



# TWO TENACIOUS TIGERS TEAMS



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Monument/Dayville Tiger head coach Jeff Schafer (black shirt) and assistant coach Justin Larson chat with the team during a timeout at the Dec. 13 game against South Wasco at the Monument court.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Monument/Dayville Tiger head coach Taylor Schmadeka gives his team a pep talk during a fourth-quarter time out in the Dec. 13 game against South Wasco County.

## Unity a top priority for Tiger boys

Team is meshing with three new basketball players

By Angel Carpenter  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The Monument/Dayville Tigers are starting to gel after beginning the season with three new players on the team of eight.

The Tigers are led by head coach Jeff Schafer, in his fifth year leading the team, and assistant coach Justin Larson.

The roster includes four seniors, two sophomores and two freshmen. Schafer said his seniors are serving as the team's greatest strength.

"I think our seniors are definitely stepping up and taking leadership and encouraging the younger players to keep pressing forward," he said.

Two seniors, Hayden Schafer and Tanner Walczyk, are returning varsity starters who were part of the core group of players leading the team to last season's first-round state playoff. GW Clark also saw time on the court last year.

A new senior joining the team is Cauy Pool, a transfer student. All have a positive outlook for the season.

Hayden Schafer said, while the team still needs to work on techniques, their defense is looking good, and shots are falling.

"We're coming along," he said. "We're working on making it to state."

"We're doing good," Clark said. "We're starting to figure each other out and work as a team. We have a lot of fun and do good."

Pool also feels the team will do well this year.

"We're new to each other, but we're really starting to mesh and become a team," he said.

Coach Schafer said, with new players this season, the team has just started playing "together."

"Our goals are just to keep improving and

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## Monument/Dayville boys, girls schedule

Dec. 30: vs. alumni in Dayville, girls at 5 p.m., boys at 6:30 p.m.  
 Jan. 6: @ Jordan Valley, girls at 5 p.m. (MST), boys at 6:30 p.m.  
 Jan. 7: @ Crane, girls at 2 p.m., boys at 3:30 p.m.  
 Jan. 10: @ Burnt River in Unity, girls at 4 p.m., boys at 5:30 p.m.  
 Jan. 13: vs. Harper in Dayville, girls at 4 p.m., boys at 5:30 p.m.  
 Jan. 14: @ Huntington, girls at 4 p.m., boys at 5:30 p.m.  
 Jan. 17: JV @ Long Creek/Ukiah in Long Creek, girls at 6 p.m., boys at 7:30 p.m.  
 Jan. 20: vs. Jordan Valley in Monument, girls at 6 p.m., boys at 7:30 p.m.  
 Jan. 21: vs. Adrian in Dayville, girls at 2 p.m., boys at 3:30 p.m.  
 Jan. 27: @ Prairie City, girls at 6 p.m., boys at 7:30 p.m.  
 Jan. 28: vs. Crane in Dayville, girls at 2 p.m., boys at 3:30 p.m.  
 Jan. 31: vs. Prairie City in Monument, girls at 6 p.m., boys at 7:30 p.m.  
 Feb. 3: @ Adrian, girls at 5 p.m., boys at 6:30 p.m.  
 Feb. 4: vs. Huntington in Monument, girls at 2 p.m., boys at 3:30 p.m.  
 Feb. 10: vs. Burnt River in Dayville (senior recognition), girls at 6 p.m., boys at 7:30 p.m.  
 Feb. 11: @ Harper, girls at 4 p.m. (MST), boys at 5:30 p.m.  
 Feb. 16-18: 1A-8 High Desert District Tournament in John Day, TBA  
 Feb. 21: First Round State Playoff, boys, TBA  
 Feb. 22: First Round State Playoff, girls, TBA  
 Feb. 24: Second Round State Playoff, boys, TBA  
 Feb. 25: Second Round State Playoff, girls, TBA

### Senior boys



GW Clark



Cauy Pool

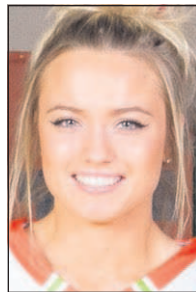


Hayden Schafer



Tanner Walczyk

### Senior girls



Kendall Hettinga



Cheyenne Nichols



Ravyn Walker

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## Lady Tigers work, have fun together

Monument/Dayville is 4-4 in preseason matchups

By Angel Carpenter  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The 1A Monument/Dayville Tiger girls are moving along at a good clip.

Head coach Taylor Schmadeka, in his second season coaching the Tigers, says their focus is playing with intensity and having fun, a formula which seems to be working.

So far, the team is 4-4 in the preseason. Two of the losses and one win were to 2A teams.

"Our goal is to keep having them play hard every day, even if they're losing — never give up and have fun," Schmadeka said.

Schmadeka has help from assistant Kristi Emerson, coaching the team of 10, which includes three freshmen, two sophomores, two juniors and three seniors.

Seniors Kendall Hettinga and Ravyn Walker are returning varsity starters, and Cheyenne Nichols is new to the team.

