



Contributed photos/Angie Johnson

Grant Union's Drew Lusco, right, takes on Dani Sanchez of Monroe in the Saturday quarterfinal at the state wrestling championships. Lusco went on to pin his opponent in the round, advancing to the semifinals.

WRESTLERS

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Boatwright said that as a first-year wrestler, he was surprised he made it to state.

"It was a very fun experience," he said. "I really enjoyed watching the other wrestlers."

Boatwright faced the No. 1-seed Anthony Ramirez of Neah-Kah-Nie in the quarterfinals, losing by a pin, and lost the consolation Round One match to Billie Tucker of Butte Falls/Prospect Charter.

Maley, who has wrestled in the Grant Union program for three years now, said this was his first trip to state.

"It was nerve racking," he said. "There was awesome competition."

He said it was exciting to see wrestlers competing in the same weight class from larger schools.

Maley earned three team points. He lost to Mahsen Asher of Lowell by tech-fall. Maley won the Round One consolation match by a pin over Case Goracke of Central Linn, then lost a 5-0 decision to his teammate Drew Lusco in the consolation semifinal.

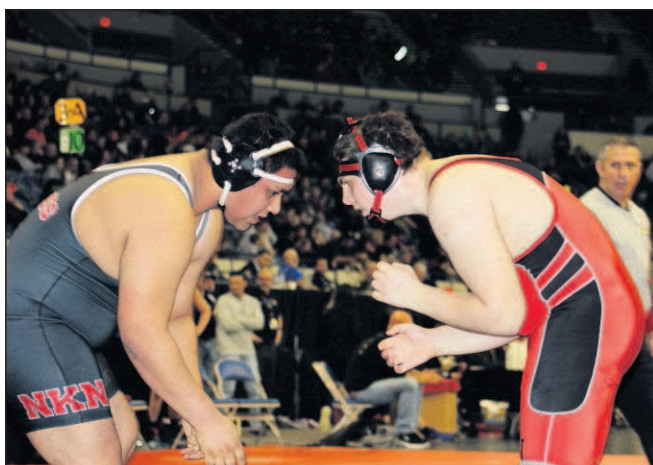
Drew Lusco said he enjoyed the trip to state.

"It was a reward for our hard work this season," he said. "It's a chance to show what you've done this season and how you compare to other athletes and how well you compete."

Drew Lusco, earning nine team points, was the fourth seed entering the competition.



Grant Union's Dillon Maley, red singlet, wrestles an opponent in the consolation round at the state wrestling championships. He went on to get a pin to advance in the bracket.



At the state wrestling championships, Grant Union's Toby Boatwright, right, faces Anthony Ramirez, a senior from Neah-Kah-Nie. Boatwright lost the quarterfinal round and lost a match in the consolation round.

He first went up against junior Dani Sanchez of Monroe, winning by a pin.

Looking back on the sea-

son, Johnson said things got off to a rough start for him when he faced three state-level competitors from Idaho at De-

ember's Calhoun Classic in Nyssa. Those tough challenges may have given Johnson the edge he needed.

"At state, things went pretty good," he said, adding his first two opponents were unable to score on him.

Johnson, who had a 25-6 season record, earned 18 team points. He pinned Seth Sidwell of Oakridge in the quarterfinals and pinned Tandy Martin of Gold Beach in the semifinals.

In the championship match, Johnson was pinned by senior Jace Oppenlander of Culver, who was 36-5 on the season.

"It was my first time participating in the championship round, and I'll never forget the experience," he said. "I'd like to thank the community for their support."

PANTHERS

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In the quarter, McKrola, Burke and Dorrان Wilson scored one three-pointer each for the Panthers, McKrola gaining five points overall in the second, and Syd Holman scored two.

The Lions led 38-27 in the third, clamping down in the final quarter to outshoot the Panthers 17-5.

Wilson was the only Panther to score in those last eight minutes, draining two shots beyond the arc for six points.

Prairie City head coach Jonathan Gill said the loss came down to missed shots, but he said the coaches, the team and the community are not hanging their heads.

"Those Prairie City boys have accomplished so much," he said. "They have improved tremendously over the season."

Gill said his three seniors

led by example, and the play-offs gave his younger players experience.

He gave kudos to the Hosanna Christian team.

"They executed well," he said.

Gill said one of his proudest moments as coach was seeing his team earn the sportsmanship award at the district tournament.

