



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union Prospector Kori Pentzer in action against the Neah-Kah-Nie Pirates during last Saturday's Round One state playoff game held at Grant Union.

# GU girls advance to quarterfinals

Lady Pros sink Pirates 47-13 in Round One

By Angel Carpenter  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Grant Union Prospector girls earned a trip to this week's OSAA 2A State Basketball Championship Tournament quarterfinals after overpowering the Neah-Kah-Nie Pirates 47-13 last Friday in the first round.

The Prospectors will compete against the Burns Hilanders at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Pendleton High School.

The last time Grant Union met up with Burns was at the Wapiti District Tournament championship game in La Grande where the Prospectors played a close game, but lost by three.

Prospector head coach Mark Mosley said that game shows his team competes at the same level with the Hilanders — Burns (25-2) is No. 3 in

OSAA rankings, and Grant Union (19-6) is No. 6.

The Lady Pros came out on fire on Friday, hosting the Neah-Kah-Nie Pirates of Rockaway Beach at the Grant Union court.

Grant Union applied strong defensive pressure from the start of the game, and throughout.

Prospector Kori Pentzer had a steal in the first few minutes of play, as well as Prospector Samantha Brock who took it to the hoop.

Grant Union's Heather Mosley had the first two points on the scoreboard, followed by a perfect two at the free-throw line, and Brock added four points before the Pirates' Caitlyn Scull scored.

The first quarter ended 11-4, Scull scoring four for the Pirates.

For Grant Union, Mosley had four, Brock four, and Mariah Moulton hit one of two at the free-throw line.

See *GIRLS*, Page A11



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union Prospector Kenzie Wilson (12, white uniform) pushes past Neah-Kah-Nie Pirate Alaina Holm.

## Two Grant Union wrestlers make podium at state

Coach: State run represents years of hard work

By Angel Carpenter  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

PORTLAND — Three Grant Union wrestlers, Clay Johnson, Andrew Copenhaver and Antonio Dancer, made their appearance at Portland's Veterans Memorial Coliseum last week for the OSAA State Wrestling Championship.

Johnson and Copenhaver made it to the podium, placing fourth.

"We wrestled well," said Grant Union head coach Andy Lusco. "All three of our wrestlers were put out of the championship side of the bracket by the state champions of their respective brackets — there are no easy wins at state."

On Day One of the tournament, Friday, Clay Johnson (132) defeated Nathan Heitzman of Gilchrist, 8 to 5 in his first round, then lost in the quarterfinals.

"Clay had a very tough bracket," Lusco said.

He won once on the consolation side of the bracket before losing by decision in the third-place match.

Andrew Copenhaver (152) wrestled strong all three rounds against first seed Thomas Harvey of Lowell, losing 4-2 in a close match and went on to win the consolation quarterfinal, beating Cody Allphin of Chiloquin.

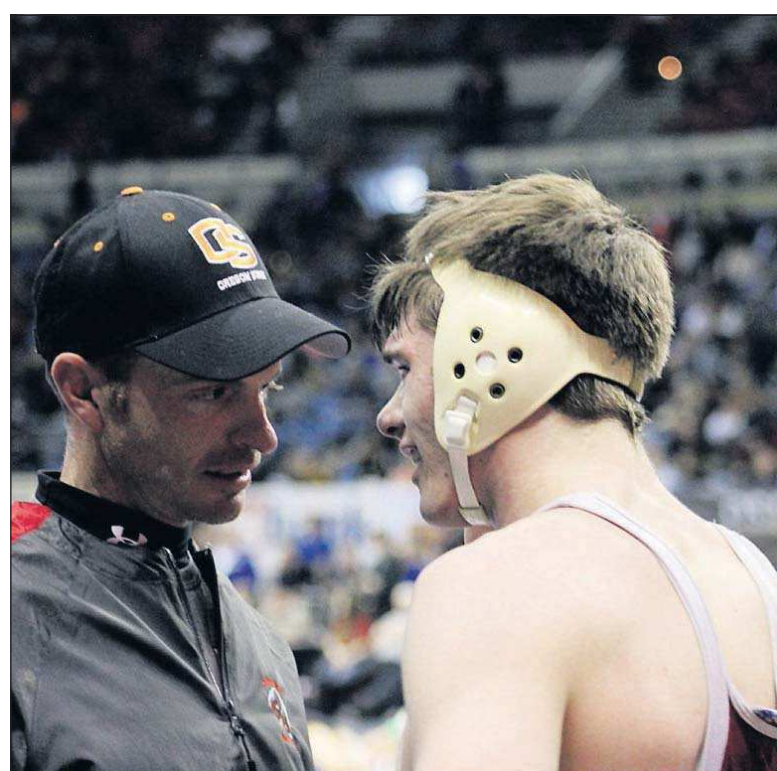
"Andrew came in as the eighth seed and wrestled very well to finish fourth overall," Lusco said. "He lost a 4-2 decision to the No. 1 seed, then won two more matches before losing in the third place match."

