



SPORTS SCHEDULE

**Wednesday,
 Oct. 10**

Long Creek/Ukiah JV soccer vs. Riverside in Long Creek at 3 p.m.

**Thursday,
 Oct. 11**

Prairie City volleyball @ Adrian in Unity, JV at 4:30 p.m., varsity at 5:30 p.m.

Long Creek/Ukiah JV soccer vs. Nyssa in Long Creek at 3:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 12

Prairie City volleyball @ Jordan Valley, JV at 1 p.m., varsity at 2 p.m.

Dayville/Monument football vs. South Wasco in Monument at 1 p.m. (homecoming)

Grant Union football vs. Riverside at 7 p.m.

Prairie City football vs. McKenzie at 7 p.m.

**Saturday,
 Oct. 13**

Grant Union volleyball vs. Enterprise, Pilot Rock (Dig Pink Rally) at 12 p.m.

Dayville/Monument volleyball vs. Long Creek/Ukiah, Crane in Monument at 2:30 p.m., 4 p.m. and Long Creek/Ukiah vs. Crane at 5:30 p.m.

Long Creek/Ukiah JV soccer @ Umatilla at 3 p.m.

**Tuesday,
 Oct. 16**

Grant Union volleyball vs. Crane, JV at 5 p.m., varsity at 6 p.m.

Grant Union volleyball sweeps three more league matches

Lady Pros now ranked first in state

By Annie Fowler
 EO Media Group

The Grant Union volleyball team moved to the top of the state standings this week, and the honor is deserved.

The defending state champion Prospectors (20-4, 9-0) swept Weston-McEwen and Stanfield on Saturday after sweeping Heppner Thursday in Blue Mountain Conference play.

"Grant Union is pretty exciting to watch," said Stanfield coach Blaine Ganvoa, whose team hosted Saturday's matches. "They are rolling right now."

The feature match of the day was between the Prospectors and Tiger-Scots, who were then ranked No. 3.

Senior Kaylee Wright had 14 kills, and her twin sister Hailie Wright handed out 18 assists as Grant Union rolled to a 29-9, 25-17, 25-14 victory.

"That is the best they have ever played," Grant Union coach Ali Abrego said. "It's hard to describe. Being a new coach, it's a blessing to have that much athleticism on your team."

Hailey Weaver had five kills and Bryce Thul handed out 11 assists and had nine digs for the Tiger-Scots (19-4, 6-2), whose two league losses are to the Prospectors.

"Grant Union is the real deal," Weston-McEwen coach Shawn White

said. "They are outstanding athletes, but we didn't play particularly well today."

Hailie Wright had 11 points in the opening set against Weston-McEwen, and as a team, the Prospectors had seven aces. They finished the set with a kill by Sydney Brockway.

Brockway then turned around and reeled off seven consecutive points in the second set to give her team a 12-3 lead. Weston-McEwen would get as close as 16-9 and 21-15, but unforced errors down the stretch helped Grant Union pick up the win.

Kaylee Wright had six of her 14 kills in the third set.

"She hammers it down, and her sister is a hustler and a selfless player,"

Abrego said of Kaylee Wright.

Brockway had eight kills, while Trinity Hutchinson had five blocks and Alcie Moore eight assists.

In the 25-3, 25-14, 25-12 victory over the Stanfield Tigers (11-12, 1-8), Kaylee Wright had 12 kills and eight digs, and Hailie Wright had 16 assists and four aces.

Grant Union also swept the Heppner Mustangs Thursday on the road, 25-12, 25-22 and 25-12.

The No. 1-ranked Prospectors were scheduled to face Union (11-7, 5-4) Tuesday past press time and to host Pilot Rock (9-10, 3-5) and Enterprise (6-11, 1-7) at noon and 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 13, which is the annual Dig Pink Rally.

Panthers meet match in Mustangs

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The Prairie City Panthers, with one starter out for the season, lost Thursday night's battle with Crane, the Mustangs claiming a 3-1 win with scores of 25-9, 25-21, 24-26 and 25-18.

