

TIGER BOYS

Continued from Page A8

always build that team unity and encouraging one another and keep playing the best basketball we can when we step on that court," he said. "We always say whenever we're on the court that we're family, and we're just going to keep that family mentality."

The Tigers will face seven opponents in the 1A-8 High Desert League this season, including Jordan Valley, Prairie City, Adrian, Harper, Crane, Huntington and Burnt River.

Schafer said, at this point, it's hard to determine which teams will be the toughest.

"We'll find out here in a few weeks," he said. "Hopefully, we'll finish well and do our best — let the chips fall

where they may. There are always tough teams in our league."

So far, Monument/Dayville (1-5) has suffered some knocks in the preseason. However, they've been up against higher-ranking teams and two 2A teams in that time.

Schafer said playing competitive opponents early in the season will only serve to strengthen his team.

"I love working with the boys," he said. "They're great kids with great personalities. I love coaching them. We're going to keep encouraging team unity, that always helps a team work better together."

Tiger boys fall 44-37 to South Wasco Redsidies

The Monument/Dayville Tiger boys played with heart and energy against the odds Dec. 13, but the tall South

Wasco County team took the 44-37 win.

"We played the best I've seen as a team," said senior Tiger player Tanner Walczyk.

Tiger head coach Jeff Schafer said "the height factor" proved too much for them, but he was pleased with the Tigers' overall performance.

"They played well as a team, and they're starting to come together," he said. "They played hard."

One Redside stood at 6-foot-7 and another 6-foot-4, while the Tigers' tallest athlete playing in Tuesday's game was 6-foot-1.

When South Wasco pulled away 9-3 early in the first quarter, Monument/Dayville got down to business.

Tiger GW Clark scored two, and Hayden Schafer and Tanner Walczyk each sank

three-point shots in the final minute and a half of the quarter.

South Wasco's two-point shot near the buzzer made it an 11-11 tie going into the second.

The Tigers were trailing by two at halftime, 19-17.

Hayden Schafer made a long three-point score to start the third, followed by Drew Wilburn scoring on Cauy Pool's steal.

With 3 minutes left in the fourth, Monument/Dayville trailed 38-34.

Both teams pushed ahead, but South Wasco pulled out the win.

Gabe Walker scored the last two points for the Tigers in the final seconds of play.

The team has a break from games until Dec. 30, when they'll face Dayville alumni for a fun contest.

TIGER GIRLS

Continued from Page A8

talent," she said. "It's like a big family to me."

Nichols shared Walker's sentiments about the team's closeness.

"We act like family," she said. "We encourage each other a lot, and when someone's feeling down we talk them up. I feel like it gets everyone's attitudes up and their spirits and gets them ready for the next game."

Hettinga said she's proud to be part of the team.

"The chemistry is amazing within our team. We care about each other more than we care about ourselves. Sharing the love of basketball makes our

games even more intense," she said. "The league needs to be prepared because Dayville/Monument wants it."

The Tigers' opponents in the High Desert League include Jordan Valley, Adrian, Crane, Harper, Prairie City and Burnt River.

Joseph has a 5-1 record, with Jordan Valley at 6-0 and Crane at 3-3.

Schmadeka said it's anyone's game in league, and they won't look past any team.

"It's going to be a tough battle, every game," he said.

He said he enjoys coaching the team of athletes who are all "coachable."

"They always come to practice ready to practice with full intensity," he said. "They like having fun, but they know

when it's time to be serious."

Lady Tigers battle for 37-36 win over South Wasco

Monument/Dayville Lady Tigers battled hard against South Wasco County Tuesday, Dec. 13, in Monument, ready to avenge a one-point loss they suffered to the Redsidies last season.

It was a hard-fought contest, and the Tigers came out victorious with a 37-36 overtime win.

It was a slow start for both teams, the Tigers trailing 10-8 at the half.

"The turning point was late in the fourth," said Tiger head coach Taylor Schmadeka. "Our defense got some turnovers for us."

Tiger Ravyn Walker didn't

waste a second in overtime, sinking a three-point shot out of the gates. She also scored two points at the free-throw line on the shot.

Tiger Kendall Hettinga also added three points for the Tigers.

