



Tiger girls claim home victory over Panthers in Monument

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The Dayville/Monument Tiger girls team claimed a 38-27 victory over the Prairie City Panthers Saturday at the Monument basketball court.

The cross-county High Desert League opponents kept the game close in the first half, Dayville/Monument leading by two points in the first and second quarters.

Both teams played strong to the end, but the Tigers outscored the Panthers 23-14 in the second half.

Dayville/Monument led 15-13 going into the third, and Tiger Aubrianna Osborne grabbed a rebound and her teammate Denali Twehues added 2 to the scoreboard.

Panther Hailee Wall landed two 2-pointers and was 2-2 at the free-throw line, but Twehues and teammate

Faythe Schafer each scored a 3-point shot, with Twehues adding another 2 and Tiger Kyla Emerson going 1-2 at the free-throw line.

Panther Samantha Workman came out on fire in the fourth, landing two 2-point shots in a row.

Emerson answered back with a 3-pointer. Then Panther Rilee Emmel shot two 2-pointers in a row, Prairie City trailing by 4 points.

Twehues and Emmel each scored in the paint again. Then the Tigers extended their lead from there, including another 3-pointer from Emerson, for the 11-point win.

Emerson scored a game-high 14 for the Tigers, followed by Twehues with 13 and Faythe Schafer with 9.

Emmel led the Panthers with 11 points, followed by Wall with 8.

"We were on their floor, and it's always a battle with



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Dayville/Monument Tiger Denali Twehues (22) works the ball out of the corner, past Prairie City Panther defenders Abbey Pfefferkorn (32) and Samantha Workman (12).

these guys — the ball wasn't falling," said Panther head coach Bo Workman.

Commenting on some of his players, he said Abbey Pfefferkorn has had more playing time recently and is gaining more confidence.

Katie Hire is just getting back into the game, recovering from an injury.

"Emily Ennis plays good defense and plays aggressive," he said. "Rilee Emmel, she's just nailing it, and Hailee Wall is big

Dayville/Monument
 Kyla Emerson: 14 (three 3-pointers)
 Denali Twehues: 13 (one 3-pointer)
 Faythe Schafer: 9 (3-5 free throws)
 Aubrianna Osborne: 2
Prairie City
 Rilee Emmel: 11 (one 3-pointer)
 Hailee Wall: 8 (2-2 free throws)
 Samantha Workman: 4
 Katie Hire: 2
 Abbey Pfefferkorn: 2

he said. "Courtney played really good defense on the post — couldn't ask her to do any better."

"Aubrianna, she does good down low," he said. "She played good defense and did a good job getting a hand in the passing lane."

He added, "Kyla hit some 3's for us late that we needed, and Faythe Schafer is always consistent for me." Emerson said her team performed well overall.

"We stuck to our offense, and I'm really proud of the girls for all their effort put into the game," she said.

Dayville/Monument is 11-3 on the season and 3-1 in league. The Tigers fell 62-16 when they hosted the Crane Mustangs on Friday in Dayville.

The Tigers will face the Burnt River Bulls at 6 p.m. Friday in Unity, and they host Four Rivers at 2 p.m. Saturday in Monument.

inside."

The Panthers, 2-1 in the High Desert League and 2-9 overall, host the Crane Mustangs at 6 p.m. Friday and the Harper Hornets at 2 p.m. Saturday.

"We started off a little slow on the offense in the first half, but finally got it together when it mattered in the fourth quarter," said Tiger head coach Taylor Schmadeka. "I thought we played really good defense, but we gave up a lot of offensive rebounds to them."

"Denali played tough and got a lot of rebounds for us,"

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Friday, Jan. 18

Grant Union wrestling @ Oregon Classic in Redmond, 1:30 p.m.

Long Creek/Ukiah vs. Jordan Valley in Ukiah, girls at 5 p.m., boys at 6:30 p.m.

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

Prairie City basketball vs. Crane, girls at 6 p.m., boys at 7:30 p.m.

Dayville/Monument @ Burnt River, girls at 6 p.m., boys at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 19

Grant Union wrestling @ Oregon Classic in Redmond, TBA

Dayville/Monument vs. Four Rivers in Monument, girls at 2 p.m., boys at 3:30 p.m.

Long Creek/Ukiah vs. Huntington in Ukiah, girls at 2 p.m., boys at 3:30 p.m.

Prairie City basketball vs. Harper, girls at 2 p.m., boys at 3:30 p.m.

Grant Union basketball @ Union, boys at 4 p.m., girls at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 22

Dayville/Monument @ Grant Union junior varsity, girls at 5 p.m., boys at 6:30 p.m.

Panther boys dominate Tigers in Monument

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The fast-starting Prairie City Panther boys roared past the Dayville/Monument Tigers 74-27 at the Monument basketball court on Saturday.

