



Team Long Creek: 12 athletes learn, improve together



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter
Long Creek's track and field seniors are, from left, Raquel Silva, Fernando Rodriguez and Aaron Yeung.

First-year coach Studtmann proud of team's effort

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

LONG CREEK — Several athletes on the Long Creek Mountaineers track and field team are new to the sport but, with a little elbow grease, are making strides.

The varsity team has 12 athletes led by first-year head coach Linda Studtmann and assistant

coach Jennifer Garinger. "For many of our athletes, it is their first year doing track and field," Studtmann said.

Even though it is their first year, most athletes have improved their times and marks in multiple events over the season.

At the most recent High Desert League Meet in Prairie City last Thursday, five gained personal records.

The Mountaineers are often seen standing together in their red and white uniforms, cheering on their teammates — or joking with them.

There are three seniors: Aar-

on Yeung, Fernando Rodriguez and Raquel Silva.

"We have a really good team this year, and a nice coach," said Yeung, who competes in the 100-meter dash, 200, 400, long jump and 4x100 relay. "Everybody wants to win, and we practice hard. I appreciate that the school gives us the opportunity to compete in track."

Rodriguez has competed in the 100, 110 hurdles, high jump, long jump and triple jump.

"This is the first time I've done track," he said. "It's good, because I've discovered that I'm not that bad."

Silva said her old school didn't offer shot put and discus, so those are the events she's trying out this season, as well as javelin.

The fun part of track for her: "We get close to each other, and other people at the track meets," she said.

Studtmann said the team is gaining ground.

"They are all working hard to learn and improve in their events," she said. "It means a lot to me as a coach to watch them put in the effort and to see their excitement each time they PR. I'm proud of them all."

GC track teams prep for District

Athletes take on Baker, Prairie City meets

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

BAKER CITY — Friday's Baker Invitational was an exciting meet for Grant County teams as athletes soared to new heights.

Prairie City's Garrett Hitz, who broke his previous school pole vault record with a 14-foot mark at the High Desert League Meet in Prairie City last Thursday, broke it again in Baker City by 9 inches, earning first place.

Hitz also placed second in the 110 hurdles and 300 hurdles at the Baker meet.

"There were 27 teams at this meet, so plenty of tough competition," said Prairie City coach Joe Weymouth. "The athletes will be working hard this week to prepare for the 1A district meet being held in Ontario this year."

Grant Union's track coach Sonna Smith was pleased with her athletes' results in Baker.

"We had a strong showing in field events again," she said.

Kaylee Wright won high jump and javelin, and was fourth in the 100-meter dash and seventh in the 200, scoring 27 points for Grant Union.

Jozie Rude had a first-place finish in shot put, second in javelin and third in pole vault for a total of 24 points.

"These two ladies led our team to a second-place finish," Smith said. "We were missing two key athletes in Samantha Brock and Kori Pentzer. We will have both back for district."

She said her athletes are peaking at the right time, but so are other schools in the league, so it will be a battle at the district meet for first place.

"In the 21 years I have coached, I have had girls teams place second at state, third at state twice and a couple of fourth, fifth and sixths, but I have never had a girls league championship," she said. "This year, we are setting strong in field events but weak in running," she said. "We are hoping our field events will be able to carry our team, and we will finally bring home a girls league championship."

Monument track coach Darrin Dailey said their team goal for Baker was personal records and preparation for the district meet.

Sophie Pettit claimed the top 100-meter time with a repeat of her

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The Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Prairie City's Garrett Hitz reaches 14 feet in the pole vault, breaking his previous school record.



LEFT: Prairie City's Wyatt Williams, left, and Long Creek's Aaron Yeung and others compete at last Thursday's High Desert League Meet in Prairie City. RIGHT: Competing in the 100-meter dash are Prairie City athletes Teri Cobb, second from left, and Hayley Pfefferkorn, right.



Tucker Wright to bulldog at CNFR

Wright and Riley Clark compete in Hermiston

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

HERMISTON — Local rodeo cowboy Tucker Wright of Canyon City will compete at the June 20 College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming.

Wright, who rides for Walla Walla Community College in Walla Walla, Washington, finished fourth overall in steer wrestling for the Northwest Region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association, and 23rd in the nation.

The top three in the region automatically qualify for the CNFR, and the coach can pick from the top five to add to the team. WWCC coach Buster Barter added Wright to the team.

This will be Wright's second run at the national competition.

Last year, he finished seventh in the nation as a college freshman.

"I'm going to try to make it better than it was last year," he said, adding he's looking forward to returning. "It's an exciting experience."

Wright, the son of Trent and Jamie Wright of Canyon City, is working toward an associate degree in animal science and ag business.

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Contributed photo/LindseyWyllie.com

Tucker Wright bulldogs in the Northwest Regional No. 6 rodeo April 29 in Hermiston, finishing sixth in the event, riding for Walla Walla Community College.

Lady Prospectors face Vikings in rough waters

Grant Union hosts Riverside Friday

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

VALE — The Grant Union Prospectors fell hard to the Vale Vikings in softball action last Friday.

Vale came away with two wins on their home turf, 5-2 and 17-3.

Grant Union head coach DeAnna Nash said Game One was close.

"This was a tough-fought battle, and the game could have gone either way," she said.

Grant Union had a 2-1 lead going in to the bottom of the fourth inning when Vale tied up the score.

Vale rallied in the bottom of the fifth with a three-run home run just over the outstretched mitt of Prospector Whitney McClellan.

Windy conditions didn't help Grant Union, and although the team had a couple more chances in the sixth and seventh, the runs didn't materialize.

Prospector Cody Jo Maden pitched through five innings with Brianna Zweggard relieving in the sixth.

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Prospectors get ready for must-win games

GU baseball hosts Rockets 11 a.m. Saturday

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The Grant Union Prospector baseball team had a series of close games against Weston-McEwen — including one that went to 10 innings — but couldn't catch a break.

Weston-McEwen had a 6-3 and 7-6 upperhand last Friday, as well as 3-2 Tuesday, May 3.

Prospector fans were on pins and needles through it all, hoping for wins to help the team reach district competition.

If Grant Union wins two out of four of their remaining games, they could tie for third with Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii.

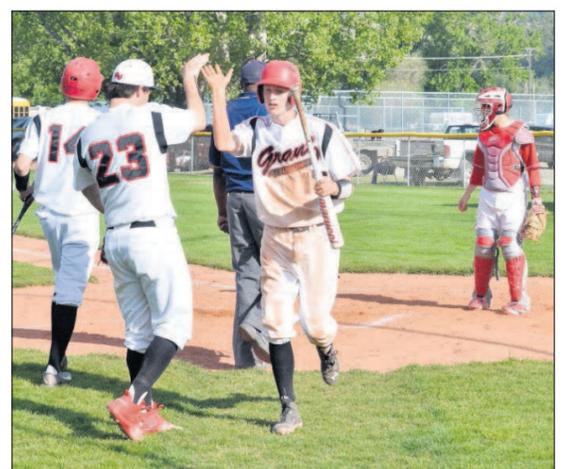
Their next three games are against Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii, and their final game is with Union/Cove.

In Game One Friday, Grant Union grabbed the lead in the top of the fourth, 3-1.

The TigerScots evened the score in the fifth and held Grant Union at bay while rallying with three runs in the sixth with the win.

Prospector Clayton Vaughan singled in the second inning, and scored Ty McDaniels and Wyatt Weaver, doubling in the fourth.

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The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union's Zack Deiter (13) gets a high-five from teammate Clayton Vaughan (23) after scoring in the bottom of the fifth inning May 3.