

## Myriad of golfers out for Enterprise this spring

**Outlaws have 23 golfers, most in Kyle Crawford's time with the program**

By RONALD BOND  
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Golfers are out in abundance this spring for Kyle Crawford and the Enterprise golf team, as the coach said he has the largest team in the seven

years he has been involved in the program.

"I have a huge team," Crawford said. "I have 23 golfers — 10 boys, 13 girls, five returning boys and three returning girls."

Crawford said he is often talking with students at the school, where he teaches, about coming out for the team, and wondered about that being the reason for the higher numbers.

Another cause, though, could be athletes wanting to try a different activity.

"There are a lot of kids

that weren't doing track, softball or baseball (this year). All wanted to do something new," he said. "I have 10 kids who have never played before. There is some potential there. (It) depends on if they stick with it."

The tricky part will be getting everyone the attention they need.

"It's going to be hard for me to get as much 1-on-1 time," he said.

Among Crawford's returners on the boys side are Dylan Jennings, who already started the season with a

round of 89 to win in Echo on March 18. Hopes are high for the senior — from both him and his coach.

"I have very high expectations for him. He has high expectations for himself," Crawford said. "It takes so much repetition, and it's more of a marathon than a sprint, I tell the kids... He's been really working on everything. He worked all summer on his golf game. This is his sport he is most excited about."

"I believe he can win several tournaments this year."

Also back is Alex Albanez, a golfer with ample state tournament experience.

"He's always been in the mix of my top five golfers," Crawford said.

Landon Greenshields also returns, and is a golfer Crawford said carries a good attitude.

"I don't know that he has much expectations, I think he is here to enjoy it, (but) I do expect him to contribute," the coach said.

Crawford's other returners are Caleb Sheahan and Parker Siebe.

"He naturally did really well last year," Crawford said of Sheahan. "I think he just kind of gets it. Parker's been golfing most of his life. I think we can throw together (a) pretty good five golfers."

Among the five newcomers, Crawford noted two — Gunnar McDowell and Nathan Lamb — who could contend for a spot in the top five.

"There's some potential for those guys to push into the varsity," he said.

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Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain

Enterprise runner Zac Knapp rounds a corner during practice Wednesday, March 16, 2022.

## Distance a key for Outlaw tracksters this spring

By RONALD BOND  
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — The distance races are where the Enterprise boys track and field team is likely to be the strongest this spring.

Four runners, led by senior Zac Knapp, were among the seven who competed at the state cross-country championships when Wallowa Valley claimed the title in November.

That figures to translate to the

track, especially with Knapp entering the spring as the likely favorite in the 1,500- and 3,000-meter races at the 2A level.

But even with the experience at the top, head coach Dan Moody said he has a young team this spring.

"Half of our team is freshmen and sophomores. I think we have 15 freshmen boys and girls, and another 10 sophomores" out of 40 on the team, he said. "We're still fairly young. That's a good thing."

One of those who was impactful in cross-county in the fall is Levi Ortswam. The foreign-exchange student placed 15th in the state race in November and came on strong as the season progressed.

Moody said there is a range of possibilities as far as where Ortswam could land on the track.

"I debated whether to put him in the (800). I think he could do extremely

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## Nelson, Ferguson win twice at Mullen Leavitt

Chieftain staff

THE DALLES — Reece Nelson and Kale Ferguson each won two events for the Joseph boys track and field team at the season-opening Mullen Leavitt Invite Friday, March 18, in The Dalles.

Nelson cleared 6 feet even in winning the high jump and posted a mark of 39 feet, 1 3/4 inches to take the top spot in the triple jump. He also tied for second in the long jump with a distance of 18 feet, 7 inches.

Ferguson posted a distance of 118 feet, 6 inches to win the discus throw, and added a distance of 147 feet, 1 inch to win the javelin by one inch.

