



Grant Union boys beat Heppner by 1

Three 3-pointers in final minutes seal Prospector comeback

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

Three 3-point shots in a row helped lift the Grant Union Prospectors up in the final three minutes of Saturday's 47-46 victory over the Heppner Mustangs.

Heppner was 8-0 in the Blue Mountain Conference coming into the contest, Grant Union 5-3.

The Prospectors lost a 4-point game to Heppner on the road in late December and were eager for a comeback, making Saturday's win that much sweeter.

Cheerleaders, a pep band and supportive fans contributed to a loud atmosphere as Grant Union led 8-6 in the first quarter and 14-12 in the second.

The teams knotted the score three times in the third before Heppner pulled ahead, 31-27, going into the fourth.

Prospector Mason Gerry



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter
Grant Union Prospector Jacob Vaughan (5) drives for the basket past Heppner defenders, including Gibson McCurry (14).

started off the scoring with a 2-pointer. Then the Mustangs had a 9-point run, including Trent Smith's 2-points off a steal.

Grant Union was down 40-29 when they started turning the game around.

Prospector Devon Stokes grabbed a defensive rebound, and Jacob Vaughan scored a 3-pointer with 3:38 left in the game.

Grant Union's Tristan Morris followed up with another 3-point shot, and Stokes landed another to put Grant Union within 2 points

of Heppner, 40-38.

The battle intensified with Mustangs' Smith hitting 2-2 free throws, and Prospector Tanner Elliott answering back with 2-2.

Mustang Logan Burright sank a 2-pointer, and Morris added 2 for the Prospectors.

With 1 minute left in the game, Smith hit a 3-pointer for the Mustangs.

Elliott shot 1-2 at the free-throw line with 41 seconds to go to put Grant Union within 3 points of Heppner, 46-43, and he went 1-1 just 10 seconds later.

GRANT UNION VS. HEPPNER

Tanner Elliott: 15 points (5-9 free-throws)

Jacob Vaughan: 14 (three 3-pointers, 1-4 free throws)

Tristan Morris: 8 (two 3-pointers)

Jordan Hall: 5 (1-1 free throws)

Devon Stokes: 3 (one 3-pointer)

Mason Gerry: 2

2A BLUE MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE BOYS STANDINGS

Heppner, 8-1 conference, 14-7 overall, No. 14 in state

Union, 6-2, 13-5, No. 15

Grant Union, 6-3, 8-10, No. 26

Stanfield, 4-4, 7-12, No. 33

Enterprise, 3-6, 9-11, No. 28

Weston-McEwen, 2-6, 4-15, No. 39

Pilot Rock, 1-8, 2-17, No. 46

When Elliott was fouled, he drew a little blood on his shirt, and the game was held up momentarily, Grant Union head coach Kelsy Wright said after the game.

Shortly after, a Heppner player chased an errant pass, landing in the stands. With the ball in Grant Union's possession, Morris brought Prospector fans to their feet, hitting a second 3-pointer for the 1-point lead with less than 20 seconds to go.

In the final five seconds of the game, Heppner had possession of the ball and called a time out.

Back in play, Elliott was able to get a hand on a Mustang pass before they could score.

"It was a great game," Wright said. "We've been practicing for Heppner for quite some time now."

He said they changed up their defensive and offensive game plan in preparation.

"The boys just came out and executed everything perfectly," he said. "It was just an awesome team effort."

He said when the team was down several points they had to dig deep.

"They knew they wanted to win it, and they wanted it really bad, and they showed it tonight," he said.

Wright said Vaughan showed a lot of energy on the defensive side, and Elliott rebounded "like crazy."

He said he was glad to have Morris, who was recovering from an injury, back on the court.

"He hit some big shots for us late in the game," Wright said.

Elliott said they played with composure, and everything seemed to click for them.

"We pulled it together in the final minutes," he said. "I think we believed we could beat these guys."

He added, "Our defense was key tonight. We executed on those last few turnovers for the win."

Elliott led Grant Union with 15 points, followed by Vaughan with 14 and Morris with 8.

Grant Union also defeated the Pilot Rock Rockets on Friday 54-45.

