

PROS

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Scoring was close in the opening period, but after tying it 10-10, the Prospectors kept ahead in the game. They ended the first 14-12.

Grant Union jumped ahead in the second, outscoring Imbler 13-6, increasing their lead to 27-18 at the half.

Prospector Nathan Gehley came out in the third to score, then took the defensive rebound, and Prospector Trace Gill added two more.

Gehley nabbed another rebound and scored again. He also sank two at the free-throw line later in the quarter.

Prospector Wyatt Weaver's three-point shot as the period wound down gave Grant Union a comfortable 16-point lead. However, Imbler came back to score

seven to close the gap a little.

Defensive pressure was heavy in the fourth, and Imbler scrambled to catch up.

Gill scored off a steal and then fouled out with four minutes left in the game, Grant Union leading 49-42.

Imler gained another free-throw point, and Prospector Duane Stokes sank two at the free-throw line.

With just seconds left, Imbler was one three-point basket away from sending the game into overtime.

Prospector Ricky Weickum was fouled, and his first free-throw point swirled around the rim a few times before going in, and the second was a straight shot.

Panther Garret Ryan scored a three-pointer near the buzzer, the Prospectors standing back to avoid fouling to take the win.

"It was a full team effort," Speth said. "The guys were play-

ing hard and playing smart. We had a great game."

He was impressed with Weaver's work defending 6-foot-3 senior Trace VanCleave.

"Wyatt shut him down and outscored him," Speth said. "It was fun to see him step up to that challenge."

Weaver said he was happy with the win.

"I think it's a turning point on our season, for our morale and getting us clicked around for the second part of league," he said. "That's key in our success and getting us a higher seed in districts."

The Prospectors hosted Cove the following day with a 64-13 win at the Grant Union court.

"The game with Cove allowed us to play our younger players significant minutes and also allowed us to work on our half-court offense game," Speth said. "The boys did a good job of moving the ball and getting good shots and played good half-court defense."

Grant Union gears up this week for a game at Enterprise on Saturday, and the following week on Friday, Jan. 29, they play the Highlanders in Burns. They host Union the following day.

The stats
GU vs. Imbler
Points/rebounds/assists/steals

Nathan Gehley: 14/4/2/0
 Wyatt Weaver: 13/0/4/3
 Ricky Weickum: 10/0/3/0
 Trace Gill: 6/2/0/2
 Duane Stokes: 5/3/2/0
 Zack Deiter: 5/1/1/0
 Brady Burch: 2/3/2/1
 Clayton Vaughan: 0/0/0/0
 Cauy Weaver: 0/2/0/0

GU vs. Cove

Gill: 12/5/1/3
 Burch: 12/1/2/1
 Stokes: 11/3/1/1
 Wyatt Weaver: 8/7/5/1
 Deiter: 6/4/0/0
 Gehley: 6/3/1/0
 Cauy Weaver: 4/6/1/2
 Vaughan: 3/0/2/2
 Gage Lambeth: 2/3/0/0
 Ty McDaniel: 0/1/0/1
 Weickum: 0/4/6/6
 Brogan McKrola: 0/0/0/1



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter
Grant Union Prospector Trace Gill scores over the reach of Imbler Panther Trace VanCleave in Friday's game.

DANIELLE RHODA
School: Dayville
Grade: 10
Parents: Tom and Tina Rhoda
Sport: Basketball

What I like best about my sport: "I enjoy basketball because it's a high-paced game. I especially like defense because it's more intense."

Coach's Comment: "Danielle has a very high basketball IQ and is very good at defense and getting much needed rebounds for the team."

- Coach Taylor Schmadeka

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GU

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"I think we'll be competitive at districts," he said. "We're at the upper half of the league, and a district championship is our goal."

There are 11 returning wrestlers this year, including seniors, Copenhagen and Dancer.

Copenhagen, who's wrestled for three years, said he's impressed at how the program has grown since he joined.

"I'm glad to see the program thriving," he said, adding he's

hopeful for a run at state this year.

"I was one place away (last year)," he said. "I'm hoping to improve that by at least one place this year."

Dancer has been wrestling for six years.

"This year, I've improved a lot with a 16-4 record," he said. "I feel our program this year has improved drastically, and everyone is motivated and wanting to wrestle. It's more than just a sport, we're becoming a family together."

He said his personal goal is first or second at the district competition.

Lusco has coaching assis-

tance this year from Ty Parsons, Jake Batease, Guy Johnson and Ethan Kowing — three Grant Union alumni.

The head coach said he's happy with the youth wrestling program, which Mike Strong runs with Parsons and others.

"That mat club is an amazing program," Lusco said. "When those kids get here (to high school), they'll be a huge addition. It builds the program fast."

He said Parsons is an important piece of the continuity because he helps coach the youth and the high school teams.

He added, "We want to in-

crease the number of state qualifiers, and we think we have that group here in the next year or so."

The day-to-day goals remain the same: "Do a few things, do them well and be exceptional at what we do," Lusco said.

The tough conditioning expected of the group during practice helps with endurance on the mat.

"Wrestling is hard to compare to other sports," Lusco said. "I think the mental toughness is hard to replicate. There are no breaks, no timeouts — you're on the mat until the match is over. Wrestlers are special kids."

PANTHERS

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Prairie City was outscored 11-17 in the first quarter.

Adrian is currently ranked No. 8 for the OSAA Class 1A teams (11-4, 4-1).

"They played hard," Black said of her team. "Scoring throughout the game was distributed pretty evenly."

Brianna Zwegardt and Sarah Ennis were the top scorers with nine points each, followed by Cassie Hire with eight, Raven Maloy with six and Megan Ca-

marena with two.

Black said she also appreciated the energy shown by Marnie Woodbury and fearless defense from Haley Pfefferkorn and Paige Moore.

"Our defense really shined. We had set goals in rebounding and forced turnovers, and met and exceeded in those," Black said. "The coaches are proud of the girls for not quitting, with Adrian being in the top 10 in the state. We played up to the completion even though the score did not reflect it."

Black added, "Our goal each game is to be a better team and individual at the end."

Two players who had been sick returned to play against Burnt River.

Prairie City ended the first half with a 22-7 lead.

Burnt River outscored the Panthers in the third 4-3, but Prairie City kept the lead in the fourth to take the win.

"I think we played really well as a team," Camarena said.

"We're playing better and better each game and learning how each player works," Woodbury said.

The Panthers will travel to Dayville Friday for games beginning at 6 p.m. and Burnt River on Saturday for games beginning at 2 p.m.

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