



Grant Union Prospect Marissa Smith scores in Friday's league playoff game.

Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter



Grant Union Prospect Mariah Moulton gets a high-five from assistant coach Monty Nash after singling in Friday's playoff game against Burns.

SOFTBALL

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be determined; if Dayton wins, the game will be played in Dayton, and if Burns wins, the game will be in John Day. Dayton (21-2) is ranked No. 3, and Burns (12-12) is No. 14.

The Grant Union Prospectors had the lead through most of the first five innings of Friday's league playoff battle versus Burns, but the Hilanders scored two runs in the seventh for an 8-7 win.

Although Grant Union lost, the team ranked in the top 16 to advance to the state playoffs, filling one of two at-large spots.

Grant Union previously met up with Burns in Hilander territory April 28, splitting wins with a 15-3 loss, followed by a 17-3 win in the doubleheader.

Friday's game got off to a tough start when Grant Union's offensive powerhouse Ravyn Walker, the No. 2 batter in the lineup, collided with the Hilander shortstop after attempting to steal second base in the bottom of the first inning.

Walker was taken to the hospital by ambulance for further evaluation and is expected to be fine. Nash said Walker should be ready to play by Wednesday.

Grant Union was behind by two until the bottom of the second.

The bases were loaded when Prospect Natalie Stearns hit deep in the outfield, scoring Reagan Shelley, who was in as a courtesy runner for Brianna Zwegardt, and Hailie Wright.

Prospectress Tressa Ranft singled, sending Marissa Smith home, giving Grant Union its first lead in the game, 3-2.

Grant Union pitcher Mariah Moulton allowed Burns a run in the first and second



Grant Union Prospectress Cody Jo Madden pitches the final two and a half innings of Friday's league playoff battle versus Burns.

innings, but held them at bay in the third.

In the bottom of the third, Stearns doubled to score Shelley, and teammate Cody Jo Madden also doubled, scoring Stearns, increasing their lead to 5-2.

Burns had another run in the fourth. Then Zwegardt's single in the bottom of the inning brought Whitney McClellan home for a 6-3 lead.

The Hilanders started off the fifth with a one-run homer and later scored another.

Madden then took the circle to relieve Moulton.

Burns threatened, loading the bases, but Grant Union got out of the inning, left fielder McClellan catching the final out.

Hilander pitcher Ally Sutcliffe allowed no Prospectress runs in the bottom of the inning, and the Hilanders tied up the score 6-6 in the sixth.

Grant Union's offense stalled in the bottom of the sixth, and Burns followed up with two runs in the seventh.

The Prospectors started a comeback when McClellan singled, scoring Smith. However, Burns held onto its one-point lead for the win.

Nash said she was proud of the way her team played, and said they were able to stay focused after losing Walker early in the game.

"They just kept playing and didn't let it interfere with what they needed to do

as a team, which is what we preached to them all year," Nash said. "It's not one person — I know they believed it."

She said Moulton and Madden pitched well.

One factor that was different for the team was going from a 45-degree weather game to a much warmer day. Friday's temperature in Vale was 85 degrees.

"It takes a toll," Nash said.

Burns head coach Charity Wensken said she was happy with her team's positive attitudes.

The team, she said, was able to adjust to the new pitcher (Madden), adding the come-from-behind win was big for them.

"Once we're down, it's hard for us to come back," she said. "I couldn't be more proud of them."

Nash said she and her assistant coaches have been learning more about Glide.

"We know they have had some hard fought games and have been well respected all year in the rankings," Nash said. "We are up to the challenge, having been road tested this year, playing 15 road games."

"It feels normal to get on the bus again, and the girls don't care where we play. Our fan base has also been very supportive this year following us everywhere we have traveled."

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WE SALUTE OUR FALLEN SOLDIERS

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Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

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Join Prairie City in celebrating Lyn McDonald's Retirement!

The fabulous Mrs. Lynette McDonald, the city clerk for The City of Prairie City, is retiring after a 28 year stint with the city. Join us for an open house on Friday May 26th, 9am-5pm. Enjoy some cake while saying good bye to Lyn, and hello to her replacement, Ms. Bobbie Brown!

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