

SPORTS



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Enterprise's Maci Marr (25) puts up a shot. The Union Bobcats defeated the Enterprise Outlaws 46-30 on Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022, to win the Blue Mountain Conference district title at the Pendleton Convention Center in Pendleton.

Outlaws fall in district title game

Enterprise travels to Gervais for first-round game on Feb. 26

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

PENDLETON — Union was quick to make sure the fourth matchup between itself and Enterprise wouldn't be the thriller the first three had been.

The Bobcats used a 14-0 first-quarter run to take command early, then put the game away by scoring the final 12 points of the third

quarter as they rolled to a 46-30 win over the Outlaws on Saturday, Feb. 19, in the Blue Mountain Conference title game.

"(They scored) a lot in a hurry, and then you're battling up hill all day," Enterprise head coach Mike Crawford said. "At least we showed some heart and finished it."

Union guard Callie Glenn was right in the middle of both runs on her way to a 26-point night.

The senior was sharp from the 3-point range, going 5-for-7 and hitting her first three attempts, including two in the first 90 seconds that set

the tone for the night.

"She is going to be a collegiate player, and she showed it tonight," Crawford said of Glenn.

Her third trey midway through the second quarter gave Union a 22-10 lead, one of five times in the opening half — including at the conclusion of the early run that resulted in a 14-2 lead — that the Bobcats jumped ahead by 12.

"Since we took that first loss to Enterprise, we were all devastated," Glenn said. "We just came back and worked harder. We knew

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Cougars hold off Eagles, return to state playoffs

Wallowa has tough first-round game tonight at Jordan Valley

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

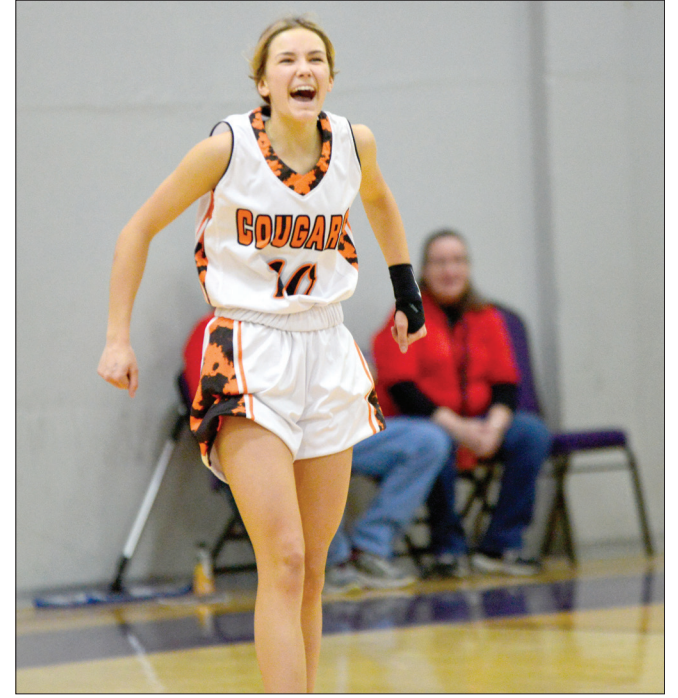
BAKER CITY — Zoe Hermens told herself two simple words as she stepped to the line for an important second free throw with 14.5 seconds remaining in the third-place game of the Old Oregon League District Tournament.

"Make it," she said. She indeed did make it, and gave Wallowa the cushion it needed to get back to the state playoffs.

Hermens finished with 15 points and 10 rebounds as the Cougars won the rubber match against the Joseph Eagles, hanging on for a thrilling 35-34 win Saturday, Feb. 19.

Hermens' second free throw gave the Cougars a four-point lead, and it was a much-needed point. Joseph sprinted down the floor on the ensuing possession, and Sarah Orr drained a corner 3-pointer with just 5 seconds remaining. The Cougars, though, were able to get the ball inbound and run the clock out to earn their first playoff berth since 2019.

"When I missed the first



Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain

Zoe Hermens celebrates Wallowa's victory over Joseph in the Old Oregon League third-place game Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022. Wallowa defeated Joseph, 35-34, to advance to the state playoffs.

one, I was kind of stressing out a little bit, but I usually make my free throws. I just needed to relax and shoot it," Hermens said.

The teams traded key baskets during a tight fourth quarter, though Wallowa never trailed and managed throughout the period to keep Joseph at arm's length. Twice the lead reached seven — once on an elbow 3-pointer by Hermens that made it 27-20, and later

after she converted two free throws for a 30-23 edge with 3:35 to play.

"I'm satisfied with what we did," Wallowa head coach Greg Oveson said. "I know we went from a five-point lead to one as the end, but the thing is we did the things that we needed to do. We made a couple free throws toward the end, and we made them take a lot of

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Cove knocks Eagles from playoffs

Eagles finish season with a record of 11-11

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

BAKER CITY — Three weeks ago, Joseph had no issues with Cove in an easy 63-34 home victory.