"Kendall always plays 100 percent and gives full heart," the coach said. "She's definitely a good leader on the team."

He said Walker is an asset to the team, offensively and defensively.

"Ravyn always plays strong defense, and she's one of the best shooters on the team," Schmadeka said. "She handles close games well — she's played in other pressure situations in other sports."

Schmadeka said, although Nichols is new to the team and sport, she arrives at practice ready to learn.

Each senior said the team is working well together and shared a positive outlook on the season.

Walker said she's looking forward to her senior year, playing basketball.

"We play really well as a team, and there's a lot of

## GRANT COUNTY SPORTS ROUNDUP

By Angel Carpenter  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

### Grant Union wrestles to third at Rysdam Memorial

Grant Union wrestler Clay Johnson earned Outstanding Wrestler of the Tournament at the Dec. 16-17 John Rysdam Memorial Tournament in Elgin.

Head coach Andy Lusco said the entire team had excellent results at the competition.

"We finished third behind two very good 4A teams and first among the 1A/2A/3A schools," Lusco said.

The 4A La Grande team earned a score of 188 for the tournament title, followed by 4A Baker/Powder Valley with 181.5, 2A Grant Union with 88, 2A Enterprise with 65.5 and 1A Joseph with 55.0. Finishing in sixth was 2A Elgin, followed by 1A Adrian, 1A Pine Eagle, 2A Union/Cove, 3A Vale and 2A Imbler.

Johnson, a senior, earned first in the 138 weight class in the finals over La Grande wrestler Greyson Livingston, whom Lusco said was an "exception-



Contributed photo/Cindy Dougharity-Spencer

**Grant Union Prospector wrestler Clay Johnson was awarded the John Rysdam Outstanding Wrestler of the tourney at the Dec. 16-17 competition in Elgin.**

al" opponent.

Freshman Drew Lusco also earned first in the 285 weight class with three wins by pin.

Dillon Maley, a junior, finished in second at 285, after losing a tough match in the fi-

nals to a Baker wrestler.

Jesse Paulson (113), Braden Spencer (126), Russell Hodge (170) and Elijah Humbird (220) each earned a fourth-place finish.

Lusco said each of the fourth-place finishers gave impressive performances.

"Jesse has improved tremendously over the past couple of seasons and is showing some excellent toughness and skill on the mat," Lusco said.

He added Spencer had high-quality competition, and Humbird showed mental toughness by overcoming an early loss to make a comeback to place in the meet.

He described Hodge as "a great freshman wrestler whose only losses in the tournament were to 4A state qualifiers."

Lusco said Airon Glimpse (4-2), Jay Goldblatt, Nate Hodge and Eli Carniglia (3-3) also wrestled tough and showed improvement.

"Eli Carniglia went 3-3 on the weekend and is showing excellent potential in his first year," Lusco said. "I think we will see him impress by the district meet."

### Lady Tigers unhinge Elgin, Tiger boys lose squeaker at Christmas Classic

The 1A Monument/Dayville Tigers were up against 2A and 3A class opponents at the Dec. 15-17 Union Christmas Classic.

The Lady Tigers came away with a 48-40 win over 2A Elgin after their first-day 53-25 loss to Union. In their final game, 4A La Grande had the upper hand, taking a 52-31 win.

The Tiger boys lost a 45-44 squeaker to Elgin, after a first-day, 66-33 loss to Union. They followed with an 84-36 loss to 4A La Grande on the final day.

### Prairie City teams gear up for Badger battle

The 1A Prairie City Panther girls and boys took some tough knocks at the Union Christmas Classic.

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## Lady Prospectors on five-game win streak

Grant Union wins two games at home court

By Angel Carpenter  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The Lady Prospectors are on a roll.

Grant Union is on a five-game win streak, and, after two home wins, it doesn't look as if they will be letting up anytime soon.

"I'm very proud of the progress we've made," said Grant Union head coach Mark Mosley. "Because they're so young, their growth as a team has been outstanding."

The Lady Pros hosted Burns on Tuesday last week, taking a 38-32 victory, followed by a 52-36 win over Heppner on Saturday.

Grant Union starters include two sophomores, two juniors and one senior, but Saturday's game had all 10 varsity players on the court.

Prospector Hailie Wright

was the high-point scorer for the night in Saturday's game with 19 points, with 11 earned in the first quarter.

Grant Union was ahead 15-11 in the first, then outshot Heppner 15-10 in the second, with Prospector Heather Mosley contributing eight points and Kaylee Wright sinking five, including a three-pointer.

The Prospectors kept their pace, leading 42-28 in the third.

Hailie Wright and Whitney McClellan each scored off steals in the fourth, and three subs came in to finish out for the win.

"Hailie Wright had an outstanding game," coach Mosley said. "She came ready to play, and offensively she shot the ball really well and made some really good decisions, seeing the court and making good passing decisions."

Comparing the game to their win over Burns, Mosley said his team was more focused against the Hilanders,

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