



GU warms up at Icebreaker

Prospectors host Bulldogs this Saturday at noon

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – Local baseball fans had no shortage of action to watch last week as seven teams converged on the Seventh Street Complex last week for the annual Les Schwab Tires Icebreaker Tournament.

The Grant Union Prospectors hosted teams from Culver, Country Christian, Joseph, Oakland, Pilot Rock and Estacada in the March 26-28 event.

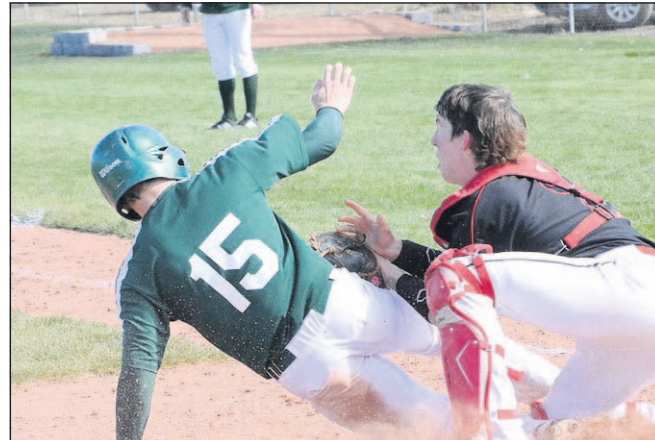
Prospector head coach Brian Delaney was pleased with the turnout and the action. “The competition was pretty solid,” he said.

Grant Union had a bye on Thursday, but came out with bats swinging Friday to defeat Country Christian 13-3 in the sixth inning.

The Prospectors were first to get on the board, with three runs in the third inning. While Country Christian tried to catch up, Grant Union went on a scoring frenzy in the sixth inning to seal the win.

The Prospectors had eight runs in the inning, beating Country Christian with the 10-run rule.

Grant Union’s success in the sixth came with RBI singles by Dillon Winters and



The Eagle/Cheryl Hoefler

Grant Union catcher Tyler Manitsas tags an Estacada player out at home plate Saturday in the fifth inning.

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Athletes make tracks, on the road

GU hosts meet for small schools next Tuesday

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County track teams hit the road for two recent invitationals, Grant Union heading to Prineville and Monument to Harper.

Grant Union had some stand-out performances at the March 19 Breaking the Ice Meet in Prineville.

“We took 18 athletes – eight women and 10 men,” said head coach Sonna Smith. “With six women scoring, we placed third to a 5A school and a 4A school.”

Freshman Kori Pentzer is seated in the top 10 in all size schools in triple jump and long jump.

She’s leading 2A in hurdles and long jump, and is second to an Oakland senior in triple jump.

At Prineville, she hit 35-05.00 in the triple for first place, and 16-10.00 in the long jump, also a first.

Sophomore Chelsie Kodesh is leading javelin in 2A with a throw of 107-3.

Junior Samantha Brock is seeded third in 2A long jump, triple jump and hurdles. At the meet, she placed third in the triple jump at 32-11.00.

Freshman Zoie Rude won the 400 meter and is seeded first in the Wapiti league.

Senior Marta Faulkner placed second in the 3,000 meter.

Highlights for the boys included Nick Springer placing fifth in high jump; Phillip Jaletzky, sixth in 300-meter hurdles; and Andrew Copenhaver, seventh in pole vault, reaching 10-0.

“Both our men’s and women’s teams are young,” Smith said. “We expect them to steadily improve over the season. We have high hopes for district, which will be hosted at Grant Union this year.”

The Monument team took four competitors to Harper’s Diana Thurmond Invite on March 20.

Treiquella Osborne and Maya Thomas, both nursing minor leg injuries, skipped running and jumping events, opting for throwing contests.

Osborne placed third in discus with a throw of 81-01 and Thomas placed 10th in shot put, hitting the 21-07.00 mark.

