



# Lady Pros set hearts and bats on district

Grant Union could face Echo/Stanfield

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

RIVERSIDE – The Grant Union Lady Prospectors are looking for a spot in next Tuesday's district tournament in Echo.

As of Tuesday morning, Grant Union was tied with Riverside/Arlington and Enterprise/Joseph for fourth place in the 3A Eastern Oregon League, with each team at 6-6 in league.

The top four in league will go to the district tourney, where Grant Union could face Echo/Stanfield, No. 2 in league.

First, the Prospectors must sweep the Nyssa Bulldogs to claim the district playoff spot.



Grant Union's Cody Jo Madden connects with the ball in the May 1 game against Vale.

Grant Union, ranked 16th in state, will meet the No. 27-ranked Bulldogs in Nyssa for a doubleheader at 2 p.m. (MDT) Friday.

If the Lady Pros don't get the sweep, there still could be a two- or three-way tie, and the RPI rankings will determine who travels to Echo.

"Currently, we are ranked ahead of Riverside and Enter-



Grant Union Prospector Sydney Stearns pitches in the May 1 game against Vale in John Day.

prise," said Grant Union head coach DeAnna Nash.

## GU vs. Riverside/Arlington

Last Friday, Grant Union had trouble getting off the ground against Riverside/Arlington, losing 0-1 in Game One, but rallying for a 12-2 win in Game Two.

In the first game, the Lady Pros hit the ball hard, but "right at their defense," Nash said,

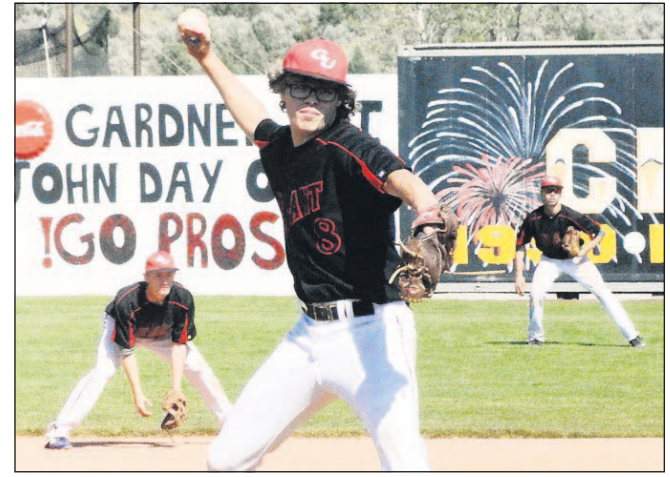
adding that Cody Jo Madden pitched an excellent game.

Madden had five strikeouts and gave up one walk and two errors.

The only score from the Pirates was on back-to-back doubles in the first inning.

"Offensively we couldn't get our bats going," Nash said.

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Grant Union's Justin Gravley pitches against Union/Cove, his teammates Ricky Weickum at second and Jerry Carter in right field at the ready.

## McConnell pitches 3-0 no-hitter

Grant Union sweeps Union/Cove Bobcats

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – Garrett McConnell wowed the Grant Union crowd, throwing a no-hitter in the Prospector's 3-0 win over Union/Cove last Friday.

He had seven strikeouts, walking seven, in the first-game win.

"Garrett threw really well, and we played great defense," said head coach Brian Delaney.

"We had a hard time getting the bats to wake up, but when we needed a clutch hit, we got one."

McConnell, Billy Copenhagen and Jerry Carter scored one each in the second, third and fourth innings.

Union had no hits and two errors, while Grant Union had five hits and one error.

Grant Union had a tougher battle in Game Two, but won 14-10.

The Prospector offense caught fire early, scoring nine runs in the bottom of the first.

The success was highlighted by two RBI triples from Hayden Young, an RBI double by Brady

Burch, an RBI double by Tyler Manitsas and an RBI single from Copenhagen.

Grant Union scored another run in the third for 10 points, but the Bobcats started some consistent scoring in the fourth but ended that threat in the seventh.

Grant Union had 12 hits and three errors in the game, while Union/Cove had five hits and six errors.

Justin Gravley pitched four innings with 10 first-pitch strikes and two strikeouts, and Young took the mound for three innings with nine first-pitch strikes and six strikeouts.

"I credit Union/Cove," Delaney said. "They played good ball, and their pitcher played better than what we heard – all in all a good league win."

He added that while the team was able to get lots of good hits in Game Two, that contest showed what they need to do to "polish up" for the remainder of the season.

