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*Grant County Life*  
SPORTS • OUTDOORS • CLASSIFIEDS

# GU team ready to net wins

Three varsity starters return this year

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

There's been a shake up for the 2A Grant Union volleyball team and Wapiti League this year.

One of the Prospector varsity starters transferred schools, and five seniors graduated.

Adding to the changes, the Burns Hilanders, one of Grant Union's toughest opponents, have moved from the 2A class to 3A.

Kori Pentzer, who was an offensive force for the Prospectors the past two years, transferred to an Idaho school. Without her and the five graduates, the team will have three returning varsity starters: seniors Chelsie Kodesh and Heather Mosley and junior Mariah Moulton, each with three to four years of experience on varsity.

"They bring a lot of leadership to the team," Speth said.

Senior Natalie Stearns also has varsity experience.

Speth said varsity starters and team positions haven't been filled yet, but expected to have the final roster complete next week.

"It may change throughout the season as there is a lot of strong competition for a few positions," she said. "I generally like fewer on varsity to help develop team chemistry. We have so many athletes that can play all six rotations, so we usually have smaller numbers on varsity in the rotation."

Kodesh was libero, or defensive specialist, for the past two seasons, but she'll return as an outside hitter, which she played as a freshman.

"She is a strong passer and defender, and a smart hitter," Speth said. "She'll be consistent for us at this position."

During last year's final game at state, Kodesh fueled a rally with 11 straight service points, including two aces, contributing to Grant Union's win over the Kennedy Trojans for third at the state tournament.

Moulton also brings outside hitting energy to the team.

"She has worked hard over the past year to develop her strength, and that is show-



Grant Union volleyball team members give high-fives after drills at Monday's practice.

The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

"I'm excited to see how far we'll go. I believe we can be league champions. We work well together with good attitudes, and we're shooting for first this year."

Heather Mosley  
senior starter for Grant Union's volleyball team

ing already in her attacking," Speth said.

Moulton was selected for the Oregon All State third team last season. She led the team in serving percentage and was second, after Pentzer, in all attack and serve-serve categories for Grant Union.

Mosley returns as a middle hitter.

"We look for her to continue developing as an offensive force for us to go along with her strong blocking," the coach said.

Stearns will play a defensive role as libero.

Speth said Stearns has worked on her passing skills and shows great control while moving the ball defensively.

Other team positions will be ready to announce next week, Speth said.

"A few of the players have been asked to switch positions,

so we're in the process of seeing what works best for the team overall," she said, adding they have a lot of strong players to choose from.

The Wapiti League mix of teams presents another change for Grant Union.

With Burns moving to 3A and Cove to 1A, Grant Union will face Enterprise, Elgin, Imbler and Union this season.

Two teams will advance to the state playoffs.

"Imbler will be our strongest league and state competition this year," Speth said. "They have a strong senior class that played a lot during the club and summer seasons."

Last year, Grant Union beat Imbler 3-0 at the Wapiti League Tournament with scores of 25-14, 25-17 and 25-22. Grant Union took second place, and Burns won the tournament.

## Grant Union volleyball 2016

Aug. 26: V/JV @ Crane, 2 p.m.  
Aug. 27: GU Tournament, 8 a.m.  
Sept. 3: V/JV @ Heppner Tournament, 9 a.m.  
Sept. 6: V/JV @ Culver, 5 p.m.  
Sept. 10: V @ North Marion Tournament, TBA  
Sept. 16: V @ Baker Tournament, 9 a.m.  
Sept. 20: V/JV vs. Crane, 4 p.m.  
Sept. 24: V/JV @ Enterprise, 12 p.m.  
Sept. 24: V/JV @ Elgin, 5 p.m.  
Sept. 27: V/JV/JVII @ Burns, 4 p.m.  
Sept. 29: V/JV/JVII vs. Imbler, 4 p.m.  
Sept. 30: V/JV vs. Union, 4 p.m.  
Oct. 7: V/JV vs. Elgin (homecoming), 3 p.m.  
Oct. 8: V/JV vs. Enterprise, 1 p.m.  
Oct. 14: V/JV/JVII @ Imbler, 5 p.m.  
Oct. 15: V/JV vs. Union (Dig Pink), 1 p.m.  
Oct. 18: V/JV/JVII vs. Burns (senior night), 4 p.m.  
Oct. 21: Wapiti District Tournament @ EOU, TBA  
Oct. 29: 1st round state playoffs, TBA  
Nov. 4-5: state championships, Redmond, TBA

In 2014, the Prospectors were third place in league and took second to Burns in the state championship game.

Speth said she's positive about her team's outlook this year.

"We will be competitive in league and at the state level," she said.

The three Prospector seniors expressed their optimism for the season, and all agreed winning districts would be a

great way to cap off their senior year.

