

KICKING OFF THE SEASON IN STYLE

Enterprise has two winners in kickoff wrestling tournament

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — The Enterprise Outlaws had two individual champions at their home Kickoff wrestling tournament to start the season.

Cody Fent rallied from a deficit to claim the 170-pound title while Gabby Delapena won all four of her matches by fall to claim the girls 135-pound title to lead the Enterprise effort Friday, Dec. 3.

“I thought Friday was absolutely outstanding for our kids,” EHS head coach Court Fent said. “They all came out a bit nervous since it was the first tournament of the year, however, I thought their performance was outstanding. They worked on things we had worked on a couple weeks in practice. They came out in the end very confident in their ability.”

Delapena was nothing short of dominant for the Outlaws. The lone girl in the program pinned all four of her opponents and only once was forced to go past the first round. She defeated Baker’s Lilly Collins by fall in 2:31, followed that with a pin of Melany Bombela in just 1:43, then in her third match needed just 15 seconds to pin Dayana Sepulveda of Riverside. In her final match — each of the girls’ weight classes and a handful of the boys’ were done in a round-robin format — she pinned Shelby Elliot of Riverside in just 1:15.

“I guess just not being too nervous, doesn’t matter how tall they are, how much they weigh, if

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Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain

Enterprise’s Cody Fent, front, wrestles against Riverside’s Chris Kent in the 170-pound final of the Enterprise Kickoff Friday, Dec. 3, 2021.



Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain

Enterprise’s Gabby Delapena, top, won all four of her matches by fall to win the girls 135-pound title at the Enterprise Kickoff Friday, Dec. 3, 2021.



Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain

Joseph’s Gavin Russell, top, took third at 160 pounds to lead the Eagles’ effort at the Enterprise Kickoff Friday, Dec. 3, 2021.

Joseph girls rally to win home opener

Wallowa girls go 1-1 on weekend; Enterprise drops two

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — The Joseph girls basketball team picked up its first win Saturday, Dec. 4, in comeback fashion, rallying in the fourth quarter for a 51-48 home win over South Wasco County.

The Eagles saw a 32-24 halftime lead vanish, and fell behind after three quarters, 40-38.

Joseph rallied behind Aimee Meyers, who scored 18 points to share game-high honors with teammate Cooper Nave. Meyers had seven of her points in the final quarter, including hitting five free throws in the period to help push Joseph over the top.

Joseph as a team was 7-for-12 from the free-throw

line in the fourth.

“I was extremely proud of how our girls handled themselves,” head coach Lance Homan said. “They stuck together, picked each other up, and grinded out a victory. We had Abby (Orr) and Cooper foul out in the last quarter and we were able to utilize other kids that haven’t been in that situation, and they did great. Overall it was a great team effort and a very hard fought win for sure.”

The Eagles opened up their eight-point halftime margin thanks in large part to Nave, who went off to score 10 points in the first quarter, and 16 in the opening half. Meyers had 10 points in the second as Joseph doubled its margin from 14-10 to the eight-point halftime gap.

Sarah Orr added eight points for the Eagles (1-1 overall), who play Adrian, Jordan Valley and Tri-Valley, Idaho, next Thursday through Saturday at the Calvin Hiatt Memorial Tournament in North Powder.

Also Saturday Jordan Valley 58, Wallowa 27: The Wallowa Cougars girls basketball team wrapped up their opening week 1-2 with a loss at Jordan Valley on Saturday, Dec. 4, 58-27.

The Mustangs broke the game open early as they built a nine-point lead after one, pulled ahead to a 30-13 lead at the break and added on from there.

“They’re solid,” said Wallowa head coach Greg Oveson, noting his team was within about four in the second quarter before the Mustangs took off. “Their post play is solid. Their outside shooters, they’re good. They’re aggressive, they’re physical, they’re a pretty solid team. The second quarter, we played pretty well against them for about six minutes.”

Abby Straight turned in her best scoring effort of the young season, as the freshman scored six points in the

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Joseph boys open with a pair of losses

Wallowa, Enterprise also drop weekend pair

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — The Joseph boys basketball team cut a 14-point halftime deficit in half against South Wasco County on Saturday, Dec. 4, but a 3-pointer by the Red-sides stopped the rally, as they went on to win 65-33 over the Eagles.

Joseph head coach Olan Fulfer, though, said his team’s play was improved over Friday’s loss to Crane.

“There’s a lot of things that we did that showed flashes of good potential,” he said.

The opening weekend was a winless one for the Eagles, but Fulfer said after Saturday’s game there were things to build on.

“Our goal is to be competitive at the end of the sea-

son,” he said. “We showed flashes the last two games. It was nice. The teams we played showed us a lot of weaknesses that we have to fix to be competitive against good teams. ... It’s not going to all happen all at once.”

The Eagles trailed against South Wasco County at halftime, 33-19, but started the second half strong to get within seven, Fulfer said.

But the Red-sides finished the quarter strong to go ahead after three, 50-28, and added on in the fourth.

Chase Homan led the Eagles with 12 points, and Hayden Hite added eight points.

“Chase Homan and Hayden Hite, I feel like today, they played really well with staying aggressive, doing exactly what we were working on,” Fulfer said.

Joseph (0-2 overall) plays next weekend at the Calvin Hiatt Memorial Basketball Tournament in North Powder, and faces Adrian on Thursday, Jordan Valley

on Friday and Tri-Valley, Idaho, on Saturday.

Also Saturday Jordan Valley 45, Wallowa 18: The Wallowa boys basketball team dropped to 0-3 on the young season with a loss at Jordan Valley Saturday, Dec. 4, 45-18, but did turn in their best defensive effort of the season.

Jordan Valley opened up a 20-point halftime lead, 31-11, but the Cougars held them to just 14 points in the second half.

Head coach Deon Chandler said he is already seeking marked improvement from his Cougars.

“As long as we improve every game, that’s what I want to see,” he said. “Every game they play with big hearts, (and) haven’t given up one game yet.”

Isaac Barnum was the Cougars’ leading scorer with 10 points, including eight in the first half.

“We had some kids really

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