



On to Round 1

GU girls secure third at district tournament

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

LA GRANDE – Keeping the dream alive, the Grant Union girls are headed for Round 1 of the OSAA State Championship games. They will travel to Monroe to face the Dragons at 2 p.m. Saturday. They earned the trip by clinching third place at last weekend's Wapiti District Basketball Tournament, held at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande.

Grant Union started with a 38-42 loss to Union last Friday, but blazed to a 48-14 victory over Imbler on Saturday.

All-League selections announced at the close of the tournament included Kori Pentzer and Heather Mosley for first team and McKenzie Wilson and Emily Mosley, honorable mention.

Pentzer was instrumental in Saturday's 34-point win over Imbler as the lead scorer with 17 points, followed by Heather Mosley with 8.

Imbler's Panthers likely had trouble deciding which Prospector to defend as seven others contributed to the scoring.

The most Imbler could manage for a quarter was 6 points in the first. After that, Grant Union held the Panthers to 3 points in the second and third, and 2 points in the final quarter.

Grant Union's biggest offensive push came when they scored 14 points in the fourth quarter.

Grant Union entered the contest as third seed; Imbler was seeded fourth. Although the Pros had beaten Imbler twice before, by more than 30 points each time, the team took nothing for granted in their quest for state.

Heather Mosley led in rebounding for the Prospectors with six, followed by

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Grant Union Prospectors Samantha Brock drives down the court in the district contest against Union.



Contributed photo/Cindy Dougharity-Spencer

Several Grant Union wrestlers earned medals at the district tournament where the team placed sixth, including, Clay Johnson, front, Dillon Maley, left, Andrew Copenhagen, Antonio Dancer, James Mabe and Chance Ballou.

GU wrestler Clay Johnson is district CHAMP

Four more wrestlers earn third place

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

ENTERPRISE – One wrestler rose to the top for the Grant Union wrestling team at last week's district tournament.

Clay Johnson was named district champion for the 120 weight class, going 3-0 last Saturday in Enterprise.

"Clay will represent us at the state meet and was seeded third in the state meet," said Grant Union head coach Andy Lusco.

Johnson will compete in the state meet Friday at Portland's Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

Four other Grant Union wrestlers also gave strong performances at district, each placing third.

Antonio Dancer (138) went 3-1, Andrew Copenhagen (160) went 3-1, Dillon Maley (220) went 1-1, and Chance Ballou (heavyweight) went 1-2.

"Our young wrestlers have made tremendous progress this year, and we are looking forward to bringing back everyone except our lone senior, Paul Roark," Lusco said. "Coach Tye Parsons and Jake Batease have done an excellent job this season."



Contributed photo/Cindy Dougharity-Spencer

Grant Union's Clay Johnson puts his opponent in a tough spot at the district tournament in Enterprise. Johnson was the champion for his weight class and advances to the state tournament which begins on Friday.

Lady Panthers oust Tigers in JD

Both teams close season at District Tournament

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – The 1A High Desert District Tournament was full of highs and lows for rival local teams.

Grant County's Dayville/Monument Lady Tigers and Prairie City Panthers battled on the court last Friday, the Panthers claiming victory, 32-19.

The Tigers, seeded fifth in the tournament, had worked hard to make it to Game 2 against the Panthers.

Dayville/Monument pushed Harper/Huntington out of the district tournament with a 42-28 play-in game held at Burnt River School on Feb. 18.

In Friday's game, the Panthers fired up the first quarter with 6 points, leaving the Tigers scoreless.

The Tigers battled back, outscoring their opponents 9-7 in the second quarter. Fueling the run were Treiquella Osborne, who



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Dayville/Monument Tiger Cody Perkins (22) lunges for Prairie City Brianna Zwegardt's ball. Others in the action are Tigers Skylar Powell (11), Mary Yankee (24) and Emma Hettinga (10), along with Panther Amaya Zwegardt (2).

went 4-for-4 at the free-throw line, and Skylar Powell and Emma Hettinga, with two buckets each.

Yet the Panthers still held the lead, 13-9.

Prairie City's best offensive quarter was the third. The Panthers kept the lead at 24-15, with

Panther Amy Black hitting a 3-pointer and 2-pointer, Cassie Hire sinking two 2-pointers, and Lindsay Wall adding 2.

The Tigers tried a comeback in the fourth quarter, closing the gap to 7 points. They had some bright moments, including a steal and an interception, but couldn't gain the

advantage.

Tiger head coach Jay Kenyon congratulated the Panthers on their win.

Panther head coach Penny Black said her team stuck to their game plan for the win.

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Elgin too much for GU boys at Wapiti Tournament

Prospectors gain experience, end season

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

LA GRANDE – The Grant Union boys had a difficult time getting their game off the ground against Elgin at last Friday's Wapiti District Tournament.

Although the Pros eventually came within reach of a win, they fell short at the end, 43-49.

They started play with a last-minute lineup change due to injuries that kept a couple of starters out of the game; however, after getting treatment the two soon returned to action.

Grant Union had a sluggish start, trailing 4-17 in the first quarter with the only buckets coming

from Brady Burch and Ricky Weickum.

"We had a very slow start, likely due to our inexperience," said Prospector head coach Steve Speth.

Grant Union caught fire in the second quarter, going from 17 points behind early on to end the half trailing, 23-25.

The game was reminiscent of their league game the previous week, facing Elgin at Grant Union. In that contest, the Prospectors made gains near the end for a come-from-behind win; however, the net and the win proved elusive this time.

Elgin made a brief run at the start of the third quarter to extend their lead by 7 points.

"We couldn't cut into it (the lead) by the end of the quarter," Speth said. "We cut the lead down to 1 or 2 a couple more times, but we never were able to take control of the game."

The Huskies' free throws also helped in the final moments of the game to hang on for the win.

"Despite not shooting well from the field or the free-throw line, and struggling with turnovers, our boys played extremely hard and gained some valuable experience playing in the tournament," Speth said.

Two Prospectors were recognized as Wapiti All League players: Trace Gill, second team, and Ricky Weickum, honorable mention.



Grant Union Prospectors for the girls and boys teams gathered for a photo last Saturday: Front, Kori Pentzer, 1st team (left); McKenzie Wilson, Honorable Mention; back, Ricky Weickum, Honorable Mention; Emily Mosley, Honorable Mention; Heather Mosley, 1st team; and Trace Gill, 2nd Team.

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