



New baseball coach excited to lead team

Prairie City players to join Grant Union team

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

It's only January, but Dusty Williams is already looking forward to the high school baseball season.

Williams was chosen as head coach of the Grant Union baseball team at the Jan. 18 Grant School District No. 3 school board meeting.

He replaces Brian Delaney, who led the Prospectors since 2010 and recently moved out of state.

"I'm excited," he said. "We're a young team, and there aren't many seniors. I want to get back to the fundamentals of the sport ... and Grant Union's traditional baseball."

He said the game is "about life." Developing leadership and instilling a sense of pride in their school and community, as well as respect for the game and the coaches, are hallmarks of the program he will run.

"We want to work on developing these kids to be productive citizens, working hard, being proud in what you've done," he said.

This year, players from Prairie City will be

joining the Grant Union team.

"We love to have those kids down here," Williams said. "They are a part of the community, and I hope everybody supports all the kids."

Williams has 12 years coaching experience, including coaching his two boys, who are now grown, at home.

Cody, a 2010 Grant Union graduate, was Oregon's 3A Player of the Year his senior year, and was recognized as the strongest pitcher and utility player in the state. Lane, a 2014 Grant Union graduate, pitched the 2013 championship game, the Prospectors winning the title.



Dusty Williams

Tiger boys come back to win over Antelopes

Boys notch their fifth consecutive win

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Monument/Dayville Tiger teams hosted the Adrian Antelopes at their Dayville court Saturday, the Tigers boys winning 43-39.

The Tiger boys notched their fifth consecutive win with the night's victory.

Monument/Dayville head coach Jeff Schafer said, while he was happy with the win, they didn't play their best ball.

"It was a rough game, but we pulled through it," he said. "Tanner hit two big free throws at the end."

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The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Monument/Dayville Tiger Cody Kluser (42) goes up to score under pressure from Kenny Purnell (24).

Lady Tigers fast on floor but unable to catch 'Lopes

Coach says team gave 100 percent in game

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Monument/Dayville Lady Tigers battled hard in Dayville Saturday, but came up with a 66-40 loss

The visiting Lady Antelopes were off to a quick start in Saturday's game, adding seven points to the board before a shot fell for the Lady Tigers.

Monument/Dayville shot within two points of the visitors in the first two minutes of play with Kyla Emerson making the first basket, and adding two more at the free-throw line.

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Monument/Dayville Tiger Fayette Schafer pushes past Adrian's Selina Villarreal in Saturday's game at the Dayville court.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union Prospectors Elijah Humbird makes a comeback, pinning a Union opponent at Friday's Grant Union Tournament in John Day.

WRESTLERS BATTLE AT GRANT UNION TOURNEY

Ten teams compete at John Day event

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Prospectors hosted nine teams at Friday's Grant Union Wrestling Tournament.

Grant Union head coach Andy Lusco said the round-robin event went smoothly, and he was pleased his wrestlers.

"Our conditioning is coming along, and I think we wrestled pretty skilled," he said. "There are a bunch of kids in there that did well."

To highlight a few of the Grant Union wrestlers: Clay Johnson wrestled 3-0, Drew Lusco went 3-1, Russell Hodge went 3-0 and Elijah Humbird went 2-0.

Coach Lusco said one of the most exciting moments came during one of Humbird's matches.

"He wrestled a kid with seconds to go who was ahead in points, and he came back and pinned him - and he was really tall and aggressive, so he did a good job there," Lusco said, adding, "There were tough kids in a lot of these pods, and our kids wrestled really well as a group."

Lusco's varsity assistants include Guy Johnson, Tye Parsons and Jake Batease.