The Prospectors (6-3) host the Weston-McEwen Tiger-Scots (2-6) at 4 p.m. Friday.

Heppner girls break Grant Union's winning streak

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant Union Prospectors girls had a strong start in Saturday's league basketball contest, but after the first quarter the Heppner Mustangs held onto the lead for a 63-52 win in John Day.

It was a turnaround for the teams, since the Prospectors beat the Mustangs 65-53 Dec. 21 in Heppner.

The Prospectors, which had been on a nine-game winning streak, are still at the top of the league standings.

The Prospectors started on the right track Saturday with Prospector Kaylee Wright hitting a 3-pointer less than a minute into the game. She then scored 2 points off a steal.

Prospector Marissa Smith added 2 for a 7-0 lead.

Heppner caught up and moved ahead 14-12 with 1:30 to go in the first quarter. Then Prospector Alcie Moore tied the score, 14-14.

Mustang Sydney Wilson didn't score in the first quarter, but racked up 23 of her game-high 26 points in the second and third quarters.

Grant Union was down by 22 points late in the third.

The Prospectors started closing the gap in the fourth, outscoring the Mustangs 18-10 in the quarter, but couldn't overtake the visitors.

With less than a minute to go, Moore drew an intentional foul, and Madi McKrola fouled out.

Heppner sank 5-6 free throws in the final minute, while Hailie Wright hit 2-2 free throws and landed two 2-pointers.

"Heppner played a great game," said Grant Union head coach Kristi Moore. "They shot the ball well."

"Defensively, we let them shoot the ball," she said. "Offensive-wise, we weren't moving

GRANT UNION VS. HEPPNER

Kaylee Wright: 19 points

Hailie Wright: 12

Madi McKrola: 12

Alcie Moore: 4

Marissa Smith: 4

Abby Lusco: 1

2A BLUE MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE GIRLS

Grant Union: 8-1 conference, 14-4 overall, ranked No. 5

Enterprise: 7-2, 15-4, No. 7

Heppner: 7-2, 15-6, No. 9

Union: 4-4, 10-8, No. 11

Stanfield: 3-5, 9-10, No. 29

Pilot Rock: 1-8, 7-12, No. 31

Weston-McEwen: 0-8, 5-14, No. 27

well and weren't transitioning well, and that took us out of the game. We made a run at the end but couldn't quite pull it off."

Moore said they learned some strategy from the game, and they hadn't played from behind in a while.

She said they'll make some adjustments and refine their game, focusing on teamwork and execution.

"We're moving forward — it's still our goal to be league champions," she said. "They are great basketball players with lots of talent."

Kaylee Wright led the Prospectors with 19 points, followed by Hailie Wright and McKrola who each scored 12.

Grant Union defeated Pilot Rock 60-30 in conference play Friday.

The Prospectors host the Weston-McEwen TigerScots at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday. The Prospector boys play at 4 p.m.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter
Grant Union Prospector Justin Hodge, left, wrestles Joseph/Wallowa's Guylen Snyder. In back, a Baker wrestler is attended to for a possible broken leg, the injury occurring while wrestling his fellow teammate.

Grant Union bests 11 teams at home invitational

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant Union came out victorious at its home wrestling invitational on Friday with 18 of their athletes combining for 223.5 points against 11 other teams. Baker/Powder Valley finished in second place with 17 wrestlers scoring 114 points, Burns with 15 competing scored 136 for third, and Pine Eagle with 13 wrestlers scored 120 for fourth.

Grant Union head coach Andy Lusco said it was a great tournament with 130 high school and 120 junior high wrestlers.

"We paired wrestlers by ability and weight," he said. "Our kids did very well in the pods."

Prospector returning heavyweight champion Drew Lusco, a junior, had three quick pins over three opponents.

During the tournament, he said everything was running smoothly.

"Everyone is getting lots of matches and having fun," he said. "My teammates are wrestling hard, and I'm proud of them."

Prospector sophomore Logan McCluskey (145) said he had a goal going into the tournament to win, and he came out 3-0.

"I had a good competition," he said.

