



Contributed photo/Tanni Wenger Photography Studio

Grant County Wildfire 8-10 head coach Zach Williams gives Lauren Wenger a high-five during the District 3 All-Stars Tournament in La Grande.

SOFTBALL GIRLS ON FIRE

Grant County softball teams survive heat

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

Two teams representing Grant County are competing at the District 3 Little League Softball All-Star Tournament in La Grande. The 10 and under Grant County Wildfire softball team made waves Saturday when they beat Union on day one.

After suffering a loss to Hermiston Sunday, the Wildfire came back with a vengeance Monday with a 15-0 shut-out over Wallowa Valley.

Pitcher Drewsey Williams started off in the circle for Grant County against Wallowa, with Addy Northway pitching the remainder of the game.

The team, led by head coach Zach Williams, started off the tournament on the right foot with a 10-0 win over Union in four innings, Drewsey pitching the game.

The team then lost a 4-3 squeaker to Hermiston. The Wildfire girls led 3-2 in the bottom of the sixth when Hermiston scored two runs in the bottom of the inning for the one-run win.

"Their defense has been really good this tournament," coach Williams said of his team. "Pitching has been great, getting ahead of hitters and throwing a lot of strikes."

He said the team needs to adjust at the plate for the quicker pitching.

The Wildfire was scheduled to play Union County Tuesday afternoon, past press time.

If Grant County wins Tuesday's game, they'll face the loser of Hermiston versus La Grande on Wednesday.

Williams said they still have a chance to win the double-elimination tournament.

"We just have to come back and win somebody twice," he said.

The team of 9- and 10-year-olds played through 90-degree weather on Monday.

"They are a great bunch of girls,"



Contributed photo/Tanni Wenger Photography Studio

Halle Parsons hits for the 8-10 Grant County Wildfire team at the District 3 All-Stars Tournament in La Grande.



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Addy Northway pitches for the 8-10 All-Star team at the district tournament in La Grande.

said Williams, whose assistant coaches are Marissa Williams, Levi Watterson and Ray Wenger. "They're really talented, and they played well."

Wildfire pitcher Drewsey Williams was named Player of the Game on Saturday.

Wildfire's third baseman Lauren

Wenger received the honor on Sunday, and pitcher/catcher Addy Northway earned the Player of the Game title on Monday.

The Grant County SWAT (Softball with Attitude) Junior All Stars, 16 and under, also competed at the district tournament in La Grande.

Led by head coach John Girvin and assistants Zeke Langum and Brandi Girvin, the team suffered a 16-2 loss to Union County on Monday, but made a big comeback on Tuesday.

SWAT took on Pendleton, winning a 31-30 battle in seven innings.

The Grant County team at one point was down by eight, making a big comeback toward the end in the game, which lasted nearly four hours.

"We kept our head in it, played hard and came out on top," John Girvin said.

Riley Robertson was Player of the Game on Monday, and Jacey Cash was Player of the Game in Tuesday's game against Hermiston.

The team was scheduled to face the winner of the Union versus La Grande game Tuesday afternoon, past press time.

If SWAT wins that game, they'll play again Wednesday, the championship to be played later that day.

The winning team in each age bracket advances to the state tournament, with the hope of reaching the Little League World Series.

Cinnabar Playdays youth rodeos are back

Blue Mountain Eagle

Cinnabar Mountain Playdays rodeo kids are at it again — having plenty of fun while competing, that is.

The opening CMP rodeo, held June 10 and 11 at the Grant County Fairgrounds in John Day, had a "Tough Enough to Wear Pink" theme.

A total of 34 participants, ranging in age from under 6 up to 17, competed in several events, including figure 8, pole bending, key hole, flag race, goat tying, dummy roping, as well as barrel and break away racing for the older group.

There were six competitors in Leadline (any age), six in Peeewe (ages 6 and under), 10 in Juniors (ages 7 to 9), 10 in Intermediates (ages 10-14) and two in Seniors (age 15 to 17).

The next Playdays in the youth rodeo series will be July 8 and 9, July 29 and Aug. 5. All events will be held at the fairgrounds.

Day 1: Saturday, June 10
 Places listed are based on total points earned for each day.

Leadline

Bransyn Harper, first
 Grayson Schmadeka, second
 Blake Kimball, third
 Hailey Ann Marciel and Ripkin Desadier, tied fourth and fifth

Peeewe

Brooklynn Kimball, first
 Ruby Hooper, second
 Addison Wilson, third
 Emmie Saul, fourth
 Weston Hamilton, fifth

Juniors

Aaliyah Marciel, first
 Tatyn Harper, second
 Helen Rowel, third
 Molly Davis, fourth
 Tavin Desadier, fifth

Intermediate

Clint Rutherford, first
 Bailey McCracken, second
 Rowdy Israel, third



Contributed photo

Ripkin Desadier competes in the flag race with help from his father, Jordan, at the June 10 Cinnabar Mountain Playdays rodeo at the Grant County Fairgrounds in John Day.

Katie Johnson, fourth
 Coy Mathison, fifth

Seniors

Sarah Barker, first
 DAY 2: Sunday, June 11
 Leadline

Blake Kimball, first
 Bransyn Harper, second
 Grayson Schmadeka, third
 Hailey Ann Marciel, fourth
 Ripkin Desadier, fifth

Peeewe

Addison Wilson, first
 Brooklynn Kimball, second
 Allison Bohnert, third
 Emmie Saul, fourth
 Ruby Hooper, fifth

Junior

Aaliyah Marciel, first
 Molly Davis, second
 Helen Rowel, third
 Tavin Desadier, fourth
 Tatyn Harper, fifth

Intermediate

Clint Rutherford, first
 Sam McCracken, second
 Rowdy Israel, third
 Bailey McCracken, fourth
 Coy Mathison, fifth

Seniors

Trinity Hutchison, first
 Sarah Barker, second



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Swimmers dive in to compete last year during a John Day Swim Meet.

Swimming season opens at Gleason Pool

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

Let the splashing begin!

Gleason Pool in John Day, 250 NW Canton St., opened Monday, June 12, for the season.

The recreational swim is 1-4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

Family pool passes are \$130 for those living within the John Day-Canyon City taxing district and \$160 for out of district. Individual passes are \$80 (\$95 out of district). The cost to swim for the day is \$3 (\$4 out of district).

There will be four sessions of swimming lessons, beginning Monday, June 19. Swim lessons are \$40 (\$45 out of district), and sign-ups began June 12.

An adult lap swim is held 5-6:30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and 6-7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Family swim night is 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays.

A water aerobics class is held 5-6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The pool is closed Saturday and Sunday.

For more information, call Gleason Pool staff at 541-620-4001.

The John Day Swim Team held tryouts on Monday, and swim team board president Haley Walker said they had a great turnout of swimmers.

Sabrina Howard leads the team as head coach with assistant coach Stephanie Le-Queiu.

Team member 9-year-old Morgan Walker said she's looking forward to the season, and her favorite part of swim team is traveling to meets.

"You get to see how good the other team is," she said. "It's fun to see how good the competition is."

"I'm looking forward to having fun with my coach. When you have a fun coach, you get to play games like sharks and minnows at the end of practice."