

# Panther/Bulls hopeful for winning combination on the field

Football players gain focus and skills as a team

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

PRAIRIE CITY – Prairie City and Burnt River are making a good combination this season.

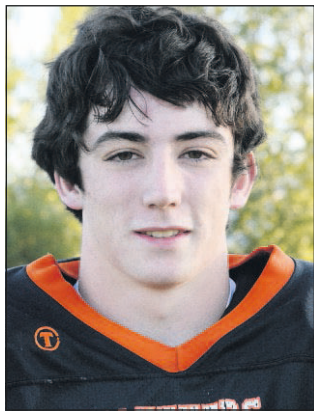
The two schools are teaming up for football with coaches Darrel McKrola and John Belveal.

Belveal, who works with the Burnt River athletes, said they have three returning players.

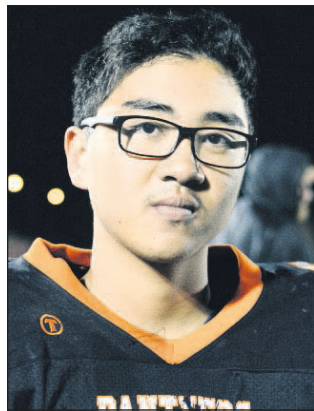
The are a total of 19 play-



Brandon Gillihan



Ethan Camarena



Tien Tran

ers on the team.

Nine in their group, as exchange students, have "never seen a football before in their life," Belveal said.

The exchange students

come from Vietnam, China, Taiwan, Germany, Kazakhstan and Brazil.

McKrola said that although the two schools have come together for only four

practices so far, the team is looking good.

He and Belveal said they are confident the team will improve over the season.

The Panther/Bulls are in

the 1A-SD1 Special District 1 league with Adrian, Crane, Echo, Dayville/Monument, Pine Eagle, Powder Valley, Wallowa, Harper/Huntington, Jordan Valley and Joseph.

The team has three seniors: Ethan Camarena, Brandon Gillihan and Tien Tran.

Camarena said the team has a lot to work on.

"We need to build up our skills, practice hard every day and this season we should be a pretty good team," he said. "I think we all get along well. We're good friends and support each other – it's a good thing we combined."

Gillihan was also positive

about this season's outlook for the Panther/Bulls.

"With the two schools, we're doing pretty good, getting that focus and bringing it together," he said. "It's definitely new trying to get the rotations in right."

Tran, an exchange student from Vietnam, is new to the country, the school and the sport.

"I want to play the whole season," he said. "This is the first American sport I've played. We're learning to play as a team."

Belveal said the team is happy with how they're playing.

"They're just starting to mesh," he said.

# GU takes come-from-behind victory in Athena

## Prospectors win first game of season

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

ATHENA – It's not over till it's over.

That was a fitting motto for the Grant Union football team last Friday as the Prospectors trailed through most of their contest against the Weston-McEwen TigerScots, claiming a last minute 34-32 victory.

Grant Union had mistakes in the game, but their highlights won out for the night in Athena.

Weston was first on the board on their opening play, with a 70-yard run from scrimmage for a score. Their 2-point conversion was good.

Prospector Wade Re-

imers scored on a quarterback keeper, bringing the score to 8-6. The TigerScots scored again before the close of the quarter.

Grant Union gained two important points on a safety in the second quarter, and then tied the game at 14-14 when Prospector Hayden Young scored a touchdown with 3:12 left in the half.

Weston shot back, and the halftime score was 20-14 for the Prospectors.

After the TigerScots scored in the early part of the third, Grant Union recovered a fumble on Weston's conversion attempt.

The Prospectors marched it down the field then Garrett McConnell caught a

pass, running the ball in to score, and the two-point conversion was good.

Grant Union took the lead with a McConnell touchdown and Reimers' quarterback keeper for the conversion points.

The TigerScots were just 10 yards from scoring and when time expired.

"To get a road win your first game with the mistakes we made, and to battle back, shows the incredible character of this team," said head coach Jason Miller. "They've practiced that way all season so far," he said. "I think we grew up tonight."

Grant Union hosts Heppner at 7 p.m. Friday at Three Flags Field in John Day.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union Prospector Garrett McConnell (5) moves through with the ball with blocking help from teammate Wyatt Weaver (15) in Friday's game against Weston/McEwen in Athena.

**CHELISIE KODESH**

School: Grant Union  
Grade: 11  
Parent: Kim Kodesh  
Sport: Volleyball

*What I like best about my sport:* "It's intense, and you have to work as a team."

*Coach's Comment:* "Chelsie is a three-year varsity starter as a junior. Her role on the team has changed since her freshman year, and she has really embraced the libero position. She is a leader on the court and is extremely competitive. Chelsie reads well defensively, and is the core of our backcourt. Mindful and coachable, Chelsie is a pleasure to coach."  
~ Shae Speth

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# Grant Union 'kills it' at Heppner tourney

## Netters keep confidence for tourney title

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

HEPPNER – Winning their second tournament of the season, the Grant Union volleyball team has set goals high for the season.

"This was the first year since I've been coaching that we had our full roster avail-

able for the Heppner Tournament, and this is the first time we took first place," said head coach Shae Speth. "That was definitely our goal for the week."

In pool play the Prospectors beat Imbler 25-16, Wallowa 25-7 and Enterprise 25-12.

Speth said it was helpful

to be up against Imbler and Enterprise which are in the league.

"Imbler looks strong and will be a tough match up when we play them later this week," she said.

In bracket play, Grant Union beat Weston-McEwen, 20-25, 25-15 and 15-6, then took the victory in the final match with Kennedy, 25-12, 23-25 and 15-9.

Speth said that compared with last week, the team struggled with serve-receive and hitting.

"We need to do a much better job of minimizing our errors going forward in order to reach our goals," she said. "It was actually good to be tested and lose a couple sets. The girls showed some resilience in bouncing back after losing sets to both Weston-McEwen and Kennedy, both of which are top-10 caliber teams."

On behalf of the North Fork Community 4-H club, we would like to thank everyone who came to the benefit pancake feed in Monument, August 30th. It was great to see the community come together and help the people who have lost so much due to the fire. Thank you again for all your continuous support.

**North Fork Community Club**

# Wildfire restoration forum on tap

Blue Mountain Eagle

MT. VERNON – The local forestry community will hold a public forum to assist private timberland owners with post-wildfire restoration from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23, at the Mt. Vernon Community Center.

Various agency professionals will provide information on requirements of the Oregon For-

est Practices Act for timber salvage, reforestation requirements, sources for funding assistance, opportunities for landowner assistance and more.

Representatives for forest industry will offer information on logistics, logging considerations, and potential log markets.

Contact information will be provided, and a question and answer session will be held.

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Please join us for the annual Grant County Chamber of Commerce Installation of Board Members and Volunteer Appreciation

Wednesday, September 9th  
5:00 PM

John Day Golf Club  
Happy Hour - 5:00 - 6:00 PM  
Hors d'oeuvres will be provided  
Guest Speaker will be Representative Cliff Bentz  
Please RSVP as soon as possible.