

BASEBALL

Eagles fall to Vale in rematch

By RONALD BOND
For the Wallowa County
Chieftain

BURNS — The Wallowa Valley baseball team didn't have the fortune it did when it played Vale a month ago. Now, the Eagles have a first-round playoff matchup against the top team in 3A.

Vale took the lead for good with a four-run third inning, then held on when the Eagles rallied in the seventh to grab a 5-4 win in the early game of the Special District 2 tournament Friday, May 20, in Burns.

Vale went on to face — and eventually lose to — Burns 12-2 in the championship game, and will travel in the first round of the state playoffs May 25.

Wallowa Valley scored twice in the third — including an RBI single by Maclane Melville — to take a 2-0 lead. The lead didn't last long,

as the Vikings scored four times in the home half of the third and took the lead for good on Kade Kurata's two-run triple, which made it 3-2. Kurata later scored on a sacrifice fly.

Jackson Decker got a run back for Wallowa Valley on an error in the fourth, but the Eagles gave a run back on a Kurata sacrifice fly in the fifth.

Wallowa Valley had a last chance in the seventh when Jaxon Grover reached on a one-out error, stole second, and scored on a two-out error, but the Eagles couldn't push the tying run across.

Grover was a tough-luck loser on the mound, allowing four earned runs on five hits in six innings, walking one and striking out three.

Wallowa Valley (14-11 overall), the No. 16 seed in the playoffs, makes a trip across the state to face top-seed Cascade Christian in the first round May 25 in Med-

ford. First pitch is slated for 3:30 p.m.

A lockdown performance by Drew Beachy and timely hitting was enough to propel the Wallowa Valley baseball team into the Special District 5 semifinal and lock up a state playoff berth.

Beachy struck out 12 batters and allowed just one hit over 6½ innings as the Eagles took down Irrigon at home Tuesday, May 17, 2-0.

Beachy walked three, hit a batter and only allowed a first-inning single to Irrigon's Spencer Stewart. He struck out at least two batters in four innings, with the two biggest ones coming in the fourth inning as he worked out of a jam. A walk and an error put two with nobody out before Beachy recorded back-to-back strikeouts to help stall the rally. A walk loaded the bases, but he forced a ground ball to get out of the inning unscathed.

The Knights' only other serious offensive threat came in the seventh, with a one-out single and a walk by relief pitcher Grover opening the door for Irrigon. But Grover came back to strike out the next two batters to end the game.

Melville provided all the offense Wallowa Valley needed in the first, with an RBI single scoring Grover — who was hit by a pitch, stole second and moved to third on a wild pitch — for a 1-0 lead.

Grover helped add some insurance in the third when he hit a one-out triple and scored on a Spencer Decker sacrifice fly for the final margin.

He and Melville both finished with two hits, while the rest of the team went a combined 1-for-16.

Boyd Davis was a tough-luck loser on the hill for Irrigon, allowing two runs on five hits with one walk and 12 strikeouts in six innings.

SOFTBALL

Outlaws tripped up in district title game

By RONALD BOND
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BURNS — The Wallowa Valley softball team got to the Special District 2 title game and had its chances in a rematch against regular-season champion Burns.

But as it did in the first matchup of the year between the teams, the Hilanders' pitching ruled the day, as Burns edged the Outlaws, 2-0, in the championship game of the SD2 tournament Friday, May 20.

The loss snapped an 11-game winning streak by the Outlaws, and was the first time this season Wallowa Valley had been shut-out in a contest. The team entered averaging 10.3 runs per game.

It was the seventh shut-out for Burns, which enters the state playoffs on a 26-game winning streak.

Wallowa Valley was limited to three runs in two losses to Burns last month. In Friday's rematch, it was held to just two Liz Rowley singles and a double by Rilyn Kirkland. The Outlaws also had two batters reach via walk, but struck out 18 times.

The tough game at the plate offset a strong effort by Rowley in the circle to keep Wallowa Valley in the contest. The senior pitched all six innings, allowing just two runs — one earned — on five hits. She walked five, but struck out seven.

The Outlaws got into the championship game with a win over Vale earlier Friday, topping the Vikings, 10-4, for their third win against Vale on the season.

Kirkland, Rowley and Cooper Nave helped power the offense in the win. Kirkland had a double and triple among three hits and finished with four RBIs, while Nave and Rowley both drove in two runs. Kirkland also scored twice in the win, as did Sophie Moeller.

