

EHS girls take fourth at La Grande; boys place seventh

Chieftain staff

LA GRANDE — The Enterprise girls track team had five top-three finishes as the Outlaws turned in a fourth-place finish with 49 points at the La Grande Invitational Friday, April 8.

Nevaeh James provided a spark with two individual second-place finishes and as part of a second-place relay team. The freshman turned in a personal best of 13.49 seconds to place second in the 100-meter dash, and clocked a time of 52.51, also a PR, to take

second in the 300 hurdles. She also ran as part of the second-place 4x400 relay team, as she and teammates Alisha Melville, Kendall Wigen and Maddie Nordtvedt took second with a time of 4:34.57.

And the 4x100 relay team, which consisted of James, Nordtvedt, Lannie Stonebrink and Althea Komiskey, came in third in 55.24 seconds. The fifth top-three finish came from Sophia Espinoza, who took third in the discus with a mark of 80 feet, 1½ inches.

Three athletes scored



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group

Enterprise's Madison Wigen competes in shot put during the La Grande Invitational Friday, April 8, 2022. Wigen didn't place in shot put, but did take fourth in the high jump.

for the Outlaws in the high jump, as Madison Wigen took fourth at 4-feet-6 and Komiskey and Jada Gray tied for sixth at 4-feet-4.

Nordtvedt, in addition to her roles on the relay teams, took fifth in the 200 in 29.15, and Michaila Caine was sixth in the 3,000 in 14:03.07.

The Enterprise boys scored 37 points to take seventh. Twenty of those points came from Zac Knapp in individual events, as the Outlaw standout won the 800 in a time of 2:04.87, and the 1,500 in 4:13.89. He

also ran a leg in the 4x400 relay, and with Andrew Nordtvedt, Ransom Peters and Levi Ortsam, placed fourth in 3:51.63.

The 4x100 team of Ortsam, Nordtvedt, Peters and Cory Walker was fifth in 48.07. Individually, Ortsam was fifth in the 200 (24.46), Weston Wolfe was seventh in the 300 hurdles (46.17), one second ahead of teammate Roan Flynn, who was eighth (47.17) and Nordtvedt was eighth in the 400 (56.07).

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SOFTBALL



Melissa Kirkland/Contributed Photo

Wallowa Valley's Rilyn Kirkland gets set to throw to second during a doubleheader against Burns Friday, April 8, 2022.

Outlaw softball drops two in Burns to start district play

Chieftain staff

BURNS — The Wallowa Valley softball team dropped a Special District 2 doubleheader to Burns, putting the Outlaws on their heels to start SD2 action.

The Outlaws, who had averaged almost 10 runs per game in their first nine contests, were limited to just three runs and eight hits in a pair of road losses to Burns, 4-1 and 4-2, to open district action.

Abby Straight had two hits in the opener, including an RBI single that drove in Cooper Nave with the lone run. But Wallowa Valley didn't tally any extra base hits and recorded 15 strikeouts in the contest. Nave and Aimee

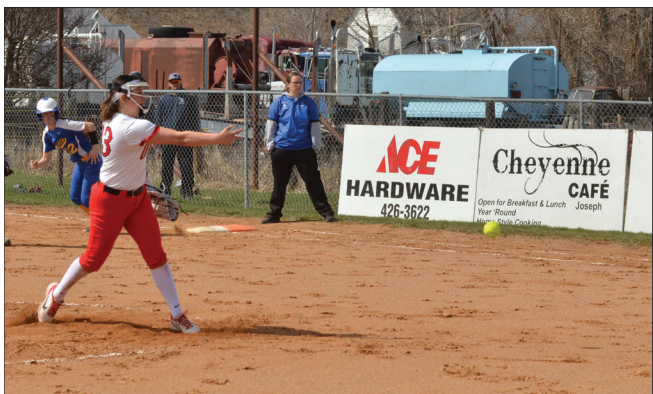
Meyers had the only other hits.

Liz Rowley tossed six innings in the loss, allowing three earned runs on four hits, walking three and striking out 10.

In the second game, Rowley had two hits, including a double, and Rilyn Kirkland had a double, an RBI and drove in a run. Nave singled and drove in the other run for Wallowa Valley.

Meyers worked five innings in the circle, allowing three earned runs on six hits with a walk and four strikeouts.

Wallowa Valley (6-5 overall, 0-2 SD2) travels to Vale April 15 and to Grant Union April 16.



