



# Long Creek's Cauy Pool qualifies for nationals

Long Creek cowboy is second in bareback riding

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Recent Monument High School graduate Cauy Pool of Long Creek finished big at the California High School Finals Rodeo in Bishop, California.

Pool rode to second place in bareback, advancing to the July 16-22

National High School Finals Rodeo in Gillette, Wyoming.

At the June 10-17 state finals, riding for the District 1 high school rodeo team, Pool finished 58 in Round One, 63 in Round Two and 65 in the short go.

"I would have liked first place, but it was a lot better than I did last year," said Pool, who rode in several high school rodeos this season. "I had a goal to get a score on every one of the horses I rode on."

Pool lives a 1/4-mile down the road from his friend GW Clark in Long Creek. Clark, also a 2017

Monument graduate, will compete in steer wrestling at nationals.

Pool is now preparing for the big event when he's not working on a ranch.

"I'm working out every single day, practicing every single day, and watching a lot of videos of pro guys and trying to stay focused," he said.

Pool plans to continue his rodeo career while he studies welding technology at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces.

"They're giving me a full-ride scholarship to be on the rodeo team," he said.



Contributed photo

Cauy Pool of Long Creek competes in bareback for District 1 at the California State High School Finals Rodeo in Bishop, California.

# Wildfire blazes for District 3 title

Grant County softball team wins rematch against Hermiston for championship

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant County Wildfire 8-10 girls softball team overcame some challenging moments to win it all at the District 3 Little League Tournament in La Grande.

Facing undefeated Hermiston, Grant County claimed the victory with 10-3 and 9-1 wins in Thursday's championship doubleheader.

Grant County lost only one game in the six-day tournament, a 4-3 loss Sunday, June 18, to Hermiston in the Wildfire's second game.

Although the Wildfire got behind in both games of the doubleheader, they focused and rallied for the title.

"They kept doing what we asked them to do, which was swing at good pitches, be patient and keep playing good defense," said head coach Zach Williams. "We had a couple errors in the second inning of the second game, but they put the ball in play and got outs."

Wildfire pitcher Drewsey Williams was in the circle for both games, pitching 12 innings in all.

She had 22 strikeouts and four walks on the day, giving up three runs in the first game and one in the second.

"When the game started, we all were super excited," Drewsey said.

She said the team gets along well, and when they get behind in a game, they encourage each other.

"Everybody starts talking to each other and starts to get pumped up," she said. "We get more positive, and we can hit off that excitement."

Grant County's Savannah Watterson had a two-run single in the third inning of game one, moving the team ahead 4-3.

The Wildfire later loaded the bases, and Sivanna Hodge hit a three-run double.



Contributed photos/Tanni Wenger Photography Studio

The Grant County Wildfire 8-10 softball team holds the winning banner after taking the championship title at the District 3 Little League Tournament in La Grande. From left, holding banner, Reece Jacobs, Addy Northway, Brilynn Combs, Jaydika Anderson, Drewsey Williams, Halle Parsons, Sivanna Hodge, Grace Voigt and Lilly Rockhill; back, assistant coach Levi Watterson, head coach Zach Williams, assistant coach Marissa Williams, Lexi McKrola, Savannah Watterson and Lauren Wenger. Not in photo, assistant coach Ray Wenger.



LEFT: Grant County Wildfire's Drewsey Williams pitches at the District 3 Little League Softball Championships. Williams pitched the doubleheader wins against Hermiston for the team's championship title. RIGHT: Grant County Wildfire's Reece Jacobs hits the ball in the championship doubleheader against Hermiston. Grant County won the District 3 Little League Tournament in La Grande on Thursday.



In game two, big hits came from Hodge, Addy Northway, Halle Parsons and Brilynn Combs.

Combs was named Player of the Game for game one of the double-

header, and Halle Parsons and Lauren Wenger shared the title for game two.

"Every girl in the line up contributed to every game," coach Williams said. "They're really good softball

players."

