



Lady Prospectors trample TigerScots

Girls one shot short against tough 3A Lakeview team

By Eric Singer and Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant Union girls basketball team took their theme of "90 mph all four quarters" to heart in their 92-54 victory Thursday, Jan. 4, over the Weston-McEwen TigerScots.

"We had a great game plan for them," said Grant Union head coach Casey Hallgarth. "We focused on making our easy shot all week. We were

locked in and executed really well."

The Weston-McEwen girls basketball team goes into each game with a plan to push the tempo against its opponent with the idea of forcing bad decisions that lead to easy offense. That plan was a big reason for Weston-McEwen's five-game win streak that it rode into Thursday evening's game with Grant Union.

Except in that game, the talented Prospectors, currently ranked No. 5 in Class 2A, used that against them. Grant Union's full-court press defense helped force 32 TigerScot turnovers which fed an ultra-efficient offense that broke the 90-point barrier for the third time this season.



EO Media Group/Kathy Aney

Chelsea Quaempts (32) of Weston-McEwen drives to the basket past Grant Union's Alcie Moore during Thursday's nonleague game in Athena.

The Prospectors (8-2) had five players finish in double figures for the game, with Kaylee Wright leading the

way with 23 points and Madi McKrola finishing with 22 points. Grant Union shot 56 percent from the field for the

game (36-of-64).

"They were just better than us," Weston-McEwen coach Mike Giusti said, "and I think everybody understands that. They're very athletic and simply take advantage of that. There were just too many times offensively where we broke down because they rushed us."

Chelsea Quaempts led the TigerScots (6-6) with 18 points, with 10 of those coming from the free throw line. Jordyn Lambert followed with 10 points and Katie Vescio had eight points. The TigerScots shot a paltry 28 percent (19-of-67) from the floor, including a multitude of close-range shots that just didn't seem to

bounce favorably.

Weston-McEwen scored the first points of the game on an elbow jumper by Trinity Hearn just 15 seconds in for a 2-0 lead, which was the only lead the TigerScots would hold for the entire game. Grant Union took the lead back one minute later on a 3-pointer by Mariah Moulton as the Prospectors then went on a 17-2 run over the next five minutes to take complete control of the game and coast to the victory.

Hallgarth said he was impressed with his team's performance.

"Our effort and teamwork was the best so far this season,"

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Grant Union boys notch two wins

Team ranked 7th in state

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

Defense and patient shooting gave the Grant Union Prospectors a boost for two road wins, with a 66-51 victory over the Weston-McEwen TigerScots Thursday followed by a 65-51 win over the 3A Lakeview Honkers Saturday.

Duane Stokes and Wade Reimers led the Prospectors (7-4) in Athena on Thursday, Stokes with 18 points and Reimers with 15.

The three other Prospector seniors also contributed points, with Zack Deiter scoring 8, and Ty McDaniel and Cauy Weaver adding 6 each. Sophomore Kellen Shelley added 9, and sophomore Cole Deiter had 4.

"It was a long road game, but I think the boys were prepared and ready to come out and play," said Grant Union head coach Kelsy Wright. "They had a lot of composure and patience ... with good shot selection."

Weston-McEwen (4-10) scored the first points of the game on a corner 3-pointer from Brett Speed 25 seconds into the game for a 3-0 lead. It was the only time the TigerScots would hold a lead.

Grant Union took the lead back 4-3 with 6:30 left and finished the quarter 19-8 to give themselves an 11-point cushion at the end of the quarter.

In the second quarter, the TigerScots fought back. Their defense forced some turnovers and led to some transition baskets, which helped the TigerScots get within 5 points at 28-23 with 3:40 left and kept them within 8 points of the Prospectors at halftime. The tenacity continued early in the third quarter to keep the TigerScots close, but they just could not cash in on opportunities. Three straight pos-



EO Media Group/Kathy Aney

Parker Munk of Weston-McEwen gets ready to pass around Grant Union's Cauy Weaver (10) during Thursday's nonleague game in Athena.

sessions the TigerScots had man advantages in transition and came away with no points, instead with one turnover and two missed lay-ins.

"That's something that's plagued us all year," Weston-McEwen coach Brian Pickard said. "We miss easy shots, and then it seems like the other team always turns around and hits a couple of threes or a few lay-ins and we can't recover from it, which happened again."

Instead of the TigerScots creeping closer, the Prospectors took off and outscored the TigerScots 19-6 in the

third quarter and kept a considerable lead for the remainder of the game.

