



16U Wildfire finishes season at state

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant County Wildfire 16U team finished in the top half at the Friday through Saturday, July 7-8, 16B ASA State Championship in Medford.

The team was led by manager Zach Williams and assistants Mike Strong, Tammy Clark and Lance Zwegardt.

Grant County started off the tournament in a nail-biter situation, losing 9-8 to the Canby Rebels.

"We dug a six-run hole in the first inning, then came

back 8-9, but the time limit ran out," Williams said. "It was close."

After a loss to Eagle Point Eagles Saturday, the team turned things around with a 2-0 win over the Oregon Filices of Eugene.

The Wildfire also beat the Grants Pass Fast Pitch team, then lost to HV Ice of Happy Valley.

Williams said it wasn't their best tournament, but the team made gains this season, which started in March.

Grant County played 27 games at tournaments in Boise, Fruitland, Caldwell, Vancouver

and Medford with Shaine Madden, Macy Strong and Brianna Zwegardt pitching.

Williams said his team was much improved over the summer.

"They had a lot of good at bats against a lot of good pitching," he said. "They're a hard-working group of girls. They practice two hours each night."

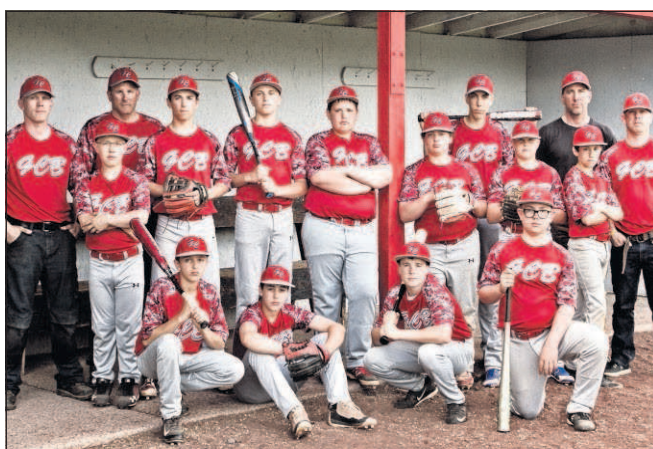
He said the experience gained from over two dozen games is valuable.

"Nothing replaces at bats and game experience and competing," he said. "They learn from it."



The Eagle/Marissa Williams

Front row, left to right: Hailee Wright, Shaine Madden, assistant coach Mike Strong, Macy Strong, Tiler Voigt, Taylor Allen, Jordyn Young, Baylee Combs, Madi McKrola, Brianna Zwegardt, Marissa Smith and manager Zach Williams. Back row: assistant coaches Tammy Clark and Lance Zwegardt.



Contributed photo/Tanni Wenger Photography

The Grant County 12-14 Juniors Little League team finished their season placing second at the July 1-2 All Star District 3 Tournament in John Day. Back row, from left, players Andrew Hunt, Logan McCluskey, Peyton Neault, Bladen Burril, Tanner Way, Declan Zwegardt, Preston Boethin and CJ Glimpse; front row, Parker Neault, Austin McKrola, Justin Hodge and Logan Namitz. Coaches are Will Hunt (assistant), Pat McCluskey, Lance Zwegardt and Robert Hunt. Zach DeRosier and Travis Heiple also assisted.

Grant County takes second at district baseball tourney

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant County 12-14 Juniors Little League baseball team placed second at the July 1-2 All Star District 3 Tournament in John Day.

Coached by Robert Hunt, Pat McCluskey and Lance Zwegardt, the team played 24 games this season, winning 14.

"The boys improved a lot over the season," Hunt said. "We had a really good year."

On the first day of the district tournament, Grant County played Hermiston, which beat Burns in game one.

Grant County took a 5-2 loss to Hermiston, several of the local boys in on the pitching.

Hunt noted the Little League teams have a pitch-count rule, like the high school teams.

Grant County made a comeback Sunday, with a 16-1 victory over Burns, Peyton Neault pitching the entire game.

Hermiston, with a team of mostly 14-year-olds, claimed an 11-1 win to take the tournament title.

Hunt said he was impressed by his team's performance.

"I couldn't have been prouder of those boys," he said. "I'm looking forward to next year."

Assisting coaches for Grant County were Will Hunt, Zach DeRosier and Travis Heiple.

Golfing couples compete at John Day Golf Club

Jack N' Jenny golf tournament draws 52

Blue Mountain Eagle

The sun was shining for the June 18-19 Jack N' Jenny Couples Chapman Tournament at the John Day Golf Club.

There were 52 joining in the tournament, including 28 from outside Grant County.

The two-person teams were divided by team handicaps into three flights: First Flight Skinners, Second Flight Brayers and Third Flight Hee Haws.

