



Grant Union boys outpace Elgin for first league win



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union Prospector Duane Stokes flies up to score under pressure from Elgin Husky Kendrick Johnson.

Pros ranked fifth in state

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant Union Prospector boys started off their Wapiti League season with two victories — a 56-34 win over the Elgin Huskies at home Friday and a 74-51 win Saturday in Union over the Bobcats.

On Friday, Prospector Duane Stokes said he was happy with the outcome with Elgin.

“I’m glad we got off to such

a good start, and I think this proves that we have really high hopes to go far this season,” he said.

“We really blended well out there and played as a unit,” added his teammate Kellen Shelley. “We’re first in league, so far, and we’d like to keep that until the end of the season.”

The energy from both teams was strong in the first quarter.

Elgin made attempts for the basket in the first minutes, grabbing offensive rebounds until Husky Ian Smith scored.

Grant Union’s Cole Deiter and Cauy Weaver both got on

the board. Then Smith tied it 4-4.

After Wade Reimers scored 2, Elgin landed a 3-pointer.

Stokes tied it at the free-throw line. Then Zack Deiter got the lead back at the free-throw line 2-2 after Elgin committed a technical foul.

Prospector Jacob Vaughan topped it off, scoring beyond the arc to give Grant Union a 12-8 lead to close the quarter.

Grant Union stayed in the lead from there, outshooting Elgin 18-9 in the second for a 50-25 lead heading into halftime.

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Grant Union Prospector Zack Deiter pushes through to score in Friday's game against the Elgin Huskies.

Tiger boys fall to Grant Union JV in OT

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The Monument/Dayville Tiger varsity team pushed Grant Union Prospector junior varsity players into overtime in their Jan. 9 contest in John Day, but Grant Union battled on for a 6-point victory.

Tiger JT Hand led overall in scoring with 13 points, and his teammate Drew Wilburn had 9.

Grant Union had 10 players contributing points, including Devon Stokes, leading with 9, and Jacob Vaughan and Jordan Hall had 8 each.

Monument/Dayville (0-12), having lost four seniors to graduation last year, are in building mode this year. Still, the Tigers gave Grant Union a run for their money.

In the first quarter, the Tigers sprang ahead with a 10-6 lead.

Things started swaying Grant Union’s way offensively and defensively in the second.

Prospectors Jacob Vaughan, Mason Gerry, Devon Stokes and CJ Glimpse scored 2 each to start.

Jordan Hall shot 2-2 at the free-throw line to give Grant Union a 20-10 lead.

The teams scrambled for the ball on both sides of the court in the final two minutes of the half, then Tigers Hand and Wilburn found the basket, with the Prospectors leading 20-14 at halftime.

Monument/Dayville outshot Grant Union 9-8 in the third, and began narrowing the gap in the fourth.

Mark Thomas gave the Tigers a 29-28 lead after landing a 3-pointer, and the teams



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Monument/Dayville Tiger JT Hand (21) jumps to score over the reach of Grant Union Prospector Mason Gerry (24) and Opie McDaniel (42, left).

traded leads three times as the clock ticked down.

The Monument/Dayville fans went wild when Hand made a 2-point shot with just a second left for a 39-39 tie, sending the game into extra minutes.

Freshman Jacob Smith and sophomore Taylor Hunt each went 1-2 at the free-throw line for the Prospectors.

Then Hall honed in, scoring three times, consecutively, for 6 points.

Hand added 2 for the Tigers in the final seconds, and Grant Union came away with the win.

Hall said there was a reason behind his intensity in

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Tiger girls lead early for 2-point win over Lady Pros JV

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

An early lead and burst of energy in the third quarter gave the Monument/Dayville Tigers an edge for their 38-36 win over the Grant Union Prospector junior varsity team Jan. 9 in John Day.

Monument/Dayville leaped to an 8-4 lead in the first quarter.

Tigers Aubrey Bowlus and Denali Twehues added 2 each to start the second, then Bowlus scored again after teammate Kyla Emerson rebounded.

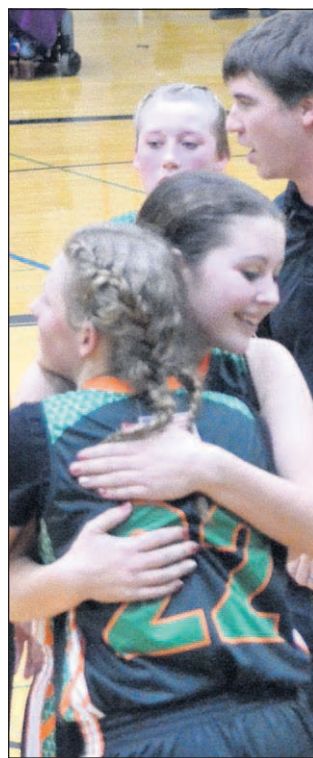
Grant Union’s Kori Jo Girvin nabbed a steal and a rebound with Baylee Combs cashing in for 2 points and landing a 3-pointer. Marissa Smith also contributed 2 points.