In Lakeview, the Prospectors started slow.

"It was a rocky start," Wright said. "We ended up getting our legs underneath."

He said one of their keys to staying ahead the rest of the game was Duane Stokes defending one of the Honkers' best outside shooters.

Grant Union was in some foul trouble late in the game, and so was Lakeview.

"We hit our free throws the whole

way," Wright said.

Stokes led the Prospectors with 25 points, followed by Cole Deiter with 10.

Also contributing points were Zack Deiter, 8; Reimers, 7; Weaver, 6; Shelley, 4; Jacob Vaughan, 3; and Taylor Hunt, 2.

Grant Union, now ranked seventh by the OSAA among 2A teams, hosts the Elgin Huskies (8-6) at 7:30 p.m. Friday in John Day for the Prospectors' league opener.

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ALL-STATE 1A VOLLEYBALL HONORS



Brianna Zweygardt
 Senior, setter
 Second team



Cassie Hire
 Senior, middle hitter
 Honorable mention

Panther girls defeat Tigers by 10

Nail-biter slips away for Monument-Dayville

By Richard Hanners
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The Monument-Dayville girls matched up well with the Panthers in Prairie City on Jan. 6, holding their own in a first half that ended tied at 18 before seeing the game slowly slip away in the final quarters. The Panthers topped the Tigers 46-36.

While the Panthers struggled in the first half, taking tough shots and scoring off their rebounds, the Tigers ran their plays and controlled the ball on offense. They also outrebounded the Panthers in the first half, but foul trouble impacted the smaller Tiger team early on.

Both teams saw players at the free-throw line, however, with the Panthers going six of 14 and the Tigers going five of 13 in a scrappy game. Prairie City was up 11-9 at the end of the first quarter, as both teams vied for the lead.



The Eagle/Richard Hanners

Monument-Dayville junior Kyla Emerson is closely guarded by Prairie City senior Brianna Zweygardt in the Jan. 6 game in Prairie City.

"We missed a few open shots we'd normally make," Tiger coach Taylor Schmadeka said.

The Tigers went to the full-court press late in the third quarter and narrowed

the margin at 26-25 with a 3-pointer by sophomore Denali Twehues. But the Panthers' offensive game stepped up with better outside shooting, including a 3-pointer, and Prairie City ended the quarter

ahead 35-29.

"We played with more intensity in the second half," Prairie City coach Bo Workman said. "Our shots were falling, and our defense stopped them from getting the shots they wanted."

Senior Brianna Zweygardt led Prairie City with 13 points, followed by freshman Samantha Workman and senior Cassie Hire, each with 9 points and a 3-pointer. Sophomore Rilee Emmel had 6 points, senior Megan Camarena had 4, sophomore Emily Ennis had 3 and sophomore Hailee Wall had 2.

"We stopped rebounding in the second half," Schmadeka said. "Our defense was better in the first half, but we got lazy in the second half, not sticking with our assignments."

Senior Danielle Rhoda led the Tigers with 12 points, followed by junior Kyla Emerson with 9, Twehues with 7, junior Fayette Schauer with 6 and sophomore Aubrey Bowlus with 2.

"We had two players in foul trouble," Schmadeka said. "Denali fouled out,

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SPORTS SCHEDULE

Thursday,
Jan. 11

Ukiah/Long Creek JV basketball @ Pilot Rock JV, girls at 4 p.m., boys at 5:30 p.m.

Friday,
Jan. 12

Grant Union wrestling @ Oregon Classic in Redmond, TBA

Grant Union basketball vs. Elgin in John Day, girls at 6 p.m., boys at 7:30 p.m.

Prairie City basketball @ Crane, girls at 6 p.m., boys at 7:30 p.m.

Monument/Dayville vs. Burnt River in Monument, girls at 6 p.m., boys at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday,
Jan. 13

Grant Union wrestling @ Oregon Classic in Redmond, TBA

Grant Union basketball @ Union, girls 4 at p.m., boys at 5:30 p.m.

Prairie City basketball @ Harper, girls 1 at p.m., boys at 2:30 p.m.

Ukiah/Long Creek JV basketball @ Huntington, girls at 2 p.m., boys at 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday,
Jan. 16

Grant Union basketball @ Burns, girls at 6 p.m., boys at 7:30 p.m.

Prairie City basketball vs. Burnt River, girls at 4 p.m., boys 5:30 p.m.

Ukiah/Long Creek JV basketball @ Monument/Dayville in Dayville, girls 5 p.m., boys 6:30 p.m.