



New head coach leads Dayville track and field

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

Practicing on Dayville's athletic field with its dirt track may not be ideal, but the Tiger track and field team makes it work.

When runners aren't practicing their relay hand-offs, sprints or hurdles on the track, they're out on the paved South Fork Road, running near the river and past ranches and hay fields.

"It'll be interesting to see what we do on a real track," said head coach Josh Williams.

Williams is new to coaching track and field but has experience as assistant basketball coach for the Dayville/Monument Tigers for two years.

Last year, Dayville combined with Monument School for track and field with Peter Bogardus over the Dayville athletes. Bogardus has since moved out of state, and Dayville is not combining with Monument this season.

A science and agriculture teacher for Dayville High School, Williams said he enjoyed track and field when he was a student at Wheeler County High School in Fossil.

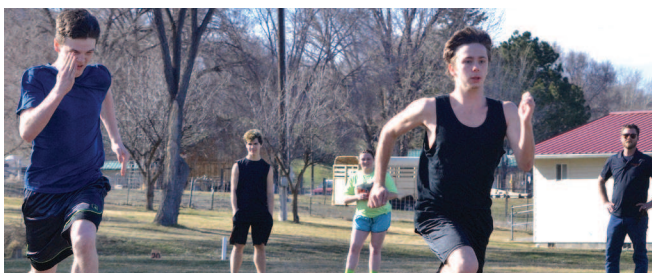
"I had a great track



Head coach
 Josh Williams



Dayville Tigers Jaydon Hoffman, left, and Haylee Collins race each other during track practice.



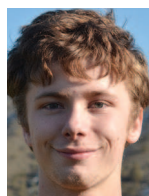
Dayville Tiger track and field athletes Zach Ferguson, left, and Gabe Walker-Hopkins race in practice as their teammates Jaydon Hoffman and Haylee Collins and head coach Josh Williams look on.

coach, Jon Bowerman — his dad, Bill, was coach for University of Oregon

for several years," Williams said. Bill was also a co-founder of Nike.



Austin Walker



Gabe Walker-Hopkins

Williams has experience with the 100- and 200-meter dashes, the 400 and long jump.

His wife, Molly (Buce) Williams, who is assistant coach, competed in shot put and discus for Day-

ville in her high school days. She works at Dayville School's early learning center.

Skip Inscore will assist in coaching javelin.

The Tigers have five high school athletes, including seniors Gabe Walker-Hopkins and Austin Walker.

This is Walker-Hopkins' fifth year participating in track and field. He plans to compete in hurdles, long jump and the 100 and 200.

"I'm going to try to

DAYVILLE TIGERS TRACK AND FIELD SCHEDULE

April 5: @ Prairie City Invitational, 11 a.m.
 April 9: @ Grant Union Small School Meet in John Day, 4 p.m.
 April 12: @ Burns Lions/Oster Track Meet, 1 p.m.
 April 19: @ Condon/Wheeler Invitational, 11 a.m.
 April 30: @ Ranchers Invitational in Crane, 3:30 p.m.
 May 10: 1A District 4 Championships in Baker City, 10 a.m.
 May 17-18: OSAA 1A State Championships in Monmouth at Western Oregon University, TBA

make it to state in the 300-meter hurdles, and everything else I want to improve on," he said, adding, "Our new coach should be fun."

Last year, Walker-Hopkins had a fourth-place finish in the 300 hurdles at the district championships and set a personal record in the 100 at the event.

Zachary Ferguson is a freshman transfer student with three years of experience competing on Hepner's middle school team.

Last year, he placed third in the 800-meter run, setting a personal record, at the middle school championships at Riverside Junior-Senior High School. He also competed in the 4x200-meter relay for fourth place, the 3,000 for fifth place and the long jump for 12th place.

Ferguson said he likes how he and his teammates help push each other in

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Prospector baseball hosts top teams at two tournaments

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant Union/Prairie City Prospector baseball team kept their bats busy during spring break, hosting a total of seven teams in two tournaments at the Seventh Street Complex.

Prospector head coach Doug Sharp said they played a tough schedule in both tournaments.

Grant Union had two wins and two losses at the Iron Triangle Tournament March 21-23 and one win and two losses at the Les Schwab Tournament March 28-30.

"Only one of the games we played was a team not ranked in the top 10 in both the 3A and 2A/1A classifications," Sharp said.

The Prospectors are in the 2A/1A Special District 7.