Rowley also pitched a complete game against the Vikings, allowing two earned runs on four hits, walking five and striking out eight in seven innings.

Wallowa Valley (19-7 overall) begins the 3A state playoffs at home May 25 as the No. 8 seed, and will host No. 9 Dayton. First pitch is at 4 p.m., with the winner either traveling to face No. 1 Yamhill-Carlton or hosting No. 16 Creswell on May 27.

Knapp:

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by 0.08 of a second and Hepner by 0.18 of a second.

By that point, the Outlaws were already assured second place — it was just a matter of how close they would end up to state champion Bandon. The Tigers finished with 56 points, just seven ahead of Enterprise, while the wild finish in the 4x400 resulted in Heppner, Weston-McEwen and Sheridan all tying for third with 31 points.

Enterprise's runner-up was its highest finish since placing second four years in a row from 2011-14.

Ortswam, while playing a key role as part of the winning relay team, also helped bring in points elsewhere for the Outlaws, both individually and in relays. He took second in the finals of the 400 with a time of 51.99 — one day after posting the fastest time of 51.42 in the preliminaries, and added an



Tom Nordtvedt/Contributed Photo

From left, Levi Ortswam, Weston Wolfe, Zac Knapp, Andrew Nordtvedt celebrate Enterprise's victory in the 4x400 relay at the state track and field meet.

eight-place time of 24.93 in the 200. He also ran on the sixth-place 4x100 relay team with Nordtvedt, Ransom Peters and Cory Walker, as

the tandem turned in a time of 46.36.

Peters was sixth individually in the 100 in 11.76, and seventh in the 200 in 24.28,

and Wolfe placed seventh in the 300 hurdles in 44.38. He also just missed the top eight in the triple jump, where he came in 10th.

Joseph:

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was one of four attempts that surpassed his previous personal best of 42-5, and one of two efforts that saw him jump better than 43 feet. His individual title was the first for the Joseph boys in an OSAA state track meet since Tyler Homan took the 300-meter hurdles in 2019.

Add in a second-place finish from Menton on Thursday in the 3,000, when he posted a personal best of 9:01.68, and the Eagles had an early lead that they didn't relinquish until late Friday night. Joseph held the lead through 14 of 17 scored events, and wasn't surpassed until the Adrian combination of Jace and Conley Martin took first and second in the 200 to move the Antelopes into the top spot. Powder Valley slid into second following the 300 hurdles.

Menton followed his second-place performance in the 3,000 with another PR



Tom Nordtvedt/Contributed Photo

Joseph's Jett Leavitt runs during the 1,500-meter race at the state track meet.

in the 1,500 Friday, where he also placed second with a time of 4:08.14, topping his prior personal best by 5.7 seconds.

Ferguson had a personal record by 5 feet in taking fifth in the javelin with a heave of 156-1, and also was fifth in the discus with a best throw of 12-6. He, Nelson,

Gavin Russell and Dylan Rogers were seventh in the boys 4x100 relay in a time of 47.10. Jett Leavitt rounded out the Eagles' scoring by adding an eight-place finish in the boys 1,500 in 4:25.09.

Adrian pulled away late to finish with 74 points in claiming the boys team title, while Powder Valley, behind

a win from Kaden Krieger in the 300 hurdles, finished with 52.5 points to just edge Joseph for second place.

Just one athlete, Basey Dawson, competed for the Joseph girls, but didn't place in the high jump. Damascus Christian amassed 105.5 points to run away with the girls state title.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

ZAC KNAPP

Zac Knapp put a wrap on an impressive high school career by winning multiple state titles last weekend at the 2A state track meet in Eugene. The Enterprise senior took top honors in the boys 1,500 and 3,000, and ran a leg of the winning 4x400 relay. The victories helped EHS to a second-place finish.

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Freshman:

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James also chipped in an eighth-place finish in the 100 in 13.62.

The 4x100 relay team of James, Althea Komiskey, Maddie Nordtvedt and Lannie Stonebrink placed fifth in 53.20, and Alisha Melville, Jada Gray, Nordtvedt and James came in fourth

in the 4x400 in 4:26.05.

The strong finish for Enterprise — the Outlaws scored 15 points in their final two events — boosted the team score to 20 points and moved them into a tie for 13th.

Gray and Madison Wigen just missed getting into scoring range, with Gray taking 10th in the 300 hurdle prelims, and Wigen coming in 11th in the high jump.

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