

# Outlaw girls tame Cougars in season opener

By RONALD BOND  
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — The Enterprise girls basketball team built a large enough lead in their Wednesday, Dec. 1, opener against Wallowa that the Outlaws went deep into their bench early.

That allowed the Cougars to close the gap before Enterprise finished off a 38-30 win in the season opener for both teams.

With the exception of the first minute, Enterprise was in control basically from start to finish. The Outlaws used a 9-0 run midway through the first quarter to take the lead for good, limited Wallowa to a single free throw in the second quarter en route to a 17-point halftime lead, and led by as many as 21 points in the second half.

"I was happy with our result," Outlaws head coach Mike Crawford said. "I thought that we played well in some major stretches and not so well in others. But at the same time, I had three girls of my starters who had minutes at the varsity level prior to last night. And everyone else is new. It's a process learning how to play at that level. I thought we did OK considering."

The key was a solid defensive effort that saw the Outlaws force Wallowa into 36 turnovers, including 22 in the first half. Jada Gray, who led Enterprise with 10 points, was the head of the Outlaws' press all night,



Enterprise's Emily Love, left, tries to drive past Wallowa's Sophie Moeller on Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021.

collecting five steals and deflecting the ball on several other occasions.

"I like to do a lot of one-girl press, actually," Crawford said. "It is surprising how often they turn it over" with one player pressuring them.

Enterprise, which led 13-6 after one following a pair of Rilyn Kirkland layups, pushed the lead to 10 on a Gray steal and layup and a free throw from Maci Marr. Marr later had her own steal and layup and Kirkland found Gray for a basket and



Wallowa's Libby Fisher, left, tries to drive past Enterprise's Maci Marr on Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021.

a 22-6 lead. That capped a 13-0 run that started late in the first quarter, during which time the Cougars didn't score for 10:35.

The lead reached 24-7 at the half, and swelled to 21 in the third when Emily Love opened the quarter with a 3-pointer and Gray added another free throw.

Wallowa started to chip away in the final 10:15, and found a touch from the 3-point line. Libby Fisher's trey late in the third triggered a 7-0 run to make 30-17 after three.

"I saw some good things in the second half," Wallowa head coach Greg Oveson said. "We have a lot of work to do. Hopefully in the next two or three weeks we get some stuff straightened out."

Layups by Love and Gray pushed the lead back to 17 early in the fourth before the Cougars scored 13 of the next 15 points to make it interesting.

Sophie Moeller connected on a 3-pointer with just under five minutes left to start the run. Abby Straight and Fisher both scored to help trim the margin to 12.

Then Zoe Hermens, who led the Cougars with nine points, really made things tight. She stepped into a pullup 3-pointer to make it 36-27 with three minutes left, then connected again — after Moeller chased down her own missed 3-pointer and saved it in-bounds to Hermens — to bring the Cougars within 36-30 with 2:19 to play. However, they got no closer.

"It got a little closer than I wanted it to get, but we came right back and bounced back each time," Crawford said.

In all, Wallowa connected on five 3-pointers, all in the second half, with Hermens and Moeller both hitting a pair of treys. Moeller finished with eight points, Fisher had seven, and Hermens also had 10 rebounds.

Gray was followed in the Enterprise scoring column by Kirkland, who had eight points. Love chipped in with seven and Marr added five.

# Enterprise sprints its way to victory in opener

By RONALD BOND  
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — It was a positive start to the season for the Enterprise boys basketball team.

Dylan Jennings scored 14 points to lead 10 Outlaws who hit the scorebook, Caden Fent added 12 points, and Enterprise rolled from the outset of their Wednesday, Dec. 1 opener against Wallowa, scoring the game's first 23 points en route to a 55-16 home victory.

Enterprise overwhelmed a young Cougar squad with its high-pace, frenetic style of play, though it took a bit for the Outlaws to settle in as they scored just one field goal in the first three minutes. Jennings, who had eight first-half points, broke through with a jumper, and shots finally started to fall. Two baskets from Fent, a putback by Jackson Decker and another Jennings jumper pushed the Enterprise lead to 15-0 after one.

"I'm crazy proud of how hard my guys worked," Enterprise head coach Kyle Crawford said. "They did everything I asked. We worked really hard conditioning through the first 2½ weeks.

"They never quit on me. ... That intensity is what I'm



Enterprise's Lane Rouse puts up a shot while Wallowa's Kaed Thorne applies pressure Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021.

hoping to bring throughout the season."

Wallowa, which started three freshmen, finally broke through with 3:39 to play in the second half when Kellen Knifong put back a missed free throw, and he scored again 38 seconds later to make the score 23-4. The lead was 27-4 at the break after a late putback by

Chase Duncan.

"They never gave up. They kept fighting," Wallowa head coach Deon Chandler said. "Kellen stepped up big time for me and played some big minutes. The game's a lot faster than what they're used to. They learned the experience of a fast-paced game, and learned how their season is going to be with the fast-

paced game. They learned a lot of good things."

Both teams found a bit of a rhythm in the second half. Seven different players scored in the third quarter alone for the Outlaws, who led by as many as 34 points in the period when Fent collected a steal and converted a layup for a 40-6 lead. A mini-flurry by Wallowa to close



Wallowa's Willie Gibbs tries to get past a pair of Enterprise defenders Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021.

the third — including four points in short order by Isaac Barnum — set the score at 44-14 after three.

The teams traded points in the first 20 seconds of the fourth before Enterprise scored the final 10 points to salt away the win.

There were plusses and minuses for the Outlaws. Enterprise forced Wallowa into 40 turnovers and collected 29 steals, led by Spencer Decker, who had seven. The team, though, struggled from the floor, shooting just 27% in the first half and 30% for the game.

Wallowa was led in scoring by Knifong, who came off the bench to score eight points. He and teammate Willie Gibbs also led the Cougars on the boards with seven rebounds each. The Cougars shot 24% from the floor.

In addition to the balanced scoring — Jackson Decker added seven points and Gideon Gray had six — the Outlaws had balance on the boards, as Gray, Fent and Trey Stewart each had five boards. On the night, Enterprise held a 40-29 rebounding edge.

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