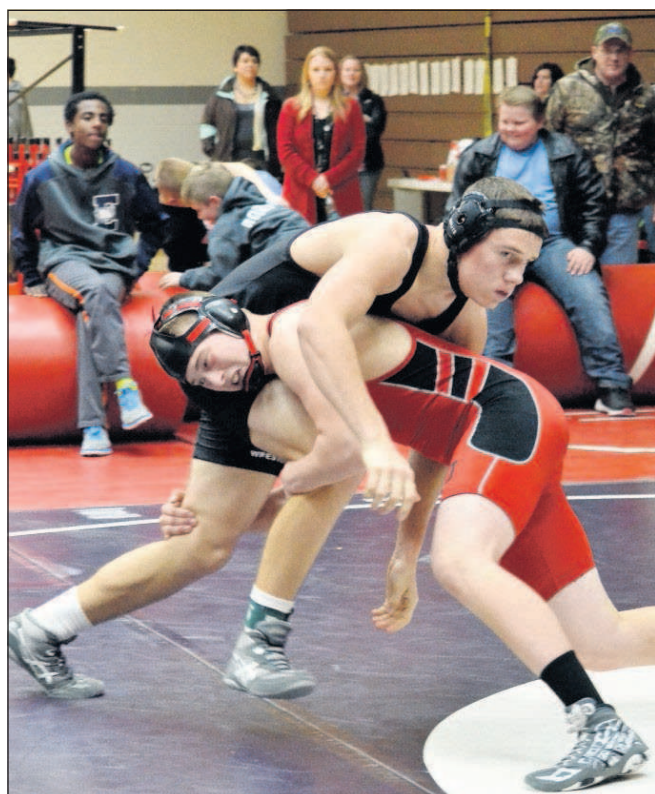
Hodge said his toughest match was his last one, against an Irrigon wrestler.

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The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union Prospectors Clay Johnson takes down his Union opponent in Friday's tournament in John Day.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union Prospectors Russell Hodge (red uniform) has a successful match, wrestling an Irrigon opponent.



Contributed photo

Prairie City Panther Devin Packard (20) is in action during Friday's game against the Adrian Antelopes at the Prairie City court. The Panthers won the game 81-53.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Prairie City boys on five-game win streak

The Panther boys basketball team had an 81-53 win on Friday over the Adrian Antelopes at the Prairie City court.

That decisive win and a couple more big wins place the team in the No. 2 spot in the High Desert League.

Prairie City head coach Jonathan Gill said the Adrian game was the best yet of the season for his team.

"Everyone was sharing the ball and playing for each other," he said. "We had seven players score, and everyone contributed to the win. It was a good show for our home fans."

Dorran Wilson scored 23 points, followed by Levi Burke with 22, Brogan McKrola with 15 and Lucas McKinley with nine.

On Saturday, the Panthers took a 71-27 win over Burnt River on the road in Unity.

Gill said the game gave more players experience and an opportunity to see what they can do.

"It will help us as a team later in the season," he said. "I'm very proud of the improvement I've seen from all the players."

After a 67-49 road win on Tuesday over the Harper Hornets, Gill said they are looking forward to home games.

"We look forward to a very big weekend as we host the top two teams in the High Desert League," he said. "A rival game with Monument/Dayville on Friday night and Saturday evening with Jordan Valley. We need our community to come out and support us this weekend."

The Panthers host Monument/Dayville at 7:30 p.m., the girls game at 6 p.m., and junior varsity girls will have a half game at 5:15 p.m.

On Saturday, the Jordan Valley Mustangs (6-0, 10-2) come to town. The boys game starts at 4:30 p.m., the girls game at 3 p.m., and the junior varsity teams will start half games at 1:30 p.m.

Lady Panthers enjoy two road wins

After a 42-25 loss to Adrian at home last Friday, the Prairie City Lady Panthers basketball team enjoyed the thrill of victory, twice, in road games.

On Saturday, the Prairie City girls beat Burnt River 51-18 in Unity, and Tuesday the girls picked up a 50-30 win against the Harper Hornets.

In the game against Adrian, Prairie City head coach Bo Workman said the team had a hard time dealing with the Antelopes' high-pressure defense.

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