The Redsidies followed with a three-pointer, the Tigers leading, 31-27.

Monument/Dayville pulled further ahead when Bailey Thomas scored a free-throw point and Walker scored on a steal.

Headed down the stretch, Hettinga scored at the free-throw line, adding three points on two trips.

Those points were key to the Tigers' win as South Wasco scored twice in the final seconds of the game.

LADY PROS

Continued from Page A8

playing extremely well on defense.

"Tonight, I thought we let up our defensive intensity, but we

did execute well on offense," he said. "We took advantage of our transition — our fast break."

Senior Heather Mosley said she was happy with how the team played together.

"We handled our offense pretty well, and we didn't have

many turnovers, so that was a plus," she said.

Hailie Wright was also pleased with the team's strong offense.

"We shot the ball well, and we had subs when we needed them, and they did their job

well," she said.

The Prospectors travel to the three-day Nyssa Tournament, Wednesday through Friday, where they will first meet up with Ontario. Then the team has a break from competition until January.

ROUNDUP

Continued from Page A8

The Lady Panthers were up against undefeated 1A Jordan Valley Mustangs to start. The Mustangs kept their winning streak alive with a 53-29 victory.

The Lady Panthers also suffered a 51-27 loss to 4A La Grande, followed by a closer game, a 40-36 loss to 2A Union.

The Panther boys fell to Jordan Valley 58-45, La Grande 75-29 and Union 68-55.

Although the Prairie City boys came up with losses, Panther head coach Jonathan Gill was pleased with how his team

played.

Panther Dorran Wilson, a junior, was the high-point scorer against Jordan Valley, followed by sophomore Levi Burke with 17.

"We know that Jordan Valley will give us our toughest competition this year, so it was great to get a good look at them early," Gill said. "We now know what we need to do to get to their level for district play."

Gill said the game against La Grande was a good experience for the team.

"When playing competition at that 4A level as a coach, I was concerned with how we played as a team more than the results of the game, and we definitely

played well as a team," Gill said. "The La Grande coach and fans were very impressed with how we played."

Wilson scored 18 points in the game.

Commenting on the Union game, Gill said it was his team's best game of the year.

"We started to play well as a team, and we executed the game plan but just came up short at the end," he said. "Overall, I'm proud and happy for the way we played. It doesn't get any easier from here — we have a top team in the state on Wednesday in Powder Valley. We look forward to starting our win streak back up."

Grant Union boys move past losses

Team gears up for 3-day Nyssa Tournament

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant Union Prospectors boys gave a strong effort in two home games last week but came up with losses.

The Prospectors fell to the Heppner Mustangs 56-42 on Saturday. Grant Union head coach Kelsy Wright described the Mustangs as a strong, physical team.

"They loved to rebound, crashing the boards," he said. "It was a tough loss for sure."

After Heppner put two points on the scoreboard, Prospector junior Ty McDaniel answered back, scoring a three-pointer. His teammate Duane Stokes, a junior, grabbed a defensive rebound, and McDaniel scored three more.

Stokes sank two baskets, and Prospector junior Zack Deiter added two to give Grant Union a 6-point lead, their greatest lead in the

game.

Grant Union trailed in the first quarter 17-14, and the team was behind 30-20 at the half. The Prospectors came out strong after the half, but were outshot 15-11.

"Our offense was clicking, and we had some great transition basketball," the coach said. "We had some great looks, just couldn't finish at the rim."

Stokes was the high-point scorer in the game with 21 points, followed by Deiter with 14, McDaniel with 6 and Cauy Weaver with 1.

On Tuesday last week, Grant Union hosted 3A Burns, taking a 46-38 loss.

"We did phenomenal (in the) first quarter — our defense was phenomenal," Wright said. "I'm really proud of our boys. The last 3 minutes, they ran ahead, and we couldn't close the gap on them."

The top two scorers in the game were Stokes with 21 points, followed by Deiter with 14.

Grant Union plans to travel to the Nyssa Tournament to face Baker Wednesday, La Grande Thursday and Ontario Friday.

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2 passengers on a spacecraft traveling to a distant planet wake up 90 years early.

FRI - THURS (4:00) 7:00 9:35

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