



# GU girls start league play with 3 wins, 1 loss

## Lady Pros hosts Echo/Stanfield on Friday

By Angel Carpenter  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

ELGIN — The Grant Union Lady Prospectors started off league softball last week with split wins in Enterprise on Friday and

sweep in Elgin on Saturday.

Enterprise had a surprise for Grant Union in the sixth inning for their 8-4 Game One win. The teams were tied 1-1 in the first and, by the fifth, found themselves tied again 4-4. Then the Outlaws broke out with four runs in the sixth for the win.

Cody Jo Madden pitched a complete game, giving up nine hits and four walks. The Outlaws gave up nine hits, one walk

and had one hit batter.

Grant Union's Mariah Moulton, Whitney McClellan and Janelle King each had two hits.

"The first Enterprise game, we had plenty of hits, but we couldn't string anything together to produce the runs we needed," said Grant Union head coach DeAnna Nash. "They were able to put hits together in the sixth inning to pull ahead of us."

The tables turned in Game Two.

A better game plan and Moulton's pitching led to Grant Union's 7-2 win, Nash said.

Moulton struck out three, gave up seven hits and no walks. She also had three hits from the plate, and Railey Namitz had two.

On Saturday, Grant Union's offense was on fire.

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EO Media Group/Scot Heisel

Grant Union's Whitney McClellan beats out a bunt to first, as Mariah Moulton races in to score in the game against Enterprise.

## GU track and field team ready to soar

32-member team includes several underclassmen

By Angel Carpenter  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Grant Union head track and field coach Sonna Smith is getting her team on the mark for rest of the season.

The 2A-6 Wapiti League Districts are a little more than three weeks away, and the Prospectors athletes hope to gain state-qualifying results.

Smith, who's coached the team for several years, said the group of 32 includes several underclassmen.

"They actually add a lot to the team," she said. "A lot of them are above where I thought they would be at the beginning of the season, for being younger."

She added, "We're lucky that most of them have already participated in a varsity sport, and that helps them realize the intensity I expect."

The team includes three seniors, Kenzie Wilson, Andrew Copenhaver and Samantha Brock. Each competed at state last year.

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The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union track and field seniors are, from left, Samantha Brock, Andrew Copenhaver and Kenzie Wilson. Each competed at state last year.



Contributed photo/LindseyWyllie.com

Monument High School junior GW Clark bulldogs at the Klamath Falls High School Rodeo.

## GW Clark on the high school rodeo circuit

By Angel Carpenter  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

LONG CREEK — Long Creek's GW Clark is getting back into the rodeo groove.

The Monument High School junior competed at the April 1-3 Klamath Falls High School Rodeo, riding with the Harney County High School Rodeo Club.

Clark placed fifth in tie-down roping at the event.

"It was the first rodeo for me this year," he said. "I got a new horse for bulldogging, so it was a good ice breaker."

Clark, who competes in calf roping, team roping and steer wrestling, will next travel to the April 22-24 Hermiston High School Rodeo.



Contributed photo/LindseyWyllie.com

Monument high school junior GW Clark competes in the tie-down roping event at the April 1-3 Klamath High School Rodeo.

## North Fork John Day provides early season exercise

By Tim Trainor  
 EO Media Group

If your summer goal is a week-long backpack in the Eagle Caps or the Elkhorns, you may be looking for early season opportunities to stretch your legs and your mileage without having to posthole your way through high country snow.

The North Fork John Day River Trail offers an alternative.

Warm, scenic and mostly flat, the 23-mile trail makes a good choice for a long spring day hike or an overnight backpack trip.

The trail begins with about two miles of easy walking along an old road that skirts alongside the North Fork John Day. It then diverges at a large, open camping spot where Big Creek and its trail pours into the John Day fork. This is where the wilderness area begins, and only horses and hikers can continue along an old mining road route that follows the river. It becomes more narrow and more scenic as it gets more remote.

The trail is classic Eastern Oregon. Hot and dusty midday. Lots of ponderosa and lodgepole pines mixed with Douglas fir and larch. Willows fill the river bottoms. You can catch glimpses of plenty of mule deer rear ends, bounding away into the surrounding hills. The water, where relatively calm, is covered with mergansers. Canadian geese have coupled off and built their nests on river islands.

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### How to get there

For Grant County residents, the trail is best accessed by heading north on Highway 395 to the Umatilla County line. Turn east when you hit the North Fork John Day River and make your way via Forest Road 55 to Forest Road 5506. It's easy navigating — just keep the river alongside your passenger door. Follow that road to the "Road Closed" sign just past Oriental Campground.

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