The bleachers were full with spectators cheering loudly for the Grant County teams in what was a fast-paced, physical match.

Prairie City is No. 4 among OSAA's 1A teams and is 13-0 on the season, 3-0 in the High Desert League, making them a formidable foe for Dayville/Monument, which is 5-9 on the season and 1-3 in league.

Cole Deiter led the Panthers with 14 points followed by Syd Holman with 13.

Donovan Schafer and Drew Wilburn led the Tigers with 6 points each.

Panther Jayden Winegar was first on the scoreboard, landing a 3-pointer.

Dayville/Monument's strong defense was no match for Prairie City's height. Deiter, 6-foot-5, scored two in a row, followed by Panther Levi Burke, 6-foot-4, with 2.

Tiger Drew Wilburn scored 2 points off an assist from Cade Milton, and Donovan Schafer added another 2 halfway into the first quarter.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Prairie City Panther Lucas McKinley pushes through with a steal from Dayville/Monument Tiger Mark Thomas, left, as Tiger Drew Wilburn moves in.

With less than three minutes to go, Panther Syd Holman nabbed the ball from the Tigers and dunked on a fast break, and teammate Jojari Field — the shortest, but possibly the fastest, Panther — added three 2-pointers late in the quarter.

Prairie City led 23-6 going into the second and outscored the home team 14-7 in the second.

Prairie City denied Dayville/Monument all but one 3-point shot in the third quarter made by Tiger Gabe Walker-Hopkins, the Panthers taking a 59-16 lead going into the fourth.

More of the Panther bench made an appearance

in the final eight minutes.

The intensity didn't die down. One Panther appeared to have his hair pulled, and another had an elbow to the face.

Lucas McKinley and Jonathan Lawrence sank 3-pointers for the Panthers, and Declan Zwegardt, Brett Copenhaver and Marcus Judd also scored 2 each.

Tigers Wesley Adams and DJ Howell got in on the scoring in the final minute of play. Howell also added 1-2 at the free-throw line earlier in the quarter, and Hand was 2-2 and Wilburn was 2-3 at the free-throw line.

Prairie City head coach Sam Workman said Day-

ville/Monument made it a high-pressure game.

"They played tough defense that was good for my boys," he said.

Burke said, "They play a different style than we are — super physical, fast and all over the place," which he said teaches his team to stay composed.

Prairie City hosts the Crane Mustangs at 7:30 p.m. Friday and the Harper Hornets at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Tiger head coach Jeff Schafer said his team never gave up.

"Donovan and JT did well rebounding," he said. "They work hard on the glass."

Prairie City
 Jojari Field: 9 (one 3-pointer)
 Jonathan Lawrence: 3 (one 3-pointer)
 Jayden Winegar: 7 (one 3-pointer)
 Brandon Horrell: 1-1 free throw
 Marcus Judd: 1-1 free throw
 Declan Zwegardt: 2
 Levi Burke: 11 (1-1 free throw)
 Lucas McKinley: 9 (1 3-pointer, 2-3 free throws)
 Syd Holman: 13 (1-2 free throws)
 Cole Deiter: 14
 Lane Williams: 2
 Brett Copenhaver: 2
Dayville/Monument
 Gabe Walker-Hopkins: 3 (one 3-pointer)
 Mark Thomas: 3 (one 3-pointer)
 JT Hand: 4 (2-4 free throws)
 Drew Wilburn: 6 (2-5 free throws)
 Donovan Schafer: 6
 DJ Howell: 3 (1-2 free throws)
 Wesley Adams: 2

He said he was proud of his team for their hustle and working well together. He noted Howell added a spark in the second half.

"Being outsized, they worked hard," the coach said of his team.

"I thought we played more as a team," said player Donovan Schafer. "It's hard to get around a team like that. We're going to keep working and hopefully get them next time."

Dayville/Monument fell to Crane 55-30 Friday on the road. The Tigers will face the Burnt River Bulls at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Unity, and they host Four Rivers at 3:30 p.m. Saturday in Monument.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Defense key in Grant Union boys' 6-point win over Weston-McEwen

The Grant Union Prospector boys, missing a starter due to injury, stepped up Saturday for a 62-57 win over conference opponents the Weston-McEwen Tiger-Scots in Athena.

Jacob Vaughan led the Prospectors with 27 points, followed by Tanner Elliott with 15 and Devon Stokes with 9.

Tristan Morris, who often leads in scoring, injured his foot in practice last week and could be out for four weeks, said head coach Kelsy Wright.

Wright said his team understands what they're up against in the Blue Mountain Conference, and they're ready to fill in that gap to keep the team competitive.

Currently, Grant Union is second in the league (6-8 overall, 4-1 league) to the Heppner Mustangs (11-6, 5-0). The Union Bobcats (10-5, 3-2) are third in the standings.