Prairie City head coach Jordan Bass said her team has been adjusting to a new line-up, starting this week, since starter Shaine Madden is now out for the season.

"We moved some girls around, trying to come up with something really strong," Bass said. "I think it's there, but it's pretty new still."

The Panthers fell hard in the first set, 9-25, then gained some momentum, leading to the hard-fought score of 26-24 in the third set.

To start the third, Crane served, and Panther Emily Ennis made the kill. Then Panther Katie Hire's powerful jump serves gave Prairie City a 5-0 lead.

Crane caught up to tie the score 9-9, and the Mustangs kept in close range. The teams tied a few more times as the fans cheered loudly.

Prairie City edged out their opponents with Ennis serving the winning shot for the set.

Panther Samantha Work-



Prairie City Panthers, from left, Samantha Workman, Rilee Emmel and Emily Ennis are ready for Crane's serve in Thursday night's game.

man said her team wanted the win, and although it slipped away, she said they worked well together.

"We stayed positive and tried not to get down on ourselves," she said. "We're looking forward to the next game."

Bass said she felt her team was prepared for what Crane was going to bring to the table. She said her team played

hard, but the Mustangs had a couple solid players.

The Panthers had a road win on Friday against the Huntington Locomotives, 25-7, 25-12 and 25-16.

Prairie City was scheduled to face Burnt River on Tuesday, past press time, then face Adrian and Jordan Valley on the road next week.

The 1A High Desert District Tournament is sched-

uled for Saturday, Oct. 20, at Grant Union Junior-Senior High School in John Day.

Prairie City has an overall record of 8-10, and they are 3-1 in league.

"We're trying to hammer out some of these kinks in our new line up, so we can be prepared for that and get the girls feeling comfortable and confident," Bass said.



Prairie City Panther Katie Hire helped her team with powerful serves in the battle with Crane.

1A-8 High Desert League standings

Crane, 5-1 league, 11-12 overall
 Jordan Valley, 4-0, 10-7
 Prairie City, 3-1, 8-10
 Adrian, 3-2, 14-10
 Dayville/Monument, 3-3, 6-4
 Harper Charter, 2-4, 3-6
 Burnt River, 0-4, 1-6
 Huntington, 0-5, 0-6

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Middle school runners place third in Heppner

The Grant Union Prospectors cross country teams competed at the Mustang Invitational Thursday in Heppner, running through alfalfa fields, across pivot ditches and through a fast-flowing creek.

"Heppner was a good race for everyone," said Prospectors head coach Sonna Smith. "All but one athlete had a personal best or a season's best at the meet."

Among the Grant Union varsity boys, Gage Brandon finished first with a time of 19:48.2.

Erika Dickens was first of the Prospectors girls varsity runners with 23:09.9, setting a personal record.

The middle school Prospectors boys team placed third at the meet, earning a wooden trophy — their first. Held at Thompson Ranch, one of the competitors' greatest challenges was running through an area covered in 4 inches of loose dust.

"As athletes ran through it, visibility was reduced to a mere 3 feet," Smith said. "It looked apocalyptic as they emerged from the huge dust cloud produced by the hundreds of pounding feet."

The Grant Union teams will next compete at the Idlewild Invitational hosted by the Burns Hilanders with races starting at 10:30 a.m., varsity running at 11:30 a.m., at Idlewild Campground.

Grant Union Prospectors win first league football battle

In their first league game of the season on Friday, the Grant Union Prospectors football team came out victorious over the Stanfield Tigers, 32-8.

The game, played in Stanfield, was marked by numerous penalties and turnovers in the first half. Grant Union trailed 6-8 going into halftime.

"In the second half, we tackled better and played more physical," said Prospectors head coach Jason Miller. "We were able to move the ball and take advantage of Stanfield mistakes."

