



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Prairie City head coach Jordan Bass speaks with the team with assistant coaches Lance Zwegygart, far left, and Louanne Zwegygart, far right.

GIRLS

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Wall said the team has a lot of potential this year, and said their communication is especially good.

“We always need that for great plays on the court,” she said.

Ennis said she’s seen a lot of commitment from all her fellow players, and she hopes to keep the “positivity” going with the team.



Kyla Winton

“All around, our team definitely has a drive this year compared to others,” she said.

Emmel agreed, and said the entire team is “stepping up and playing a huge role.”

“I see a lot of younger-classmen stepping up and being leaders,” she added. “Team bonding is going to be huge. I’m looking forward to playing with these girls this season.”

Sole senior Kyla Winton said this is her second year playing on the team. Her first year was as a freshman.

She said, “We’ve grown up together and have a really strong bond, so it’s like a family, not just a team.”

Rounding out the roster are five sophomores and one freshman.

Sophomore Katie Hire was another strong player last season.

She said having so many seniors graduate is a challenge, but growing as a team and motivating each other will make them better players.

Hire said she’s looking forward to the season and competing at the Country Christian Invitational.

“I’m confident in my team that we can pull through and keep pushing,” she said.

Bass said they are still working on who will fill which position, but there are a lot of promising athletes that will fill the leadership void.

“Our defense is something we’re really going to

2018 Prairie City volleyball schedule

- Aug. 24-25: @ Country Christian Tournament in Molalla, TBA
- Aug. 31: @ Dayville/Monument in Dayville, varsity at 4 p.m.
- Sept. 1: Prairie City Tournament, JV,varsity at 8:30 a.m.
- Sept. 7: vs. Harper, varsity at 5 p.m.
- Sept. 8: @ Condon Tournament in Condon, TBA
- Sept. 15: @ Powder Valley Tournament at North Powder, TBA
- Sept. 26: @ Grant Union in John Day, 5 p.m.
- Oct. 4: vs. Crane, JV at 5:30, varsity at 7 p.m.
- Oct. 5: @ Huntington, varsity at 3:30 p.m.
- Oct. 9: vs. Burnt River, varsity at 5 p.m.
- Oct. 11: @ Adrian in Unity, JV at 4:30 p.m., varsity at 5:30 p.m.
- Oct. 12: @ Jordan Valley, TBA
- Oct. 20: High Desert League Tournament at Grant Union, TBA
- Oct. 26: First Round State Playoffs, TBA

be hitting hard,” she said. “We lost Brianna as setter and have a couple girls stepping up into it.”

She said Hire will bring a lot of energy to the team and is focused on improving her skills.

“She played right side last year and puts up a really great block,” Bass said. “Emily Ennis is another one stepping up into that setter role. Both have big shoes to fill, and I feel they’re rising to that challenge.”

A new member of the team is junior Shaine Madden who transferred from Grant Union this year.

“We’re excited about Shaine,” Bass said. “She’s bringing a lot of power. She’s a strong player with a great serve, and she’s consistent.”

The Panthers will face league opponents Adrian, Burnt River, Crane, Dayville/Monument, Harper, Huntington, Jordan Valley and junior varsity Long Creek/Ukiah.

Bass said she knows what to expect from their league competition.

“My main goal is to get these girls focused on themselves as a team and make adjustments in the game as necessary,” she said. “We’ll prepare for all of them just as we always would — we’re going to focus on us and our

strengths.”

She added, “Our goals are to have the girls solid on their basics and have a really positive, family-oriented environment between all the players, whether JV or varsity, that we’re unified.”




Prairie City Panther Katie Hire flies up to return the ball in last week’s practice.



Prairie City Panther Aleah Johns attacks the ball in practice.



At Panther practice are, from left: Caitlyn Willet, Jessi Nolan, Aries Bice and Hannah Wall.



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for the Sept. 5 edition

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