The 4x100 relay team

of Gavin Russell, Matthew Hoppel, Jayden McNall and James Burney took seventh with a time of 51.41 seconds, and three Eagles — Burney, McNall and Dylan Rogers — tied for eighth in the high jump with a mark of 4 feet, 10 inches.

Iona McDonald had a strong day to lead the Eagle girls, winning the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 1:01.50, and took sixth in the 3,000 in 6:09.72.

Also in the top eight was Baisey Dawson, who placed sixth in the high jump at 3 feet, 8 inches, and Flora McDonald tied for seventh at 3 feet, 6 inches.

The Eagles next take to the track April 1 at the Carnival of Speed in Milton-Freewater.



Ellen Morris Bishop/For the Wallowa County Chieftain, File  
Kale Ferguson of Joseph unloads a discus throw Saturday, May 15, 2021, at the Jo-Hi Invite.

## Softball team opens season with two splits

Chieftain staff

The Wallowa Valley softball team had two very different games in its season-opening doubleheader Friday, March 18, against Weston-McEwen, dropping its first game, 16-5, but winning the nightcap of the twinbill by the same score, 16-5.

In the opener, the Tiger-Scots roughed up pitchers Aimee Meyers and Liz Rowley for a combined 13 hits and 16 runs, with 11 charged to Meyers and five to Rowley. There were nine unearned runs, though. Rowley did strike out four batters. Both pitched 2 1/2 innings, as the game ended in the fifth.

Offensively, Cooper Nave had two doubles and drove in three runs, and Rilyn Kirkland also had two hits. Both Kirkland and Rowley scored twice.

In the second game, the bats came alive, as the Outlaws pounded out 22 hits, connected for four home

runs and dominated for their first win.

Nave had two of the four home runs for Wallowa Valley among her three hits, and finished with four RBIs. Sophie Moeller also went deep and finished with four RBIs, and Rowley had a home run among her four hits. Six players — Moeller, Meyers, Nave, Liz Rowley, Alex Rowley and Brianna Rouse — all had at least three hits.

In the circle, Liz Rowley worked the first three innings for the win, striking out nine and allowing three runs on three hits. Meyers pitched the final four innings, allowing two runs on four hits and fanning three.

On Monday, March 21, the Outlaws split two games at the John Day Tournament, falling to Scio, 6-4, and defeating Lost River, 8-5. Stats were not available at press time.

The Outlaws continued the tournament March 22 against host Grant Union.

## Errors hurt Eagles in season openers

Chieftain staff

LA PINE — Errors — the result of having to be indoors almost daily until it took the field Friday, March 18 — plagued the Wallowa Valley baseball team in its opening doubleheader.

The Eagles committed 10 errors in their opener, a 15-6 road loss to La Pine, then had four in the seventh inning of a 9-3 loss to St. Mary's.

Still, there were bright spots on a day where the pitchers were on a mound for the first time all spring.

Wallowa Valley scored four first-inning runs for the early lead, but the Hawks responded with eight in the home half of the first to set the tone for the afternoon.

La Pine only outhit Wallowa Valley, 9-8. Drew Beachy was 3-for-3 with an RBI. Kylar McQuead went 2-for-2 and drove in a

run, and Lane Rouse had a triple and an RBI. Beachy also had four strikeouts on the mound over two innings and Blade Suto gave up one run in two innings.

In the second game, Wallowa Valley took a 3-2 lead in the fifth on a two-run triple by Rouse, and held the lead until the seventh, when St. Mary's had four hits and took advantage of four Eagle errors to break the game open.

Wallowa Valley had five hits, with the other run coming on a Cody Fent RBI single. The Eagles also got a good afternoon on the mound from Jaxon Grover, who allowed two runs on five hits in five innings and struck out two.

Wallowa Valley (0-2 overall) travels to John Day for single games Wednesday through Saturday, March 23-26, and face Nyssa, Valley Catholic, Sisters and Ontario.



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