The batting order for the Wildfire, ranging in age from 9 to 10, was Northway, Hodge, Parsons, Watterson, Williams, Wenger, Jaydika Anderson, Lilly Rockhill, Combs, Re-

ece Jacobs, Lexi McKrola and Grace Voigt.

Right fielder Lilly Rockhill said their team is like a family, and it was fun to meet up with competitive teams at the tournament.

"Win or lose, we play to have fun," she said.

"It was pretty fun because we lost from that team (Hermiston) and came back to beat them twice in a row," said Jaydika Anderson. "Then afterwards we got to dump ice water on Zach (Williams)."

"It's definitely been their goal to win that tournament," Williams said.

The team has been practicing since March 30, having open gyms since December.

Williams has help from assistant coaches Levi Watterson, Marissa Williams and Ray Wenger.

"They're awesome," coach Williams said. "They're out there every day. They're great with the girls, and they keep it positive."

Grant County advances to the State Little League Tournament in Medford in late July, the date to be announced.

The Wildfire team will also compete Friday through Sunday, June 30-July 2, in Milwaukie at the 10 A/B ASA State Championship.

"We'll compete against teams from all over the state," Williams said. "We'll have a chance for regionals and nationals. This one will be really tough to win."

Overall, the Wildfire girls have played 30 games this summer.

"It shows the dedication of the parents, and we appreciate that," Williams said.

He added kudos for the fans who attended the tournament and watched on Facebook Live.

"It's a testament to our community and the support we get," he said. "Look out for (the Wildfire's) fundraising opportunities for the Little League State Tournament."

The older, 16 and under, Grant County Wildfire team is also gearing up to compete this weekend at the July 7-9 State ASA Tournament in Medford with coach Williams leading that team as well.

# Special Olympics team stands out at regionals

Relay team takes gold in 4x100 at Milton-Freewater

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant County Special Olympics 4x100-meter relay team raced for the gold at the June 17-18 regional meet in Milton-Freewater.

Team members Crystal Wimberley, Brian McKrola, Jay Colson and Caleb Madsen posted a time of 1:27 for first place.

"I think our relay team did great," Wimberley said. "At practices we were running 1:40, and we were 1:27 at regionals."

She said she was glad to see her team stay ahead.

"We accomplished what we set out to do," she said. "We are looking forward to state. We're in the top heat."

Head coach Deronda Lallatin said she was happy to see the relay team shave several seconds off their previous best time.

"I was very pleased with how our athletes did at the regional meet," she said.

Assistant coaches and chaperones were Jason Leighton, Lauri Shockley, Michael Shockley, David Gill, Karla Colson and Kathy Sherwood.

"Jason coached shot put, and the athletes he worked with improved so much," Lallatin said. "One added 2 feet to his previous best throw."

The Special Olympics State Games are scheduled for July 8-9 in Corvallis.

Oregon Law Enforcement, which supports the games, will participate in the Annual Torch Run Relay, carrying the torch in various areas of the state.

"This year, we're staying in the dorms, so it's going to be like a mini college track meet experience," Lallatin said.



ABOVE: Grant County Special Olympian Crystal Wimberley sprints ahead at the regional track and field meet in Milton-Freewater.



LEFT: Grant County Special Olympian Harvey Davis competes in shot put, his coach Jason Leighton looking on (back left in blue shirt).

Contributed photos/Deronda Lallatin

# Area middle schooler, Lusco, makes strides at state track meet

Blue Mountain Eagle

Abby Lusco of Mt. Vernon has been competing with the Grant Union middle school track and field team since sixth grade.

She recently completed eighth grade and competed at the Oregon Middle School Statewide Championship Meet June 3.

She set personal records in two events at the La Pine contest. Lusco finished second in discus with a throw of 95-01, which is an improvement of 10 feet, 3 inches. She placed fourth in shot put with a throw of 30-0, increasing her mark by nearly 2 feet.

Lusco plans to compete on the Grant Union High School track and field team next year.



Abby Lusco