



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

The Prairie City Panthers work on drills in last Wednesday's practice. The varsity team has its first game of the season at 7 p.m. Sept. 1, hosting Spray/Mitchell in Prairie City.

COACH

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Idaho, and his dream turned into an accomplished goal of playing for Ricks.

Barber has help from David Packard, who has 10 years experience as an assistant coach. Packard said he's been impressed with the dedication of the team members.

"They're coachable," he said. "They want to be winners."

He noted, when daily doubles ended, players came in for extra time to learn and increase their efficiency in executing the plays.

Danner Davis is the sole senior this year.

Davis joined the Army Reserves and spent time in boot camp this summer.

"Being the only senior, I look forward to this being my last year of football," he said. "I have confidence in the younger guys. They seem to have a lot of heart and want to play football. Everybody seems like they want to play."

Five juniors, three sophomores and six freshmen round out the team.

The four returning starters joining Davis are Lane Williams, Jonathan Lawrence, Connor Jones and Syd Holman.

Junior Jonathan Lawrence and sophomore Connor Jones said they are confident in their team.

"Everyone's showed up, and hopefully, we have an awesome season this year," Lawrence said. "Our team goal is to make it to the playoffs."

"We have a great team this year," Jones said. "We have a great chance to go to the playoffs and possibly state."

He added, "We're just a well-rounded team. We have speed. We have everything you could ask for."

The High Desert League includes Prairie City, Adrian/Jordan Valley, Cove, Crane, Echo, Harper, Huntington, Joseph, Pine Eagle, Powder



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The Prairie City Panther football team works on shoulder hits in last Wednesday's practice.

2017 Prairie City football schedule

- Sept. 1: vs. Spray/Mitchell, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 8: vs. Pine Eagle, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 16: @ Joseph (cross district) in North Powder, 1 p.m.
- Sept. 22: vs. Harper (Homecoming), 7 p.m.
- Sept. 29: @ Huntington, 1 p.m.
- Oct. 6: vs. TBD, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 13: @ Crane, 1 p.m.
- Oct. 20: @ Adrian, 6 p.m.
- Oct. 28: @ cross district playoff, TBD

Valley and Wallowa.

Barber said Spray/Mitchell and Pine Eagle are returning with some size this year, and he also expects Adrian/Jordan Valley to be one of their toughest competitors.

Improving each week is the main goal for the team, Barber said.

"The kids are very coachable, so I think we'll see some growth each week," he said.

"We're young, but those freshmen are amazing athletes, with great speed," he said, adding the team is a group with which they can build a program.

Barber said he's been impressed with freshman starting quarterback Declan Zwegardt, and he said freshman Jojari Field is also quick and athletic, noting Field's quickness on the track is translating well to the football field.

Staying healthy and paying attention to details will be key for a good season, he said.

"It's the little things we have to do right," Barber said. "If you make one play and make a mistake, just fix it and move on to the next play, and just have fun and enjoy the game."

TOURNEY

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these teams here, and we just really showed what we're going to bring this season," she said.

When the team got down in the final set, she said the team stayed focused.

"We did a good job of communicating which helped us keep our intensity up," she said.

Grant Union's Whitney McClellan said it was a good way for them to start the season.

"I think it's a good outlook for what we have in store for the season," she said.

Speth said McClellan had a great day, defensively.

"She has improved much since last season on reading hitters to make strong defensive plays," Speth said.

She noted Mariah Moulton showed strength offensively and defensively with strong hitting.

"Sydney Brockway had a strong showing in her first full varsity match," Speth said. "She went on many serving runs, hit well and was solid in serve-serve."

"Taylor Allen came in as a serving and defensive specialist, serving several aces and getting our opponents out of system offensively," the coach said.

She added Hailie Wright performed well at setter, running the offense and keeping the tempo where they needed it.

"This first weekend always reveals our strengths and weaknesses early in the season, both as a team and individually," Speth said. "Over the next few weeks, we'll work on making the needed adjustments."

Prairie City started off on the right foot with a 25-14 win over Crane in pool play.

"We were ahead at the start," said Prairie City assistant coach Louanne Zwegardt. "The younger girls are stepping up and improving rapidly, and the upperclassmen are showing strong leadership skills."

The win was followed by a 25-12 loss to Grant Union, and in bracket play, the Panthers lost 25-17 and 25-5 to Pilot Rock.

Panther head coach Lance Zwegardt said they had excellent coverage but had too many unforced serve-serve errors.

"We're working on some new things with them



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union Prospector Reagan Shelley returns the ball in a game at Saturday's Grant Union Varsity Volleyball Invitational in John Day.