But in the rematch Saturday, Feb. 19, with a state playoff berth on the line, it was the Leopards who grabbed an early lead, never trailed and weathered a Joseph rally late.

As a result, Cove is headed to the state playoffs for the first time since 2013.

Caleb Wiggins scored 16 points and hit a key 3-pointer in the fourth quarter, Terrell Davis hit three tie-breaking free throws with 1:56 to play, and the Leopards held on for a 46-42 victory in the third-place game of the Old Oregon League District Tournament.

"Cove played really well, and (we) worked hard but just couldn't hit the shots when we needed to," Joseph head coach Olan Fulfer said. "Came out very flat, and by the time we were starting to play a lot better on defense we were already down by a lot and still couldn't score."

With the score tied at 39-39 after a 3-pointer by Joseph's Hayden Hite with 2:15 to play — the only time the game was tied other than 0-0 — Davis was awarded three free throws after a late foul call on a 3-point attempt. The trio of conversions put the Leopards



Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain

Joseph's Trace Collier drives up-court during the third-place game of the Old Oregon League District Tournament Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022. Cove edged Joseph, 46-42, to earn a playoff berth.

ahead for good.

Wiggins extended the lead to 44-39 with a pair of free throws with 32.9 seconds to go, but Blade Suto — who had missed a corner 3-pointer on Joseph's prior possession — drained a deep 3 with 24 seconds to go to keep the Eagles in striking distance. Davis missed the front end of a 1-and-1 with 17 seconds left, but James Burney — who led Joseph with 11 points and hit three 3-pointers — missed a corner 3 for the lead. Patrick Frisch, who had 12 points and 10 rebounds, iced the win for the Leopards with two free throws with 5.7 seconds to play.

Cove played a nearly flawless first half, moving the ball well and hitting its shots as it took a 34-27 lead at the half. The Leopards led

by as much as 10 in the opening half, and shot 58% from the floor. Joseph, though, made timely shots — often in response to a Cove basket — to stay close. Burney hit all three of his 3-pointers in the second, with the last coming just seconds after a Davis trey to cut the margin to seven at halftime.

The game took a major shift in the third quarter as the teams scored a combined three points in the period. Cove struggled to regain its offensive rhythm with a rash of missed shots and turnovers, then seemed bound for the worst after Frisch, the team's key player inside, picked up his fourth foul at the 4:14 mark. Cove slowed the game down, and ended up posting a scoreless third quarter.

Joseph, however, didn't

take advantage, getting just a field goal and a free throw from Suto — who had nine points — and dealing with its own offensive struggles. Neither team scored in the final 4:14, and Cove maintained the lead through three, 34-30.

Davis, who had 12 points, ended the more than nine-minute scoring drought for Cove with a layup 49 seconds into the fourth, only to see Brad Wilcox respond with a trey for Joseph to cut the margin to 36-33. Wiggins and Reece Nelson traded 3s about two minutes later, then the teams endured another run of misses and turnovers before Hite's tying triple.

The teams shot a combined 7-for-34 in the second half. Joseph's season ends with a final record of 11-11.



Ellen Morris Bishop/For the Wallowa County Chieftain, File Tegan Evans, top, is one of four Enterprise wrestlers, and five from Wallowa County, to qualify for the 2A/1A state wrestling tournament this weekend in Culver.

4 Outlaws, 1 Eagle qualify for state

State competition set for Feb. 26 in Culver

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

ADRIAN — Five local wrestlers extended their season another week and qualified for the 2A/1A OSAA state wrestling tournament following their performance at the Special District 4 tournament Saturday, Feb. 19, in Adrian.

Four wrestlers qualified for Enterprise, which tied for seventh in the tournament. Leading the way was Gunnar McDowell, who took second at 220 pounds. McDowell needed just one win to reach the finals, pinning Heppner/Ione's Nathan Ellsworth in the first round of their semifinal match.

Adrian's Toby Clow pinned McDowell to win the

championship, and in a wrestle-back for second place, McDowell pinned Ryan Johnson of Culver to secure one of two automatic bids from the weight class.

Will Ogden was one of two wrestlers to take third, doing so at 195 pounds. He opened with a win by fall over Ryan Jackson-Nelson of Union/Cove, then in the semifinals was pinned by Clancy Rutledge of Culver. In the consolation semifinals, he edged Union/Cove's James Dempsey via a 7-4 decision, then won a rematch with Jackson-Nelson, again by fall, for third. Rutledge took second, given his earlier win over Ogden, which left Ogden in third.

The third-place finishers from each weight class were placed in a pool, and three of the four from across the state qualified. Ogden was among

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