

TRACK

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The coach trains in the throwing events, sprints and relays, while assistant Kiele Williams coaches jumping events, also teaching the team yoga three times a week. Barber said the stretching exercises improve the team's balance, power and flexibility.

He said the girls throwing events and sprints and the boys throwing events look especially promising.

The Prairie City team includes 11 athletes. There are three boys and eight girls on this year's varsity roster, and all six freshmen were previously on the middle school track team.

Looking at the competition, Prairie City's 1A Special District 4 opponents will be Adrian, Burnt River, Cove, Crane, Dayville, Harper Charter, Huntington, Jordan Valley, Joseph, Long Creek, Monument, Pine Eagle and Powder Valley.

Barber said he expects Jordan Valley, Crane and Adrian to be especially tough competitors.

"There are some schools that are just athletic in every sport. They're just consistent," he said. "Adrian has the numbers, too. They have a lot of kids that come out for sports."

The coach added he's happy to see so many incoming freshmen join the team.

"It builds depth," he said. "It also helps build a long-term program."

Senior Taci Perrenoud said she's been competing in the 100-meter dash since sixth grade.

"It's always been the strongest for me," she said.

Her other events include the 200, 100 hurdles and



LEFT: Racing down the Prairie City track are team members, from left, Jessica Reames, Aleah Johns, Taci Perrenoud and Emily Ennis. RIGHT: Prairie City Panther Megan Camarena throws shot put during Thursday's practice.



The Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter



Prairie City Panther Devin Packard throws javelin in Thursday's practice as Hayley Pfefferkorn and Jake McHatton wait their turn.

long jump.

Perrenoud had an injured ankle early last season but said she's ready to come back strong.

"I'm really excited for the season," she said. "We have a young team, but I think we have quite a few state competitors."

Senior Devin Packard's events are shot put, discus and javelin, and he competed his eighth-grade and freshman year.

"We should have a strong competing team," he said.

When asked what his favorite event is, Packard quipped, "Javelin — who doesn't like throwing sharp objects?"

Another strong member of the team is junior Megan Camarena, who has been throwing shot put since sixth grade.

"I'm looking forward to how we're going to be more of a family this year," she said. "I hope to go to district and state."

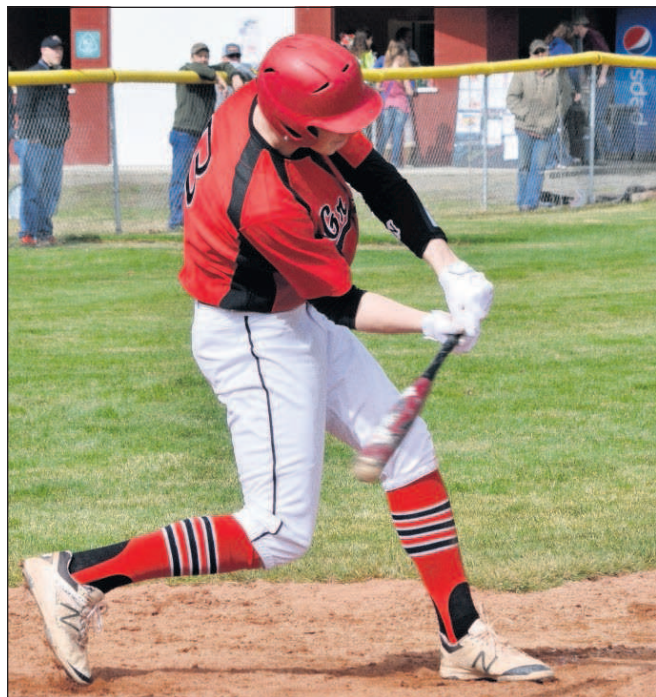
Barber said his seniors are providing good leadership, adding the team works well together, and they are "coachable."

"They've all been positive," he said. "They've done everything we've asked, and they're on time and stretching. I'm excited to be doing this."



The Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union Prospectors second baseman Jesse Paulson, right, high-fives the coaches after Saturday's win over Lakeview. Other teammates in the photo are pitcher Brogan McKrola (7), left, Billy Copenhaver, back, Hadley Boethin (24) and Wade Reimers (3).



Grant Union Prospectors Wade Reimers gets a base hit in Saturday's game against Lakeview.

BASEBALL

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Grant Union hosted the Burns Hilanders on March 14 for the Prospectors' season opener.

The Prospectors held their ground through the fourth inning, but Burns made strides in the fifth, leading the Hilanders to a 12-8 win.

In the fifth, Burns turned up their offense with four runs before Hilander Bryce Goss hit a grand slam, giving the visitors an 11-6 lead.

Grant Union worked to close the gap in the bottom of the inning. Reimers doubled, advancing Deiter to third. Then Cameron Hallgarth brought his teammates home when he hit the ball near the center fence, to make it 11-8, Burns leading.

Grant Union held off Burns in the sixth, and third-baseman Copenhaver got the final out of the inning when the Hilanders attempted a steal.

Burns scored a final run in the seventh, a Goss one-run homer.

