

## Outlaw boys storm back to stun Grant Union

**Jackson Decker scores 18 points in the fourth quarter as Enterprise earns 60-55 win**

Chieftain staff

ENTERPRISE — The Enterprise boys basketball team was on its way to another Blue Mountain Conference defeat Saturday, Feb. 5.

Instead, Jackson Decker caught fire and sparked a comeback to propel the Outlaws into the win column.

Decker scored 18 of his game-high 20 points in the fourth quarter as Enterprise stormed back from a 16-point deficit after three to stun Grant Union, 60-55, and end a nine-game losing streak.

The Outlaws trailed by just six at halftime, but Grant Union got rolling in the third with 22 points to open up a 48-32 lead and take control of the game.

Or so it seemed.

Decker, who through three quarters had just two free throws, heated up from the floor, and especially from 3-point range. The senior connected on five 3-pointers to turn the game around and ignite a 28-point fourth-quarter for Enterprise, including a pair of 3s late that helped put Enterprise ahead for good. Grant Union, meanwhile, was held to just two



Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain, File

Enterprise's Jackson Decker works against Imbler's defense during a contest Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2021. In a game Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022, Decker scored 18 fourth-quarter points to rally the Outlaws to a 60-55 win over Grant Union.

field goals as they saw the lead squandered away.

Decker was one of two Outlaws in double figures, with Gideon Gray adding 18 points. Gray carried the offense much of the night, with 15 of those points coming in the first three quarters.

Spencer Decker and Chase Duncan each added six points.

Enterprise (3-17, 1-9) finishes

the season Feb. 11 at Pilot Rock and Feb. 12 at home against Weston-McEwen. Enterprise needs to win both games to have a shot at a tie for fifth place in the BMC and a possible spot in the district tournament.

Also

Wallowa 35, Griswold 26: The Cougars took down Griswold

for the third time this season, this time beating the Grizzlies at home, 35-26, Feb. 5 in Old Oregon League play.

Wallowa broke the game open in the second quarter with a 14-2 run to take a 24-6 lead at the break, and the lead grew to 19 by the end of three quarters. The Grizzlies scored 14 in the fourth to make the final score closer than

the game was.

Gabe Nobles scored 11 points to lead the Cougars in the win. Ryder Goller added eight points and Willie Gibbs chipped in with seven points. Both Nobles and Gibbs had five points in the second to help build the lead.

Wallowa (5-14, 3-6) visits Joseph Feb. 11 in its final regular season home game. The Cougars are set to finish no worse than third in the OOL-North.

**Nixyaawii 45, Joseph 30:** The Joseph boys basketball team wrapped up a busy 2-1 week with a 45-30 setback against Nixyaawii on the road Feb. 5, in Old Oregon League play in Mission.

The Eagles played tighter against the Golden Eagles than a month ago in an 88-60 loss, and were within six late, but could not get over the top.

The Eagles trailed just 14-12 after one, but struggled in the second with just five points to fall behind at the break 26-17. Another low-scoring quarter saw the margin grow to 36-24 after three.

Blade Suto scored seven points to lead Joseph, while both James Burney and Chase Homan added five points.

The Eagles (8-8, 6-2) finish the regular season with a full week as they visit Powder Valley Feb. 10, host Wallowa Feb. 11 and host Griswold Feb. 12. The Eagles are pretty much guaranteed to finish second in the OOL-North, regardless of what happens this week.

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## Wallowa goes 2-1 during busy week

**Cougars have a chance to finish second in OOL-North with a win this week**

Chieftain staff

WALLOWA — The Wallowa girls basketball team went 2-1 during a busy week, and finished it with a 48-35 home victory over Griswold on Saturday, Feb. 5 in Old Oregon League play.

The third game of the season between the teams was the closest, but the Cougars gradually pulled away for the victory.

Zoe Hermens scored seven points in each half and finished with 14 points. She was one of three Wallowa players in double figures. Abby Straight added 12 points and Libby Fisher had 10 points. Fisher scored six in the opening quarter as Wallowa opened a 14-8 lead, and had eight by halftime, by which time the Cougars pull ahead 23-14.

Wallowa (13-7, 7-3) finishes the regular season Feb. 11 in Joseph, and, with a win, could force no worse than a tie for second in the OOL-North or take second outright.

