

SPORTS

EAGLES GET FIRST WIN OF THE SEASON

Wallowa, Enterprise both drop two over the weekend

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

NORTH POWDER — The Joseph boys basketball team got into the win column for the first time this season and did so in convincing fashion, jumping out to a 19-0 first-quarter lead and rolling to a 48-33 win over Tri-Valley, Idaho, on Saturday, Dec. 11, at the Calvin Hiatt Memorial Tournament in North Powder.

“I was definitely really happy with how my team came out against Tri-Valley,” head coach Olan Fulfer said. “I told them a (different) team could have pouted and given up on the weekend (after two losses), but they came out on fire. We had a pretty monstrous lead, and then the bench came in.”

The lead was 33-11 at halftime. Tri-Valley cut into the lead after the break, but didn’t threaten the Eagles.

Ten different players scored for Joseph, led by James Burney, who had 12 points. Kane Johnson added eight points, wrapping what Fulfer said was a good weekend.

“I really like Kane’s spark off the bench. He came in and really competed,” Fulfer said. “He played hard on defense and hit some big shots for us.”

The coach also said he likes the direction the team is headed currently. He said there was also a sense of relief after the team claimed the first victory.

“I could see it in their faces after the game, they were pretty relieved. Definitely nice to get that first win,” he said.

Joseph (1-4 overall) heads to the 13 Mile Shootout on Friday where it plays Prairie City.

Also Saturday
Trout Lake 58, Wallowa 44: The Wallowa boys basketball team is making strides.

The Cougars played their closest game of the season Saturday, Dec. 11, against Trout Lake. Wallowa hung close the entire night, and was within striking distance after three quarters, but in the end fell, 58-44.

“The kids are getting better by the day,” head coach Deon Chandler said.

Wallowa held the lead after one quarter at 12-7. Trout Lake pulled ahead with a 20-point second quarter and went into the break leading 27-21. The teams continued to jockey back and forth in the third, and Trout Lake went into the fourth leading 43-36 before pulling away in the fourth.

“We were up in that game (but) kids got tired,” Chandler said. “I think that had a lot to do with it. We pulled ahead 1-2 (points), but a couple crucial turnovers got us.”

Kellen Knifong led a balanced Cougar attack, scoring 12 points, including eight in the second half. Willie Gibbs added 11 points and both Isaac Barnum and Gabe Nobles had nine points.

Chandler said the team is showing improvement.

“It was very encouraging. Made them feel comfortable,” Chandler said of the close game, the first time Wallowa has been within 15 points of its opponent this season. “About the same level of skills. They had fun playing that game. It was very encouraging for them. Every game (there) is more improvement, and they’re enjoying it.”

Wallowa (0-5 overall) travels to the Helix Tournament on Friday, Dec. 17, and will first play the Umatilla JV.

Jordan Valley 65, Enterprise 48: Jordan Valley’s Jace Grenke scored 33 points to power the Mustangs past the Enterprise boys basketball team, 65-48, Saturday, Dec. 11, at the Calvin Hiatt Memorial Tournament in North Powder.

“Jordan Valley just shot lights out. I want to give credit where credit is due,” head coach Kyle Crawford said.

Jordan Valley opened up



James Burney (21) works against a Jordan Valley defender at the Calvin Hiatt Memorial Tournament held at Powder Valley High School on Friday, Dec. 10, 2021. The Joseph Eagles boys basketball team fell to the Jordan Valley Mustangs in the tournament 42-32.

a 10-point first-quarter lead and opened it up to 33-21 at the break.

Enterprise made a run to get back into the game, clawing back to 44-37 through three quarters behind seven points from Maclane Melville, but Jordan Valley made 13 of 15 fourth-quarter free throws to help it stave off an Outlaw comeback.

“We had some self-inflicted wounds that cost us momentum,” Crawford said.

Spencer Decker scored 11 points to lead the Outlaws. Melville added nine points and Jackson Decker had eight points.

Crawford said in the early stages, shot making has been a struggle for the Outlaws, yet he thinks the team is close to having a breakthrough.

“I feel like we are on the cusp of being able to put some things together,” he said.

Enterprise (1-4 overall) then plays at the Union Bobcat Classic on Thursday when it plays Powder Valley at North Powder.

Friday
Jordan Valley 42, Joseph 32: A third-quarter swing by the Jordan Valley boys basketball team



Hayden Hite (11) leaps for a layup at the Calvin Hiatt Memorial Tournament held at Powder Valley High School on Friday, Dec. 10, 2021. The Joseph Eagles boys basketball team fell to the Jordan Valley Mustangs in the tournament 42-32.

doomed the Joseph Eagles on Friday, Dec. 10, at the Calvin Hiatt Memorial Tournament as the Mustangs rallied for a 42-32 win over the Eagles in North Powder.

The Eagles led throughout much of a low-scoring first half, including a margin of 9-3 after one quarter and 11-8 after halftime. The half saw the teams combine to make eight field goals.

The tables turned in the third as Jordan Valley outscored Joseph 17-7 — including seven points from Jace Grenke — to take a 25-18 lead after three. Grenke scored seven more points in the fourth and finished with 19 points as the

Mustangs kept Joseph at arm’s length.

James Burney scored 11 points, including eight in the second half, to pace the offensive effort by the Eagles. Hayden Hite added six points.

“It felt like we took one step forward and two back against Jordan Valley,” head coach Olan Fulfer said, adding the message to the team was, “Every single game we gotta come out the same — consistent.”