"We all feel so happy," he said. "When they won games in the season, they 'won with class.'"

Gill said the team became a family and there was no greater feeling as a coach.

"This has been the highlight of my life," he said. "As much as I tried to affect their lives, they've really changed my life for the good. We're going to be back next year, stronger than ever. We're going to get right back at it."

Prairie City vs. Hosanna Christian
Dorrان Wilson: 13 points
Levi Burke: 9
Brogan McKrola: 9
Syd Holman: 2

SHOWDOWN

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Local program co-coordinators Deronda Lallatin and Kathy Gill said the game is a fun family event.

"I really enjoy the eve-

ning, spending time with the players and watching them play basketball with law enforcement," Gill said.

For more information, call Lallatin at 541-620-4295 or Gill at 541-620-2186 or stop by Sue-Z-Q's Thrift Store at 777 E. Main St. in John Day.

GRANT UNION WAPITI ALL-LEAGUE SELECTIONS



Haillie Wright
First Team

Contributed photos/Tanni Wenger Photography Studio



Kaylee Wright
First Team



Mariah Moulton
Second Team



Madi McKrola
Honorable Mention



Trinity Hutchison
Honorable Mention



Duane Stokes
First Team



Zack Deiter
Second Team



Cauy Weaver
Honorable Mention



Ty McDaniel
Honorable Mention

HIGH DESERT

ALL-TOURNAMENT SELECTIONS

Contributed photos/Tanni Wenger Photography Studio



Brianna Zwegardt
Prairie City Lady Panthers
Second Team



Cassie Hire
Prairie City Lady Panthers
Second Team



Dorrان Wilson
Prairie City Panthers
First Team



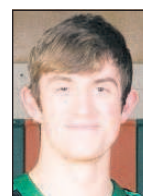
Levi Burke
Prairie City Panthers
First Team



Brogan McKrola
Prairie City Panthers
Second Team



Ravyn Walker
Monument/Dayville Lady Tigers
Second Team



Hayden Schafer
Monument/Dayville Tigers
First Team



Tanner Walczyk
Monument/Dayville Tigers
Second Team

LADY PROS

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"Offensively, we shot the ball well, and we had one of our best rebounding games of the season," Mosley said. "Defensively, we did a good job of contesting their shooters. I am extremely proud of what these girls have accomplished. Our goal was to return to Pendleton, and they made it happen."

He said they would spend the week preparing for Kennedy, which has "a traditionally strong program."

Moulton said the team played Saturday for their teammate Heather Mosley who was out early in the season with a knee injury.

"We put it all out there for Heather, because it's her senior year, and we hope to get more wins for her," Moulton said. "I'm really proud of how good we did, being such a young team and against older players."

Kaylee Wright said she

was concerned going into the game, knowing Pilot Rock would have a lot of community support, but added, "We had endless support, and it was great to have a win like that."

Haillie Wright said she knew it would be tough to face the Rockets after a long bus ride.

"Pilot Rock is a great ball club," she said. "It was tough competition for sure. We worked hard from start to finish and hope to finish (in Pendleton)."

Kaylee added, "We just have to play our game and have intensity the whole 32 minutes, defensively and offensively."

Kennedy of the Tri-River Conference had a league record of 10-2, 15-10 overall, in the regular season.

Grant Union of the Wapiti League had a league record of 7-2, 15-6 overall.

Grant Union vs. Pilot Rock
Kaylee Wright: 17 points
Mariah Moulton: 11
Haillie Wright: 10
Madi McKrola: 8
Trinity Hutchinson: 3



EO Media Group/Matt Entrup

Pilot Rock's Rachel Willingham (3) defends against Grant Union's Haillie Wright as the Rockets' Sara Weinke watches during their 2A girls basketball state playoff game Saturday in Pilot Rock. Grant Union won 49-42.

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the corner's
HOT SHOT
OF THE WEEK

CLAY JOHNSON
School: Grant Union
Grade: 12
Parent: Guy and Angie Johnson
Sport: Wrestling

What I like best about my sport: "It's taught me discipline and built character, just through the sport."

Coach's Comment: "Clay Johnson is a special athlete. He has committed himself to becoming an exceptional wrestler and a wonderful young man. Clay is a four-time state qualifier who placed fourth, third, and second over the past three seasons. He is a great example and leader for our younger wrestlers."
-Coach Andy Lusco

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