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa Valley's Liz Rowley delivers a pitch against Pilot Rock on Friday, April 1, 2022, during a game in Enterprise.

Outlaws bash Heppner/lone

Chieftain staff

The Wallowa Valley softball team piled up the runs in its final contests before Special District 2 play, blasting Heppner/lone in a road doubleheader Tuesday, April 5, 14-0 and 19-2.

A combination of power at the plate — the Outlaws hit four home runs, two from

Rilyn Kirkland — and dominance in the pitcher's circle resulted in an easy win in the opener. Kirkland finished 4-for-4, going deep twice, with five RBIs and three runs scored. Aimee Meyers and Cooper Nave also homered in the victory, and Wallowa Valley finished with 20

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Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain, File

Enterprise head coach Mike Crawford, center, speaks with his team during a game Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022.

Reflecting on 33 years

Mike Crawford recounts highlights of his time on the EHS sidelines

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Mike Crawford rode a wave of emotions — as one would expect — in the days and weeks following his last game on the sidelines for the Enterprise girls basketball program.

Crawford, who retired at the end of the season after 33 years leading the Enterprise girls basketball program, said in a sit-down with the Chieftain last month he needed to shift his focus away from the fact his time on the sideline is over.

“At this moment, it’s still new, and it’s one of those things, but I have been kind of pouting, there is no doubt about it, because it’s not normal,” he said.

The normal thing for Crawford would be planning next season.

In fact, he said that on Feb. 27 as he was driving the bus back from the

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Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain, File

Enterprise girls head coach Mike Crawford, right, and his wife, Tammy, stand on the court during a ceremony at halftime of the boys basketball game Saturday Feb. 12, 2022.

BASEBALL

Wallowa Valley drops two heartbreakers

Baseball team swept on the road by Burns, 6-5 and 13-11

Chieftain staff

BURNS — The Wallowa Valley baseball team dropped two heartbreakers to the Burns Hilanders on Friday, April 8, in Special District 5 play, with Burns grabbing a 6-5 walkoff win in the opener, then outlasting the Eagles in a slugfest

in the nightcap, 13-11.

In the opener, Lane Rouse scored the tying run in the top of the seventh to even the score at 5-5, but Burns plated the winning run in the home half to win the back-and-forth battle.

Jackson Decker, Trace Collier and Spencer Decker all scored in the third to briefly give the Eagles a 3-2 lead before Burns tied the score in the bottom of the third. Both teams scored in the fifth — one run by Jaxon Grover before Burns responded

with two — to set up the late-inning dramatics.

Maclane Melville collected three hits for the Eagles, and Jackson Decker added two hits.

In the second game, Burns broke an 8-8 tie with five runs in the bottom of the sixth, sending 11 batters to the plate. Wallowa Valley responded in the seventh when Spencer Decker, Melville and Cody Fent all scored runs, but the rally fell short.

The Eagles spent most of the game trying to rally,

as they fell behind 4-0 after one inning and 6-2 after three frames.

Wallowa Valley briefly pulled ahead in the fifth, 7-6, as both Deckers, Grover and Rouse all scored. The Hilanders retook an 8-7 lead before Fent scored the tying run in the sixth.

Wallowa Valley (5-5 overall, 2-2 SD5) visits the Pendleton/Griswold JV for a doubleheader April 15 and hosts the Baker/Powder Valley JV on April 18.

GOLF

Jennings, Homan go 1-2 at Heppner

Chieftain staff

Two Wallowa County golfers found themselves at the top of the leaderboard on Thursday, April 7.

Dylan Jennings of Enterprise claimed the top spot and Chase Homan of Wallowa/Joseph placed second to lead their respective team — and the field — at the Heppner Invitational.

Jennings finished with a round of 72, besting Homan by just three shots as the senior carded a 75.

Homan's effort was part of a fourth-place finish for Wallowa/Joseph, as the team turned in a score of 371, which was 28 strokes behind winner Hood River Valley. Enterprise was fifth at 426.

In addition to Homan, Wallowa/Joseph saw Owen Gorham post an 88, while Willie Gibbs turned in a 102 and Jonas McKee shot a 106.

For the Outlaws, Gunnar McDowell shot a 98. Parker Siebe was right on his tail at 102, and Mike Young carded a 154.

For the Enterprise girls, Jordan Stonebrink recorded a score of 111 to tie for second. Kimber Stein followed closely at 115, Codi Cunningham turned in a round of 119, Tina Ayad had a 128

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