Antonio Dancer (138) won 5 to 3 over Devin Lichte of Reedsport on Day One, then went on to lose twice.

"He wrestled hard and performed well for his first trip to state," Lusco said.

He said the fact that each of the three found a way to win at least one match at state is highly commendable.

See *WRESTLERS*, Page A11



Contributed photo/Angie Johnson

Grant Union wrestler Andrew Copenhaver speaks with assistant coach Tye Parsons last Friday at the state wrestling tournament held at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

## Tigers close out successful season at home court

Hosanna Christian, 67  
 Dayville/Monument, 64

By Angel Carpenter  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

DAYVILLE — The Dayville/Monument Tigers' season came to an unsettling end at the Dayville School basketball court last Saturday after losing their Round One state playoff game 64-67 to the Hosanna Christian Lions in overtime.

Seconds were ticking down in regulation time, the score tied 55-55, when Dayville/Monument's Jordan Bowlus sank a three-point shot at the buzzer.

The Tiger fans, coach and players cheered, believing they had just won the game — some fans sprang in celebration onto the court.

However, after referees chatted, the clock was set for overtime play.

The teams were evenly matched, the Tigers No. 7 in OSAA rankings with a 21-6 overall record, and the Lions No. 9 with a 25-4 record.

The Tigers won the Feb. 20 championship game of the High Desert District Tournament; the Lions, of Klamath Falls, placed second in the Mountain Valley League.

Five Tiger starters played start to finish in last week's game — Dakota Emerson, Tanner Moodenbaugh, Jordan Bowlus, Hayden Schafer and Tanner Walczyk — led by four-year head coach Jeff Schafer.

Dayville/Monument had a slow start, trailing by a couple points, and the Lions steadily increased their lead by 10.

The Tigers made a comeback with Emerson sinking a three-point bucket, followed by 2 points from Moodenbaugh.

After Lion player Nicco Bustamante came up empty at the free-throw line, 1:38 left, Bowlus hit a three-pointer.

See *TIGERS*, Page A11

## Prairie City boys end season at state playoffs

Joseph, 53

Prairie City, 45

By Angel Carpenter  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

JOSEPH — The Prairie City Panthers closed a whirlwind season with a 45-53 loss to the Joseph Eagles Feb. 24 in Round One of the state playoffs.

It's the first year since 2007 that the Panther boys made it to the state playoffs, said Prairie City athletic director Billy Colson.

The Panthers were led this season by first-year head coach Jonathon Gill, and assistant coaches Bob Hassmiller and Charles Lawrence.

The Prairie City team entered a noisy, intense atmosphere at the Joseph High gym — the Eagles had a large fan base and a pep band. Prairie City also brought plenty of fans, including family, friends, the girls basketball team and other community members.

Joseph got off to a quick start, which likely won the game for them, as Prairie City was neck and neck with them the rest of the way.

The first period ended with Joseph leading 14-6.

"That first quarter got us due to their fan base — it rattled us," said head coach Jonathon Gill. "That was one of the keys."

With even scoring in the second, Joseph still led 25-17.

Prairie City outshot the Eagles 13-11 in the third, trailing 30-36.

"There was a moment in the game, where Joseph increased the lead by 16 in the third quarter, and we got it as close as four," Gill said. "We just could never break through."

He said he gives credit to Joseph who came prepared.

"They had a very good game plan and executed it very well," Gill said.

See *PANTHERS*, Page A11