

VB

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Brockway said they gave their best effort and said her favorite memory from the tournament would simply be playing volleyball with her friends.

"It's always exciting playing at the tournament, and it's a fun experience," she said.

Broemeling agreed about the excitement of the tournament.

"I love my team — we played hard," she said.

Hailie Wright said the team improved throughout the season.

"I'm glad we made it to the tournament," she said.

Hailie was named Player of the Game in the championship. Gordan received the same recognition for the Royals.

Kaylee Wright was named to the First Team All Tournament, and Brockway and Hailie Wright were named to Second Team All Tournament.

Grant Union has advanced to the volleyball state playoffs for nine consecutive years and to the state tournament the past five years.



Contributed photo/Justin Moore

The Grant Union Prospectors show their excitement at the OSAA State Volleyball Championships including, from left, Kaylee Wright, Taylor Allen and Alcie Moore.

Last year, the Prospectors claimed the state title, and two years before, the team placed third.

In her first year coaching for Grant Union, Abrego took over where Shae Speth left off. Speth, who had coached the team for nine years, moved out of state with her family.

Abrego said her team adjusted well to a brand new coaching staff, which included new philosophies and new position assignments for some athletes.

She said her assistant coach Erin Beil, who spent several years officiating volleyball games, has been a "tremendous asset."



Eagle file photo

Grant Union Prospectors Taylor Allen (14) and Trinity Hutchison go up to block in a game this season.

"She has a great ability to connect with kids, which allows her to teach the fundamental skills of volleyball in a positive manner," Abrego said.

The Prospectors held a 28-5 overall record and were champions in the Blue Mountain Conference with a 12-0 record.

"I really can't say enough good things about this team or what they have taught me about myself as a coach," she said. "The character they bring to this team is something that will set the standard for years to come."

Grant Union's varsity team included nine seniors.

"My seniors are some of

the best kids I've had the privilege to work with, and their leadership and drive to win will be something we'll miss next year," Abrego said.

Grant Union had hoped for a repeat of last year, when they won the championship title, and Abrego said although they came up just short of their goal, her team accepted defeat with "class and sophistication." She said that attitude is something not all coaches get to acknowledge after a tough loss.

With four returning varsity players to start the season next year, the coach said she's excited for the possibilities.

"I'm beyond grateful for the opportunity to coach in this community, and for the memories that were made this season, as they are irreplaceable," she said. "Second place in the state is quite an accomplishment."

Grant Union vs. Portland Christian
kills/aces/blocks/assists/digs
Kaylee Wright: 13/2/0/0/20
Hailie Wright: 12/1/0/29/11
Sydney Brockway: 9/4/1/0/16
Trinity Hutchison: 8/0/2/0/0
McKeely Miller: 4/0/0/0/0
Taylor Allen: 4/0/0/0/0
Alcie Moore: 2/0/0/15/9
Aidan Broemeling: 1/0/0/0/8
Yui Asami: 0/3/0/0/12

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WEEK 9 OF 13

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No. 12		
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No. 14		
No. 15		
Tie Breaker		Score

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1. Displayed in this advertisement are 20 sports-minded businesses. In 15 of these ads you'll find listed an important game scheduled for this weekend.
2. Each game is numbered. Clip the original blank entry and write, in numerical order, the advertiser's name and the team you think will win the game listed in the ad.
3. Game No. 15 will be the tiebreaker every week. Simply write in what you think the final score will be for each team. When the tiebreaker is necessary to determine a winner, the closest point spread will be the deciding factor.
4. Only one entry per person permitted - but all members of the family may enter provided they use the blank entry. Must be 10 years old to enter. Entries must be brought to the Blue Mountain Eagle in John Day no later than 5 p.m. FRIDAY. Or you can mail your entry to: Football Editor, 195 N. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR, 97845 but make sure it is postmarked no later than Friday and received by the Blue Mountain Eagle by noon Monday. OR you can fax your original entry to (541) 575-1244, Attn: Football Editor.
5. Employees of the Blue Mountain Eagle or members of their immediate families are not eligible for prize money.
6. Winners will be announced in the Wednesday paper following the games. \$50 in cash and prizes will be awarded to the winner. In case of a tie, the prize will be split. Contest ends in 13 weeks.

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