

GU golfer prepares for Down Under competition

Golf scramble event to benefit trip

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – Grant Union junior Nathan Gehley is preparing for a big golfing trip this July, to the land Down Under.

He received a certificate last December to participate in a nine-day trip to the Down Under Sports International Games on the Gold Coast of Australia, where he'll compete on the Oregon State Golf Team.

Nathan is the son of David and Krista Gehley. "This will be my first time

out of the country," Nathan said. "It's a once in a lifetime opportunity – traveling and competing on the other side of the world is an adventure I can't pass up."

He added, "I'm up for the challenge of being the first golfer to represent Grant County with Down Under Sports in Australia."

Gehley said he expects to go up against strong players from several countries; 66 golfers will attend from the United States.

The trip includes three rounds of 18 holes of golf; one



Contributed photo/Tanni Wenger Photography Studios
Nathan Gehley

is a practice day, another is an All-American Tournament, and the finale will be the International Tournament.

The team also will do some

sight-seeing in Brisbane and at the Great Barrier Reef.

To help him raise money for the trip, the John Day Golf Club is hosting "Nathan Gehley's Down Under Golf Scramble" on Sunday, April 26.

The event, which is Gehley's main fundraiser, includes a free hamburger feed with salads after the golfing. There will be a dessert auction, and an auction of items including firewood, a flat-screen TV and more.

Individuals and teams of four can sign up for the scramble.

Registration begins at 8

a.m. and the first tee-off is at 9 a.m.

Entry fees are \$40 for individuals and \$150 for teams of four, including green fees and carts.

Gehley started golfing with his grandfather, joined the Grant Union varsity team when he was a freshman, and has continued with the team since then.

Grant Union golf coach Ron Lundbom said it's an honor to be selected for the Down Under Sports event.

"He's very deserving and works hard – he has continued on where he left off last year," Lundbom said.

Gehley said he enjoys golf as a fun sport that's more relaxing than most, and he appreciates Lundbom for helping him improve his skills.

"I would not be near as good as I am without his coaching," he said.

Gehley added, "I look forward to seeing a lot of people at the scramble, or for the dinner afterwards ... I appreciate anyone who wants to be involved or has been involved or donated."

For more information, call Krista Gehley at 541-620-1566, or to obtain a scramble entry form by email, contact her at nateGSDU@gmail.com.

GU

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Billy Copenhaver, an error, a walk by Ricky Weickum, a bases-loaded walk by Brady Burch, a two-run double by

Tyler Manitsas and Hayden Young's RBI single.

Grant Union had 13 hits to Country Christian's four.

Winters was steady from the mound, pitching the entire game.

He had 14 first-pitch strikes and six strikeouts.

"We played about as well as we could have this time of year," Delaney said. "I was really proud of the boys and their focus."

"Dillon Winters pitched a great game and our defense was extremely solid," Delaney said. "Every single one of those boys contributed. They played team ball with a great effort on everyone's part. Not one kid stood out, but we stood out as a team."

Grant Union advanced to the final game Saturday – facing Estacada, a 4A team that had defeated Culver 7-2 the previous day.

The Prospectors played hard but came up short, losing 3-16.

Grant Union had nine hits to Estacada's 10, but had trouble capitalizing on them.

Prospector Garrett McConnell took the mound for his first time this season, pitching four innings.

Delaney said he threw well. "We were pleased with the innings that he gave us," he said. "He got a good feel for it

and threw his pitch count."

Problems cropped up in the fifth inning for the Pros.

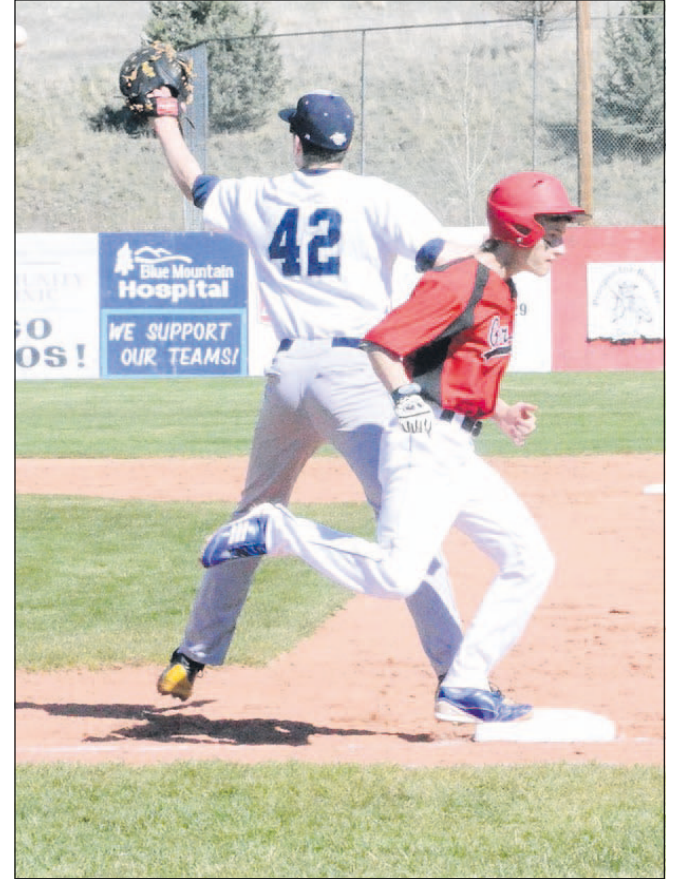
"We had too many walks and a couple of costly errors, and Estacada had some good hits in the fifth, sixth and seventh that were too much to come back from," Delaney said.