The Prospectors take on the Hilanders in Burns on Friday at 12 noon.

The teams are tied for first in league and the battle will determine who is at the top of the 2A/1A Special District 7.

The top two teams advance to the district tournament.

## Sharpshooters join for hoops showdown



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Mixing it up on the court were Special Olympians and law enforcement personnel, including: Bill Pauley, in front, with Rodney Brunson; middle row, Charley Fronapel, left, Crystal Wimberley, Elizabeth Swarouth, Katie Latham, Cleo McCluskey (DA's office), Brian McKrola, Caleb Madsen, Josiah Hoeffner, Deronda Lallatin (Special Olympics coordinator) and David Gill (Special Olympics coach); back row, OSP Sergeant Tom Hutchison, Andrea Officer (DA's office), Undersheriff Todd McKinley, Jay Colson, Ashley McClay (DA's office) and Assistant DA Matt Ipson.

## Olympians, law enforcement compete

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – Special Olympics athletes and local law enforcement teamed up May 7 for a competitive, yet friendly, basketball game.

The event is an annual fund-raiser for the Grant County Special Olympics team.

A supportive crowd cheered on all the athletes at Grant Union Junior-Senior High School.

The Red and Black Team rosters each consisted of Olympians and law enforcement, including personnel from Oregon State Police, Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney's Office.

The teams played with intensity and kept the score close, with a 10-10 tie at halftime.

Then the Red Team pulled away to take the lead, winning 30-16.

During halftime, the audience joined in the fun for a basketball skills contest, entering to win prizes for participation.

A baked-goods auction and bake sale also raised money for the local program.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Charley Fronapel flies up for a successful shot in the May 7 Special Olympics fundraiser game played with local law enforcement personnel.

Deronda Lallatin, who coordinates the Special Olympics program with Kathy Jo Gill, said the event was a success.

"I really appreciate the community supporting us," she said. "We had tons of donations from sponsors and individuals, and we'll use the funds for travel-

ing and uniforms – we desperately need new uniforms – and to pay competition fees."

Coaching the Special Olympics basketball team this year was David Gill, and referees at the May 7 event were Grant Union students Trace Gill DeFord and Nathan Gehley.

Charley Fronapel said he enjoyed competing.

"I thought it was fun," he said. "Lots of people were there, and I think they had fun – and the players, too."

Ashley McClay from the Grant County District Attorney's victims assistance office was also impressed.

"It was a privilege to participate," she said. "The Special Olympics players have a lot of passion for the game, and they were awfully patient with the law enforcement players – it was a blast."

Next up for the Olympians is track and field, with at least one athlete participating in the pentathlon event.

Sharon and Tony Busch are coaching the team, and those interested in volunteering can contact Lallatin or Kathy Jo at 541-575-0715.

## SEASON UPDATE

# GU ball team pushes forward

Coach Delaney says team is climbing a peak

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – The Grant Union Prospectors are holding their own as they near postseason play.

Currently, Grant Union is ranked No. 11 in the state and tied in the 2A/1A Special District 7, with No. 6-ranked Burns.

Grant Union is a young team, graduating several starters last year.

"We knew going into it we were going to be young, and pitching and defense would have to be our focus," said Prospector head coach Brian Delaney. "For the most part, Garrett McConnell, Hayden Young, Justin Gravley and Billy Copenhagen have stepped

## 2015 PRO SENIORS



Jerry Carter



Justin Gravley



Tyler Manitsas

forward and carried that load for us, as far as pitching."

He added the team focuses on defensive work and fundamentals during practice.

"We work to eliminate errors," Delaney said.

There are 21 members of the varsity and junior varsity teams.

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Dayville/Monument



Grant Union



Long Creek



Prairie City

## 2015 COUNTY SPORTS SCHEDULE

### Baseball

Friday, May 15  
Saturday, May 16

Grant Union @ Burns  
Grant Union vs. Nyssa

Burns 1 p.m./3 p.m.  
John Day 12 noon

### Softball

Friday, May 15  
Tuesday, May 19

Grant Union @ Nyssa  
Grant Union @ District Tournament

Nyssa 2 p.m./4 p.m. (MT)  
Echo TBA

### Track

Friday, May 15  
Thursday, May 14

Grant Union hosts 2A-6 Wapiti League Districts  
PC, MON, DAY, LC @ 1A-SD4 District Championship

John Day 11a.m.  
Baker City 1 p.m.

### Golf

Sun-Tues, May 17-19

State Golf Tournament, Trysting Tree Country Club Corvallis

TBA

