



# Nine Tigers ready to tame season

Monument/Dayville football team showing dedication

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

A young Monument/Dayville Tiger football team is ready to let their hard work play out on the field this season.

Although the team was handed a 56-24 loss by McKenzie in their first game Sept. 3 at the Dufur Classic, Tiger head coach Nathaniel Ashley had plenty of praise for his athletes.

"We lost but played really good," he said. "I was happy with a lot of the things we did."

Monument/Dayville, a junior varsity team, ran the eight-man game with eight players — one was out due to injury — against McKenzie's varsity team of 12.

"That says a lot about them and their dedication as a team," Ashley said of his athletes.

Tiger senior Tanner Walczyk played quarterback for the first time.



GW Clark



Jess Hoodenpyl



Tanner Walczyk

"He did very well for us in the game," Ashley said.

He said the team made a few mistakes, and they're ironing those out in practice, as well as shuffling some positions. The player out with an injury is now back in the game, and another player may join the line, the coach said.

Ashley, in his sixth year coaching the team, is joined by second-year assistant coach Darrin Dailey.

The roster consists of two freshmen, three sophomores, one junior and three seniors, and six are returning players. The seniors, all returners, are Walczyk, Jess Hoodenpyl and GW Clark.

## 2016 Monument/Dayville schedule

Sept. 23: @ Prairie City/Burnt River in Unity, 1 p.m.  
Sept. 30: @ Adrian, 6 p.m. (Pacific Time)  
Oct. 7: @ South Wasco in Maupin, 7 p.m.  
Oct. 14: @ Harper/Huntington in Huntington, 1 p.m.  
Oct. 20: vs. Crane in Monument, 1 p.m.  
Oct. 28: vs. TBA in Dayville (senior recognition), TBA

Walczyk said although they have a young team this year, he's excited for the season.

"We're doing a good job of executing," he said. "I've known all these kids since we were little."

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Monument/Dayville Tiger Hunter Hopkins in practice last Wednesday on the Dayville field.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union Prospector Kellen Shelley works his way past Stanfield opponents with help from teammate Dillon Maley.

## Prospectors can't catch the Tigers

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant Union Prospectors entered the fray with the Stanfield Tigers on a somber note Friday, starting the night's game in a 10-person, missing-man formation for the starting kickoff in honor of teammate Justin Baker, who passed away Sunday, Sept. 11.

Grant Union pulled together, but fell 41-20 in a physical contest with Stanfield.

While the teams held each other off in the first quarter, Stanfield came back to dominate in the second, and the score was 13-0 at halftime.

Grant Union then turned it up a notch. "We fixed a few mistakes, making it a different game," said Grant Union head coach Jason Miller.

Prospectors Russell Hodge and Wade Reimers broke up Tiger passes, and Reimers pressed again, causing Stanfield to miss a fourth-down touchdown pass.

Grant Union's Roen Langum scored on a pass during the Prospectors' next drive.

Stanfield answered back, scoring twice with conversion points, and the third quarter ended 28-6 Stanfield.

Prospector Billy Copenhaver gave Grant Union a good field position on the kickoff return as the third closed.

The home team pushed forward in the fourth, and quarterback Wade Reimers connected with Zack Deiter for a touchdown.

Although the Prospectors added eight more to the scoreboard on a keeper from Deiter with Gerry's carry for conversion points, they were unable to overcome the Tigers' strength.

"They're a talented team — big, strong and fast," Miller said. "It was an emotionally rough night on our guys. They battled through it, and we're always proud of them. Teamwise, we did all right."

The Prospectors host the Burns Hilanders at 7 p.m. Friday.

# HILTON HALF HEROES

10-year-old completes half marathon and then some

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Ten-year-old Grant Hall and his dad, Dave, celebrated as they crossed the finish line of Saturday's Hilton Half, running from downtown Prairie City to Seventh Street Complex in John Day, along with 16 other half marathon runners.

"My legs were aching af-

ter, but it was mostly fun," said the Humboldt Elementary fifth-grader, who was the youngest half marathon competitor.

A total of 71 participants honored everyday heroes in Saturday's Hilton Half and Family Fun Run, which included a half marathon, 5K and Kids K.

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Kids and adults take a steady pace as they begin the 5K portion of the Hilton Half in John Day, near Dog Creek Road. From left: Shanniyah Hall, Jessica and Ted Hilton (back), Katrine Bogardus, Madelyn Bailey, Heather Bailey pushing Sam Bailey (back), Logan Randleas and Malachi Bogardus (back).

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## GRANT COUNTY SPORTS ROUNDUP

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

### Rodeo

In last week's Pendleton Round-Up rodeo action, Mt. Vernon cowboy Ty Holly finished third in tie-down roping. Holly is fifth in the Columbia River Circuit standings. Also for the Columbia River Circuit, Trevor Knowles of Mt. Vernon is second in steer wrestling, Tucker Wright of Canyon City is 23rd in steer wrestling and Chad Finley of Mt. Vernon is 25th in tie-down roping.

### Monument Cross Country

Mark Thomas is making waves for the Monument School middle

school cross country team. He placed first at the Sept. 3 Runner's Soul Fest in Hermiston with a time of 9:17.2, racing against 82 middle school boys in the 2,500-meter contest.

At the Sept. 9 Catherine Creek Scamper near Union, he raced against 92 boys for third, with a personal record of 9:12.

He placed second in Umatilla last weekend with a season record of 8:26.38.

Coach Chuck Thomas said Mark ran a smart race in Hermiston, passing the lead runner with about 800 meters left.

"He outran him to the finish line, beating him by about 10 seconds," the coach said. "He's doing

very well this season."

Mark and three other middle school runners on the team — Aubrianna Osborne, Nic Ciochetti and Paul Hays — will take on the Nike Portland XC race on Saturday.

### Prairie City/Burnt River football

The Panther/Bulls enjoyed the thrill of victory at Saturday's Powder Valley Jamboree in North Powder.

After being handed a 34-6 loss by Echo, Prairie City/Burnt River turned their game around and toppled Cove, 22-6.

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Contributed photo

Monument eighth-grader Mark Thomas placed first at the Sept. 3 Runner's Soul Fest in Hermiston with a time of 9:17.2, racing against 82 middle school boys in the 2,500-meter contest.



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