Prairie City's Cassie Hire dives for the ball in the Panther's first game against Crane at Saturday's Grant Union tournament.



Grant Union Prospector Sydney Brockway dives to keep the ball in play during the final moments of their championship game.

and switching things up," Louanne said. "Some of them worked and some didn't."

Panther Cassie Hire said their first games of the season at the tournament were rough.

"I thought our lower classmen stepped up," she said. "I'm looking forward to the next tournament."

Panther player Brianna Zwegardt said the team has some things to work on, but she's ready for the next game.

"Beating Crane — that

was big for us," she said. "We'll face them throughout the season."

Her teammate Rilee Emmel agreed.

"For our first game against Crane, we played really good," Emmel said. "It was our strongest game."

After hosting Burns on Wednesday, Aug. 30, and Spray/Mitchell on Thursday, Prairie City will host teams on Saturday for their home tournament.

Although Monument/Day-

ville lost their matches, they had a good learning experience against 2A Weston-McEwen and Heppner.

Monument/Dayville head coach Kristi Emerson said she is pleased with her team.

"We still have a lot to go over, but the girls are grasping it," she said, adding she was happy to see her players correct mistakes made in the first game when they played in the second.

In pool play, the Tigers fell 25-15 to Weston-McEwen, then kept it close in their second game with a 25-22 loss to Heppner.

"I thought they did very well," she said. "They didn't get down on themselves and stayed positive."

Other teams competing included 1A Jordan Valley and 3A Nyssa, which beat Monument/Dayville 2-1 in the consolation bracket with scores of 22-25, 25-15 and 15-7.

Kids and Junior Fair Rodeo results

- Pee Wee Stick Horse**
- First: Rider Moulton
- Second: Paisley Churchfield
- Senior Poles**
- First: Aurela Bryant
- Second: Dani Bates
- Woolly Bullies**
- First: Beau Clingman
- Second: Bransyn Harper
- Junior Poles**
- First: Sarah Clark
- Second: Bailey McCracken
- Senior Breakaway**
- First: Katie Johnson
- Youth Poles**
- First: Hayden Churchfield
- Second: Aaliyah Marciel
- Jr. Break away Roping**
- First: Coy Schaffeld
- Goat Tail Undecorating**
- First: Tenley Parsons
- Second: Paisley Churchfield
- Youth Barrels**
- First: Aaliyah Marciel
- Second: Hayden Churchfield
- Senior Goat Tying**
- First: Aurela Bryant
- Second: Lacey Churchfield
- Junior Barrels**
- First: Kase Schaffeld
- Second: Bailey McCracken
- Youth Goat Tail Tying**
- Forst: Aaliyah Marciel
- Second: Hayden Churchfield
- Senior Barrels**
- First: Lacey Garber
- Second: Dani Schultze
- Jr. Goat Tying**
- First: Coy Schaffeld
- Second: Kase Schaffeld
- Youth Calf Riding**
- First: Brett Burril
- Second: Helen Rowell
- Junior Steer Riding**
- First: Coy Schaffeld
- Second: Talon Van Cleave
- Senior Steer Riding**
- First: Keyan Woodcock



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Kenyon Woodcock stays on for the ride in the senior steer riding at Saturday's Grant County Kids/Junior Rodeo.



Coy Schaffeld wins the junior breakaway competition at Grant County Kids/Junior Rodeo in John Day.



Hayden Churchfield competes and wins the youth pole bending at Saturday's Grant County Kids/Junior Rodeo.

VOLLEYBALL

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Prairie City will face eight opponents in league, including Monument/Dayville, Adrian, Jordan Valley, Crane,

Burnt River, Harper, Huntington and Long Creek/Ukiah.

Louanne said she expects Adrian, Crane and Jordan Valley to all return strong this season.

Prairie City beat Crane in pool play at Saturday's Grant

Union Invitational Tournament in John Day.

Lance added those teams are usually tough, and Monument/Dayville is always competitive.

Burnt River, with their rotating student body, and Harp-

er and Huntington are unknown as far as what they'll bring to the table.

The Panthers will have a look at most of these teams hosting the Prairie City Tournament at 8 a.m. Saturday.

"We expect the league

this year to be strong again, with good competition," Lance said. "Having a strong district competition helps if you make it into the state bracket."

He said he's looking forward to seeing how his team

will do this year.

"We have good chemistry and experience in the seniors, good leadership and athleticism in the younger girls," he said. "They have an obvious desire to learn and excel in the game."