

Prep round up: GC athletes' skills are put to the test

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

GRANT COUNTY – Sports teams kept busy in the county and on the road last week.

VOLLEYBALL Grant Union

The Grant Union Prospector volleyball team hosted Culver, sweeping the Bulldogs 3-0 Sept. 29, and they followed up with another sweep at the Cove Leopards' court.

The scores against Culver were 25-21, 25-20 and 25-22.

"Culver is a top 5 team that plays tremendous defense and brings a lot of intensity to the court," said Grant Union head coach Shae Speth. "We served tough, getting them out of system often, and then played pretty well at the net getting some key blocks early."

She said the nonleague match was a good test for the team to check their mid-season skills.

Grant Union's scores in Cove were 25-7, 25-18 and 25-8.

Taylor McCluskey and Hailie Wright stepped in as setters for starter Rheanna Cartner, who was out due to illness.

Speth noted the Leopards are rebuilding after graduating several strong players last year.

Grant Union's junior varsity team is set to face Dayville/Monument varsity and junior varsity players in Dayville Wednesday at 5 p.m., and Saturday travel to Enterprise for a 12 p.m. game and Imbler for a 5 p.m. game. Next Tuesday, they take on Burns at the Highlanders court at 4 p.m.

Dayville/Monument

Dayville/Monument's Lady Tigers had a tough match last week in Jordan Valley.

Head coach Tiffnie Schmadeka said the team fought hard and had some good moments, but missed some key serves.

"This week we are focusing a lot on serving and passing," she said. "We have good spirits this week and are ready to fight back and play tough – it will be a long week, but we're up for the challenge."

The team will have their homecoming match in Monument at 4 p.m. Thursday, hosting Harper/Huntington.

Prairie City

Prairie City's Lady Panthers had challenging games last week, and that's just how head coach Louanne Zwegardt says she prefers it.

While the matches against Grant Union junior varsity and the Crane Mustangs didn't go their way, Zwegardt said it gave them good competition against teams with "strong fundamental skills."

"Last week, we had some good moments against GUVJ and Crane, but not enough of them," she said. "The team served fairly well, but passing and hitting errors kept us from



Contributed photo/Elizabeth Shelley

Grant Union Prospectors Heather Mosley (8) and Samantha Brock (3) defend the net playing in their Sept. 30 home game against Culver.

scoring many points."

Scores against GUVJ were: 15-25, 14-25 and 12-25.

Each set against Crane was lost 20-25.

On Friday, the Lady Panthers travel to Adrian for yet another challenge – the game starts at about 4 p.m.

"Adrian is never a team to underestimate as they have a solid program," Zwegardt said. "We will be focused on playing our game and working on our attack."

Burnt River is another team that has been improving and can surprise you, she said.

The Panthers host the Bulls at 4 p.m. on Saturday.

FOOTBALL

Dayville/Monument

The Dayville/Monument Tiger football team was defeated on the road 6-74 against Jordan Valley.

"The game could have gone better," said head coach Nathaniel Ashley. "We made

mistakes and didn't play up to our potential. Jordan Valley is a good team."

The Tigers' sole touchdown came when Dakota Emerson threw the ball to Hayden Schafer.

The team has a short week to prepare for their homecoming game against Harper/Huntington at 1 p.m. Thursday on the Monument field.

Prairie City/Burnt River

The Prairie City/Burnt River football team had a tough time from the start hosting Crane last Friday, and suffered a 0-62 defeat.

Injuries caused the Panther/Bulls to forfeit the game at halftime, ending what head coach Darrel McKrola called "a very physical game."

He said they hope to have enough players to continue competition this week at Adrian where they are scheduled to play at 6 p.m. (PT) on Friday.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Dayville/Monument Tiger Dakota Emerson (1) moves the ball with teammates Samuel Valade (42), Austin Walker (80) and Jess Hoodenpyl (75) looking for the blocks during a home game last month.

TIGERS

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The team currently has a 1-4 overall record.

Just four athletes on the 12-man Dayville/Monument roster are returning players this season, but that's not stopping them.

"We are a young team that is learning and improving," said Tiger head coach Nathaniel Ashley, who is in his fifth year coaching the team.

He said seniors Dakota Emerson and Garrett Warner are both making valuable contributions to the team this year.

"Both have big roles on the team, and they are both stepping up and filling those roles and helping the younger players improve their game," Ashley said.

This year's roster also includes four freshmen, and six juniors, including quarterback Hayden Schafer.

"We're short of players this year, but we're working hard," Emerson said.

Warner agreed, adding, "We're just trying to take



Emerson



Warner

Burnt River, Pine Eagle, Joseph, Echo and Harper/Huntington.

"We try to keep improving as the season goes along and keep a positive attitude," Ashley said.

He added, while the team has a lot of younger players with less experience on the field, "they are catching on quick, and that's all we can ask them to do is keep working hard and pushing themselves and teammates to get better."

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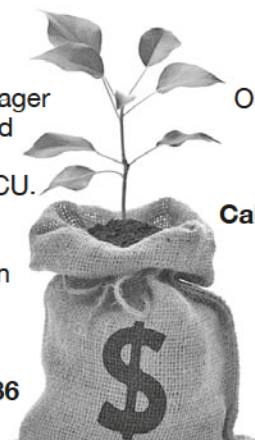
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