

DANCERS

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"It lends itself to more creativity," she said. She added judges will look at individual skills and give more weight to projection and expression.

Another big change this season: Judges won't have access to teams for consultations and critiquing prior to the state competition.

Piazza said it was difficult in previous years for judges to connect with the Eastern Oregon team.

"We have things in our favor," Piazza said.

Two girls on this year's team are new to dance, and one foreign student, is new to the team, but has been dancing for several years.

"They are really passionate about dance and highly competitive," Piazza said of the team.

Reannah Lemons, the sole senior on the team, has been dancing since age 6.

"I'm excited because we have a lot of new girls this year," she said. "I'm also sad because this is my last year, and I'll miss the team and the



The Grant Union Gold dancers take their starting position in practice. The team was working on its Holiday Showcase routine in practice last Thursday. In front are Emilie Uptegrave and Shanniyah Hall, right.

friendships we've made."

Dana Schajor, a sophomore from Germany, said she's been involved in a private ballet program in her home country for nine years.

"I'm so excited to spend this season with this amazing team," she said. "It's so sad that I only get to do that once (for

one year)."

Sophomore Ali Chobo said there are great dancers on this year's team.

"I'm really excited for competition season and going to state," she said.

Freshman Shanniyah Hall said she was also looking forward to the season.

"I really enjoy having Katie as my coach," she said. "She has been really supportive and helped us through tough times."

Fans of the dance team can look for them as they give halftime performances at some of the Grant Union basketball games.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter New Grant Union head boys basketball coach Kelsy Wright visits with assistant coaches Brandon Culley and Steve Speth, who was previously the head coach.

PROS

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The top two teams in league will advance to state.

Wright said he's excited to be the new head coach.

"I'm glad I have the opportunity to show what I have and to help them succeed, not just on the basketball court, but in life decisions as well," he said.

Prospector players said they're excited for the season.

This year's sole senior Jack Gentis is in his third year playing for the team.

"I'm looking forward to hopefully going to districts and winning state," he said. "It'll be fun."

"Even though we don't have numbers, we're still going to have a great season this year," said Duane Stokes.

Weaver said he likes the group of athletes on the team this season.

"We have great potential, and I hope we can fulfill it," he said.

Grant Union will host Burns for their first nonleague home game at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13.

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WEEK 11 OF 13

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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.
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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.
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