Coach Lusco said McCluskey, who had been wrestling at 152, competed at 145 on Friday for the first time this season and did a "great job."

Drew Lusco, McCluskey and soph-

GRANT UNION INVITATIONAL

Ethan Moore (106), third place, 2-2, 7 team points

Sam McCracken (120/126), third, 2-2, 7

Ben Henry (126), second, 3-1, 13.5

Tanler Fuller (132), fourth, 2-2, 5

Casey Vaughan (132/138), third, 1-2, 7

Jesse Douglass (132/138), second, 2-1, 14

Logan McCluskey (145), first, 3-0, 20

Justin Hodge (152), first, 4-0, 16

Damion Young (152), second, 3-1, 12

Trinity Hutchison (152/160), third, 1-2, 9

Frank Douglass (152/160), first, 3-0, 18

Quinten Hallgarth (170), first, 3-0, 20

Russell Hodge (182), second, 2-1, 14

Drew Lusco, (285), first, 3-0, 20

Sydney Brockway (138 girls), first, 2-0, 9

Sophie Brockway (138/145 girls), second, 1-1, 4

Ashley Henry (120/125 girls), first, 2-0, 16

Arianna Young (120/125), second, 1-0, 12

omore Quintin Hallgarth (170) each scored 20 points for Grant Union.

"Quinten was tough and finished matches well," coach Lusco said.

Prospector Frank Douglass, a junior, was 3-0 with 18 points.

"He came back from illness and looked great," Lusco said.

Douglass said it was a good day.

"I had a lot of fun, and the wrestlers were competitive," he said.

Justin Hodge (152) had a 4-0 record, three wins by pin, for 16 team points.

"Justin continues to dominate as a freshman in a tough weight class," Lusco said.

"Damion Young, 3-1, is always tough and wrestled up to 152 and competed well," the coach said.

Sophomore Ethan Moore (106) had a 2-2 record and beat Oliver Barnes of Burns, who beat Moore twice previously this season.

Freshman Sam McCracken (120/126) showed a "huge" improvement, Lusco said, winning two matches by a pin.

Lusco said freshman Ashley Henry is possibly his most improved athlete. She had a 2-0 record at the tournament wrestling against girls. In girls brackets, senior Sydney Brockway went 2-0, sophomore Sophie Brockway was 1-1 and freshman Arianna Young was 1-0.

Trinity Hutchison (152/160), a senior wrestling in the boys bracket, had a 1-2 record at Friday's tournament. Hutchison was champion in the 155 weight class on Saturday at a girls tournament in Hood River.

"Trinity beat the No. 4, No. 1 and No. 2 seed on her way to being a champion at 155," Lusco said. "This was a huge accomplishment at a tournament with over 160 girls."



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter
Grant Union Prospector Marissa Smith drives to the basket with Heppner's Madison Combe moving in during Saturday's game.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, FEB. 1

Grant Union wrestling (girls) @ state qualifier in Thurston, 12 p.m.

Prairie City basketball @ Jordan Valley, 6 p.m. girls, 7:30 p.m. boys (MT)

Long Creek/Ukiah basketball @ Adrian, 6 p.m. girls, 7:30 p.m. boys (MT)

Dayville/Monument basketball @ Huntington, 6 p.m. girls, 7:30 p.m. boys

Grant Union basketball vs.

Weston-McEwen, 4 p.m. boys, 5:30 p.m. girls

SATURDAY, FEB. 2

Grant Union dance @ Stayton competition, 10 a.m.

Grant Union wrestling (boys) @ Bank of Eastern Oregon Tournament in Heppner, 10 a.m.

Grant Union wrestling (girls) @ state qualifier in Thurston, 10 a.m.

Prairie City basketball vs. Hunting-

ton, 2 p.m. girls, 3:30 p.m. boys

Long Creek/Ukiah basketball vs. Burnt River in Long Creek, 2 p.m. girls, 3:30 p.m. boys

Dayville/Monument basketball @ Crane, 2 p.m. girls, 3:30 p.m. boys

TUESDAY, FEB. 5

Prairie City basketball vs. Dayville/Monument, 6 p.m. girls, 7:30 p.m. boys"