



## GRANT UNION SENIORS



Cauy Weaver

Collin Harvey

Wade Reimers

Zack Deiter

Dillon Maley

Cameron Hallgarth

Duane Stokes

Ty McDaniel

Eli Carniglia

Hadley Boethin

Toby Boatwright

Elijah Humbird

# Prospector football team gears up with 12 'top dogs'

Grant Union hosts Heppner at 7 p.m. Sept. 8

By Angel Carpenter  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant Union Prospector football team is geared up with 12 seniors this year, with high hopes for a successful season.

"I'm happy to have 12 seniors out," said receiver Zack Deiter. "We're finally the top dogs."

Quarterback Wade Reimers said he's also impressed with this year's team.

"I'm glad to be with the guys I'm with out here," he said. "We finally have some size on the line."

Grant Union's first game will be away at Athena at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 1, against the Weston-McEwen Tiger-Scots.

Their first home game of the season will be against Heppner at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8.

There are 30 on this year's varsity and junior varsity teams, including two juniors, five sophomores and 12 freshmen.

"We have 12 seniors, and 10 are returning starters on



The Grant Union Prospectors run through drills during last week's daily doubles practice, including Jacob Vaughan, front.

The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

each side of the ball," said head coach Jason Miller.

This is his 10th season coaching the Prospectors, ninth as head coach, with 20 years overall coaching experience.

He said having enough players for a junior varsity schedule is important for the overall program.

Andy Lusco is the varsity defensive coordinator, Tucker Wright is the junior varsity coach and Casey Hallgarth is the junior high coach, with assistance from Ray Wenger. All the coaches assist each other.

Miller said his team is working to improve upon last year's record. He said some positives he's seeing on the

field include a tough offensive line and some good speed.

"We just need to stay healthy," he said.

"They're working really hard, they're committed and have good discipline," he said. "It's been a lot of fun this year."

Last season ended at the quarterfinals, when Heppner

## 2017 Grant Union football schedule

Sept. 1: Grant Union @ Weston-McEwen in Athena, 7 p.m.  
 Sept. 8: Grant Union vs. Heppner, 7 p.m.  
 Sept. 15: Grant Union @ Stanfield, 7 p.m.  
 Sept. 22: Grant Union vs. Burns, 7 p.m.  
 Oct. 6: Grant Union @ Culver, 7 p.m.  
 Oct. 13: Grant Union vs. Imbler, 7 p.m.  
 Oct. 20: Grant Union vs. Enterprise, 7 p.m.  
 Oct. 27: Grant Union @ Union, 7 p.m.  
 Nov. 4: First round state playoffs at Grant Union, 1 p.m.  
 Nov. 11: Quarterfinals playoffs  
 Nov. 18: Semifinals  
 Nov. 25: State championship

stopped the Prospectors.

This year, Grant Union will face Enterprise, Imbler and Union in the Wapiti League.

"They'll all present different challenges for league, and we'll do our best to stay competitive," Miller said.

The senior members of the team include Deiter, Reimers, Elijah Humbird, Toby Boatwright, Hadley Boethin, Ty McDaniel, Dillon Maley, Collin Harvey, Cameron Hallgarth, Duane Stokes, Cauy Weaver and Eli Carniglia.

"I definitely like the numbers," Humbird said. "I'm pretty happy with my team right now. We have a stellar line group. I think if everyone

stays healthy, we have a good chance of going to state."

Maley said he also thinks they'll have a run at state this year.

Harvey said the team, which has a lot of experienced players, works well together and works hard in practice.

"I'm looking forward to this year," said Cameron Hallgarth. "I'm excited to run behind the line we have and to be with such a strong team."

McDaniel said he's glad he made the decision to return for his senior year.

"I hope we get the community out to watch," he said. "With this team, I think we'll have a pretty good season."



Eagle file photo

Bailey McCracken is ready to launch her lasso in the breakaway event earlier in the Cinnabar Mountain Playdays youth rodeo season in John Day.

## Rodeo season closes for Cinnabar Mountain Playdays youth

By Angel Carpenter  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The Cinnabar Mountain Playdays youth ended their season of rodeo Aug. 5 at the Grant County Fairgrounds in John Day.

There were 33 participants in the afternoon event competing in events such as barrel races, figure 8, goat tying and dummy roping. The rodeo ended the year with 41 members.

"This club is run by volunteers, and we are always looking for additional help with arena, planning the series, advertising and new ideas," said board member Janet Plocharsky.

She said if anyone is interested in helping out the youth and their horses, they can contact a member of the board.

"We love to hear from the community," she said.

Year-end results will be announced at the awards banquet, set for Oct. 18 at the Mt. Vernon Community Hall, the time to be announced.

All members, volunteers, donors, friends and family are invited to attend.

See the Cinnabar Mountain Playdays Facebook page for more information.

