



STATE BOUND!

Grant Union, Prairie City and Dayville/Monument teams head to playoffs

GU girls host Neah-Kah-Nie in state playoff

Lady Pros win second at Wapiti District Tourney

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

LA GRANDE — The Grant Union Prospector girls earned a state playoff game at home, after placing second at the OSAA 2A Wapiti District Basketball Tournament held at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande.

The Prospectors (18-6, 10-2) will host the Neah-Kah-Nie Pirates (14-9, 11-3) on Friday at 6 p.m. at Grant Union in John Day. Doors open at 5:20 p.m.



Contributed photo/Tanni Wenger Photography

Grant Union Prospector Samantha Brock drives down court at the Wapiti District Tournament last Friday.

Admission to the game is \$6 for adults, \$4 for students.

The Lady Pros are No. 6 in the OSAA rankings, and the Pirates are No. 15.

The Grant Union girls entered the district tournament last Friday seeded second, behind No. 1-seeded Burns, ranked third in state.

The Lady Pros overpowered the Imbler Panthers on Friday with a 37-25 victory to advance to the finals.

"It was another great defensive effort," said head coach Mark Mosley. "We did start slow offensively, but we made good adjustments in the crucial times, offensively, and they were able to play together."

Grant Union was up 18-9 at the half, holding the Panthers back completely in the second quarter.

"In the first half, we didn't rebound as well as we should have," Mosley said, adding the rebounding improved in the remainder of the game, allowing them to limit the Panthers' possessions.

In the third, Grant Union outshot Imbler 15-6.

The Panthers tried to make a comeback in the fourth, shooting 10 in the quarter to Grant Union's eight, but the Prospectors took the win.

Heather Mosley was high-scorer for the game with 16 points.

The team was hampered by illness in that

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Contributed photo/Tanni Wenger Photography

Grant Union Prospector Heather Mosley (33) gets the tip over Imbler Panther Jacobi Rudd (50) in Friday's OSAA 2A Wapiti District Tournament.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Dayville/Monument Tiger Tanner Moodenbaugh scores over Jordan Valley defense in last Saturday's championship game.

Dayville-Monument boys host state playoff on Friday

Tigers topple Jordan Valley 52-46 for district title

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — After winning the district championship, the Dayville/Monument Tiger boys will host a state playoff game Saturday at their Dayville court.

Dayville School athletic director Tiffnie Schmadeka said they'll know the opponent and time of the game late Wednesday, or Thursday morning.

Admission will be \$6 for adults and \$4 for students.

The Dayville/Monument boys earned the OSAA 1A-8 High Desert District basketball title with a 52-46 win Saturday over Jordan Valley at Grant Union Junior-Senior High School in John Day.

Led by Tiger head coach Jeff Schafer, the five starters — seniors Dakota Emerson, Tanner Moodenbaugh and Jordan Bowlus and juniors Hayden Schafer and Tanner Walczyk — took on the Mustangs, staying ahead the entire game, with the exception of the first three points of the game.

The Tigers were 11-8 over Jordan Valley in the first quarter, and out-shot the Mustangs 11-7 in the second.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Dayville/Monument Tiger Dakota Emerson pushes through Jordan Valley defenders on his way to the basket in the championship game.

Dayville/Monument was ahead 39-28 going into the fourth when Jordan Valley started gaining steady momentum. The Mustangs came within two points of the Tiger lead in the final minute of the game.

The score was 48-46 with 29 seconds left, when Tiger Hayden Schafer fired off a three-pointer, and Moodenbaugh added a shot at the free-throw line for the win.

"Jordan Valley is a real tough team,"

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Dayville/Monument Tiger Dakota Emerson (21) breaks away in the hotly contested tournament championship game against the Jordan Valley Mustangs on Saturday.

The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

'HEART WIN' takes Prairie City boys to state

Panthers face Joseph at 6 p.m. Wednesday

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The Prairie City Panther boys earned their ticket to a Round One state playoff game, competing against the Joseph Eagles in Joseph at 6 p.m. Wednesday.

It was the battle of the decade last Saturday for the Prairie City Panther boys, as they beat Crane 68-58 to earn third place in the 1A-8 High Desert District Tournament.

Head coach Jonathon Gill called the victory a "heart win" as the team played for Ethan Camarena, a starter who has been out for two weeks, recovering from an injury.

"They wanted to do it for Ethan," Gill said. "I'm super proud of them."

Crane came out to a strong start, keeping ahead of Prairie City throughout most of the first quarter, but 10 points from Panther Levi Burke, two three-pointers from Wyatt Williams and five points from Garrett Hitz, including three of three from the free-throw line, tied the score 21-21.

Williams hit another three-point shot off Hitz's steal in the second and added another two points and, later, another three.

Dorran Wilson also came on fire, earning 11 points in the quarter.

A turning point in the game came when players went to the ground for the ball, a heated moment stirring some excitement from the Prairie City crowd.

Shortly after, Panther Brandon Gillihan took a steal and went up for two, was fouled and sank a free throw, further energizing the team and the Prairie City fans.

The Panthers went into the second half with a 42-27 lead.

Crane outshot Prairie City in the third, 12-8, but the Panthers still had a healthy 50-39 lead.

The Mustangs tried closing the gap in the fourth, coming within two points of the Panthers, 54-52.

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Prairie City Panther Brandon Gillihan scores and is fouled during the 1A High Desert District win over the Crane Mustangs for third.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Prairie City's Dorran Wilson (3) flies up to sink a bucket for the Panthers.