to it we can do it.”

Few, if any, teams in Class 1A have played better than Joseph during the last two months, and the Eagles kept that momentum rolling right into Saturday’s match against the Wolves. That the Eagles have played — and defeated — several other highly ranked teams helped entering the playoffs.

“I think when we come out of those games (against good teams) and win, it shows us that we can win through anything if we put our mind and work toward it,” Cooper Nave said.

The Eagles opened up a double-digit lead in each of the first two sets, trailed just once the entire match and were only threatened by Days Creek late in the third set.

Joseph opened the match on a 13-2 run to quickly take an



Joseph’s Cooper Nave serves during a second-round state playoff matchup against Days Creek on Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021.

NORTH DOUGLAS VS. JOSEPH MATCH RESULTS ONLINE

Due to the North Douglas vs. Joseph quarterfinal match being played after the Chieftain’s deadline on Tuesday, Nov. 2, a recap of that match will be online at wallowa.com Wednesday, Nov. 3, and more from that match will be in print Wednesday, Nov. 10.

11-point first-set lead thanks to three kills in four points from Molly Curry. Kills by Emma Orr and Nave gave Joseph its largest lead of the first set at 18-6.

See Joseph, Page A10



Abby Orr returns a ball during Joseph’s playoff match against Days Creek on Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021.

Meyers headlines all-league squad as player of the year

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — The news was a shock to Aimee Meyers.

The sophomore setter for the Joseph volleyball team was one of five players named to the Old Oregon League all-league team, and headlined the group by being named the OOL player of the year for the role she played in helping the Eagles to an undefeated league season, a district tournament title and a state playoff berth.

“I was honestly very surprised,” Meyers said. “I did not think that was something I could get awarded, and was very honored to get that.”

She said the quality of players

throughout the league, and playing what she described as not a big-name role as the setter, was part of why she thought the designation would go toward someone else.

“In the league, there’s just a high number of good players, and as the setter you don’t get as much recognition as the hitter, and that was something that was super honorable for me,” she said.

Meyers brings a versatility to the floor on both the offensive and defensive side of the ball. The setter primarily is responsible for getting attackers ready for a kill attempt. And while Meyers did so in spades this fall, she

See Meyers, Page A10



Aimee Meyers sets the ball against Days Creek on Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021. Meyers was chosen as OOL’s player of the year.

FOOTBALL

Outlaws do make playoffs, face long road trip for first game

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Enterprise did indeed make it into the 1A state football playoffs.

Now, the Outlaws seek their first playoff victory in 23 years.

Enterprise, which finished the regular season ranked 10th in the OSAA rankings, will hit the road to face No. 7 Myrtle Point on Friday, Nov. 5.

The Bobcats, like the

Outlaws, will be looking to end a lengthy drought of postseason success. Myrtle Point, which enters with a record of 8-2 overall, hasn’t played a state playoff game since 2015, a 49-6 loss at Regis when the team played 2A football. The Bobcats’ last playoff victory was a 12-0 first-round win over Rainier in 2006.

Enterprise, which enters the game at 5-3 overall and got in via ranking after forfeiting its position in the Special District 2 crossover,

hasn’t played in the postseason since a 33-0 loss to Kennedy in 2017, and hasn’t won a playoff game since the 1998 semifinals when it defeated Lost River 23-13.

The teams enter with their offenses humming as of late, having both scored at least 50 points the last three times each took the field — all wins.

Myrtle Point has reached the 60-point mark twice this year, and is averaging 44.9 points per game. Defensively, the Bobcats

are allowing 22 points per game.

The Outlaws are averaging 33.4 points per game on offense, and 21.7 points per game on the defensive end.

At more than 550 miles, the Outlaws will have the longest road trip of anyone playing this weekend when they travel to Southwestern Oregon. Kickoff for the Friday contest is at 7 p.m.

The winner faces either Powder Valley or Perrydale in the state quarterfinals next weekend.

Eagles eliminated in loss to Powers

The Joseph football team hung with Powers for four quarters and did enough defensively to stay in the 1A six-man quarterfinals Saturday, Oct. 30, but the Eagles couldn’t generate any offense against the Cruisers’ defense in a 14-0 loss.

Powers, one of three undefeated teams entering the playoffs, recorded its first shutout of the season, though it didn’t register anything near the 39.5 points

per game it had during the regular season.

In fact, a safety was all that was put on the scoreboard during the first half as the Cruisers took a 2-0 lead into the locker room. Powers, though, put the game away with two second-half touchdowns.

Joseph, which traveled roughly 580 miles to Southwestern Oregon for the contest — the longest road trip of any team last weekend — finished the season with a final record of 4-4 overall.

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