

SPORTS ROUNDUP

**Lady Tigers corral Bulls in final regular season contest**

The Monument/Dayville Tiger girls had a good handle on the Burnt River Bulls from the start Saturday, claiming a 29-11 victory.

The Tigers had a commanding 18-0 lead in the first quarter.

"We utilized our fast breaks and speed to get some good shots in the key," Tiger head coach Taylor Schmadeka said. "Our defense did a great job making them take harder shots than they wanted to."

The Tigers outscored the Bulls 5-2 in the second and 6-4 in the third.

Leading the Tigers in scoring were Kyla Emerson with 8 and Faythe Schafer with 7. Danielle Rhoda had seven steals.

Younger Tiger team members came off the bench, and Schmadeka said this could help the team at this week's 1A-8 High Desert District



The Grant Union Gold dance team performs Jan. 26 during halftime at a Prospector basketball game in John Day.

Eagle file photo

Tournament set for Thursday through Saturday at the Grant Union Junior-Senior High School in John Day.

Monument/Dayville, seeded fifth in the tournament, will face the third-seeded Adrian Ante-

lopes at 7 p.m. Thursday in the first round of the playoffs.

"They always run a tough full-court press and half-court trap," Schmadeka said. "We will be preparing for that and working on our offensive shooting."

"To make it to state, we have one of the toughest paths because we are lower on the rankings, but I think the girls are ready for the challenge."

games at 8:45 p.m. Thursday at the 1A-8 High Desert District Tournament. The competition will be held at Grant Union Junior-Senior High School in John Day. The winner will face Prairie City at 2:45 p.m. Friday.

**Grant Union Gold competes military-style in Tigard**

The Grant Union Gold dance team is diving into choreography and technique after competing at Saturday's dance competition in Tigard.

Grant Union head coach Kattie Piazza said they had made several choreography changes before presenting the routine last weekend.

"The judges responded well, so we're on the upswing," Piazza said.

Grant Union placed fourth out of four in their 4A/3A/2A/1A division.

The team unveiled the performance for the local crowd on Thursday, dancing during halftime at the Grant Union boys basketball game.

"The girls are working hard and having a lot of fun out there," Piazza said. "Our routine as a whole gets good response from our audience and other dance teams."

Grant Union Gold's routine for state competition this season is set to Katy Perry's song "Rise."

**Tiger boys fired up at Burnt River**

The Monument/Dayville Tiger boys and Burnt River Bulls made Saturday's game an exciting one, going into overtime, but the Tigers came out strong in the extra minutes for a 57-49 win.

Tiger head coach Jeff Schafer said his team started off slow, while Burnt River sank their shots.

"They came together as a team right at the end," Schafer said.

Monument/Dayville was down by one point with 0.1 seconds left, when Tiger Donovan Schafer was fouled.

"He made a free throw to tie the game, and we went into overtime," coach Schafer said. "They did good. They're still learning the basics, but we're looking forward to districts."

The No. 7-seeded Tiger boys will face the No. 3-seeded Adrian Antelopes in the first round of playoff

"This year we have a slight military approach, with black Army hats and camo tops and black shorts," Piazza said, adding the look is topped with "intense" makeup.

"They look like they're covered in dirt," she said, adding, "The whole point of the song is about pushing and fighting towards a goal to come out victorious."

Grant Union takes a two-week break before competing on March 24 in Pendleton.

The next opportunity for the local crowd to catch the Grant Union Gold will be the Spring Showcase scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, March 9, at the Grant Union new gym. A taco feed is in the planning stages to take place just before the show.

The dance team includes 14 members, but one dancer has been unable to perform due to injury.

"They're working really hard and responding to all the judges' comments and taking it to heart," Piazza said. "They're just pouring their hearts out this season."

**Mountain Lion junior varsity teams plan for varsity next season**

The Ukiah/Long Creek junior varsity boys ended their season with a 12-6 record.

Although they ended on a down note with a 57-51 loss to the Mustangs on Friday in Crane, the Mountain Lions made it a close contest. The Mountain Lions had the lead a few times.

"They boys played hard but just ran out of time," said Ukiah/Long Creek coach TC Conner. "We got decent looks but just missed shots we have made in these last few games."

Amos Studtmann, who co-coaches with Conner, said their outside shots weren't falling, and a lot of pushing occurred, in both directions, which made their inside shots tough.

In the third quarter, one of their top players was benched due to foul trouble, which hampered the Mountain Lions further.

The team is losing some talented team members who are exchange students, but Studtmann said they have a solid core of players.

He and Conner plan to advance the boys and girls teams to the varsity level next season.

Returning boys include James Kreamier, Ben Combs, Thomas Kreamier, Aaron Garinger and Quinton Orr.

The Ukiah/Long Creek girls were short-handed on Saturday against Crane, the Mountain Lions taking a 40-10 loss to the Mustangs.

Two of the top Mountain Lion players, Gladys Johnson and Dorothea Johnson, had to sit out most of Saturday's game against Crane, one with an injury and the other due to fouls.

The team was also missing two other teammates.

"Our younger players, exchange girls, did well," Studtmann said, adding they had a hard time rebounding over Crane's tall girls and had difficulty finding the basket.

He hopes to have five girls back next season, including the Johnsons, Jenny Kim, Lucchese Douglas and Tesla Crown.

"With the girls, at the beginning, we said we're starting with the end in mind," Studtmann said. "This year our goal was building a foundation and picking up momentum and experience going forward."

If they are able to move up to varsity next season, Studtmann said it could be a rough first season.

"We're going into varsity to grow," he said. "For me, basketball is not about winning every game, but about using sport to reveal and develop character."

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