



Prairie City wins home VB invitational

Panther spikers host Pine Eagle Friday

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Prairie City Panthers overcame some challenging opponents at their home invitational, winning the tournament championship title over Joseph.

Seven teams joined Prairie City for the daylong competition, including cross-county opponents Monument/Dayville and Huntington, Mitchell/Spray, North Powder, Adrian and Cove.

After beating Mitchell/Spray 2-0 in pool play, Prairie City head coach Lance Zwegardt said he was pleased with his team's performance.

"They're working on coverage to keep the ball alive and to be more aggressive on our offense," he said. "We're working on some offensive plays, so they have to think a lot more. We're really work-



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

The Prairie City Panthers celebrate after a successful rally at their home tournament on Saturday, including Sierra Dahlen (11), Brianna Zwegardt (13) and Emily Ennis (6).

ing on spot serving to keep the other team off balance, and they're doing well at that."

The Monument/Dayville Tigers got off to a shaky start with losses to North Powder and Adrian in pool play.

After the losses Tiger head coach Kristi Emerson said her team needed to improve their communication, coverage and intensity.

Emerson was elated when her team turned things

around, beating Cove, also in pool play, 21-17 and 21-14.

"It was amazing," she said. "Finally, this is what we've been working on, with very few mistakes. I'm happy."

Prairie City and Monument/Dayville faced off in the quarterfinal match, Prairie City winning with scores of 25-14 and 25-21.

The Panthers overcame the Powder Valley Badgers 2-0 in close sets in the semi-

finals, winning 26-24 and 25-21.

In the final match, Prairie City put together a 2-1 win over Joseph. The Panthers won the first match 25-22, then lost the second 12-25. Prairie City rallied for the title with a 15-13 win in the final match.

Zwegardt, who co-coaches with Louanne Zwegardt, said the team rallied in the final game, not letting their mistakes bring them down.

"It was fun to fight back



Prairie City's Katie Hire in action at the Panther's home tournament. See more photos at myeaglenews.com.

and beat Joseph in the final set of the championship match after losing the second set," said setter Brianna Zwegardt. "It gives me confidence in our ability to not give in and to be resilient. It felt really good to win."

Other teammates expressed similar sentiments.

"We worked really hard, and it paid off," Cassie Hire said. "I'm excited to see where we go from here."

Sierra Dahlen said they kept positive attitudes all day

and stayed strong despite feeling tired.

"We worked really well as a team," added Megan Camarena. "We accomplished what we have been working on, and I am looking forward to the future."

Prairie City will host Pine Eagle in a nonleague game Friday in Prairie City with junior varsity starting at 4 p.m., followed by varsity.

Monument/Dayville will host Harper at 4 p.m. Friday in Dayville.

Tight-knit team views season with positivity

Five-year assistant coach takes helm

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

New Monument/Dayville head coach Kristi Emerson is no stranger to the Tiger volleyball team.

She was the squad's assistant coach for five years before taking the helm this season.

Cheyenne Perkins is stepping into the role of assistant coach.

Though the team is young, with just one senior, the players and coaches say the team's future is bright.

Monument/Dayville lost three players to graduation, including strong outside hitter Kendall Hettinga, defensive specialist Ravyn Walker and Dinorha Vidreo Landin.

The coaches are working on new lineups with some players taking on new positions.

"We have a pretty positive team," Emerson said. "(Most) have grown up together since grade school, and they do get along very well, which I think is a positive aspect. We have some strong servers and some strong hitters."

Returning starters are senior Danielle Rhoda, junior Kyla Emerson, junior Faythe Schafer and sophomore Denali Twehues.

The team of 10 includes



Danielle Rhoda

one senior, four juniors, four sophomores and one freshman, who has junior high volleyball experience. Emerson said the team returners are excited to be back and the new players are happy to be on the team.

Rhoda said she's glad to have several starters back on the court.

