

Sports

POWDER VALLEY VOLLEYBALL

Badgers 2nd at state tourney

By Ronald Bond
The (La Grande) Observer

REDMOND — It didn't end the way they hoped. But the Powder Valley Badgers left the Class 1A state tournament with one of the best finishes in program history. For the second year in a row, though, St. Paul got the best of Powder Valley in a matchup of 1A volleyball powerhouses.

The Buckaroos used a big run in each set and an 18-kill performance by Isabelle Wyss to top the Badgers, 25-13, 25-14, 25-16, in the 1A championship match Saturday night in Redmond.

The loss dropped the Badgers (34-2 overall) to second place for the second year in a row and fifth time in program history. Powder Valley also took second in 2001, 2010 and 2011. The Badgers' lone state title came in 2012.

"Overall it was a good season. I obviously would have wanted to get first, but I'm not disappointed with how things ended," said setter Brooke Allen, who had four kills and 12 assists in the final.

The loss ended a 29-match winning streak for the Badgers, who returned to the championship despite losing six seniors from the team that faced St. Paul a year ago — and losing a key performer



Ronald Bond /The (La Grande) Observer

Brooke Allen had 12 assists for Powder Valley in the state championship match.

in the latter stages of the season this fall. "It was really impressive," Keanna Bingham, who had five kills, said of her team's ability to get back to the final. "We lost Belle (Blair)

midway through the season, and we had a talk about how we had the same goal and that wasn't going to change anything. (Even after) losing really good seniors last year we knew we could be just

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— Brooke Allen, setter on the Powder Valley volleyball team

as good this year. It was our goal throughout the season (and) from the beginning of the summer to make it back here."

The Badgers had little trouble in the quarterfinal win over Damascus Christian Friday morning, winning 25-16, 25-14, 25-19.

They appeared set to coast to the championship after taking the first two sets from Country Christian later Friday, 25-17, 25-11. But the Cougars rallied to take sets 3 and 4, 25-17, 25-23, before the Badgers regrouped to take the final set, 15-8, to reach the final.

Josi Krieger, one of two seniors who played for the final time over the weekend, said "it was all fight" for the Badgers to overcome in the final set against Country Christian.

"We knew that we deserved to be in the championship game, and we knew that if we didn't get it, our whole entire goal for the season would be gone," she said.

The Badgers started strong in the championship match, going up 7-2 early in the opening set on an ace by Autumn Davis and a Buckaroos' attack error for Powder's biggest lead.

POWDER VALLEY FOOTBALL

Powder Valley nips Lowell, on to quarterfinals

By Ronald Bond
The (La Grande) Observer

Ethan Stephens caught the winning touchdown pass in the final minutes after Powder Valley made a crucial stop on defense, and the Badgers won a wild shootout on the road in the first round of the 1A state playoffs Friday, edging Lowell, 68-62, to reach the quarterfinals for the first time since 2016.

"It was a great team win," head coach Josh Cobb said. "We spread the ball around on offense (and) our defense stepped up huge late."

Cobb said the Badgers recovered a fumble with about two minutes remaining in the game trailing by two points, then scored the winning touchdown on Stephens' reception from Reece Dixon. The score capped a huge night individually for both Dixon and Stephens.

See Powder /Page 8A

OREGON STATE FOOTBALL

Huskies stifle OSU

By Anne M. Peterson
AP Sports Writer

CORVALLIS — When Oregon State closed in on Washington, Salvon Ahmed broke away with a 60-yard scoring run to douse any momentum the Beavers had.

Ahmed ran for a career-high 174 yards, scoring twice, and Washington rebounded from a two-game losing streak with a 19-7 victory over the Beavers on Friday night.

The Huskies (6-4, 3-4 Pac-12) became bowl eligible with the victory, their eighth straight over the Beavers. Washington has not lost three in a row during coach Chris Petersen's tenure.

"Salvon's always one pitch away from hitting it out of the park," Petersen said afterward.

The Beavers (4-5, 3-3) trailed 10-0 at the half but rallied in the third quarter on Jaydon Grant's interception return for a touchdown. Oregon State, which has already won more games than in the past two seasons combined, has three remaining games to try to earn its first bowl berth since 2013.

Hunter Bryant had five catches for 90 yards for Washington, after catching a pair of touchdowns last weekend in a 33-28 loss to Utah. Bryant went into the game ranked second nationally in yards receiving by tight ends (557). Huskies quarterback Jacob Eason threw for 175 yards but was intercepted twice.

See Badgers /Page 7A



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