Friday's fundraiser banquet attracted 275 supporters to Grant Union Junior-Senior High School for a pulled-pork dinner catered by Kris and Kjer Kizer.

"It was excellent," Delaney said. "We want to thank everyone who came out to support Grant Union baseball."

Next up, Grant Union hosts the Culver Bulldogs at 12 noon Saturday for a doubleheader, and then travel to La Grande for a 4 p.m. game Tuesday.

Grant Union lost a close game to the Bulldogs in their first outing of the season, 6-7, and Delaney said he expects Saturday's contest to be a good one.



The Eagle/Cheryl Hoefler
Grant Union Prospectors Ricky Weickum is safe at first base in the game against Country Christian.

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WEIGHTS

Continued from Page B1

Sharp said weightlifting is something he personally enjoys.

"It allows me to live a more active and healthier lifestyle," he said.

Miller said the class builds self-confidence in the students.

His weights and conditioning class starts with reviewing the basics, core lifts and safety.

"At first it seems over-

whelming, but as time goes on they start to grasp it," he said.

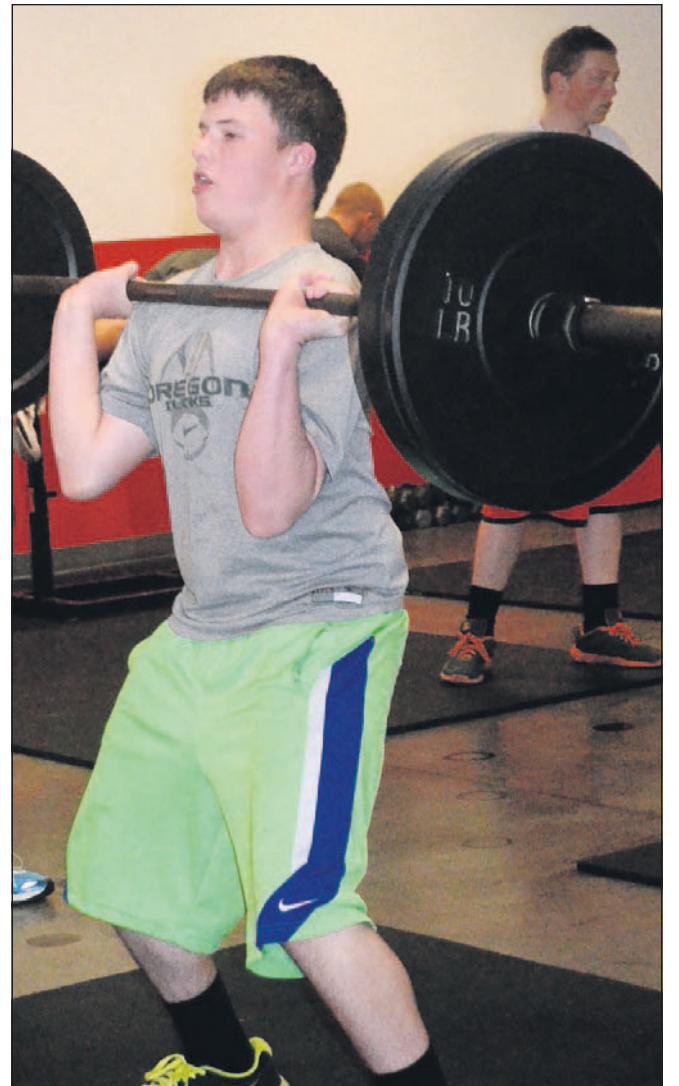
As Grant Union's athletic director and football coach, Miller said he sees how weightlifting benefits athletes involved in other sports.

"It assists in conditioning, building strength, speed and agility," he said. "Everything, athletically, will improve if they work hard at it."

Recently, the students' workouts included "powerlifting and an explosion of all the core lifts," he said – lifting as much weight as possible, as fast as possible – also, squats, deadlifts, bench press, power cleans and sprint workouts.

He added students are encouraged to get adequate rest before working the same muscles again.

"Overall, the kids enjoy it and gain from it physically and mentally," Miller said. "It's an integral part of athletics in almost every high school."



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter
Hadley Boethin, a freshman, deadlifts in the Grant Union weights and conditioning class.

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the corner's HOT SHOT OF THE WEEK

DILLON WINTERS
School: Grant Union
Grade: 11
Parent: Danny Winters
Sport: Baseball

What I like best about my sport: "The team connects like a family – we get along great. It's a pleasure to be out there."

Coach's Comment: "Dillon's done a great job of keeping a positive attitude this season on and off the field. His energy is contagious."

– Coach Brian Delaney

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Nugget Lanes
March 25
Nooners Senior League:
Men High Game: Duane Daniels 164
Men High Series: Duane Daniels 463
Women High Game: Chris Rowe 147
Women High Series: Chris Rowe 425

March 26
Thursday Mixed 2K15:
Men High Game: Doug Kruse 180
Men High Series: Grant Benton 475
Women High Game: Cheryl Leighton 184
Women High Series: Cheryl Leighton 437

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