

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, Sept. 12

Prairie City volleyball vs. Grant Union JV/JV II at 5 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 13

Long Creek/Ukiah JV volleyball vs. Prairie City JV in Ukiah at 5 p.m.

Grant Union volleyball vs. Heppner at 5 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 14

Grant Union volleyball @ Baker Tournament at 9 a.m.

Grant Union cross country at Catherine Creek Scamper (near Union) at 2:30 p.m.

Prairie City football @ South Wasco County in Maupin at 4 p.m.

Dayville/Monument football @ Joseph at 6 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 15

Grant Union football @ Gold Beach/Pacific at Summit High School in Bend at 2 p.m.

Prairie City volleyball @ Badger Tournament in North Powder at 8 a.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 18

Grant Union volleyball @ Burns at 6:30 p.m.

TEAM

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"It's a mental sport," he said. "I believe when you do cross country, it keeps you in the best physical shape. It's a challenge. You're always working to improve your times. It helps you in life with your work ethic."

Elliott broke into the 18s last year and said his goal is to get down to 17s or 16s.

"I'm looking forward to spending time with the team and improving from previous years of running," he said.

Smith said that after the teams' timed trial, held Aug. 30 at the Seventh Street Complex, there are two runners in the 20s and three in the 21s for the boys, which she said will give the team some depth going into the season. She said this year's goals are based on how they ended last season.

"We're looking at them running consistently in the low 20s and breaking into the teens," she said.

Grant Union's toughest competition in the district for the boys comes from Union/Cove, which has a runner who has finished the 5K in under 16 minutes.

Other teams in Special District 3 are Adrian, Elgin, Four Rivers, Griswold, Nixyaawii, Stanfield-Echo and Weston-McEwen.

The Prospector girls additionally compete with 2A teams Condon/Wheeler and Enterprise/Joseph/Wallowa and 3A teams Burns, Irrigon, La Pine, Nyssa, Riverside and Vale.

Grant Union attended its first competition of the season, the Runner Soul XC Fest in Hermiston, on Saturday.

Smith said the event is a flat race, which should provide a good first-race time to build off of for the rest of the season. The boys team has a goal to



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The Grant Union varsity, junior varsity and junior high cross country teams are ready for the 2018 season.

2018 Grant Union cross country schedule

- Sept. 14: Catherine Creek Scamper at Catherine Creek (near Union)
- Sept. 21: Footrace to Valhalla in Umatilla, varsity boys at 1:45 p.m., varsity girls 2:30 p.m.
- Sept. 28: Baker Invitational at the Baker City Golf Course, varsity girls at 4:45 p.m., varsity boys 5:15 p.m.
- Oct. 4: Mustang Invitational in Heppner at Thompson Ranch, varsity girls at 4 p.m., varsity boys 4:45 p.m.
- Oct. 13: Idlewild Invitational at Idlewild Campground (near Burns), varsity girls at 11:15 a.m., varsity boys at 11:30 a.m.
- Oct. 18: Kyle Burnside Wildhorse Invite in Pendleton, varsity girls at 3 p.m., varsity boys at 3:35 p.m.
- Oct. 26: 3A/2A/1A Special District 3 at Pendleton Community Park, boys 2A/1A varsity at 3 p.m., girls 2A/1A varsity at 3:30 p.m.
- Nov. 3: OSAA 3A/2A/1A State Championships at Lane Community College in Eugene, TBA



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Grant Union cross country team members run a 5K course at the Seventh Street Complex during their Aug. 30 time trial, including, from left, Masyn Keith, Rylee Browning and Erika Dickens.

move up two places at the district competition this year.

The girls didn't have a full team last year, because of injuries, so keeping everyone healthy and having a team at districts is the goal.

"Having that team will motivate

all the runners to strive for their best time," Smith said, adding she hopes their hard work will pay off.

Individually, the athletes also have educational goals, and Smith said cross country runners tend to be excellent students.

FOOTBALL

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Tiger head coach Kyle Hand said his team missed some tackles, and Echo had better blocking.

"At halftime, I said let's win the second half, and we did by 1 point, 20-19," Hand said.

Echo scored the first touchdown of the third quarter, but Dayville/Monument answered back when Tiger quarterback JT Hand connected with Mark Thomas for 6 points.

Milton, one of the biggest guys on the team, pushed forward to score the extra point. Milton scored a touchdown in the fourth quarter, and after Echo made their final touchdown of the game, JT Hand ended it on a good note.

On fourth down, the Tigers had a reverse play with Hand getting the ball back to rush in to score, and linebacker Tell Cox caught a pass for the extra point.

"We finished on a positive — got a touchdown and conversion," coach Hand said.

"There are a lot of things we did right. We just need to sharpen up."

Coach Hand said his four team captains performed well including JT Hand, Mark Thomas, Milton and Walker-Hopkins, who was sidelined with an injury before halftime.

"JT saw the underneath pass and wasn't forcing the long ball as much," coach Hand said.

Next up, the Tigers will be on the road to face Joseph at 6 p.m. Friday.

"I think we can man up with them," the coach said.



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Dayville/Monument Tiger Nick Ciochetti jumps in front of Echo Cougar ball carrier Mychael Pointer in Friday's game.





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