## Cinnabar Mountain Playdays Aug. 5

### Leadline

First: Bransyn Harper  
 Second: Blake Kimball  
 Third: Grayson Schmadeka  
 Fourth: Ben Henslee  
 Fifth: Hailey Ann Marciel

### Peewee

First: Brooklynn Kimball  
 Second: Addison Wilson  
 Third: Malia Villaganana  
 Fourth: Ruby Hopper  
 Fifth: Emmie Saul

### Juniors

First: Aaliyah Marciel  
 Second: Tatyne Harper  
 Third: Shayna Marciel  
 Fourth: Riley Gregg  
 Fifth: Helen Rowell

### Intermediate

First: Coy Mathison  
 Second: Katie Johnson  
 Third: Clint Rutherford  
 Fourth: Katelyn Barker  
 Fifth: Bailey McCracken

### Seniors

First: Sarah Barker  
 Second: Trinity Hutchison

## Lady Prospectors aiming for strong comeback

Lady Pros host Crane on Friday, Aug. 25

By Angel Carpenter  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant Union Prospector volleyball team is ready to defend its Wapiti League and district tournament titles and spike its way to another shot at the state championship title this year.

Grant Union hosts Crane for its first game of the season Friday, Aug. 25, with junior varsity starting at 4 p.m., followed by varsity.

The team ended last season with the best 2A record in the state, 28-4, finishing third at the state tournament.

Shae Speth, who is in her 12th year coaching the team, including nine years as head coach, said she's encouraged this season.

"The returning players have a ton of experience and finished well last year," she said. "They work really well together."

She added the seniors are showing good leadership skills.

Speth said she expects the team go far in the postseason this year, especially if they refine their serve-serve and passing and play with last year's intensity.

"We definitely want to defend our league and district titles and finish well at state," she said.

Joining this year's three seniors are seven juniors, six sophomores and 11 freshmen.

Assistant coaches, Rhonda McCumber, who coaches junior varsity I, and Shanna Northway, junior varsity II, both assist with varsity coaching.

The team lost some key players to graduation, including Heather Mosley and her height at middle; outside hitter Chelsie Kodesh; and libero Natalie Stearns.

This year's seniors include outside hitter Mariah Moulton, who has been placed on the AVCA Under Armour All-American Watch List for elite senior volleyball student-athletes. The AVCA will select 72 athletes as Under Armour All-Americans in November.

"Mariah continues to get stronger as a hitter and defender," Speth said.

Moulton said she's seeing positive attitudes in the team.

"We've been to state the last three years, and people expect a lot out of us, and we plan on bringing it," she said. "We've had a strong program, and we plan on keeping it that way."



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union Prospector Rilee Browning is ready to return the ball in practice, along with Hailey Wright, left, and Krystle Douglass.

## GRANT UNION SENIORS



Reagan Shelley

Mariah Moulton

Whitney McClellan

"Whitney has improved a lot with her communication and leadership in the back row," Speth said, adding that Shelley is showing confidence in her hitting and defense.

Shelley said, although there are a lot of new girls this year, she thinks the team will be strong.

"We're just going to have to focus on our goals," she said. "We have really good serving, and I think that's going to be our biggest strength."

McClellan said she believes, with this year's group, they'll accomplish their goals.

"We're planning on making it back to the state tournament this year," she said.

Grant Union will face four league opponents this year, including Enterprise, Imbler, Union and Elgin.

Speth said she thinks they'll have their strongest competition from Union and Enterprise.

"Union has a lot of seniors, so they may give us some trouble," she said, adding, "Enterprise has been improving every year."

Imbler, with 11 seniors who graduated and just one returning starter, is an unknown.

Grant Union earned an AVCA Team Academic Award for 2016-2017, receiving the honor for the third consecutive year.

"Our student-athletes pride themselves on being successful both on the court and in the classroom," she said.

## 2017 Grant Union volleyball schedule

Aug. 25: JV/V vs. Crane, 4 p.m. beginning with JV  
 Aug. 26: V hosts GU Tournament, 8 a.m.  
 Sept. 2: JV/V @ Heppner Invitational Tournament, 9 a.m.  
 Sept. 5: JV/V vs. Culver, 5 p.m.  
 Sept. 6: JV II/JVI vs. Dayville/Monument, 5 p.m.  
 Sept. 9: V @ Reedsport Volleyball Tournament, 8 a.m.  
 Sept. 15: V @ Baker Invitational Tournament, 9 a.m.  
 Sept. 19: JVII, JV I, V @ Burns, 4 p.m.  
 Sept. 23: JV/V vs. Enterprise, 12 p.m.  
 Sept. 23: JV/V vs. Elgin, 5 p.m.  
 Sept. 26: JVII/JVI/V vs. La Grande, 4 p.m.  
 Sept. 28: JV/V @ Imbler, 4 p.m.  
 Sept. 29: JV/V vs. Union, 4 p.m.  
 Oct. 4: JVII/JVI @ Dayville/Monument in Dayville, 5 p.m.  
 Oct. 7: JV/V @ Enterprise, 12 p.m.  
 Oct. 7: JV/V @ Elgin, 5 p.m.  
 Oct. 12: JVII/JVI vs. Prairie City, 5 p.m.  
 Oct. 13: JV/V vs. Imbler, 4 p.m.  
 Oct. 14: JV/V @ Union, 1 p.m.  
 Oct. 17: JVII/JVI/V vs. Burns, 4 p.m. (senior night)  
 Oct. 18: JV/V @ Crane, 4 p.m.  
 Oct. 21: Wapiti District Tournament at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, TBD  
 Oct. 28: First round state playoffs at Ridgeview High School in Redmond  
 Nov. 3-4: State playoffs continue at Ridgeview High School in Redmond