Saturday's Closest to the Pin on hole No. 4 were Kathleen Lee with 10 feet, 9 1/2 inches for the ladies and Alan Stephens with 10 feet, five 1/2 inches for the men. Sunday's winners were Lori Meadows with 25 feet, 1 inch for the ladies and Chuck Coffman with 10 feet and a 1/2 inch for the men.

Next up at the John Day Golf Club will be the July 22

through 23 Wapiti Tournament and the Aug. 12 through 13 Two-Man Best Ball.

For more information, call the golf club at 541-575-0170.

Skinners flight
 Gross
 First: Steve and Marla Pierce, 156
 Second: Dan and Kim Crofcheck, 161
 Third: Tim and Vickie Clemens, 162

Net
 First (tie): David and Ginny Csencsics, 136 and Ken and Julie Ellison, 136
 Third: Alan and Carol Neely Stephens, 138

Brayers flight
 Gross
 First: Ryan Simmons and Teresa Lindgren, 167
 Second: Dave and Celia Tacy, 175
 Third: Wes Jones and Michele Luck, 182

Net
 First: Tom Bedortha and Lynda Farrell, 137
 Second: Trevor Simmons and Mandi Dowell, 141
 Third: Bob and Vicki Johnson, 145

Hee Haws flight
 Gross
 First: Will and Judy Martin, 177
 Second: Don and Jennifer Mooney, 195
 Third: Randy Horner and Carlene Johnston, 197

Net
 First: Andy and Maxine Day, 140
 Second: Clay Tanler and Danielle Vawter, 148
 Third: Andy Radinovich and Jeanette Hueckman, 149



Contributed photo/Julie Larson

Sierra May of the John Day Swim Team competes in the butterfly stroke at the Lakeview Meet.

John Day swimmers take on big pool of competition

Team to host home meet on July 21-23

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The John Day Swim Team competed with nearly 500 swimmers July 7-9 at the Pendleton Meet.

The meet took place at the Pendleton Aquatic Center's Olympic-sized pool.

"It was a teaching tool to show our kids the bigger world of competitive swimming," said head coach Sabrina Howard. "We had a great, fun vibe throughout the whole weekend, and a big incentive was to play at the water park."

Up against year-round swimmers qualifying for nationals, John Day's seasonal team wasn't a top placer at the meet; however, they did have some standout performances from team members.

Colbie Howard placed sixth in girls 8 and under 50-meter back stroke and the freestyle.

Rowdy Wilson placed fourth in the boys 8 and under breast stroke and sixth in the 50-meter back stroke.

Swim team board president Haley Walker said the team, which in-



Contributed photo/Julie Larson

From left: Orian Houck, Quinn Larson, Thomas LeQueiu (back) and Caden Howard pose after winning their relay race at the Lakeview Swim Meet.

cluded 30 athletes, showed unity and had fun.

"I do hope, as a coach, I'm able to offer this experience from here on out," Howard said.

On Friday, July 14, the team will hold a Lap-A-Thon fundraiser at Gleason Pool in John Day.

People wishing to sponsor a swimmer for laps can contact any

team member or call Heather Rookstool, 541-390-5790.

The local team will host the John Day Swim Meet on Friday through Sunday, July 21-23.

Howard said the home meet will give their team members an opportunity to qualify for the District Meet, which will take place in Prineville July 28-30.

Rodeo youth show patriotic colors

Blue Mountain Eagle

Young cowboys and cowgirls have been fine tuning their skills over the last three Cinnabar Mountain Playdays rodeos in the summer series.

Kicking off the two-day rodeo at last Friday's grand entry were five competitors carrying flags for the five armed branches of the military.

Hands were over hearts as Riley Gregg sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the fairgrounds in John Day.

"Two days of events showed great improvement from all the competitors," said CMP board member Janet Plocharsky.

She said some youth are completing patterns without help from parents, trying out new horses or trotting or loping for the first time. Three

youth had perfect scores in dummy roping.

"We had a great crowd in the shade, cheering on the kids, and dedicated volunteers helping throughout the day," Plocharsky said.

Top three after three rodeos
 (More results at myeaglenews.com.)

Open Leadline
 First: Bransyn Harper
 Second: Blake Kimball
 Third: Grayson Schmadeka

Peewee (age 6 and under)
 First: Addison Wilson
 Second: Brooklynn Kimball
 Third: Ruby Hooper

Junior (age 7-9)
 First: Aaliyah Marciel
 Second: Helen Rowell
 Third: Tatyn Harper

Intermediate (age 10-14)
 First: Clint Rutherford
 Second: Bailey McCracken
 Third: Rowdy Israel



Contributed photo

Molly Davis competes in the keyhole event at last weekend's Cinnabar Mountain Playdays rodeo in John Day.