Faythe Schafer added 2 for the Tigers in the final seconds to give Monument/Dayville a 16-11 lead going into the second half.

Prospector Tyler Blood started the scoring in the third with a 2-point shot, but Monument/Dayville ended up outshooting the Prospectors 12-6 for an 11-point lead.

Grant Union fired up in the final 8 minutes, outscoring the Tigers 19-10.

Alcie Moore contributed 9



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The Monument/Dayville Tiger varsity girls celebrate after their 38-36 win over Grant Union Prospector junior varsity on Jan. 9 in John Day.

of her 13 points in the fourth.

Makenna Culley scored twice beyond the arc for the Prospectors, her second shot bringing the score to 30-27,

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Total domination



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Grant Union's Trinity Hutchison (5) fights for a rebound in the game against Elgin, her teammate Mariah Wright (2) in the action.

Grant Union girls take 32-point win over Huskies

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant Union girls are setting themselves up for a great season in the 2A Wapiti League, after toppling the Elgin Huskies 82-44 in the Prospectors’ league opener Friday night, followed by a 59-35 win on Saturday over the Union Bobcats.

The Prospectors are 9-3 overall and ranked No. 5 among OSA teams.

Grant Union set the bar high from the start Friday with Mariah Moulton landing 11 of her game-high 19 points in the first quarter and Kaylee Wright adding 6 of her 16 points. Wright was also 6-6 at the free-throw line for the night.

“We started the game with intensity, and we’re definitely working on being more consistent,” said Prospector Madi McKrola, who had 9 points in the game.

That intensity showed in Grant Union’s 25-10 lead in the first quarter, besting Elgin 49-24 at the half.

Elgin’s Tymra Anderson had 9 points in the second quarter with a couple baskets from two other players, including a 3-pointer, while six Prospectors got in on the scoring, combining for 24.

Grant Union’s defensive intensity continued in the second half.

In the third, Prospector Mariah Wright took a rebound on a fast break to score, followed by another bucket.

As Grant Union’s Alcie Moore attempted a shot from outside the arc at the buzzer, she was fouled, and went 1-3 at the free-throw line, the



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Grant Union Prospector Hailie Wright takes a shot in Friday's game against Elgin.



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Grant Union Prospector Makenna Culley (20) races past an Elgin opponent en route to the basket.

score 67-31, Prospectors.

“Every second counts,” said Grant Union head coach Casey Hallgarth, commenting on that moment in the game.

Elgin’s Jocelyn Palmer earned 8 points for the Huskies in the fourth, but Grant

Union outshot the visitors 15-13 for the win.

“We’re leaning on our defense — that’s been our game,” Hallgarth said, adding his team’s quickness and full-court pressure tends to wear out their opponents.

He said Kaylee Wright was a leader on the court. “Kaylee had a lot of steals,” he said. “She’s at the head of our snake, and we feed off of her.”

Hallgarth said their aim is to get all their players shooting well.

“We have to have our bench playing at a high level by the end of the season,” he said. “They need that playing time.”

Ten of the 11 Prospectors scored for the night.

Elgin’s team, led by head coach Kirt McClure, had six players contributing. The

Huskies have a 6-8 overall record.

Kaylee Wright said she was pleased with how things went for the Prospectors.

“I thought we connected well,” she said. “We were very disciplined, and our fast break was really great.”

After defeating the Union Bobcats 59-35 in league play on the road Saturday, the Grant Union girls are 2-0 in league, 10-3 overall and ranked No. 5 among 2A OSA teams.

Hallgarth said his team showed resiliency.

“This was a physical game,” he said. “We missed many good shots because of the physicality.”

He said their defense held up well.

“I am excited for these girls because they show me every day a new aspect as to why they are a great team,” Hallgarth said. “We were able to execute our adjustments and put the game away midway through the fourth quarter.”

Grant Union was preparing to face the 3A Hilanders in Burns (10-5 overall) on Tuesday, past press time. Then they’re on the road Friday to face the Panthers at 6 p.m. in Imbler (3-11 overall, 0-1 league).

Grant Union vs. Elgin
 Mariah Moulton: 19 points (two 3-pointers)
 Kaylee Wright: 16 (6-6 free throws)
 Hailie Wright: 13 (one 3-pointer)
 Mariah Wright: 9 (one 3-pointer)
 Whitney McClellan: 9
 Marissa Smith: 5
 Makenna Culley: 3 (one 3-pointer)

Grant Union vs. Union
 Moulton: 13 (two 3-pointers)
 McKrola: 12
 K. Wright: 12 (one 3-pointer)
 McClellan: 7
 M. Wright: 5
 Alcie Moore: 4
 Trinity Hutchison: 2
 Hailie Wright: 2
 Marissa Smith: 2