



Unity is top goal for Tiger boys

By ANGEL CARPENTER
Blue Mountain Eagle

Surrounded by his team in practice last week, Dayville/Monument Tiger head coach Jeff Schafer told the boys he respects and values what each brings to the table.

“Your role is important,” he said. “We build the team by how you treat each other on and off the court.”

He added, whether they are on the bench or a starter, he expects them to give their all on the court.

All of last season’s players are back this year — except a senior foreign exchange student — plus three more who’ve joined the ranks. Seniors on the team of 11 are Gabe Walker-Hopkins and Cade Milton, and there are two juniors, five sophomores and two freshmen.



Gabe Walker-Hopkins



Cade Milton

“They all came back, and it’s good to have a couple extra to help out the team,” Schafer said. “They’ll be a great asset.”

Returning starters include Walker-Hopkins, junior Drew Wilburn and sophomores Donovan Schafer, Mark Thomas and JT Hand.

“DJ Howell (a sophomore) comes off the bench, but he’s invaluable,” coach Schafer said.

He said he’s looking to Wilburn to be a good leader this season, emotionally and verbally.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter
Dayville/Monument Tiger JT Hand shoots the ball during a practice scrimmage. Others in the action, from left, are Jaydon Hoffman, Wesley Adams, Drew Wilburn and Mark Thomas.

“Drew is encouraging the kids and keeping them going,” he said.

The coach said Wilburn and Walker-Hopkins both

hustle on the court.

Regarding Walker-Hopkins, Schafer added, “His work ethic never stops, and this is a great thing to teach

the younger kids.”

The coach said his three other starters are also working hard.

He said Donovan, who’s grown up playing ball, is constantly working on his skills and teamwork.

“And he’s grown a couple inches,” the coach added.

Thomas is developing into a good point guard, he said, and Hand will be a strong rebounder.

“The new guys work hard and are eager,” Schafer said.

Schafer has assistant coach Josh Williams back, and new assistant coach Andy Wilburn has also joined this season.

Milton, who was on the team his sophomore year, is back.

He said he played football with most of the basketball players, and he’s looking forward to being on a

team again.

“The goal is to work hard and have fun,” he said.

Walker-Hopkins, who is in his fourth year on the varsity team, said he’s been impressed with how the team has come together in just the first few weeks of practice, compared to last year.

“I see that they’re young, but they’re working together really well and growing exponentially,” he said.

Hand said teamwork, trusting the coaches and communication on the court will be key for their success.

Drew Wilburn said their goal is to work as a team, and he believes they’ll finish strong this year.

“I’m pumped,” he said. “I’ve waited all year to do

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Grant Union girls claim victory at Columbia River Clash

By BRETT KANE
EO Media Group

The Grant Union girls took home the big trophy after defeating Joseph 64-50 at the Columbia River Clash championships.

The Prospectors scored on two turnovers in the first quarter and never relinquished the lead.

“It was a great weekend with an intense run,” said head coach Kristi Moore. “We came in determined to take it all the way, and that’s what we did.”

Seniors Marissa Smith, Madison McKrola and Kaylee Wright combined for 8 points as the first quarter wound down, and senior Hailie Wright hit a half-court 3-pointer as the buzzer sounded for a 22-6 lead.

The Eagles nearly matched the Prospectors, 11-9, in the second, but were still down 33-15 at the half. They came out of the locker room to post 14 points over Grant Union’s 9 in the third and nearly matched them again 22-21 in the fourth, trading scores until the buzzer.

Prospector senior Alcie Moore hit 4 straight points in the final seconds to secure the championship.

“I’m proud of the girls for their intensity after three days of basketball and two nights away from home,” Moore said. “They continued to fight until the very end.”



Staff photo by Kathy Aney/East Oregonian
Grant Union’s Madi McKrola (25) drives to the basket Saturday during the championship game of the Columbia River Clash against Joseph.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris/East Oregonian
Grant Union’s Hailie Wright looks to pass the ball in front of Riverside’s Faith Rosen in the Prospectors’ 54-34 win against Riverside on Friday in Umatilla.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris/East Oregonian
Grant Union’s Kaylee Wright drives on Riverside’s Faith Rosen in the Prospectors’ 54-34 win against Riverside on Friday in Umatilla.

AWARDS

Grant Union 2A Blue Mountain Conference football awards

By Blue Mountain Eagle

Defensive backs
 Garrett Lenz, senior, First Team

Jordan Hall, sophomore, First Team

Justin Hodge, freshman, honorable mention

Linebackers
 Russell Hodge, junior, First Team

Taylor Hunt, junior, First Team

Defensive linemen
 Drew Lusco, junior, First Team

Peyton Neault, sophomore, Second Team

Offensive linemen
 Drew Lusco, First Team
 Devon Stokes, sophomore, Second Team
 Peyton Neault, honorable mention

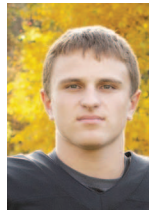
Receivers
 Jordan Hall, Second Team

Quarterbacks
 Garrett, Lenz, Second Team

Running backs
 Russell Hodge, First Team

Justin Hodge, Second Team

Punters
 Russell Hodge, First Team



Peyton Neault



Drew Lusco



Russell Hodge



Jordan Hall



Devon Stokes



Garrett Lenz



Justin Hodge



Taylor Hunt

Prairie City 1A High Desert League volleyball awards

By Blue Mountain Eagle

Rilee Emmel, junior, outside hitter, Second Team

Emily Ennis, junior, setter/right side hitter, honorable mention

Katie Hire, sophomore, setter/right side hitter, honorable mention

Hailee Wall, junior, middle blocker, honorable mention



Rilee Emmel



Hailee Wall



Katie Hire



Emily Ennis

Contributed photos/Tanni Wenger Photography



Lane Williams

Jake McHatton

Declan Zwegardt

Jonathan Lawrence

Prairie City 1A High Desert League football awards

By Blue Mountain Eagle

Lane Williams, senior, long snapper, First Team

Jake McHatton, junior, offensive line/center, Second Team

Jonathan Lawrence, senior, punter, Second Team

Declan Zwegardt, sophomore, running back, honorable mention

Grant Union football player receives all-state recognition

Grant Union Prospector football player junior Drew Lusco was named to first team all-state offensive line and second team all-state defensive line.



Drew Lusco

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Friday, Dec. 14

Grant Union wrestling at Elgin Tournament, 1 p.m.
 Prairie City boys basketball vs. Horizon Christian, 6 p.m.
 Dayville/Monument basketball vs. Mitchell/Spray, girls 6 p.m., boys 7:30 p.m.

Grant Union basketball vs. Burns, girls 6 p.m., boys 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 15

Grant Union wrestling at Elgin Tournament, 10 a.m.
 Long Creek/Ukiah basketball vs. Mitchell/Spray in Dayville, girls 1:30 p.m., boys 3 p.m.

Prairie City basketball vs. Imbler, girls 4 p.m., boys 5:30 p.m.
 Dayville/Monument varsity basketball vs. Grant Union junior varsity, girls 4:30 p.m., boys 6 p.m.



Aubrey Bowlus



Denali Twehues



Faythe Schafer



Kyla Emerson

Dayville/Monument 1A High Desert All-League volleyball awards

By Blue Mountain Eagle

Faythe Schafer, senior, Setter of the Year
 Kyla Emerson, senior, outside hitter, honorable mention

Aubrey Bowlus, senior, outside hitter, honorable mention

Denali Twehues, junior, setter, honorable mention