

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 17-19

Prairie City, Dayville/
Monument basketball @
Union Tourney in Union,
girls and boys TBA

Friday-Saturday, Dec. 18-19

Grant Union
wrestling
@ Elgin
Tournament
in Elgin, 1
p.m./10 a.m.



Saturday, Dec. 19

Grant Union
basketball
@ Heppner
in Heppner,
girls 4 p.m./
boys 5:30
p.m.



Monday, Dec. 21

Grant Union
basketball @ Irrigon in
Irrigon, girls 6 p.m./boys
7:30 p.m.



Grant County teams go on the road

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

CONDON — Grant County basketball teams were on the road for weekend tournaments.

Prairie City Panther boys won games against Mohawk, 50-35, and McKenzie, 62-20, at the Condon Tournament.

Head coach Jonathon Gill said Mohawk gave them their first test with a close game situation.

"I was so proud of the kids coming together as brothers to pull that victory out," Gill said.

The second game gave Gill the opportunity to get everyone in the action.

The Lady Panthers had a decisive 58-13 win over a young Mohawk team, and suffered a loss to McKenzie, 39-33.

She said the McKenzie game was a good test.

"Now we go work on improving our game," she said.

The Dayville/Monument Tiger boys pulled out two wins at the Adrian Tournament with a 59-32 win over Adrian and 74-61 over Council, Idaho.

"Adrian is a tough team," said head coach Jeff Schafer. "We started off a little slow but picked it up after the half."

The contest against Council was a "dog fight," he said. "Our boys played great team ball."

The Lady Tigers had a 54-28 loss to Adrian and beat Harper/Huntington 49-38.

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GU boys topple Mustangs at home

Pros' 20-point lead in 3rd seals the deal

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Eight Grant Union Prospector boys got in on Thursday night's scoring to claim a 56-40 win over the Crane Mustangs.

The Prospectors took the lead early on and held it through the game.

"I thought we played good fundamental basketball," said head coach Steve Speth. "We didn't shoot as well as normal, but we were able to control the

game with our defense and ball control."

Grant Union had a 27-18 lead at the half and jumped to a 20-point lead to close the third.

A few Prospectors got in on some three-point scoring, including Wyatt Weaver who led with 19 points and 10 rebounds. He also had four assists.

"I'm really excited to be with these guys," Weaver said. "I think our group is coming together and starting to click early in the season."

Speth credited the Mustangs

for a competitive game.

"Crane is a strong team, ranked in the top 10," he said. "It's a good, solid win for us."

Grant Union will face the TigerScots at the Weston-McEwen tournament which starts Friday and continues Saturday.

The stats
Grant Union vs. Crane
points/rebounds/assists/steals

Wyatt Weaver:	19/10/4/2
Ricky Weickum:	8/4/1/1
Nathan Gehley:	8/11/1/1
Duane Stokes:	8/1/1/1
Trace Gill:	4/4/1/1
Brady Burch:	4/3/1/1
Clayton Vaughan:	3/1/0/0
Zack Deiter:	2/0/1/1
Cauy Weaver:	0/3/2/0



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union Prospector Nathan Gehley fights to score against Crane Thursday night.

Seasoned Prospectors set expectations high



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union Prospector head coach Steve Speth shares a game plan with the team during last Thursday's game against Crane.

Grant Union hopeful for state competition

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Several key players from last year's Prospector boys basketball team have returned to show their experience on the court.

Steve Speth, who works with assistant coaches Kelsey Wright and Kelly Stokes, has led the team as head coach for five years and said this year's seniors are the first group he's had which started with the eighth-grade travel team.

"They have been dedicated and have worked hard and improved tremendously, not only on the court, but off as well," he said. "Our upcoming classes are also an exciting group and have tremendous potential to compete at a high level for many years to come."

Adding to the talent on

this year's roster are two juniors, six sophomores and three freshmen.

"We have good depth at the varsity level, with strong senior and sophomore classes," Speth said. "All six of our seniors look to contribute strongly to the team this year."

Wyatt Weaver and Nathan Gehley are team captains.

Weaver said his previous years playing on the team have prepared him to be a leader this year.

"I think we're coming together early this year," he said. "I'm really excited to be with these guys."

Gehley said he's glad to step into the leadership role.

"We've followed the leaders on the team in previous years and all the seniors have stuck with it," he said. "We've

all played together long enough that we work well as a team."

The other seniors are Ricky Weickum, Brady Burch, Clayton Vaughan and Trace Gill.

Some of the seniors have been playing ball together since second or third grade, Weickum said.

"Our team is looking pretty good offensively and defensively," he said. "We're looking better than in previous years. We're more focused and take care of the ball."

Burch said playing together that long has helped their team chemistry.

"It's good," he said. "Our defense is good and we've improved on our offense."

"The team is looking good," Vaughan said.

"We're working to be a tough out in the state tournament."

Speth said the team has a goal to play as a team and to do well at the state tournament.

Along the way to achieving their goals, he said they work on positive leadership, playing tough in practice and staying calm in games.

Competing in the Wapiti League in Class 2A, Speth said it will be a tough schedule this year.

Grant Union will be up against Union, Imbler, Elgin, Burns, Enterprise and Cove.

"We look forward to competing with the best teams in the state," he said. "This team is unselfish, work hard for each other and love the game of basketball — they are coachable."



Brady Burch, Nathan Gehley, Trace Gill, Clayton Vaughan, Wyatt Weaver, Ricky Weickum



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union Prospector Kaylee Wright flies above Crane defenders to score in Thursday night's game.

GU girls fire up, rein in Mustangs

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The Grant Union Lady Prospectors took a 60-48 win at their home court over the Crane Mustangs Thursday night, notching their second preseason victory.

The girls amped up their game in the second half to pull away with the 12-point win.

While Crane is a 1A class team and Grant Union is 2A, the Mustangs were ranked fourth in the preseason coaches poll.

"We started slow and made some adjustments and played much better in the second half," said Grant Union's head coach Mark Mosley.

At halftime, the Prospectors had a 27-20 lead and increased it to 46-29 in the third.

Kaylee Wright, Kori Pentzer and Heather Mosley had three steals each on the night, and Samantha Brock and Kenzie Wilson each had two.

Scoring was led by Pentzer with 19, followed by Mosley with 16, and the team shot 63 percent from the field.

"We give Crane credit. They can shoot the basketball," coach Mosley said. "At times we weren't contesting those threes and allowed them to creep back into the game. Overall, I was pleased with our defense in the second half and our offensive sets — we executed those pretty well."

Prospector Kenzie Wilson was happy with the win.

"We came out and played our game, and defense is where we thrived," she said. "It was a good win for us."

The stats
Grant Union girls vs. Crane

Kori Pentzer:	19 points, 3 steals
Heather Mosley:	16 points, 2 steals
Kenzie Wilson:	10 points, 2 steals
Kaylee Wright:	7 point, 3 steals
Samantha Brock:	4 points, 2 steals
Mariah Moulton:	4 points



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