Grant Union crushes Union to sweep Wapiti League

Prospectors host Central Linn at 1 p.m. Saturday

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

File photo/Elizabeth Shelley

Duane Stokes carries the ball for Grant Union in the Oct. 20 game against Enterprise. The team beat Union on Friday to sweep the Wapiti League.

The Prospectors became 2A-6 Wapiti League champions for a second consecutive year after Friday's 56-0 shutout victory over the Union Bobcats.

The Grant Union Prospectors will now host the Central Linn Cobras at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, in John Day for the first round of the Oregon School Activities Association State Championships.

"I am proud of the team and the great season that we have had thus far," said Prospector head coach Jason Miller. "They have worked hard for this."

In Union Friday, all scoring action occurred in the first half, in the Prospectors' favor, and the clock started ticking down in the third for the mercy rule.

Younger Prospectors were subbed in for the second half.

Grant Union overran Union with 324 rushing yards, while holding Union to 67.

Grant Union also had 170 passing yards to Union's six, the Prospectors averaging 24.3 yards per pass.

The Prospectors have 11 seniors on the team this season.

Grant Union is ranked fourth in state by OSAA, and they finished the regular season with a 7-1 overall record, losing only to 3A Burns in nonleague action.

Central Linn, with seven seniors, is ranked No. 13, finishing the regular season with a 3-6 overall record and 1-3 in the 2A-2 Tri-River Conference.

Prospectors ace Bobcats

Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union Prospector Trinity Hutchison (5) sends the ball over the reach of Myrtle Point player Sierra Smith.

Lady Pros move on to state championships

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant Union's confident serving kept the Myrtle Point Bobcats off balance as the Prospectors powered through the first round of the state tournament Saturday in John Day.

In the second set, Prospector sophomore Taylor Allen went on a nine-point serve run, and junior Kaylee Wright added a 10-point run. The Bobcats were unable to get a second touch on the ball, and the Prospectors cruised to victory in three sets, 25-15, 25-4 and 25-8, to move on to the Nov. 3-4 2A State Championship Tournament at Ridgeview High School in Redmond.

Grant Union head coach Shae Speth said, after missing five serves in the first set, they found their focus.

"The last two sets they were serving really tough," she said of her team. "(It's) one of our strengths for sure — it's definitely a weapon for us."

Overall, Prospector senior Whitney McClellan racked up

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Grant Union Prospector Whitney McClellan moves in to dig in Saturday's state playoff game against Myrtle Point at the Grant Union gym in John Day.

The Grant Union Prospectors celebrate after sweeping the Myrtle Point Bobcats in Saturday's state playoff game in John Day.

Grant Union Prospector Taylor Allen serves tough at Saturday's state playoff game against Myrtle Point.

Eagle file photo

The Prairie City Panthers celebrate a successful rally earlier this year. The team ended its season with a loss to the Days Creek Wolves in the first round of the state tournament.

Prairie City netters end season after first-round loss

Lady Panthers play with heart in close match

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Prairie City Panthers capped a successful season, competing in round one at state where they lost a close match to the Days Creek Wolves.

Days Creek won with scores of 25-15, 23-25, 26-24, 23-25 and 15-8.

"The match at Days Creek was a loss on the books, but there was still a great deal to celebrate about it," said coach Louanne Zweygardt.

She said, even after a seven-plus-hour drive on the bus, her team was competitive, pushing it to five sets at the Wolves' home court.

Days Creek entered the contest as the No. 5-ranked team, which also beat the No. 1-ranked team at their own district tournament.

"The girls played hard and well," Zweygardt said. "We did have a slow start but gained momentum in the second set to take it. We had the lead in the third set but couldn't quite hold onto it."

She added, "The fourth set went our way again, and the energy in the gym was high. A few too many unforced errors on our part cost us the fifth set."

Panther player Brianna Zweygardt had three aces out of 23 serves and only one error.

Cassie Hire served 100 percent with 18 serves.

Hailee Wall had seven kills, and Brianna Zweygardt added six. Cassie Hire, Sierra Dahlen and Rilee Emmel each had five, and Emily Ennis had four.

"I can't say enough good things about this team and our season," Louanne Zweygardt said. "We saw a great deal of improvement in the girls individually and especially as a team in the final month of the season, and they were peaking at the end. The girls should be proud to know that they would have competed very well in the state tournament."

Prairie City ended its season ranked No. 18 in state with an overall record of 18-7 and was the 1A-8 High Desert League and District Tournament champions.

"This year has been the best volleyball year that I've had through my high school (career)," said senior Sierra Dahlen. "Once the districts came around, toward the end, it became an instant and constant adrenaline rush. That playoff game, it was definitely competition."

Mariah McClung said making it to the playoffs was a great way to end her senior year of volleyball. The girls wanted to work together and improve, she said.

"I think for the game everybody was really pumped for it and excited," she said. "Even with the outcome, I think our team was still happy with how it went and proud that we made it this far."

Brianna Zweygardt said she was happy with how her team performed and was confident going into the game.

"We battled hard, but it didn't go our way," she said. "It was definitely my favorite year because we got to go on, but also the attitudes of the girls all season was a positive experience."

Eagle file photo

Prairie City head coach Lance Zweygardt leads his team during the Panther's home tournament earlier this season.

The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Prairie City Panther Connor Jones (20) makes a carry as Monument/Dayville Tiger Cade Milton goes in for a tackle.

Prairie City overpowers Monument/Dayville

Teams end season in Monument

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Monument/Dayville Tigers junior varsity football team and the Prairie City Panthers varsity team battled in their final game of the season Friday in Monument, the Panthers claiming a 40-14 victory.

With about 8 minutes left in the game, Prairie City was ahead by 26 points, as Monument/Dayville made strides toward the goal line.

Monument/Dayville's Rico Sparka gave the Tigers a good placement on the field on a kickoff return, and later, on third down with 14 yards to go, Tiger Mark Thomas rushed for a first down.

Tiger freshman quarterback JT Hand was poised to move the ball farther when he was injured on the next play with neck and back pain.

An ambulance was called, and Hand was transported from the field to Blue Mountain Hospital in John Day for evaluation.

Officials ended the game with 7:35 left on the scoreboard.

At last check, Tiger head coach Nathaniel Ashley said Hand will be fine.

Tiger running back and linebacker Gabe Walker said he was glad to see Hand at school Monday.

"He's coming back strong," Walker said.

Prairie City dominated the game with a 32-6 lead at the half.

Panther freshman quarterback Jayden Winegar made some successful plays in the contest, including a 20-yard touchdown pass to freshman receiver Jojari Field in the second quarter.

Ashley said his team was fired up in the second half and stepping up their momentum.

"We were making a drive there towards the end, and I

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