Horizon Christian 64, Wallowa 29: The Wallowa boys basketball team dropped the opener of the Hawk Invite on Friday, Dec. 10, against host Hori-

ENTERPRISE AT JOSEPH SNOWED OUT

The doubleheader between the Enterprise and Joseph girls and boys basketball team, scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 14, was canceled due to inclement weather. As of deadline Tuesday afternoon, a makeup date had not yet been determined.

zou Christian, Hood River, 64-29.

The Cougars struggled through the first quarter, and trailed 20-2 after one, but gradually found a rhythm on offense, especially in the second half. Gabe Nobles had 12 of his team-high 15 points in the second half, including eight of those points in the fourth quarter. Kellen Knifong added six points.

Horizon Christian’s lead at the half was 37-7, and 43-15 after three quarters.

Adrian 55, Enterprise 33: The Enterprise boys basketball team saw an early lead turn into a double-digit halftime deficit Friday, Dec. 10, and the Outlaws never recovered as they fell to Adrian at the Calvin Hiatt Memorial Tournament in North Powder, 55-33.

The Outlaws held a 6-5 lead after one in a defensive-minded early battle, but Adrian netted 17 points in the second to take a 22-12 lead at the half. The lead was 11 after three quarters, and the Antelopes doubled the lead with a 19-8 final period.

“I don’t think either team had good shots. I just felt like every moment was physical,” head coach Kyle Crawford said. “They pressed the entire game. That definitely changes the shot selection quite a bit when it’s fast-paced like that.”

Jackson Decker had eight points, all in the second half, to lead the Outlaws, while both Gideon Gray and Dylan Jennings had seven points.

See Eagles, Page A10

Enterprise girls finish a 2-1 week

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

NORTH POWDER — The Enterprise girls basketball team finished a 2-1 week Saturday, Dec. 11, with a setback against Jordan Valley in their final game at the Calvin Hiatt Memorial Tournament, losing 45-21.

The Mustangs were in control from the outset, opening up a 14-4 lead after one quarter then stretching the margin to 15 at the half and 25 through three quarters at 34-9.

The Outlaws did outscore Jordan Valley in the fourth, which head coach Mike Crawford said was a bright spot.

“We gathered ourselves in the fourth quarter and decided we were going to show them we could play a quarter of basketball,” he said.

Maci Marr led the Out-

laws with six points, and Rilyn Kirkland chipped in with five points.

Enterprise (3-3 overall) heads back to North Powder for the Union Bobcat Classic, starting play Thursday against Powder Valley.

Also Saturday

Tri-Valley 37, Joseph 28: The Joseph girls basketball team used a strong third quarter to get back into their game against Tri-Valley, Idaho, on Saturday, Dec. 11, but Tri-Valley finished strong to claim a 37-28 win in the teams’ final game at the Calvin Hiatt Memorial Tournament.

Aimee Meyers, who scored a game-high 20 points, had nine points in the first half, but the Eagles got just two points aside from Meyers and trailed at the half 20-11.

Meyers continued to lead the scoring, but got more help

in the scorebook, and Joseph outscored Tri-Valley 10-4 to get within 24-21. The Eagles briefly pulled ahead in the fourth quarter, but Tri-Valley finished strong to pull away. Abby Orr added four points.

“We struggled the first half with turnovers and running our offenses,” head coach Lance Homan said. “The second half, we came out and really played good defense and made open shots. Aimee Meyers scored 11 of her 20 points in the second half and that really sparked us. We were able to fight back and actually take the lead in the fourth quarter, but we couldn’t keep it up. Our girls really played hard in the second half.”

Joseph (1-4 overall) next travels to the 13-Mile Shootout on Friday, where it first plays Prairie City.

Trout Lake 37, Wallowa 30: Wallowa girls basketball coach Greg Oveson said his

team let one get away Saturday, Dec. 11, as the Cougars dropped a 37-30 contest to Trout Lake in Hood River.

“We shot 22% from the field and had about 30 turnovers,” Oveson said. “That’s what areas we need to work on. Part of it is we’re not in shape.”

Six different players scored for the Cougars, but the team was held to just one second-quarter field goal and fell behind at the break, 18-11. Trout Lake’s lead after three grew to 27-19. Zoe Hermens scored all seven of her points in the fourth to try and spark a Cougar rally, but it fell short.

Brockamp finished with nine points to lead the Cougars, who fell to 2-3 on the season with the setback.

“We just need to figure out how to take care of the ball and run an offense. We’re getting shots, but they’re not coming out of our offense,”



Emma Orr (24) looks to pass at the Calvin Hiatt Memorial Tournament held at Powder Valley High School on Friday, Dec. 10, 2021. The Joseph Eagles fell to the Jordan Valley Mustangs in the tournament 37-18.

Oveson said. “We make a good play, steal the ball and (then) can’t give it away quick enough.”

The Cougars play at the Helix Invite on Friday and Saturday, and open play against the Umatilla JV.

Friday
Jordan Valley 37, Joseph 18: Joseph ran into another tough matchup Friday, Dec. 10, against Jordan Valley, and was limited to 18

points in a 37-18 loss to the Mustangs at the Calvin Hiatt Memorial Tournament.

Joseph was behind 14-6 after one quarter, then was held to just a field goal in the second to go into the half down 21-8. The Eagles outscored the Mustangs in the third to stay within striking distance at 27-16, but then were again held to two points in the fourth.

See Girls, Page A10

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