In the bottom of the inning, with two outs, Grant Union was about to load the bases, poised for a comeback, but Burns got the stop to end the game.

Grant Union will host the Les Schwab Invitational Spring Break Tournament on Thursday through Saturday, March 30-April 1 at the Seventh Street Complex.

The Prospectors are scheduled to face Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa at 2 p.m. Thursday with games against Oakland on Friday and Sheridan on Saturday at 2 p.m. both days.

SOFTBALL

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Lakeview had four hits and six strikeouts.

"Overall, I thought we did well," Nash said. "I was pleased that we kept battling and corrected some of our errors as the game went on. ... Every game, we should get better like that."

Grant Union travels to Culver next week for a dou-

bleheader, which starts at 2 p.m. Friday.

In Friday's game against Union, Grant Union had 11 hits and three walks and gave up nine hits with four errors.

McClellan, Madden, Walker, Natalie Stearns, Reagan Shelley and Tressa Ranft all had hits, including a triple for Walker and a double for Moulton.

Zweygardt and Hailie Wright each had two hits and a double.



Grant Union Prospectors Whitney McClellan gets in the action in Saturday's game against Lakeview.

The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

ROUNDUP

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Grant Union had four girls and three boys competing in the event.

"We played better than I thought we would," said Grant Union head coach Ron Lundbom. "Only two of the team had ever had a club in their hands before the first of this month. We should field a full team with both the boys and girls at Pendleton in two weeks."

For the Grant Union boys, Duane Stokes shot a 96, Kellen Shelley 102 and Elijah Humbird had a 62 in his first match ever.

For the Grant Union girls, playing nine holes, Fallen Bolman shot a 78, Emily Springer 78, Maddy Way 79. It was the first match for the four girls.

Heppner's boys and girls teams won the event, the boys with 361 and the girls with 444.

Grant Union will travel Thursday, March 23 to the 1A-2A Invitational which starts at 12 p.m. at Wildhorse Golf Club in Pendleton.

Monument athletes tear up track in The Dalles

Monument track and field head coach Darrin Dailey said his team had some remarkable performances at Saturday's Nullen-Leavitt Invite at The Dalles.

The team was up against 15 teams, including 5A The Dalles.

For the Monument girls, returning state champion Sophie Pettit placed first in all her events, the 100-meter dash, the 200 and long jump.

Kyla Emerson was third in the 300 hurdles with a time of 53.13 and sixth in the 100 hurdles at 19.44.

Bailey Thomas finished fourth in the 3,000 meter with 13:33.61, and Faythe Schafer took fifth in the 200 with a personal record of 29.91.

On the boys side, newcomer John Ramirez set new school records in the 100-meter dash, placing fourth with a time of 12.05 and the 200, placing ninth with a time of 24.99.

Dailey said senior Hayden Schafer is well ahead of his marks from this time last year, and Jess Hoodenpyl was in the middle of the pack for the 800- and 3,000-meter runs.

"We're all looking forward to Pendleton on Thursday," Dailey said.

There the team will face 24 competitors at the 26th Annual Buck Track Classic at Pendleton High School.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 23

Monument track and field @ Buck Track Classic in Pendleton at 11 a.m.

Grant Union golf @ 1A-2A Invitational at Wildhorse Gold Club in Pendleton at 12 p.m.

Friday, March 24

Grant Union softball @ Culver (2) at 2 p.m.

Dayville, Prairie City track and field teams compete in Harper

Dayville and Prairie City each fielded a team in Harper Friday for the Diana Thurmond Invitational.

The 1A teams competed with other teams their size, as well as 3A Nyssa and 2A Vale.

Dayville's returning state champion Kristina Humphreys placed first in javelin with a mark of 126-03, and her teammate Gabe Walker was eighth in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 21.96.

Prairie City's Devin Packard, returning to the sport after two years, placed fifth in discus with 108-10 and ninth in javelin with 122-00 and 10th in shot put with a throw of 35-05.75.

For the Prairie City girls, Emily Ennis finished fifth in the 100 hurdles with a time of 21.99 and ninth in the 200 with 32.18, and Megan Camarena was sixth in shot put with a throw of 29-05.00.

Prairie City's Taci Perrenoud finished seventh in the 200 meter with 31.71 and eighth in the 100 at 14.30.

"I was quite pleased with the team at the track meet," said Prairie City head coach Nate Barber. "It was nice to see where we are with some of the other schools in our conference. We are right there at the top."

He added, "The exciting thing is that they will all get faster and stronger as the season goes on, as long as we continue to work. The meet also gave some of them a goal of where they want to be by the time the next meet comes after spring break."

Both Prairie City and Dayville plan to compete at the Grant Union Small School Meet on April 4 in John Day.

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the corner's HOT SHOT OF THE WEEK

ANDREA COMER
School: Grant Union
Grade: 10
Parents: Russ and Sheila Comer
Sport: Dance

What I like best about my sport: "It expresses how I feel, and it's fun to be around my teammates."

Coach's Comment: "Andrea gives it her all in practice and has continued to make huge strides this season. I'm really proud of her."
-Coach Kattie Piazza

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