Also

**Enterprise 53, Grant Union 39:** Enterprise posted a strong first half to build a big lead on the way to a 53-39 home win over Grant Union on Feb. 5 in Blue Mountain Conference play. The win secured third place in the BMC for the Outlaws headed into the district tournament in next week.

Both Jada Gray and Rilyn Kirkland scored eight first-half points as the Outlaws raced to a 19-4 first-quarter lead and built a margin by halftime of 27-13. Grant Union pulled to within 10 through three quarters, but Gray — who finished with a game-high



Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain, File

Wallowa's Zoe Hermens dribbles up the court during an Old Oregon League game Friday, Jan. 28, 2022.

20 points — scored seven points in the fourth to help keep the Prospectors at bay.

Kirkland finished with 11 points for Enterprise, and Maci Marr added seven points.

The Outlaws (12-9, 7-3) finish the regular season Feb. 11 at Pilot Rock and Feb. 12 at home against Weston-McEwen.

**Nixyaawii 53, Joseph 38:** The Joseph girls hung with Nixyaawii Feb. 5 before the Golden Eagles pulled away for a 53-38 victory in Old Oregon League play in Mission.

Joseph trailed by just two after one quarter and 25-17 at the half, but Nixyaawii had its best quarter in the third to open up a 15-point lead at 40-25.

Sarah Orr connected on four 3-pointers and finished with 14 points to lead the Eagles. Aimee

Meyers added 13 points and Cooper Nave netted eight points.

Joseph (9-7, 6-2) finishes with three games this week: at Powder Valley Feb. 10, at home against Wallowa Feb. 11 and at home against Griswold Feb. 12. The game against Wallowa may determine who finishes second in the OOL-North.

Feb. 4

**Enterprise 57, Heppner 33:** The Outlaws didn't allow Heppner to stick around in the rematch from last month's close 45-41 victory, scoring 30 first-half points on the way to a 57-33 home win over the Mustangs on Feb. 4.

Jada Gray, who had a game-high 22 points, scored 16 in the first half, and 10 in the second quarter as Enterprise opened up a 30-17 lead at the half. The Out-

laws pushed the lead to 14 after three quarters, then finished with a strong fourth for the blowout win.

Gray was joined in double figures by Rilyn Kirkland, who had 10 points, while Madi Wigen added eight points.

**Nixyaawii 76, Wallowa 46:** A big quarter doomed Wallowa again against Nixyaawii, as the Golden Eagles scored 28 in the second quarter to build a 24-point halftime lead on the way to a 76-46 win over Wallowa Feb. 4.

The Cougars were within 18-12 after one quarter before Nixyaawii took off to build a 46-22 lead at the half.

Zoe Hermens led Wallowa with 18 points, including 13 in the first half. Sophie Moeller got going in the second half and

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### WRESTLING

**McDowell takes third at BEO Invite**

**Delapena just misses out on girls state tournament**

Chieftain staff

HEPPNER — Gunnar McDowell placed third to lead the Enterprise wrestling team's efforts at the Bank of Eastern Oregon Invitational on Saturday, Feb. 5, in Heppner.

McDowell went 2-1 at 220 pounds. A bye moved him into the quarterfinals, where he pinned Emery Hammond of Crane. He dropped a semifinal match by fall to Alex Ritter of Baker/Powder Valley, then bounced back to pin Jayden Clark of Baker/Powder Valley in the third-place match.

Pearce Schmetzky was the only other Outlaw to place, going 1-2 at 138 to take fourth. He opened with a bye, then took a quarterfinal win over Union/Cove's Noah Gliddon by a close 6-4 decision. He followed with two losses by fall — to Pine Eagle's Chase Butner in the semifinals, and to Union/Cove's Gage Martens in the third-place match.

Tegan Evans went 1-2 at 145, winning an opening match by fall over Baker/Powder Valley's Julian Garcia, then dropping two matches by fall — to Jacob Ayala of Irrigon and to Saul Lopez of Heppner.

Trey Charlton went 0-2 at 285, dropping two matches by fall. Cody Fent also went 0-2 at 170, dropping a match by fall and a second match by injury default.

For Joseph, Jett Peterson placed fifth at 113 to lead the way. He dropped a quarterfinal match to Riverside's Bryan Madrigal, then after

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