



# GU athlete plans to throw javelin down under

By Angel Carpenter  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant Union High School sophomore Kaylee Wright broke the state record for girls javelin last May, and now she'll step up her game even more with a trip down under next July.

Wright received an invitation letter to join the Down Under Sports track and field competition in Queensland, Australia, to compete in javelin and possibly the 100-meter dash, at an international level.

The nine-day trip will include an excursion to Hawaii on her way home.

"I was very happy and talked with my parents," she said. "I told them that I would do anything it takes to be able to go, including fundraising."

That's just what Wright will be doing. She started with the Mt. Vernon Volunteer Fire Department's Bake Sale and Holiday Bazaar at Mt. Vernon's Community Center last Saturday, where she sold baked goods and Down Under Sports T-shirts.

Plans are also in the works to hold raffles for cords of firewood and items donated by local businesses, and taco and spaghetti feeds are other possibilities.

Kaylee's dad, Kelsy Wright, who is also her track and field coach, encouraged her to try javelin.

"I've been doing javelin since seventh grade," she said. "My dad said I would be really good, and I've been doing it ever since, and it's one of my better sports."

Kelsy also competed as a state champion in high school javelin.

Kaylee, who was on Grant Union's volleyball team that recently won third at the state level, will be a member of the Oregon Pacific Conference track and field team.

Athletes from Australia, New Zea-

land, Papua New Guinea and Pacific Island countries combine to make a "world team" and compete against the USA team at the three-day event.

The Down Under Sports competition is the qualifier for Australia's Olympic track and field team, and gives high school students a chance to learn from expert trainers.

Wright is hoping the experience will help her break her 131-03 throw, a personal record that won her the 2015 state record.

"It's going to be cool competing ... and seeing what you can accomplish," Wright said.



Kaylee Wright



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union quarterback Zack Deiter, filling in for Wade Reimers, throws a pass as teammates make their blocks.

# Grant Union loses quarterfinal battle to Heppner

Coach Jason Miller reflects on teams' successes

By Angel Carpenter  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant Union football team ended its postseason Saturday in Heppner.

It was a tough battle, but the Heppner Mustangs halted the Prospectors' rise to the top when they nabbed a 46-0 shutout win at Saturday's quarterfinal contest.

Back in August, during daily doubles, Grant Union head coach Jason Miller said their team objectives were to establish themselves as a contender in the state playoff race and to play with "true grit."

The Prospectors can reflect on their success in meeting those challenges: They became the 2A Wapiti league champions and won their first-round state playoff game.

"The kids had a great season," Miller said. "The last few weeks, injuries hurt us quite a bit. I'm proud of these kids for their effort all season long. They are truly ironmen the way

they had to go both sides of the ball all the time."

Injuries to Prospector quarterback Wade Reimers and running back Cameron Hallgarth kept the two sidelined during most of the Nov. 5 first-round playoff, but Grant Union pushed on to win that game 30-12.

In Saturday's game, Reimers was back as quarterback, and Hallgarth remained on the injured list. Zack Deiter relieved Reimers, and at times, Reimers played Deiter's running back position.

Cauy Weaver, a leader on defense during the season, also filled in as running back.

"This season we had our goals, and we fulfilled them to the best of our ability," Weaver said. "I wouldn't have chosen another team to play football with. We're looking forward to next year."

Heppner advances to next week's semifinals against Regis, which had a 50-0 win over St. Paul. Stanfield will face Kennedy — both teams had shutout wins over their opponents last weekend.

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Grant Union Prospectors' quarterback Zack Deiter (3) makes his move past Heppner's defense with help from teammate Wade Reimers (12).

The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

## Dancers to fill stage Dec. 1-2 in Holiday Showcase

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Dancers from ages 4 to 18 will grace the Grant Union stage for the 20th annual Holiday Showcase.

The seasonal event will be at 6:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Dec. 1 and 2, at Grant Union Junior-Senior High School. Santa is even expected to pay a visit during the show.

Admission is one canned-food item, plus \$5 with a pre-sale ticket or \$7 at the door. The canned goods will be donated to a local food bank.

This is the Grant Union Gold varsity dance team's kickoff event. The Grant Union Gold are led by new coach Kattie Piazza, who was

also once a member of the team.

The team will be joined by the Grant Union Gemstones junior high team, coached by Rebecca Batease, as well as younger dancers in the Level I, II, and III dance groups which train at Body, Fitness, Dance.

Level I with 4- to 6-year-old dancers is led by Trista Collins. Level II with grades 1-2 is led by Elena Allen, and Level III with grades 3-5 is led by Kattie Piazza.

The groups traditionally perform to songs of the season, presenting the various styles of dance they've been learning.

For more information, call the Grant Union office at 541-575-1799.



Level I dancers Haven Giffin, left, Harmony Harper and Audrey Colson brighten the stage at last year's Holiday Showcase.

The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

## New Lady Panther head coach ready to lead team



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter  
**Bo Workman is the new Prairie City Panther girls coach. The Lady Panthers will host Adrians at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, followed by the boys team.**

Character, hard work carry over to everyday life

By Angel Carpenter  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

New Prairie City girls basketball head coach Bo Workman is picking up where former coach Penny Black left off.

Workman has two years of coaching experience, leading the Burnt River boys and girls basketball teams five years ago.

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