“Hayden Schafer also competed well, surpassing last year’s best marks in all his throwing events and showing tremendous growth,” said head coach Earl Pettit.

“Dinorha Vidrio Landin is a nice addition to the team and she’s developing into a mid-distance runner – she has great speed and form, and is now focused upon building endurance,” Pettit added.

“All said, I was pleased with their first outing, and we look to have a small team made up of competitive athletes,” he said. “I anticipate we will have six participants this year.”

Coming up, the Grant County Small Schools Invitational starts at 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, in John Day. Grant Union will host teams from Dayville, Long Creek, Monument, Prairie City, Burns, Burnt River, Crane, Ukiah and Mitchell-Spray.

LIFTING FOR SUCCESS

Students at GU learn ‘weighty’ lessons

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – Weights and conditioning is a class that can benefit anyone, says Grant Union teacher and athletic director Jason Miller.

Students at Grant Union get a feel for the class early on, through Doug Sharp’s P.E. classes for grades 7-9.

P.E. students in grades 7-8 have weightlifting two times a week throughout the year, and freshmen have the workouts four days a week in the third quarter.

“We try to expose them to weightlifting,” Sharp said. “They realize you don’t have to be a great athlete to be successful at weightlifting.”

He said the younger students are first introduced to the ultralight bars so they can practice perfect technique for safety.

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Grant Union freshman Kelsey Morrison lifts a weighted bar while sophomore Reitta Wyllie spots her in their weights and conditioning class.



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union weights and conditioning teacher Jason Miller observes as junior Antonio Dancer lifts and Hayden Young, also a junior, spots.

Special Olympians take on regional competition

Team faces local police at April 16 fundraiser game

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

CORVALLIS – The Grant County Special Olympics 5-on-5 basketball team won third place in its division at the March 21 regional competition.

The event was held at the Oregon State University campus in Corvallis.

The team, led by head coach David Gill, includes Charley Fronapel, Bill Pauley, Crystal Wimberley, Josiah Hoeffner, Katie Latham, Rodney Bronson, Jay Colson and Brian McKrola.

The team also received the Sportsmanship Award at the event.



Contributed photo/Gloria Stratford

Winning third place at the regional basketball competition are Josiah Hoeffner (front, left), Crystal Wimberley, Charley Fronapel, Katie Latham (back, left), Bill Pauley, Jay Colson, Rodney Bronson and Brian McKrola.

Gill said that receiving the award for sportsmanship meant more to him than the medals, noting that some of the

other teams also showed good sportsmanship.

McKrola, who has participated in Special Olympics

for over 20 years, was chosen as the March Athlete of the Month on the Special Olympics Oregon website.

The Special Olympics basketball team will mix it up with local law enforcement for their annual fundraiser game set for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 16, at the Grant Union Junior-Senior High School gym.

Admission is \$3 each and \$10 for families, and a donation jar will be available as well as a bake sale.

Audience members can get in on friendly competition with an individual skills contest at halftime in which participants earn points and the top three in the various divisions win a prize.

A dessert auction is also planned between quarters.

Business owners can add their business name to the program for \$25.

For more information, contact program co-coordinators Deronda Lallatin or Kathy Jo Gill at SueZQs thrift store at 541-575-0715.



2015 COUNTY SPORTS SCHEDULE

Baseball

Saturday, April 4
Tuesday, April 7

Grant Union vs. Culver
Grant Union @ La Grande

John Day 12 p.m./2 p.m.
La Grande 4 p.m.

Softball

Friday, April 3
Saturday, April 4
Tuesday, April 7

Grant Union vs. Elgin/Imbler
Grant Union @ Ontario
Grant Union vs. La Grande

John Day 1 p.m./3 p.m.
Ontario 1 p.m. (MT)
John Day 4 p.m.

Track

Friday, April 3

Grant Union, Mon, Day, PC @ Don Walker Invitational Nyssa

1 p.m.

Golf

Friday, April 3

Grant Union @ Pendleton Invite

Pendleton 9 a.m.