In Athena, the Prospectors held the lead throughout the contest.

"They (the TigerScots) were in a 1-2-2 zone, so we came up with some good plays," Wright said.

"Jacob Vaughan and Devon Stokes were just great on the 3-point shot," he said. "He (Devon) got them out of the 1-2-2 zone then man to man. Our defense really played key in winning that game."

He added, "Tanner Elliott was a monster in getting second-chance points for us and making it to the free-throw line quite a bit."

Wright said they're prepared to face the Stanfield Tigers (5-11, 2-3, No. 4 in league) and Union this week.

They've watched Stanfield in two games, and they beat Union 59-47 on Jan. 5 in John Day.

"The boys understand what the deal is," he said. "These are going to be our biggest games to stay in league competition."

Grant Union hosts Stanfield on Friday at 6 p.m.

The Prospectors are on the road to Union Saturday, facing the Bobcats at 4 p.m.

Prospector girls surge ahead in second half run over TigerScots

The Grant Union Prospector girls, ranked No. 4 among OSAA's 2A teams, are on a six-game win streak. Grant Union's defensive

intensity propelled them to a 57-33 victory over the Weston-McEwen Tiger-Scots in Athena in conference action.

The Prospectors were ahead 26-19 at the half, then outscored the TigerScots 18-10 in the third for a 44-29 lead. Grant Union widened the gap for the 24-point win, holding Weston-McEwen to 4 points in the fourth.

Madi McKrola led the Prospectors for the night with 28 points.

"Our goal was to focus on rebounding and creating the offensive fast break," said head coach Kristi Moore. "After half time, we were able to make a few adjustments, which led to scoring opportunities."

The win gives Grant Union an 11-3 record. They are leading at 5-0 in the Blue Mountain Conference, followed by the Enterprise Outlaws (4-2), and Heppner and Union (both 3-2). Stanfield is 2-3.

The Grant Union girls host Stanfield at 7:30 p.m. Friday, then travel to Union Saturday where they face the Bobcats at 5:30 p.m.

The Prospector girls beat Union 60-52 on Jan. 5 in John Day.

Mountain Lion girls corral the Bulls in Unity

The Long Creek/Ukiah Mountain Lions experienced the thrill of victory and agony of defeat as they defeated the Burnt River Bulls 26-23 on Friday in Unity and fell 69-17 Saturday to the Crane Mustangs.

Coach Amos Studtmann said their contest with the Bulls was intense and physical.

"Burnt River has come a long way since we first saw them," he said.

Long Creek/Ukiah led 19-11 at the half. Then the Bulls left the Mountain Lions scoreless in the third.

Studtmann said they struggled offensively and defensively in the third. Burnt River outshot Long Creek/Ukiah 19-0.

"We allowed Burnt River to close the gap and gain the lead before coming back in the fourth quarter and making some smarter passes and getting a few rebounds," he said.

He said all but one player on his bench had playing time — the one team member was in on their game against the Mustangs.

The coach said their goal in Crane was to pressure the

Mustangs to play their starters as much as possible.

He said the girls felt it was a success because Crane kept their starters in the contest.

"We got back on defense, and for the most part, we were able to force them to run an offense in order to score and not just take all the fast breaks," he said. "Lucchese Douglas and Brooke Harrison were a huge part of slowing down the fast break."

The Mountain Lion girls will host Jordan Valley at 5 p.m., with the boys playing at 6:30 p.m., on Friday in Ukiah, and they host the Pilot Rock junior varsity team at 4:30 p.m., boys at 6 p.m., Saturday in Ukiah.

Long Creek/Ukiah boys put new strategies into play

The Long Creek/Ukiah Mountain Lion boys split wins on the road, taking a 41-21 victory in Unity over the Burnt River Bulls and falling 65-38 to the Crane Mustangs.

Coach Amos Studtmann said they put new strategies they've practiced to the test in Unity.

"It worked," he said, adding they tried some different

offensive plays.

"I put in all our subs, working them into our offense and getting them to make good decisions with the team," he said. "They all did well."

He said Jesus Olmos ran hard and kept in correct position on defense.

"Henry Grannis was good on rebounds, and Marsel Kozhogulov was aggressive trying to block shots and steal the ball," he said.

Studtmann said making poor passes and giving up easy rebounds in Crane led to their loss.

"They didn't play up to our usual abilities and had too many turnovers and few rebounds," he said.

He noted that James Kreamier was almost 90 percent from the free-throw line in the fourth quarter, landing 8-9 shots.

"I see him going to the line and chalk him up for 2 points," the coach said.

He said, for their games in Ukiah, the teams will focus on making good passes and rebounding.

He noted the Ukiah gym is a challenge for visitors.

"You're close to the audience and the roof is low, so it's hard to keep good spacing," he said.