He said Garrett Lenz, Russell Hodge and Justin Hodge piled up yards in what was mainly a running game, "thanks to great blocking by the offensive line and perimeter players."

"It was a positive outcome for our first league game," Miller said. "Stanfield is always a tough place to play."

The Prospectors (3-3 overall, 1-0 league) host the Riverside Pirates (0-5, 0-2) at 7 p.m. Friday for Grant Union's homecoming game.

"It should be a good game," Miller said. "Players will need to be disciplined and physical to beat the Pirates."



Long Creek/Ukiah's Alea Douglas is in action in Saturday's match against Jordan Valley junior varsity with her teammates Alexandra Knudsen (21) and Gladys Johnson (14) nearby.

Prairie City football team claims first victory of season

The Prairie City Panther football team claimed a 67-22 win on Friday over the Huntington Locomotives.

It was the first win of the season for the Panthers.

"We had much better blocking this game," said Prairie City head coach Nate Barber. "It made a difference in our running game, and we were able to pass the ball a little bit."

He said Isaac Koopman performed well as running back, and Declan Zwegardt did well running and catching the ball.

"Jake McHatton and Marcus Judd were also able to score for us," Barber said.

Prairie City focused on man-on-man defense and putting pressure on Huntington's quarterback, he said.

"We were able to be consistent the whole game, which was nice to see," Barber said.

Long Creek/Ukiah volleyball falls 3-1 to Jordan Valley JV

Losing a starter to injury in the second set of Saturday's game hurt Long Creek/Ukiah as they fell 3-1 to Jordan Valley.

Jordan Valley won the junior varsity game with scores of 18-25, 25-8, 25-15 and 25-20.

Head coach Linda Studtmann said the team struggled at first when Alea Dou-

glas hurt her knee, but "they eventually pulled themselves together, fought hard, got their focus back and worked together to bring the scores back up."

Studtmann said the girls worked on communication and encouraged each other, especially with the less experienced players.

"Reagan and I were both proud of the girls that stepped in and pulled the team back together," Studtmann said. "I think the scores show that, even though we lost overall."

Long Creek/Ukiah was defeated by the Rockets in Pilot Rock in a close match Oct. 1, the Rockets winning 3-1 with scores of 27-25, 22-25, 25-23 and 27-25.

The Mountaineer/Cougars claimed a 3-1 victory over the Burnt River Bulls Friday in Unity with scores of 30-28, 22-25, 21-25 and 25-21.

On Saturday, Long Creek/Ukiah will face Monument/Dayville at 2:30 p.m. and Crane at 5:30 p.m. in Monument.

Riverside junior varsity outpaces Long Creek/Ukiah soccer team

Long Creek/Ukiah soccer coach Amos Studtmann said his team played well on Oct. 2, but the agile 3A Riverside Pirates overcame the 1A Mountaineer/Cougars 11-0 in

Boardman in the junior varsity match.

"Riverside, they play fast, they have great passing, and they are super-quick runners," Studtmann said. "They have some good shooters on the team."

The Pirates' varsity team won state last season, he said.

Sitong "Tiger" Zeng did well as goal keeper, the coach said, and Mathéo Buchart and Marcel Kozhoylov both performed well on offense, but were unable to score.

On Saturday, Long Creek/Ukiah traveled to Ontario where they fell 12-3 to the 1A Four Rivers varsity team.

Studtmann said Thomas Kreamier, who had been ill and missed the Riverside game, played well against the Four Rivers Falcons.

The teams were tied 2-2 early in the match, when the Falcons pulled away.

"I'm looking for improvements and adjustments from my team to show they are growing," the coach said. "High school sports aren't just about winning, but about growth, so as long as I see improvement in my players it will be a successful season."

Long Creek/Ukiah will host Riverside at 10 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 13, in Long Creek, and at 3 p.m. Thursday, the Mountaineer/Cougars host Nyssa in Long Creek.

On Saturday, the team travels to Umatilla for a match at 3 p.m. against the 3A Vikings.