



10 SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019



Contributed photo/Shanna Wright

Grant Union Prospect Kaylee Wright stands in the top spot on the podium for the javelin event at the OSAA 2A Track and Field State Championships at Western Oregon University in Monmouth. She broke her previous state record in javelin, and she was named 2A Athlete of the Meet.



Contributed photo/Kirsti Cason

Grant Union's Trinity Hutchison is victorious over Nyssa's Noelle Acosta in the 155-pound semifinal match at the girls state wrestling tournament in Portland. Hutchison went on to win the state title with a 5-1 decision over Lilliana Restrepo of Century.



By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County athletes in 2019 provided moments of excitement after hours of practice and devotion to their sport. Here are 10 highlights from the year.

1. Grant Union track and field

One-thousandth of a second determined the 2A girls track and field champions. A photo finish in the 100-meter dash gave 2 more points to the Enterprise Outlaws, who topped Grant Union by half a point to win the girls title at the 2A Track and Field State Championships.

Along with second for the team, Grant Union senior Kaylee Wright was named the 2A Athlete of the Meet, shattering her previous state javelin record with a throw of 139-05 for her fourth consecutive championship title and became high jump champion for the second year in a row, clearing the bar at 5-03.

Wright also raced with junior Sierra Cates, senior Trinity Hutchison and freshman Carson Weaver on the girls 4x100-relay team to place second, just .18 seconds behind Enterprise.

2. Grant Union girls wrestling team

Senior Trinity Hutchison won the OSAA State Wrestling Championship in the 155-pound class, and freshman Arionna Young placed second at 115. They brought home the fourth-place trophy for the Grant Union girls team as a 2A team, facing off against all sizes of schools in the girls tournament.

3. Prairie City track and field

Prairie City Panther Levi Burke won the 1A high jump at the May 17-18 OSAA State Championships at Western Oregon University in Monmouth.

"Last year was motivation to keep going," Burke said. This time, Burke jumped 6-05 — 5 inches higher than the next closest competitor, Luke Martin of Sherman. Besides the title of champion, Burke also went undefeated in high jump this season at nine events.

Prairie City sophomore Tristan McMahan and senior Syd Holman also competed.

4. Grant Union boys wrestling team

Senior Drew Lusco, wrestling in the 285-pound heavyweight bracket, had a second-place finish at the OSAA State Wrestling Championships. The final round decided the championship match with Lusco falling to a Central Linn senior by 1 penalty point. Along with second place at state, Lusco won the championship title at the OSAA 2A/1A Special District 4 Tournament.

5. Prairie City/Burnt River football

The Prairie City/Burnt River Panthers football team ended a successful season in fourth place at the 1A Six-Man Crossover Championship, losing to the Triangle Lake Lakers who claimed the 25-20 win at Madras High School. Head coach Scott Dean was appreciative of the many accomplishments the team had this season.

"I want to thank my players, the parents, the community and my coaches Dennis Flippence and Jonathan Engberg for the change in program direction," Dean said. "Being the East Six-Man Football Southern Champions served our players well because they became champions — that can never be taken away and the program must work hard to get better in the future."

6. Prairie City boys basketball

The Prairie City Panther boys basketball team finished in fifth place at the 1A Boys Basketball State Championship, falling 56-53 to the Days Creek Wolves.

Panther head coach Sam Workman said both teams battled hard in their final game.

"I was excited with the way they played their last game of the season and how they fought," he said of his team, adding they all performed well.

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For the Eagle/Benjamin Lonergan

Levi Burke of Prairie City clears a 6-foot-5-inch bar to win the boys 1A high jump at the 2019 OSAA 1A Track and Field State Championships at Western Oregon University in Monmouth May 18.



Contributed photo/Kirsti Cason

Grant Union's Drew Lusco (top) controls Chilcoquin's Daniel Jones in their 285-pound semi-finals match Saturday at the 2A/1A state wrestling tournament in Portland. Lusco won 8-4 to advance to the finals.



The Chieftain/Ellen Morris Bishop

Prairie City/Burnt River Panther Jake McHattont takes down Triangle Lake Laker quarterback Zach Pennel during the Nov. 9 Six-Man Crossover battle for third and fourth in state in Madras.



Contributed photo/Tanni Wenger Photography

Prairie City Panther Marcus Judd is in action against Nixyaawii with Golden Eagle player Jace Ashley (21) defending.

