

TIGERS

Continued from Page A10

The ball went back and forth and Hayden Schafer grabbed a rebound, returning for a three-point shot to close the first quarter, the Tigers trailing 18-19.

The Lions again made steady gains in the second, and when the Tigers were down 19-26, Bowlus made a two-point shot, Emerson a three, Moodenbaugh added a shot at the line and Walczyk's three-pointer tied the score 28-28.

Moodenbaugh added one more free-throw shot for a one-point lead going into the half.

A technical was called on Hosanna Christian in the third, and after tying up the score twice, the Tigers built a six-point lead, only to have the Lions creep back up to lead 44-42 going into the fourth.

Pressure was building in the final period, the scoring see-sawing back and forth, Emerson hit two three-pointers and a two-point shot, Bowlus a two-pointer and Schafer a three-pointer.

The Tigers had a 55-52 lead with 40 seconds left, then the Lions gained a point at the free-throw line and tied it with a two-point shot.

In overtime, the Lions held the Tigers to 55 while gaining a 10-point lead.

With just 1:36 left, Bowlus hit a three-point shot, Emerson a three and, with less than a minute left, Bowlus hit another three.

Hosanna sank one more shot at the line, and in the final seconds the Tigers' shots didn't fall.

Four extra Lions players rotating in and out, and a few more trips to the line, may have given Hosanna Christian an edge over Dayville/Monument; however, the Tiger five gave a performance their fans will likely never forget.

Of the Tiger's 64 points, 39 came from three-point shots, and the team came out strong on defense, including rebounding.

"The boys played great," Coach Schafer said. "They started off slow, but they fought back."

He said video tape of the game shows Bowlus' buzzer-beater shot should have counted in the fourth.

"It's a little disappointing to make the shot to win the game at the end of regulation and have the ref wave it off," he said.

Still, he said he's enjoyed coaching the Tigers this year.

"I am so proud of the team and the great season they had," he said. "They are wonderful young men, and they handle themselves with class."

He added, he'll miss seniors Emerson, Moodenbaugh and Bowlus.

"They were a lot of fun to coach," he said.

Emerson said he was pleased with his team's success this year.

"It was a great season — the best season I could ask for," he said. "We came a long ways, and we surprised a lot of people in how well we played."

The stats
Dayville/Monument vs. Hosanna Christian
Dakota Emerson: 25 points, six 3-point shots
Jordan Bowlus: 16 points, four 3-point shots
Tanner Moodenbaugh: 12 points
Hayden Schafer: 6 points, two 3-point shots, 8 assists
Tanner Walczyk: 5 points, one 3-point shot

WRESTLERS

Continued from Page A10

"Being a state qualifier is a major accomplishment that represents a tremendous amount of hard work not just this season, but for years," Lusco said. "These young men are fine examples of that work ethic."

Lusco said the 1A/2A Class only takes eight wrestlers at each weight to state and of those, only four place.

"I could not be more proud of these three young men," he said. "Clay will be returning for another run at a state title, and Andrew and Antonio ended their careers at GUHS on a high note."

Lusco added, "This was a great season for Grant Union wrestling with 11 district placers, a second place team finish (at the district tournament), three state qualifiers, and two state placers. We are excited for the future of the program as we look at our quality junior high wrestlers and our thriving mat club."

Dayville's Skip Inscore named 'Inspirational Teacher'

Also awarded for service to student athletes

Blue Mountain Eagle

LA GRANDE — Dayville School teacher Skip Inscore has again been nominated by a former student to receive an "Inspirational Teacher" award from Eastern Oregon University.

This time, Inscore was chosen by 2015 Dayville

graduate Sage Flower, who is now attending EOU. Inscore is one of 26 educators from Oregon, Washington, California and Nevada to receive the award.

Inscore, who teaches history, was nominated in 2014 by former student Daryl Ann Waltenburg.

First-year honor students at EOU who maintain dean's list standing during the fall term are given the opportunity each year to nominate a teacher who influenced them on their road to higher edu-

cation and academic excellence.

The awards are given annually to recognize high school teachers who encourage and represent the importance of higher education to their students.

On Feb. 20, Inscore was awarded a plaque at the 1A-8 High Desert League Basketball Championships for over 30 years of dedication to student-athletes of the Tri-Co and High Desert Leagues, as well as other Eastern Oregon student-athletes.



Skip Inscore a Dayville School teacher and former Dayville School athletic director holds an award given to him for his 30-plus years of service to the student-athletes of the Tri-Co and High Desert Leagues. He received the award on Feb. 20 after the Dayville/Monument Tigers won the championship title at the High Desert District Tournament.

The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

GIRLS

Continued from Page A10

The Prospectors held the Pirates to zero in the second.

At one point, when Kenzie Wilson stole the ball, the Pirates jumped on it, battling for possession.

