



Prairie City boys 12-0 after topping Long Creek/Ukiah

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The Prairie City boys basketball team's 86-55 league victory over the Long Creek/Ukiah Mountain Lions on Saturday brings the Panthers' record to 12-0 for the season.

Panther senior Levi Burke led his team with 29 for the night, followed by junior Cole Deiter with 16. Seven others were in on the scoring for Prairie City.

Mountain Lion junior James Kreamier led with 23 for his team, including 5-5 from the free-throw line, followed by junior Ben Combs with 11. Three of their teammates also were in on scoring for the night.

Prairie City is now 2-0 in league, and Long Creek/Ukiah is 1-2.

Prairie City was off to a smooth start when senior Syd Holman batted the tip to Burke who threw it to sophomore Jojari Field for the first 2 points of the game.

Burke racked up 14 points in the first quarter and, standing at 6-foot-4, made a few exciting dunks for the night.

Field earned 5 of his 12 points in the game at the start of the second quarter, and the Panthers had a healthy 53-19 lead at the half.

Long Creek/Ukiah came out on fire after the break.

Mountain Lions James Kreamier, Tiger Zeng, Thomas Kreamier, Combs and Mathéo Buchart combined for 22 points in the third, outshooting Prairie City by 10.

The Panthers dominated the fourth, with Burke draining a 3-pointer to start, followed by 2 from Deiter and 2 from Field off an assist from Burke.

Prairie City scored 11 in the first 3 minutes of play before Long Creek/Ukiah found the basket.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter
Prairie City Panther Jayden Winegar takes aim over the reach of Long Creek/Ukiah Mountain Lion Thomas Kreamier in Saturday's game.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter
Long Creek/Ukiah Mountain Lion Mathéo Buchart (23) scores in the game against Prairie City.

"They had fun, and everybody got to play," said Prairie City head coach Sam Workman.

Commenting on their 12-0 record, the coach said, "They're doing something right. They're coming together, and every game they're getting a little bit better." All 14 players scored in the 69-26 league win over the Burnt River Bulls Friday.

Long Creek/Ukiah coach TC Conner said his team moved the ball better Saturday than in previous games, noting it takes ball movement and speed to com-

pete with a team like Prairie City, which is currently ranked No. 2 in state among OSAA's 1A teams.

Conner said this was his team's third game in as many days.

"They haven't faced anyone that tall and athletic before," he said.

The Mountain Lions are 2-7 overall.

On Thursday, Long Creek/Ukiah fell to the Crane Mustangs 73-52 in Long Creek, then beat Dayville/Monument 64-60. Both were league games.

Conner said his team is making strides, learning to play together rather than as individuals.

"Hopefully we keep going," Conner said. "The players are realizing they need partners to help build the team."

Buchart said their team had a tough start to the season, and although they lost to the Panthers, they competed well.

"We were able to communicate more like a team," he said. "We can be proud of what we've done this weekend — we fight and improve our games."

Prairie City

Jojari Field: 12 points (two 3-pointers)
 Jonathan Lawrence: 5 (one 3-pointer)
 Jayden Winegar: 4 (one 3-pointer, 1-2 free throws)
 Declan Zwegardt: 8 (2-4 free throws)
 Levi Burke: 29 (one three-pointer)
 Lucas McKinley: 3 (one 3-pointer)
 Syd Holman: 5 (one 3-pointer)
 Cole Deiter: 16 (2-2 free throws)
 Brett Copenhaver: 4

Long Creek/Ukiah

James Kreamier: 23 points (four 3-pointers, 5-5 free throws)
 Tiger Zeng: 6 (2-2 free throws)
 Ben Combs: 11 (one 3-pointer)
 Thomas Kreamier: 8 (two 3-pointers)
 Mathéo Buchart: 7 (one 3-pointer)



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter
Long Creek/Ukiah's Karen Quintanilla (51) drives the ball with Prairie City's Aleah Johns behind her. Long Creek/Ukiah's Heather Fan (41) is also in the action.

Panther girls dominate Lions in cross-county contest

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The Prairie City Panther girls dominated their cross-county guests the Long Creek/Ukiah Mountain Lions 47-19 Saturday in High Desert League action.

Panther junior Rilee Emmel led her team with 14 points, followed by junior Hailee Wall with 10 and junior Emily Ennis with 9.

Those three players plus sophomore Abbey Pfefferkorn combined for 15 points in the first quarter keeping the lid on Long Creek/Ukiah's basket.

