

Outlaws fall short at Gervais in first-round playoff game

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

GERVAIS — The Enterprise girls basketball team put together what head coach Mike Crawford said “no doubt” was one of the Outlaws’ best performances of the season.

But a rough stretch in the second quarter proved to be too much to overcome, and

EHS fell just short of making it back to the state tournament with a 65-58 road loss at Gervais on Saturday, Feb. 26.

Enterprise played its best ball in the second half, netting 36 points — 18 in each quarter — in an effort to keep pace with the Cougars, the fifth-ranked team in the state.

“I saw my team play at an extraordinary level. We

played our best basketball in a stretch of that,” Crawford said. “(But) Gervais is real. They got the job done. It was pretty well-played basketball.”

Some foul trouble and a couple untimely turnovers by Enterprise allowed Gervais some breathing room to take a 31-22 lead at the break.

But the Cougars couldn’t

shake Enterprise, who got 19 points from Jada Gray — including three 3-pointers — and 17 from Emily Love. The Outlaws were in striking distance in the fourth, but were unable to complete the comeback.

“I know we were (within) six and had possession of the ball in the fourth quarter,” Crawford said.

Madi Wigen had a big

game with 11 points, 16 rebounds and four blocks.

The Outlaws did have Maci Marr back for the game, with her ability to play uncertain following a scary-looking knee injury in the Blue Mountain Conference district title game.

Enterprise ends the season with a final record of 15-11, but knowing it was able to play with some of

the state’s best.

“I’m really satisfied at this point,” Crawford said. “I know we’re capable of being in the final eight, which is a little discouraging (since we just missed out),” he said.

The loss also brings an end to the coaching career of Crawford, who is retiring after 33 years leading Enterprise. He finishes with a final record of 520-275.



Ron Osterloh/Contributed Photo

Joseph’s Jett Peterson, top, won two matches at 113 pounds at the state 2A/1A wrestling tournament Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022, in Culver.

Peterson wins two matches at 2A/1A state tournament

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

CULVER — Joseph’s Jett Peterson carried the banner for Wallowa County at the 2A/1A state wrestling tournament in Culver Saturday, Feb. 26, winning two matches to finish one match shy of placing at 113 pounds.

Peterson, the lone representative for the Eagles at state, shook off an early loss to eventual state-champion Micah Martinho of Illinois Valley to put himself in position to place at the tournament.

After the first-round loss by fall to Martinho, Peterson pinned Gabby Delapena of Enterprise, then took just 40 seconds to pin Aiden Guest of Culver to stay alive in the consolation bracket. But he was elim-

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Ron Osterloh/Contributed Photo

Enterprise’s Gunnar McDowell, top, competes at the state 2A/1A wrestling tournament Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022, in Culver.



Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain, File

Rilyn Kirkland is shown in a photo from a game against Union in January. Kirkland was one of four unanimous first-team all-league selections for the Blue Mountain Conference.

Kirkland, Gray, named to the BMC first team

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Four members of the Enterprise girls basketball team were selected to the Blue Mountain Conference all-league team following the conclusion of BMC play.

Leading the way were a pair of first-teamers and seniors, Rilyn Kirkland and Jada Gray. The two were key in helping the Outlaws secure a 9-3 BMC record and a berth in the conference title game Feb. 19.

Kirkland was one of four players — along with Union’s Callie Glenn, Stanfield’s Maggie Sharp and Heppner’s ZaBrena Master-son — who were a unanimous selection to the first

team. The other first-team member was Audrey Wells of Union.

“I believe both Rilyn and Jada were very deserving of the first team stuff. That is pretty self-explanatory,” Enterprise head coach Mike Crawford said.

In BMC play, Gray was the Outlaws’ leader in scoring and steals, averaging 11.5 points per game and 4.0 steals per game in 14 league contests — including the two BMC tournament games. Gray also collected 3.1 rebounds per game and shot 40% from the field, and 38% from 3-point range.

Kirkland was third on the team in league scoring with 7.5 points per game, but led

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Cougars see season end in Jordan Valley

Chieftain staff

JORDAN VALLEY — It was not the ending the Wallowa girls basketball team hoped for.

The Cougars managed just three first-half field goals and were down 28 at the half in a 59-21 road loss to Jordan Valley in the first round of the OSAA state playoffs Wednesday, Feb. 23.

“Jordan Valley is a good team,” head coach Greg Oveson said. “Jordan Valley and (top-ranked) Crane are two of the top probably four teams in the state. They’re good. They came ready to play. We had that deer in the headlights look for the first half. I would have needed about 20 timeouts to get us through.”

Taylor Eiguren, who led

Jordan Valley with 18 points, had 16 in the opening half as the Mustangs built a 34-6 lead at the break.

Wallowa found its stride in the third quarter and had its best effort with 12 points in the period, but still was down 47-18 after three.

Senior Haley Brockamp, in her last game for the Cougars, scored eight points, including all six points for Wallowa in the opening half. Sophie Moeller added seven points, all in the second half. The Cougars finished with a record of 16-9, the most wins for the team since 2011-12.

“It’s good experience,” Oveson said. “Hopefully we can build on that and try to get better, and hopefully try to find a spot in the state playoffs next year.”

Oveson named OOL girls coach of the year

Ten Wallowa County athletes earn OOL recognition

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA — Wallowa girls basketball head coach Greg Oveson guided the Cougars to their best season in a decade as the team went 16-9, posted its most wins since going 19-9 in 2012, and returned to the state playoffs — and did so with a team that consisted of one senior, two juniors and a slew of underclassmen.

Oveson was rewarded for his effort, named by his



Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain, File

Wallowa head coach Greg Oveson talks things over with senior Haley Brockamp during a game against Imbler Friday, Jan. 28, 2022. Oveson was named Old Oregon League girls coach of the year.

fellow Old Oregon League coaches as the OOL girls coach of the year.

“I was really surprised,” Oveson said of the award. “Honored by it. It’s always

nice when your fellow coaches give you a pat on the back. Also shows if you just stay around long enough you’re bound to win something sometime.”

Wallowa got rolling after a slow start that saw it open the season 4-4. The Cougars went on to win 10 of their next 13 games, including victories over Enterprise, who reached the 2A playoffs, 1A playoff team Powder Valley, and a regular-season ending victory at Joseph. In fact only the Eagles (Jan. 4) and Nixyaawii (twice) defeated Wallowa in league action.

After edging Elgin and falling to Powder Valley

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