

Lady Panthers outrun Antelopes on way to state

Prairie City places third at district tourney

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Prairie City Panther girls placed third Saturday at the 1A-8 High Desert District Tournament in John Day after defeating the Adrian Antelopes 44-39.

The Lady Panthers competed in the first-round state playoffs, facing the Powder Valley Badgers in North Powder, past press time Tuesday. The winner of the game will advance to a second-round playoff game Friday against a seeded opponent to be determined.

The winner of the second-round game advances to the Wednesday through Saturday, Feb. 28 to March 3, 1A OSAA Girls Basketball State Championships at Baker High School.

The three-day tournament



Prairie City Panthers Samantha Workman (12) and Rilee Emmel (11) play some tough defense against Adrian Antelope Sadey Speelmon (22).

was played at Grant Union Junior-Senior High School. Prairie City trailed Adrian 10-8 in the first quarter on Saturday.

Panthers Brianna Zwegardt and Cassie Hire sank 2-pointers to start, and Hailee Wall and Rilee Emmel also scored, but the Antelopes led 19-18 going into halftime. Prairie City grabbed the

lead in the third quarter and stayed ahead for the win.

Panther head coach Bo Workman said his team rebounded well, took care of the ball and hit their free throws.

"My girls are at the point now that the other teams aren't getting in their head — we're getting into theirs now," he said. "They're fighting to the last minute against better

teams. I'm proud of how they played and never gave up."

Prairie City teammates expressed their excitement at the win.

"It was amazing, since we haven't beat Adrian," said Megan Camarena. "I feel as if this season we're really connected and a team, and at this point, we really stepped up and became the team we should

have been all year. I hope we're ready for North Powder."

Samantha Workman said the team gave it everything they had.

"I thought we did really well and worked well together as a team," she said.

"I'm so proud of my team for pushing through the weekend in the last game, coming together and playing hard," Hire said.

Zwegardt, who led Prairie City with 16 points, was named the Dairy Queen Player of the Game.

"We've improved through the weekend with our mental game, more than anything, because we've had the skills all along," Zwegardt said. "It's exciting to see the girls grow and get the heart to leave it all on the floor."

Prairie City
Brianna Zwegardt: 16 points (8-17 free throws)
Rilee Emmel: 6
Samantha Workman: 6 (two 3-pointers)
Cassie Hire: 6
Hailee Wall: 5 (3-4 free throws)
Emily Ennis: 5 (1-3 free throws)

Monument/Dayville boys show no quit in loss to Adrian

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Monument/Dayville Tiger boys showed no signs of letting up but were overpowered by Adrian 51-28 Thursday night on day one of the 1A-8 High Desert District Tournament.

The three-day tournament was held at Grant Union Junior-Senior High School in John Day.

Other boys teams competing at the tournament included Prairie City, Jordan Valley, Huntington and Crane.

Adrian's Warren DeMark was first to score Thursday, landing a 3-pointer, which was the first of 4 for the quarter and 5 for the night.

Tiger Donovan Schafer scored two 2-point shots, and teammate Drew Wilburn was 2-4 at the free-throw line.

Although Adrian brought some size to the game, including 6-foot-4 Miller DeMark, experience was another factor in the Antelope's dominance. Adrian has four senior starters and



Monument/Dayville Tiger Drew Wilburn (22) shoots over Adrian Antelope Chase Bertrand in Thursday night's 1A-8 High Desert District tournament game. Adrian won 51-28.

one junior, and the Tigers have three freshmen and two sophomore starters.

In the second, Adrian was consistent in finding the basket and outscored Monument/Dayville 21-11, Rico Sparka, Wilburn, Mark Thomas, JT Hand and Schafer scoring for the Tigers.

Schafer rebounded well in the third and had a steal, and Wilburn made two baskets.

In the fourth, Adrian's

starters rested while others on the bench took over.

The Tigers outshot the Antelopes 6-1.

Tiger head coach Jeff Schafer said his team is making progress.

"They're starting to learn unity, which will help in the building years," he said. "They fought, and they never gave up."

Adrian head coach Craig DeMark said his starters shot well, highlighting his



The Monument/Dayville Tiger players listen to head coach Jeff Schafer's game plan during a break between quarters with assistant coach Josh Williams during Thursday's game against Adrian.

two top-scoring athletes, Warren DeMark with 21 and Miller DeMark with 17.

"Andy (Walker) played well for us inside, rebounding and playing physical," he said.

He added, "We were saving legs in the fourth."

Wilburn, a Monument/Dayville junior, said he's proud of his team.

"We've come a long way," he said.

The Tigers fell to the

Crane Mustangs 65-33 Friday morning in the consolation game.