"We play pretty well together," she said. "For a strength, I think we definitely have a lot of hitters. There are some girls who didn't get a chance to hit or play front row, who are doing really well."

Player Kyla Emerson said that even though the team is young, she's looking forward to seeing how far they go as the season progresses.

"I'm excited to play volleyball with all my friends," she said. "I think everyone

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A DETERMINED EFFORT Panthers come up short in season opener



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter
Prairie City Panther Lane Williams (62) breaks up a pass intended for Mitchell/Spray's McCoy Cook (2).

Prairie City will host Spartans at 7 p.m. Sept. 8

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

It wasn't the outcome they were looking for, but the Prairie City Panthers made a determined effort in their first eight-man football game of the season, hosting the Mitchell/Spray/Wheeler Rattlers.

The game was scoreless until midway through the third quarter,

but the Rattlers went on to claim a 22-0 win.

Near the end of the first half, Prairie City's Jonathan Lawrence picked off a Rattler pass, and the Panthers moved the ball into the red zone before being halted.

The Rattlers took possession at the start of the third and gained ground with a 35-yard carry from midfield.

Prairie City put on the brakes and took over on downs at their 15-yard line.

On the Rattlers' next possession, with about 6 minutes to go in the third, Mitchell/Spray's Myles McCormick ran 30-plus yards for the team's first touchdown, the conversion no good.

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Tiger football team is young and determined

Tigers host Harper Sept. 8 in Dayville

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Monument/Dayville head coach Nathaniel Ashley said this is a building year for the junior varsity football team, but the 11 players he has to construct his Tiger team are showing determination.

"Just four out of the 11 guys have worn shoulder pads," Ashley said. "We're starting from square one, but they're all working hard and picking up everything — learning everything."

Monument/Dayville will host the Harper Hornets at 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8, in Dayville.

Ashley is in his seventh year coaching, and his assistant



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Monument/Dayville Tiger DJ Howell takes the ball to teammate JT Hand in a recent practice in Dayville with head coach Nathaniel Ashley looking on.

coach is Kyle Hand.

Three returning starters are helping the newer players, including juniors Cade Milton and Gabe Walker and sophomore Wesley Adams.

"These guys are stepping up into leadership roles," the

coach said.

Milton said he's looking forward to the season.

"We're seeing what we can do for the kids that are just coming in and see what they can do to improve for next year," he said. "I'm ready to learn new



Rafael Adas Dualibi

things and play different positions." "I'm looking forward to hanging out with my friends, and seeing how well they do, and getting to know them better," said Gabe Walker. "I'm looking forward to seeing how everyone does in a game situation, and I'm going to help as much as I can."

The sole senior on the team is Raphael Adas Dualibi, a foreign exchange student from Brazil.

Although it's his first time taking the field for American football, he has experience playing soccer, surfing and competitive rowing in his home country. He also has enjoyed working out at the gym every day.

2017 Monument/Dayville football schedule

Sept 8: vs. Harper in Dayville, 1 p.m.
Sept. 16: @ North Powder Tournament, TBD
Oct. 7: vs. Adrian JV in Monument, 1 p.m.
Oct. 16: @ Crane, 4 p.m.
Oct. 20: vs. South Wasco in Monument, 2 p.m.

"I'm very excited," he said. "I want to learn with them, and I'm happy to play with the team."

There are three juniors, two sophomores and five freshmen rounding out the team.

The freshmen all played Monument flag football last year, Ashley said.

Among the freshmen are the two quarterbacks for the team, JT Hand and Mark Thomas.

Mark Thomas has been among the top cross country and track runners in the state since fifth grade.

He earned fourth place in the 1,500-meter run at the Middle School Statewide Championships in La Pine last year, with a personal record of 4:50.85 and was sixth in the 800-meter.

Ashley said his goals for the team this year are having fun playing football and making sure everyone plays safe.

Also, "getting those fundamentals down and building on and improving," he said. "They're getting better every day."