In the Iron Triangle tourney, Grant Union beat Santiam Christian 11-1 and Western Christian 6-3 on March 22. They fell 15-7 to Homedale, Idaho, on March 21 and 5-1 to Nestucca on March 23.

The Prospectors dominated Neah-Kah-Nie 15-3 on Friday after falling to Umpqua Valley Christian/Melrose Christian 8-0 on Thursday at the Les Schwab tourney. Grant Union fell 15-9 to Rainier on Saturday — the Columbians ranked No. 2 among OSAA's 3A teams.

Sharp said, in the games they lost, his team gave up multiple runs in one inning.

"Most games are won or lost by these big innings," he said. "What usually happens in those innings is a combination of walks and errors. You definitely can't give good teams extra outs."

Grant Union currently has a 3-6 record, but the losses didn't hurt their ranking as the team sits at No. 9 in the OSAA standings.

Sharp said it was a great experience for his team.

"Our goal now is to take care of business in league," he said.



Grant Union Prospector catcher Jacob Vaughan tags a Rainier runner out at home plate in Saturday's game at the Seventh Street Complex. Grant Union pitcher Peyton Neault is at back right with first baseman Roen Langum.



Grant Union Prospector Roen Langum is in action as first baseman in Saturday's game against Rainier.

The Prospectors hit the road Saturday for a doubleheader, facing the Dufur/South Wasco Rangers at noon and 2 p.m. in Dufur.

Sharp said their goal is to win league and finish in the top six in the rankings.

Those teams in the top

six get a first-round bye this year, he said.

Sharp said he's confident in his top pitchers, junior Warner Robertson and freshman Mason Morris with junior Logan McCluskey as top reliever.

"When we have our No.

1 and No. 2 pitching, then I think we will match up well with anyone in the state at our level," the coach said.

In the tournaments with multiple games, they throw in more pitchers to keep up with the pitch count rules.

Sharp said the leadership he's seeing from his team has been outstanding.

"We have a great bunch of boys playing this year," he said. "There were times our play was a bit rough, but the boys continued to play hard and with class."

"They are a fun team to watch," he added. "I hope everyone in the community can find the time to get down to the fields and support them."

The Prospectors have their next home doubleheader at noon and 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 13, when they host the Weston-McEwen TigerScots.

Prospector softball wraps up spring break tourney

Team will face league action on the road Saturday

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The 2A Grant Union/Prairie City Prospector softball team hosted four teams during their spring break tournament March 25-27 in John Day.

The Prospectors, who hold an 8-1 overall record, had three wins and one loss to a top-ranked 3A team.

Grant Union starts league play Saturday when they face the Union/Cove Bobcats (6-2) in Union in doubleheader action with games at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Prospector head coach Zach Williams said they're expecting tough competition.

"Union is well coached, a great program, and has good pitching and some good hitters," he said. "We prepare like we always do, work on fundamentals, do little things right, get a lot of swings in the cages and be mentally prepared to grind it out."

Although the Prospectors started last week's tournament with a loss March 25, the competition brought out Grant Union's



Macy Strong



Hailie Wright

best.

Grant Union, in 2A/1A Special District 6, fell 5-3 in nine innings to the 3A Clatskanie Tigers. Both teams are ranked No. 1 in their division in the early season OSAA standings.

The game went to an international tie-breaker rule in the ninth inning, with each team starting their half of the inning with their last out on second base.

Prospector Macy Strong pitched six innings with six strikeouts, three hits and four walks.

Hailie Wright was 3 for 4 for Grant Union, and Madi McKrola was 1 for 2.

Grant Union shut out Nestucca 12-0 in five innings the following day.

Taylor Allen pitched four innings with seven strikeouts, giving up two hits and two walks. Jesaka Culley pitched the final inning, giving up one hit.

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SPORTS SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

Grant Union golf @ Pendleton Invitational at Pendleton Country Club, 8 a.m.

Prairie City, Monument, Dayville, Long Creek, Grant Union track and field @ Prairie City Invitational, 11 a.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

Prairie City track and field at Oregon Trail Invitational in Vale, 11 a.m.

Grant Union softball @ Union/Cove in Union, 11 a.m., 1 p.m.

Grant Union baseball @ Dufur/South Wasco in Dufur, noon, 2 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

Grant Union baseball @ Pilot Rock/Nixyaawuk/Ukiah in Pilot Rock, 4 p.m.

Grant Union, Dayville, Long Creek, Monument, Prairie City track and field @ Grant Union Small School Meet in John Day, 4 p.m.