

WIN

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“The boys overcame a lot of adversity all week, and it was good to see them respond so well and play a great game together,” said Grant Union head coach Steve Speth.

“What we lack in height, we try to make up for in effort, energy and execution,” he added. “We have to out-work our opponent and beat them playing ‘small ball.’”

Grant Union’s starting lineup in Saturday’s game included: Ricky Weickum, Trace Gill, Zack Deiter, Wade Reimers and Brady Burch.

Grant Union started slow in Saturday’s game and ended the first quarter trailing, 9-16.

The Pros were behind by 5 points going into halftime, but refueled for an exciting third quarter.



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter
Grant Union's Trace Gill (10) aims for the basket, his teammates Blake Stone (0) and Wade Reimers (12) in the action against Elgin.



Grant Union's Wade Reimers fights for a rebound in Saturday's win over the Elgin Huskies.

Grant Union converted rebounds and steals into points on the board, capital-

izing on their opponents' errors.

Deiter sank a shot for

2 points and Reimers hit a 3-pointer to tie the score at 26, then Caury Weaver scored

2 more to put the Prospectors in the lead, which they refused to relinquish.

Three more team members also contributed to the 23-point quarter for Grant Union, including a 3-point shot from Blake Stone and 5 points from Weickum. Gill's 2-point throw at the buzzer brought a cheer from the crowd.

Grant Union went into the fourth quarter, 44-31, keeping Elgin to 5 points, then road out the storm for the 15-point win.

“It was a great win for our team, and a team effort all the way – great defense and great teamwork on offense,” Speth said. “Our kids are excited to have the opportunity to play at the district tournament; it will be a great experience for our very young team.”

Since a 62-65 loss to Union on Feb. 7, the Prospectors have been competing without four players, including three who often scored in the double-digit range.

Several athletic suspensions were blamed on an off-campus gathering where alcohol was present, a situation that stirred vigorous debate among parents and other community members on the sidelines and in an online forum.

Citing student confidentiality, District 3 Superintendent Mark Witty declined to comment on the specifics of the incident, but said the school is following long-standing policies which are spelled out in the students' handbooks.

“We have our athletic policies, and we do our best to enforce them as consistently as possible,” he said. “Those policies were put in place with the hope that they will help students avoid these types of situations and help them make better choices.”

While the team is now playing with a smaller roster, fans last weekend saw the remaining players prove their mettle on the court.

D/M

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“We saw a lot of improvement in the season,” Doby said.

He noted that a senior on his team has played basketball for four years, and this is the first year the team has won any games. They won five this season.

Duby complimented the Tiger team for a great job.

“They took the ball out of our hands,” he said.

D/M girls ready for play-in game

The Dayville/Monument Lady Tigers took the Bulls by the horns with a 46-21 win last Friday, and went on to beat Harper/Huntington 50-38.

That put the girls in fifth

place in league over Harper/Huntington.

Those teams will have a play-in game to determine which team will continue in the Feb 20-21 district tournament in John Day.

The Tigers are scheduled to face Harper/Huntington at Grant Union in John Day on Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Senior team members Treiquella Osborne and Mary Yankee said the team worked hard for Friday's win.

“My last home game was the funnest that we've played this season,” Osborne said. “Our team knew how much it meant to us, so they played hard for us.”

“We moved the ball well and executed plays, and everyone worked hard for our last league game,” Yankee said.

Head coach Jay Kenyon was pleased with the weekend's wins and ready to forge on to the districts.

Grapplers take on Pine Eagle tourney

Team prepares to surprise at district meet

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

HALFWAY – Competing against 17 teams last weekend, the Grant Union wrestlers finished in 10th place at the Pine Eagle tournament.

“It was pretty good competition,” said head coach Andy Lusco.

Notable performances came from Clay Johnson, who finished second in his weight class, 2-1; Andrew Copenhaver, fifth, 3-1; and Dillon Maley, fifth, 2-1.

If wrestlers lost their first two rounds, the best they could finish was

fifth place, Lusco said.

“Andrew and Dillon wrestled very well, they just didn't get a chance to wrestle for third,” Lusco said.

“Clay is really shaping up to be a competitor at the district level,” he added. “We are excited to wrestle next week at districts and look to surprise a few people with our younger wrestlers.”

For the junior high team, Russell Hodge finished 3-0.

Ethan Moore, Zach Hayzlett, Roen Langum, Drew Lusco all went 2-1.

Angelo Towers and Braden Spencer each won one match.

“The kids wrestled tough,” Lusco said. “We have an exciting group of junior high wrestlers.”

Dancers shine for second-place

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

ALBANY – The Grant Union Gold dance team finished with flying colors at last weekend's South Albany Dance Competition. The girls, led by head coach Shannon Adair, earned a score of 70 and second place, just 3.5 points behind Marshfield. Amity finished in third place with 66.17 and Bandon in fourth, 48.94.

“After several changes to our routine and lots of practice time over the last two weeks, we were able to improve our score from the Canby competition (65.06),” Adair said.

She said that over the next two weeks the team will add the last 40 seconds of the dance to the routine.

“We'll continue to work on technique and expression,” she said. “I'm so proud of this team – they have a great work ethic and a positive attitude and continue to impress me everyday.”

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PC

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Panthers 48, Bulls 40

The Panther boys, tied for sixth place in league with Burnt River, won a close playoff game with the Bulls on Monday at Grant Union.

The teams kept the scoring close in the first quarter, which ended tied at 10 points.

Prairie City hit the court strong in the second quarter, outshooting the Bulls 16-7.

The Panthers had help from

Dorran Wilson, who had been out with an injury for several weeks.

Triston Emmel has also been back in recent weeks after recovering from an injury.

Burnt River started the second quarter by converting some rebounds to take a 13-10 lead, but a few steals restored Prairie City to the plus side.

In the final two minutes of the second quarter, Garrett Hitz sank two 3-pointers in a row and had another 2-point basket to close out the quarter, 26-17.

Burnt River came within 4 points of Prairie City in the third quarter, the Bulls gaining points from Steven Doby and a 3-pointer from Armando Garcia, but the Panthers pulled away for a 27-37 lead.

Multiple Panthers contributed down the stretch – several shot from the free-throw line, 7-4 to the Bulls' 1-3.

Panther player Garrett Hitz said the win was good, but he was disappointed with some missed shots.

“Rebounds were good,” he said, adding it also helped to have Wilson back.

“He definitely helped out on the floor,” he said. “We're going to have to play hard (in the tournament) and hope everything clicks.”

Head coach Mark Woodbury said the game was a little too close, but his players shot well from the outside and inside.



“Garrett Hitz did a really good job tonight, staying in control and did a lot of the dirty work,” he said, adding, “It was nice to have Dorran back – it was a good emotional lift, and the crowd was fun.”


Last week, the Panther boys lost 32-55 to Harper/Huntington on Friday and beat Long Creek/Ukiah, 49-36, on Saturday.

PC girls notch wins

The Prairie City Lady Panthers added two blowout wins to their league record last week, beating Harper/Huntington 52-28 on Friday and Long Creek/Ukiah 41-11 Saturday.

the corner's
HOT SHOT
OF THE WEEK







McKENZIE WILSON
School: Grant Union
Grade: Junior
Parents: Charlie and Jeanette Wilson
Sport: Basketball

What I like best about my sport: “I like the challenge of stepping up and knowing that everyone is going to be there for each other – even through losses and wins, we're going to be there for each other.”

Coach's Comment: “I enjoy her enthusiasm on the court and her defensive contribution to the team is exceptional.”
– Coach Mark Mosley



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