Monument/Dayville
Donovan Schafer: 10 points
Drew Wilburn: 9
JT Hand: 4
Rico Sparka: 3
Mark Thomas: 2

Adrian
Warren DeMark: 21 points (five 3-pointers, 4-7 free throws)
Miller DeMark: 17 points (one 3-pointer)
Andy Walker: 6
Dakota Martin: 4
Kirk Obendorf: 2
Alex Garcia: 1

Tiger girls fall in tough battle against Antelopes

Monument/Dayville ends season with consolation win

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Monument/Dayville Tiger girls battled tough from the start against Adrian on day one of the 1A-8 High Desert District Tournament but fell 34-25 to the Antelopes.

Thursday was the first of the three-day tournament held at Grant Union Junior-Senior High School in John Day.

Adrian scored twice to start, then Tigers Kyla Emerson, Aubrey Bowlus and Faythe Schafer combined for 7 points, ending the first quarter with a 1-point lead. Denali Twehues and Schafer had steals in those first 8 minutes, and Schafer went 2-2 at the free-throw line.

Adrian fired off a 3-point shot to start the second. Then with some back and forth, the Tigers tied the score twice.

At 12-12, the Antelopes leaped ahead and held the Tigers off with an 18-13 lead going into the half.

Adrian's Sadey Speelmon, who was named the Dairy Queen Player of the Game, went 2-2 at the free-throw line at the beginning of the third.

After the Tigers called a timeout, Schafer and Danielle Rhoda each scored 2-pointers.

Bowlus grabbed a defen-



Monument/Dayville Tiger Denali Twehues goes after a defensive rebound with Adrian players and teammates Faythe Schafer (24) and Courtney Nichols (11) jumping in the action at Thursday night's 1A-8 High Desert District Basketball Tournament.



Monument/Dayville Tiger Aubrey Bowlus flies up to score over Adrian opponents in Thursday night's district playoff game.

sive rebound, but Adrian intercepted a pass, and after a scramble between the teams,

Adrian's Grace Morton landed a 3-pointer.

Bowlus added another 2

points for the Tigers, and the Antelopes added 2 of their own.

Adrian outshot the Tigers 7-6 for a 25-19 lead to close the third.

Monument/Dayville, fighting for each point, scored within 3 of Adrian after Rhoda hit 2-2 free throws and Emerson scored 1-2.

Rhoda later added 1 more point at the free-throw line and another 2-pointer, but Adrian pulled off the 9-point win.

Tiger head coach Taylor Schmadeka said Adrian's defense is always a challenge.

"That's their bread and butter," he said. "They force you to make mistakes."

He said, while his team played with a lot of intensity in the first half, some mistakes that caused turnovers came back to haunt them.

"We just couldn't capitalize on the big opportunities," he said.

Schmadeka said his team has shown improvement over the season.

"The girls did have a fun time, and I had fun coaching them," he said. "Overall, we want to win, but it should be enjoyable."

Schafer said they played hard but came out timid in the third quarter.

"We fought back, trying to close the lead," she said.

"We played our hearts out and had a ton of fun," Rhoda added. "We were hoping for a better outcome, but we played to have fun and we did."

Emerson said her team played well.

"I thought we pulled it together, but not enough to win the game," she said. "But I'm really proud of my team and our season."

The Tiger girls claimed a 34-17 point victory over Harper in the consolation game on Friday morning.

Monument/Dayville vs. Adrian
Faythe Schafer: 7 points
Danielle Rhoda: 7
Aubrey Bowlus: 7
Kyla Emerson: 4

SPORTS SCHEDULE

**Friday,
Feb. 23**

Grant Union girls basketball vs. Weston-McEwen in first-round state playoff in John Day at 6 p.m.

1A girls basketball second-round state playoff, teams and times TBD

**Saturday,
Feb. 24**

Grant Union dance at Pendleton Dance Competition, TBD

Grant Union boys basketball vs. Santiam in first-round state playoff in John Day at 2 p.m.

Prairie City boys basketball in second-round state playoff, TBD

**Wednesday-Saturday,
Feb. 28-March 3**

OSAA 1A Girls Basketball State Championship at Baker High School

**Thursday-Saturday,
March 1-3**

OSAA 1A Boys Basketball State Championship at Baker High School in Baker City

OSAA 2A Girls Basketball State Championship in Pendleton (games are at Pendleton High School March 1 and the convention center March 2-3)

OSAA 2A Boys Basketball State Championship at the Pendleton Convention Center in Pendleton (consolation games are March 2 at Pendleton High School)

DECLAN ZWYGARDT
School: Prairie City
Grade: 9
Parents: Lance and Louanne Zwegardt
Sport: Basketball
Position: Post
What I like best about my sport: "I like getting a lot of rebounds and helping out the team."
Coach's Comment:
 "Declan is stepping up, and he played tough in the paint against Crane (Feb. 10)."
 - Coach Sam Workman

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