

GRANT COUNTY SPORTS ROUNDUP

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Pros run full teams to close cross country season

Grant Union cross country crossed a goal off their list to close the season. "It was the first time Grant Union has had a full girls and full boys team at district cross country since 1999," said head coach Sonna Smith.

The Prospectors traveled to the District 5 Championships Friday, Oct. 28, at Pendleton Community Park.

Competing in the event were athletes from 16 schools from Class 1A to 3A.

There were 82 boys and 63 girls competing in the varsity events.

Top placers for Grant Union were Tanner Elliott for the boys with a time of 19:31.4 and Ericka Dickens for the girls, recording a time of 24:16.2.

Several Grant Union athletes earned personal records at the meet: Trejan Speth, 20:15.1; Braden Spencer, 21:31.2; Gage Brandon, 21:39.6; Ginni Frazier, 24:51.8; and Sierra Cates, 31:10.5.

"We had a fun season and are learning how to be more competitive in our racing," Smith said.

She said she's losing three seniors to graduation this year, including Speth, Frazier and Reitta Wyllie.

"Trejan has been with me since I started the program back up," Smith said. "He

contributed a strong leadership presence throughout the season. Ginni and Reitta were just hitting their stride in racing, and we are going to work on keeping strong until track season. My large group of underclassmen are going to have to step up for next season."

Monument's Mark Thomas shines at state cross country meet

Monument middle school cross country runner Mark Thomas finished his season with flying colors.

The eighth-grader from Kimberly earned 13th place out of 257 runners in the Super Champs 3,000-meter race, a faster division of runners. Another 299 boys raced in the Champs race.

Thomas finished with a time of 10:50.5 at the race held Oct. 23 at Western Oregon University in Monmouth.

"He didn't PR (reach a personal record) in that race," said coach Chuck Thomas. "The course was really muddy, but it was a good race."

The coach said Mark ran aggressively and reached his goal of finishing in the top 20.

"When you're racing against that many runners, you have to go out fast or you're going to get bogged up," Chuck said. "He ran a good race."

Mark finished third at the Oct. 13 Kyle

Burnside Memorial Wildhorse Invite in Pendleton with a time of 10:57.6, competing with 176 runners.

Chuck said the competition will be plentiful for Mark next year as a varsity runner.

"I think he'll do all right," Chuck said. "It's something to look forward to."

Season ends for Prairie City/Burnt River and Monument/Dayville teams

The Prairie City/Burnt River Panther/Bulls and Monument/Dayville Tigers junior varsity football teams planned on one more game to close the season, but, due to a lack of Tiger athletes, the game was canceled.

"It was a good season — a little disappointing to not get a win, but the guys showed a lot of heart and determination to keep playing through the whole season," said Tiger head coach Nathaniel Ashley.

Ashley said his team was a great group and fun to coach.

"I would like to thank all of our fans who traveled all over the place, watching our games," he said. "That means a lot of all of us on the team."

Panther/Bull head coach Darrel McKrola said the team was looking forward to running the new plays they'd been practicing.

The team won multiple matchups this season, and he said his team had been growing with each game.

"I'm proud of all the boys," he said.

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for season tickets — he was in the 70,000-range down the list.

"Three years ago, I got a phone call from a ticket representative," he said. "At first, I thought it was a hoax."

Sharp's childhood friend Jim from Illinois foot the bill for the season and post-season tickets, and they've shared them, his friend giving them to clients and employees.

Earlier in the season, Sharp enjoyed trips to Chicago with his wife, Becky, and two daughters, Josie and Riley, to attend games and visit Jim.

"Jim and Julie are really nice people — we've been friends forever," Sharp said. "It was a cool experience to see them after all these years."

He said there were 40,000 people in the stadium for the game and just as many outside the facility for Friday and Sunday's games.

"Friday's game was a loss, but the atmosphere

was 10 times magnified, compared to the regular season games," he said. "In Sunday's game, the tension in the crowd was way worse because it was an elimination game. There was no way of relaxing, and everybody was excited to be there."

He said his favorite part of Sunday's game was "every second."

He also enjoyed "being a part of history and sharing that with my uncle," he said.

For Tuesday night's Game 6, the Cubs were set to face the Indians in Cleveland at Progressive Field, and this time Sharp plans to watch the game from the comfort of his home.

"It will still be nerve racking, but more comfortable and warmer," Sharp said.

He said he's taking a realistic approach to the game.

"I want them to win, but only one team can win," he said. "If they lose, you'd like to think it's just another step to the next level — you never know what's going to happen."

2016 FOOTBALL CONTEST

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WEEK 8 OF 13

Winners each week receive a \$25 cash prize and a \$25 gift certificate to one of the sponsors on this page.



RULES

1. Displayed in this advertisement are 18 sports-minded businesses. In 15 of these ads you'll find listed an important game scheduled for this weekend.
2. Each game is numbered. Clip the original blank entry and write, in numerical order, the advertiser's name and the team you think will win the game listed in the ad.
3. Game No. 15 will be the tiebreaker every week. Simply write in what you think the final score will be for each team. When the tiebreaker is necessary to determine a winner, the closest point spread will be the deciding factor.
4. Only one entry per person permitted - but all members of the family may enter provided they use the original blank entry. Must be 10 years old to enter. Entries must be brought to the Blue Mountain Eagle in John Day no later than 5 p.m. FRIDAY. Or you can mail your entry to: Football Editor, 195 N. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845 but make sure it is postmarked no later than Friday and received by the Blue Mountain Eagle by noon Monday. OR you can fax your original entry to (541) 575-1244, Attn: Football Editor.
5. Employees of the Blue Mountain Eagle or members of their immediate families are not eligible for prize money.
6. Winners will be announced in the Wednesday paper following the games. \$50 in cash and prizes will be awarded to the winner. In case of a tie, the prize will be split. Contest ends in 13 weeks.
7. All decisions of the judge will be final.

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Tie Breaker	Score	

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Congratulations to Seth Cooksey
Seth picked all 15 games correctly. A perfect score!
Ken Gillihan & Kirk Ausland came in second with 14 out of 15 correct.
Good luck next week!