

PROS

Continued from Page B1

The score 6-6, Sheridan pulled ahead with four runs to Grant Union's one in the seventh for the win.

Deiter pitched the first four innings with Wade Reimers finishing at the mound.

"They're still trying to get a feel for things, and I look

forward to seeing what they can do," Delaney said.

Grant Union shook off Friday's loss and refocused for Saturday's win over Oakland.

"We were more aggressive at the plate and played better defense," Delaney said, adding, "Brady Burch pitched six solid innings."

Burch struck out eight, walked four and gave up four hits.

Brogan McKrola took the mound in the seventh to finish off the game, striking out one and giving up one run.

Grant Union held onto the lead after the third with Hayden Young's two-run double and, later, Wyatt Weaver's score on a fielder's choice and Reimers' score on an error.

The Prospectors face Elgin on the road at 1 p.m. Saturday.



Grant Union Prospector Wade Reimers pitches to Sheridan during the Les Schwab Tournament in John Day.

Contributed photo
Tanni Wenger Photography

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Friday, April 1

Grant Union golf @ Pendleton Invite in Pendleton, 8 a.m.



Grant Union softball vs. Heppner in John Day (2), 12 p.m.



Grant Union, Prairie City, Dayville track @ Don Walker Invite in Nyssa, 2 p.m.



Saturday, April 2

Grant Union softball @ Lakeview in Lakeview (2), 1 p.m.

Grant Union baseball @ Elgin in Elgin (2), 1 p.m.

Tuesday, April 5

Grant Union softball vs. Culver in John Day (2), 2 p.m.

Grant Union track hosts Small Schools Invite in John Day (All Grant County teams invited), 3:30 p.m.

Grant Miners compete for bronze

Special Olympian Rodney Brunson earns gold

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

SPRINGFIELD — Ten athletes on the Grant County Special Olympics team gave their all on the court, competing at the March 12 regional basketball contest in Springfield.

The Grant Miners 5-on-5 team won bronze medals, competing against teams from Klamath, Lane and Josephine counties.

Local team members included Charley Fronapel, Crystal Wimberley, Josiah Hoeffner, Elizabeth Swarthout, Jay Colson, Caleb Madsen, Katie Latham and Brian McKrola, led by head coach



Contributed photo

A Springfield police officer congratulates the Grant County Special Olympics team at the regional competition in Springfield. The athletes, from left, are: Caleb Madsen, Crystal Wimberly, Brian McKrola, Jay Colson, Katie Lambeth, coach David Gill (back), Elizabeth Swarthout, Charley Fronapel (back) and Josiah Hoeffner. Rodney Brunson and Katie Shockly also competed in individual skills.

David Gill and assistant coach Kodi Bremner.

Gill said he was proud of the team.

"They worked very hard

and had good sportsmanship," he said, adding he's looking forward to track and field with the athletes this summer.

"It's going to be a lot of fun," Deronda said.

For more information, call Deronda Lallatin at Sue-Z-Q's Thrift Shop at 541-575-0715.

Rodney Brunson received a gold medal, competing in individual skills for his division, and Katie Shockley earned silver.

The two athletes were coached by Deronda Lallatin and assistant coaches Michael Shockley and Audrey Lallatin.

"Katie improved wonderfully over her previous scores, and Rodney did a great job," Deronda said.

She added, next year, they plan to add a unified 5-on-5 basketball team, combining Special Olympics athletes with other athletes on teams for some tough competition.

Participants need a sports physical and commit to attending at least 10 practices and the regional competition.

"It's going to be a lot of fun," Deronda said.

For more information, call Deronda Lallatin at Sue-Z-Q's Thrift Shop at 541-575-0715.

the corner's
HOT SHOT
OF THE WEEK

BRADY BURCH
School: Grant Union
Grade: 12
Parents: Neal and Melody Burch
Sport: Baseball

What I like best about my sport: "I just love being on the field and playing baseball with my teammates and having a good time."

Coach's Comment: "He did a great job this week of clearing his head, refocusing and staying positive when we needed him the most. He's been very consistent at the plate and delivered a great performance on the mound in Saturday's win."

- Coach Brian Delaney

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LADY PROS

Continued from Page B1

As was the case last year, the Grant Union team includes a Dayville and a Prairie City player. League competitors are Weston-McEwen/Griswold, Riverside/Arlington, Echo/Stanford, Vale, Umatilla, Nyssa, Enterprise/Joseph/Wallowa and Elgin/Imbler.

"The team goal, obviously, is to fight for that league championship, and the girls' goal is to play together and be together," she said.

Assistant coaches helping Nash and the team work toward those goals include Les DeHaven, AshLee Brockway and Nash's husband, Monty, and their daughter, Kennedy.

Kennedy Nash and Brockway will mainly travel with the junior varsity team, but also provide support for the varsity coaching, coach Nash said.

The Lady Pros meet up with some competitive teams in non-league play to get their feet wet before league play.

"Our league is strong, but if our goal is to make a run



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union Prospector Madi McKrola reaches first base as Janelle King makes the stretch in practice March 16. In the foreground is Ravyn Walker and on third is Tressa Ranft.

at state, that competition will only help," she said.

Two league teams Nash has her eye on are Vale and Weston-McEwen, which is new to the Eastern Oregon League.

"Weston-McEwen is a powerhouse — one more tough team," Nash said. "Stanfield returns quite a few kids, right there in the running, with the rest of the league a bit unknown."

She said when teams compete against Grant Union "they know the girls play

hard, love the game and know how to play," adding the junior varsity team is also competitive.

Between the varsity and junior varsity teams, there are 23 players.

Nash has five pitchers to choose from for the varsity circle, including: Cody Jo Madden, Natalie Stearns, Mariah Meyerholz, Macy Strong and Brianna Zwegardt.

"Pitching is going to be our strength," Nash said. "I think we have a great group of girls who are going to fight

through each game."

Seniors on the team include: Jaylyn Bishop, Taylor McCluskey, Railey Namitz, Mariah Gibson, Janelle King and Jocelynn Smith.

Bishop, who was played softball for six years, said it was great to be a part of the team. Her cousin Leonard Radinovich, who played baseball for Grant Union and later for Baker High School, died in a car crash last year, so this season is even more sentimental.

"It's a family," she said, "and with every win or loss, every game is dedicated to Leonard."

McCluskey said she's feeling bittersweet about her senior year on the team.

"So far, the season is going good," she said, "and I can't wait — I'm very excited for the season."

Namitz said softball is her favorite sport, and she'll feel sad when the season comes to a close.

"Win or lose, we'll leave everything on the field," she said. "I love my softball family."

This is Mariah Gibson's first year playing the sport.

"It was rough at first, but it's getting better, and it's fun."

"It's been great being a part of this team," said Janelle King, who has played the last four years. "It's fun because we can be silly in practice and serious too. I'm excited for the rest of the season."

"I'm so thankful to be a part of this team," said Smith, who's played the last three years on the team. "I don't want it to be my last year, but I'm excited to see how far our team will go."

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Date: April 2, 2016
Time: 9 am to 2 pm
Location: Grant County Road Department, 27941 Lower Yard Rd., John Day
Sponsored By: Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Grant County
Questions: Call Jamie Jones at 541-298-7255 x 225

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