



Prairie City heading to state

Panthers persevere to win district championship

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

It wasn't quite a Cinderella story, but the Prairie City Panthers pulled off an upset at the 2017 High Desert League Volleyball Tournament at Grant Union high school on Saturday.

Going in as the No. 4 seed at 4-3 in league play and 15-6 overall, the Panthers knocked off the top-seeded Jordan Valley Mustangs in the second round and took home the championship trophy after a tough match against the Adrian Antelopes.

The Panthers started the day by defeating No. 5-seed Harper in three sets, 25-12, 25-13 and 25-10. The younger Hornets had difficulties competing with Prairie City, which boasted five seniors.

"We did a pretty good job of playing our game," Panther coach Lance Zweygardt said. "It was a good warm up for our next game, which should be tougher."

The Panthers faced No. 1-seed Jordan Valley in the second round. The Mustangs, with two seniors and less height, had defeated Prairie City in league play, but the Panthers had beaten them at the Crane tournament in September.

In a hard-fought match with numerous lead changes, the Panthers won the first two sets, 27-25 and 25-18, but lost the next two sets, 20-25 and 21-25. Prairie City won the final set 15-13 in another nail-biter.

"I knew it would be a tough battle," Zweygardt said after the match. "We took the



Prairie City's Emily Ennis goes up for a hit during the championship match against Adrian in the 2017 High Desert League Volleyball Tournament. The Panthers' Brianna Zweygardt and Megan Camarena back up Ennis at the net.

The Eagle/Richard Hanners

first two sets and then got a little complacent before we came back where we needed to be."

Meanwhile on the other end of the gym, No. 3 Adrian defeated No. 2 Crane in another close match, leaving the two upstarts facing each other in the championship match. Zweygardt was confident the Panthers could prevail against the Antelopes.

"We beat them in league play in three sets," he said.

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The Prairie City Panthers won the 2017 High Desert League Volleyball Tournament Saturday, Oct. 21, at Grant Union high school in John Day. They defeated No. 5-seed Harper 3-0, No. 1-seed Jordan Valley 3-2 and No. 3-seed Adrian 3-2.

The Eagle/Richard Hanners



Contributed photo/Elizabeth Shelley

Grant Union's Cameron Hallgarth carries the ball in Friday's game against Enterprise. The Prospectors won the game, 52-6, improving their league record to 2-0.

Pros crush visiting Outlaws

Grant Union defeats Enterprise 52-6 on senior night

By Richard Hanners
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The Prospectors had their way with the visiting Outlaws on Friday, easily defeating Enterprise 52-6 on senior night in nice fall weather at Grant Union high school.

"It was a great way to end the season for the seniors," Grant Union coach Jason Miller said, "a great celebration of what they've done over the past four years."

Grant Union came into the game at 5-1 overall with 11 seniors. Enterprise was 2-2 overall, with a smaller roster and only four seniors.

Prospector senior quarterback Wade Reimers started the scoring rout with a 33-yard run into the end zone just 2 1/2 minutes into the game. Sophomore Kellen Shelley followed up with another



Contributed photo/Elizabeth Shelley

Grant Union's Wade Reimers runs the ball in Friday's 52-6 victory over the Enterprise Outlaws.

sweep for the two-point conversion.

The Outlaws established a consistent pattern early on of four downs and out, keeping the special teams busy all evening.

On their second possession, Grant Union pushed past midfield on a long ground-gainer. Reimers ran in another touchdown, and senior tight end Cauy Weaver caught a pass for the points after.

The Prospectors drove

down field on their next possession, and senior running back Zack Dieter ran in the touchdown. A fumbled lateral cost Grant Union the extra points, leaving the score 22-0.

Enterprise then made it to midfield before giving up the ball on downs. On their first play from scrimmage, Reimers completed a 34-yard pass to Shelley. A few plays later, Reimers ran in another touchdown. Dieter ran in the extra points, making it 30-0 at the end of the first quarter.

On their next possession, Reimers completed a 19-yard pass to Dieter, but the Prospectors were unable to gain another first down on the drive. That was easily made up a few plays later when Shelley intercepted an Outlaw pass. Dieter followed that up by a 69-yard catch and run for a touchdown. Reimers pitched the ball to Dieter for the extra points, making it 38-0.

Dieter intercepted Enterprise two plays later, and senior running back Cameron Hallgarth scored on a 5-yard

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Prospectors win district volleyball tournament

Grant Union beats Imbler in three sets

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

It was a long drive to La Grande for just one volleyball match on Saturday, but it was worth it. The Grant Union Prospectors defeated the Imbler Panthers to win the Wapiti League championship.

The Prospectors came into the tournament as the top seed, at 8-0 in league play and 22-1 overall. Imbler, which was tied at third until defeating the Enterprise Outlaws on Oct. 18, came into the tournament as the No. 3 seed at 3-5 in league and 5-14 overall.

The Panthers defeated the No. 2-seeded Union Bobcats in five sets in the first round of the district tournament on Saturday to move on to the championship match.

"Imbler is a much improved team, especially on defense," Grant Union coach Shae Speth said.

The Prospectors defeated Imbler in three sets, 25-21, 25-13 and 25-13.

"In the first set, we started off a little slow, making too many errors," Speth said. "But by mid-set, we were able to get into an offensive flow we were able to keep throughout the remainder of the match. We served and passed pretty well, and were able to work on options in some of our weaker rotations."

Senior outside hitter Mari-ah Moulton notched 13 kills,



Contributed photo/Elizabeth Shelley

Sydney Brockway spikes the ball in the Wapiti League championship game against Imbler Saturday, with teammates Whitney McClellan and Trinity Hutchison (5) backing her up.

six aces and six digs in the win. Junior Sydney Brockway posted seven kills, three aces, 100 percent serve-receive and nine digs.

Junior Hailie Wright had two kills, two aces, one block assist, 10 digs and 24 assists, and junior Kaylee Wright had six kills, one ace, two block assists and three digs.

Senior Reagan Shelley had three kills and one block assist, and senior Whitney McClel-

lan had five aces, 100 percent serve-receive and 12 digs. Junior Trinity Hutchison had three kills and one dig, sophomore Taylor Allen had two aces and one dig and junior Alcie Moore had two digs.

"We served particularly well this match, with 19 aces against Imbler and getting them out of system quite often," coach Speth said.

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