Pentzer followed up shortly after with a three-point shot — she lit the hoop on fire, scoring 11 in the period. Wilson and Mosley added two points each to end the half 26-4.

Grant Union again worked to keep the ball in their hands in the third, and outshot Neah-Kah-Nie 14-4.

The final period started with back and forth possession.

Pirates Annie Romig and Alaina Holm added five points in the quarter, Romig sinking a three-point bucket, but the Prospectors stayed in control.

Mosley was perfect at the line again for two and scored another two, and Pentzer went one of two at the line.

With approximately three minutes left in the game, the Grant Union starters came off the floor with a second string of



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union Prospectors Heather Mosley is perfect at the free-throw line in Round One against Neah-Kah-Nie Pirates.

players taking over.

Prospector freshman Trinity Hutchison added two points near the close.

Grant Union head coach Mark Mosley said he feels like a broken record.

"It's our defense that gets it done," he said. "Defense sets the stage. I had a feeling that they wouldn't be able to handle our pressure, and I challenged them to keep the clamps on defensively and they did a tremen-

dous job."

Neah-Kah-Nie head coach Corey Douma called Grant Union a talented team.

"It was a tough game," he said, adding his team "battled hard and never gave up."

He wished Grant Union well at state, and highlighted Pentzer from the Prospector team.

"She's a talented player, surrounded by a lot of other talented players," he said.

Now Grant Union will plan for their game against Burns.

"With Burns, it comes down to a couple things in the ball games," coach Mosley said. "They been working hard on that, and I think they're up to the challenge."

Grant Union players expressed their excitement at the victory and advancement to the state tournament.

"It feels great to have a win, and I'm happy to have a team that can support each other," said Jozie Rude.

"It's been a really long time since we've had a home state playoff game," Wilson said. "That was one of our goals at the beginning of the year. It was an exhilarating feeling to get

that goal — now we're moving to the next goal."

Brock said she's also excited to move on to Pendleton, adding, "We played really well together and our intensity stayed up throughout the game. I'm really pleased with everything."

"We worked hard for this, and we're ready," Pentzer said. "This is what we worked for all season,

and it's starting to pay off. I'm thankful for my team."

The stats
Grant Union vs. Neah-Kah-Nie
Grant Union had 13 rebounds, was 38 percent on 3-point attempts, 60 percent on free-throws and had 13 turnovers.
Kori Pentzer: 19 points, four 3-point shots
Heather Mosley: 10
Mariah Moulton: 6, one 3-point shot
Kenzie Wilson: 6
Samantha Brock: 4
Trinity Hutchison: 2

PANTHERS

Continued from Page A10

He added, "I was very proud of our team. They did what we did all season — we could have easily folded, but I was proud because our kids represented Prairie City well by fighting to the bitter end. They didn't want the season to end and it showed."

In the fourth, Joseph shot 17 to Prairie City's 15 for the win.

"For the most part, it was a highly competitive game," Gill said. "For our program, it gave us a taste of the state playoffs — now they want even more."

Scoring for both teams was led by Panther senior Garrett Hitz with 21 points.

Gill said Hitz told him he wished they'd gone farther, then added, "we have to start somewhere."

The coach added, one of the biggest highlights of the season was beating Crane 68-58 at the High Desert District Tournament — the first time in 10 years or more.

"I'm so proud of the kids," Gills said. "They knocked off a big burden in beating Crane. Overall, we reached our goal to make it to this game. I



Scot Heisel/Wallowa County Chieftain

Cayden DeLury (23), Jake Chrisman (21), Wyatt Smith (3), Wyatt Williams (12), Dorran Wilson (with ball), Aaron Borgerding (24) and Garrett Hitz (23) on Wednesday night in Joseph.

think that for the seniors, they didn't go out with their heads down — this was just a starting point."

Seniors closing out their high school basketball careers are Hitz, Ethan Camarena and Brandon Gillihan.

Gill said he looks forward to returning as coach next year.

"This is my first year coaching, and these guys took me on an amazing ride," Gill said of the entire team, adding, "What stands out to me the most, and what is most important to me is all the growth and success I see these young men having off the court."

The stats
Prairie City vs. Joseph
Garrett Hitz: 21 points
Dorran Wilson: 10
Wyatt Williams: 6
Ethan Camarena: 4
Levi Burke: 2
Brandon Gillihan: 2

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COUNTRY FINANCIAL

the corner's HOT SHOT OF THE WEEK

ELIJAH HUMBIRD

School: Grant Union
Grade: 10
Parents: Eddie and Julie Humbird
Sport: Wrestling

What I like best about my sport: "It's a really challenging sport with a great group of kids. We did exceptionally well this year, beating teams that we haven't beaten before. I look forward to next year."

Coach's Comment: "Elijah is a first-year wrestler who worked incredibly hard, has natural skill and is an excellent leader. He won almost 20 matches and placed fifth at districts."

- Coach Andy Lusco

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