Kodesh said the team has already shown their competitive edge in practice.

"I'm looking forward to stepping up and being more of a leader this year," she said. "We have a good chance to win districts."

Stearns said she especially appreciates the way the players support one another, realizing none are perfect.



Chelsie Kodesh



Natalie Stearns



Heather Mosley

"We're all aiming for the same goal," she said. "We all have good sportsmanship — we help each other and pick each other up."

All the seniors have played volleyball since grade school, including Mosley, who's played since first grade.

"I'm excited to see how far we'll go," she said. "I believe we can be league champions. We work well together with good attitudes, and we're shooting for first this year."

Grant Union will host a tournament beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 26.

Teams competing include Grant Union varsity and junior varsity, Burns, Crane, Enterprise, Heppner, Pilot Rock, Powder Valley, Jordan Valley, Prairie City, Monument/Dayville and Weston-McEwen.

## Cowkids rustle up fun

Results from the Aug. 14 Cowkids Rodeo at the Grant County Fairgrounds.

### Peewee Division

Wooly bullies: Nolan Mobley, first; Paxton Waggoner, second; Trevor Sasser, third.

Dummy roping: Paxton Waggoner, first; Cruz Trevino, second; Kodee Kimball, third.

Pole bending: Kodee Kimball, first; Jadon Snow, second; Paisley Jennings, third.

Barrels: Kodee Kimball, first; Cash Coleman, second; Jadon Snow, third.

Goat tail untying: Kodee Kimball, first; Cash Coleman, second; Jadon Snow, third.

### Youth Division

Calf riding: Taylor Parsons, first; Tayton Harper, second; Jace Waggoner, third.

Dummy roping: Colton Clark, first; Denni Coleman, second; Savannah Watterson, third.

Pole bending: Denni Coleman, first; Hayden Churchfield, second; Colton Clark, third.

Barrels: Denni Coleman, first; Hayden Churchfield, second; Taylor Churchfield, third.

Goat tail untying: Taylor Churchfield, first; Denni Coleman, second; Colton Clark, third.

(Breakaway roping had



Young Nolan Mobley competes with a wild ride in the wooly bullies at the Sunday, Aug. 14, Cowkids Rodeo.

Contributed photo/LindseyWylie.com

four competitors, no time.)

four competitors, no time.)

### Junior Division

Steer riding: Riley Robertson, first; Kase Schaffeld, second; Callie Arriola, third.

Dummy roping: Lacy Churchfield, first; Rowdy Israel, second; Riley Robertson, third.

Pole bending: Lacy Churchfield, first; Bailey McCracken, second; Sam McCracken, third.

Barrels: Lacy Churchfield, first; Bailey McCracken, second; Sam McCracken, third.

Goat tying: Lacy Churchfield, first; Quinton Johnson, second; Kase Schaffeld.

(Breakaway roping had

### Senior Division

Steer riding: Opie McDaniel, first; Warner Robertson, second; Ben Combs, third.

Dummy roping: Trinity Hutchison, first; Jackson Schaffeld, second; Opie McDaniel, third.

Pole bending: Regan Johnson, first; Cinch Anderson, second; Denali Twehues, third.

Barrels: Denali Twehues, first; Regan Johnson, second; Trinity Hutchison, third.

Goat tying: Trinity Hutchison, first; Denali Twehues, second; Cinch Anderson, third.

(Breakaway roping had two competitors, no time)

## Volleyball youth get a handle on the sport

Day camps review basic, advanced skills

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Volleyball players learned the basics of the sport, as well as advanced

techniques, during the Aug. 4-5 day camps held at Grant Union Junior-Senior High School.

Head coach Shae Speth said they had 14 attending the third- through fifth-grade camp and 14 at the sixth- through eighth-grade camp.

"It's one of the best camps I've had," Speth said.

She had several of her team members help with the camps, working one on one with the athletes.

"We reviewed all the basic skills of passing, serving, setting and hitting," Speth said, adding they would also cover defense, blocking and playing the game. "This group (grades 6-8 camp) is ready for advanced skills."

## Volleyball athletes get jump on season with camp

Camp led by USA volleyball coach

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Prairie City High School volleyball team hosted a camp with USA Volleyball coach Jake Con-

rad teaching skills of the sport.

Prairie City head coach Louanne Zwegardt said 14 participants came from Prairie City, John Day, Dayville and Monument for the Aug. 2-5 camp.

Coach Conrad is a former Junior National team player and has been coach USA Volleyball for 10 years. He was also a libero

for Lewis University and a setter for Carthage College.

He currently coaches at Sky High Volleyball club in Chicago, Illinois.

"We were very happy with the progress made by all the players at camp and learned a great deal from Jake about volleyball and about coaching," Zwegardt said.