



Fighting bulls put on a show Saturday

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The audience at the third annual Freestyle Bullfighting event had a little more excitement than they bargained for Saturday night at the Grant County Fairgrounds rodeo arena in John Day.

The Hamsher Fighting Bulls are known for being aggressive and putting on a good show, but this time a couple bulls proved tougher than their pen.

After bullfighters had a few rounds with their four-legged opponents, one bull showed an extra-explo-

sive temper, bucking and head-butting in the chute, and the next bull to come through squeezed out into the arena.

While the crowd in the grandstands was safe, a dozen or more folks watching the bullfights from a long flat bed trailer set up near the bullfighting ring in the arena were on pins and needles for a few long minutes.

Organizer Trever Hamsher said, after the event, the bulls are herd animals — “When they’re by themselves they want to fight, and once they’re together, they’re not as aggressive.”

He let a red bull out, and

together the two animals followed bullfighters through a gate they opened, leading to a back pen.

Announcer Chad Nicholson said it was “not in the script.”

People cheered when the bulls were captured, and Nicholson praised the men.

“You’ll meet all kinds of people in your life, but there is only one breed that is a freestyle bullfighter,” he said.

Trever Hamsher announced at the mic that he was out of chutes and out of bulls, and called the event.

Ryker Fenstermaker of Burley, Idaho, and Tyler Lingbeck of Salinas, California,

were named co-champions, one receiving a championship buckle and the other a trophy saddle.

Fenstermaker won round one with Tyler Lingbeck taking round two. Zack McVay of La Pine won round three.

The hard luck award went to Garrett Wilkinson of Ogden, Utah.

“I feel blessed it all turned out great,” Hamsher said.

Barrelman and clown Clint “Wolfey” Selvester led a dance-off with children, and 11-year-old Clyde Holliday of John Day was declared the winner. Several youths also competed in a gunny sack race.



Contributed photo/LindseyWyllie.com

Tyler Lingbeck of Salinas, California, is roughed up at Saturday's Freestyle Bullfights at the Grant County Fairgrounds rodeo arena in John Day. Lingbeck was co-champion of the event with Ryker Fenstermaker of Burley, Idaho.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Friday, Aug. 24

Prairie City volleyball @ 1A Season Preview Tournament at Country Christian in Mollala, TBD

Saturday, Aug. 25

Grant Union volleyball hosts a tournament at 8 a.m.

Prairie City volleyball @ 1A Season Preview Tournament at Country Christian in Mollala, TBD

Dayville/Monument volleyball @ Echo Tournament, TBD

Dayville/Monument football @ Echo Jamboree, TBD

Tuesday, Aug. 28

Grant Union volleyball hosts Burns at 6 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 31

Dayville/Monument football vs. Prairie City in Dayville at 1 p.m.

Dayville/Monument volleyball vs. Prairie City in Dayville at 4 p.m.

Grant Union cross country holds trial times at Seventh Street Complex at 4 p.m.

Grant Union football @ Knappa at 7 p.m.

Younger Panther volleyball girls ready to attack season



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Prairie City Panther Emily Ennis spikes the ball during the team's Aug. 15 practice.

Jordan Bass leads as new head coach

By Angel Carpenter
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Enthusiasm is building this year after the Prairie City Panther volleyball team's stellar 2017 season, which included their District 1A-8 Tournament win and advancing to the first round of state.

Six seniors graduated, but this year's team, including five of eight juniors who are seasoned varsity players, is ready to make it come together again this season.

Jordan Bass, this year's new head coach, said she's excited for what lies ahead.

Backed up by assistant coaches Lance and Louanne Zwegardt, who previously co-coached the team for several years, Bass said their knowledge and experience will be a great asset for the team. Bass was the Panther's assistant coach last year and a volunteer assistant off and on before that.

She played five years for Central Washington University's NCAA division II volleyball team in Ellensburg. This is where the Panther team attended a four-day volleyball camp this summer.

“I think they got a lot out of the experience, including skills and team building,” Bass said, adding she felt it was important to start the process of team bonding early.

Eleven of 15 girls attended the camp, paying almost the entire cost with fundraising.

The Panthers' first challenge of the season is coming up Saturday, Aug. 25, in Mollala when they compete at the County Christian Invitational.

“All the top teams last year in the state are competing,” Bass said. “It's going to be a challenge, and we'll see some good competition.”

Last season, the Panthers entered the 1A-8 High Desert League Tournament as fourth seed.

Prairie City topped the top-seeded Jordan Valley Mustangs and defeated the Adrian Antelopes in the tournament's championship game for the title.

The Panthers faced Days Creek in the first round of state where they pushed it to five sets, but lost the nail-biter competition.

The now-graduated seniors Cassie Hire and Brianna Zwegardt were named to the First Team All-League, and Zwegardt was also named Player of the Year and Setter of the Year for High Desert. Another then-senior Sierra Dahlen was named to Second Team All-League. Zwegardt was also named to All-State Second Team and Hire received an All-State honorable mention.

Juniors this year, Rilee Emmel and Emily Ennis received honorable mention in the league for 2017.

Emmel and Ennis had four kills each in the game against Days Creek, and Hailee Wall, also a junior this year, had seven kills in the match.

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Prairie City head coach Jordan Bass directs the team's attention to the board.

4-H shooting competitions are a success

Kids compete in rifle, pistol and shotgun

Blue Mountain Eagle

The 4-H shotgun and rifle/pistol groups met for their final competitions, and their results were on display at the pavilion during last week's Grant County Fair.

Mark Baggett, who is one of the leaders for shotgun, said all 23 kids did well at their Aug. 12 shotgun event at the Seneca Gun Range.

He said in shotgun, the youths start with points, 50 for safety, 50 for sportsmanship and 50 for eye and ear protection, and then shoot 25 trap targets and 25 skeet targets for score.

“We had no infractions, and they all kept their 150 points, then whatever they shot on the trap and skeet fields contributed to their total score.”

“These kids do really well, not only with gun safety and



The 4-H shotgun competitors gather Aug. 12 at the Seneca Range for their season-end shoot.

responsibility, but they learn respect and good sportsmanship as well,” Baggett said. “They're all terrific kids.”

There are three shotgun groups: Monument Shotguns led by Andy Day, Grant County Grinders led by Mark

Baggett and Prairie City Shotguns led by Carroll Walton.

A competition for rifle and pistol was held Aug. 5, and all

five participants received blue ribbons. Scores were based on a percentage of the overall possible points.

Shotgun results

Junior Division
 June Wolf, Champion
 Talon VanCleave, Reserve Champion

Intermediate Division
 Lucas Wolf, Champion
 Trevor Gabbard, Reserve Champion

Senior Division
 Drew Wilburn, Champion
 Wesley Adams, Reserve Champion

Rifle/pistol results

Junior
 Talon VanCleave, Champion
 Rifle – Champion Pistol

Intermediate
 Trevor Gabbard, Champion
 Rifle
 Logan Namitz, Champion
 Pistol

Senior
 Cody Bowden, Champion
 Rifle – Champion Pistol
 Gavin Lopez also participated.

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