Prairie City led 21-2 at the half, Long Creek/Ukiah sophomore Itsumi Yamamoto scoring her team's first points of the game.

Mountain Lion sophomore Dorothea Johnson grabbed Prairie City's inbound pass to start the scoring in the third.

Prairie City outshot Long Creek/Ukiah 14-6 in the third for a 35-8 lead.

Long Creek/Ukiah upped their intensity in the final eight minutes and saw more shooting suc-



Jenny Lee

cess, scoring 11 points to Prairie City's 12, but it was too late to close the gap.

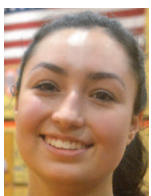
Sophomore Lucchese Douglas, senior Jenny Kim and senior Karen Quintanilla led the scoring for Long Creek/Ukiah with 4 points each in the game.

This was the Mountain Lions' third league contest in as many days, and they suffered some injuries early on. The team faced Crane on Thursday with a 74-18 loss, and Dayville/Monument Friday, falling 47-15.

It was Prairie City's second league game. The Panthers beat the Burnt River Bulls Friday, 75-31, with Wall leading the scoring with 22 points.

Panther head coach Bo Workman said his team is gaining more confidence in shooting the ball.

"We're doing the right things fundamentally," he said. "We've had some



Kathy Quintanilla

tough games, but we've been in them."

Prairie City was down three players for most of the preseason, and the team is still down by two who have been sidelined with injuries.

Workman said they've switched some positions to "mix it up a little."

"We have a lot to work on still, but they're working hard to the end," he said.

Long Creek/Ukiah coach TC Conner said his team is "getting their confidence back," but he knew a third game in a row would be tough, especially with a couple key athletes playing with injuries.

He said the team is coming together, but they need more conditioning and stamina.

Gladys Johnson said she was pleased with how her team performed in the second half.

"It was good for our



Gladys Johnson

players strategically-wise," she said. "I was really impressed with our foreign exchange students this game. They really held Prairie City back."

Ennis said, "Being 2-0 in league is a big confidence booster" as they continue in league competition.

"I felt like we had a lot of teamwork and collaboration," she said.

Prairie City is 2-8 overall and 2-0 in league.

Long Creek/Ukiah is 4-5 overall and 0-3 in league.

Prairie City

Rilee Emmel: 14 (two 3-pointers)
 Hailee Wall: 10 (4-4 free throws)
 Emily Ennis: 9 (two 3-pointers)
 Samantha Workman: 6
 Abbey Pfefferkorn: 6
 Aleah Johns: 2 points
Long Creek/Ukiah
 Brooke Harrison: 4
 Jenny Kim: 4
 Lucchese Douglas: 4
 Gladys Johnson: 3 (one 3-pointer)
 Dorothea Johnson: 2
 Itsumi Yamamoto: 2

Grant Union track and field champion signs to WOU

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant Union senior Kaylee Wright of John Day signed a letter of intent to run and throw for Western Oregon University's track and field team in Monmouth this fall.

Wright was surrounded by family and Grant Union athletic director and head track and field coach Sonna Smith as she signed the letter on Dec. 22.

"I've always wanted to go to college and do a sport," Wright said. "I want to go for a criminal justice degree, and they have the best program in Oregon."

As a junior, Wright won three titles at the girls track and field state championships in Eugene, helping her team earn second place.

Wright shattered the previous state javelin record, which she set as a freshman, with a throw of

138-6.5, which was a personal record. She also won the high jump (5-3) and 100-meter dash (12.75). The Grant Union girls team placed first at state in 2017. She competed at the Down Under Sports Track and Field Championships in the summer of 2017 in Queensland, Australia. There she had a fifth-place finish in the women's 16-17 division (500g) javelin throw with a mark of 38.83 meters (127-40 feet).

Wright was also a member of the Grant Union volleyball team, which placed first in state in 2017 and second in 2018, and plays for the Grant Union basketball team, which earned fourth in state last season.

Wright is the daughter of Kelsy Wright, who is an assistant track and field coach for Grant Union specializing in javelin, and Raelynn Cearns.



Contributed photo
Grant Union senior Kaylee Wright, left, signs a letter of intent to run and throw for Western Oregon University in Monmouth. Also in the photo are her dad Kelsy Wright, center, and Grant Union head track and field coach Sonna Smith.