



Grant Union golfers host invitational

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

"It's a great day for a game of golf," said Prospector senior Garrett Lenz at Friday's Grant Union Invitational at the John Day Golf Club.

The sun was shining as a total of 55 golfers competing on teams from six high schools took on the par 71 course.

The Heppner boys and girls teams came out on top for the tournament.

The Heppner boys shot 348 with Grant Union in second with 394 followed by Enterprise with 405.

Grant Union head coach Ron Lundbom said he was pleased with the boys making it their best team score of the season. Last year at their home invitational, Grant Union shot a 408.

He was also happy with four of his athletes — one boy and three girls — setting season records.

Kellen Grant of Heppner was the medalist for the boys with 81. Gavin Hanna of Heppner was second with 85 and Lenz was in third with 86.

Sophomore Devon Stokes shot a 95, and sophomore Parker Manitsas set a season record with 96. Freshman Logan Namitz shot a 106, and freshman Maverick Miller had 108.

For the girls, Heppner

shot a 375 for the win.

Medalist was Nicole Propheper of Heppner with 85. Also from Heppner were Sasha Keown, 85, in second, and Claire Grieb, 101, in third.

Grant Union junior Kaytlyn Wells shot a season-best 102.

Also setting season records for Grant Union were juniors Emily Springer with 112 and Maddy Way with 117.

"I was extremely proud of the way we played over the last two weeks," said Grant Union head coach Ron Lundbom.

He said, even though they'd had cancellations and challenging weather to compete in recently, his athletes played well Friday.

He added, "We have three matches before district, and we seem to be where we want to be."

Throughout the tournament, golfers commented on the sunny weather.

"It's a nice day to golf with a good turnout," Stokes said. "It's always cut nice, thanks to Mike. I couldn't be happier."

Enterprise Outlaw Jacob Amaro said, "The greens are a lot stiffer, so it's harder to keep it on the greens."

Some of the athletes putted a little too hard with

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The Eagle/Angel Carpenter
Grant Union Prospectors Billy Radinovich, left, and Maddy Way give each other a high five after chipping their golf balls onto the putting green in Friday's competition.



Contributed photo

Kate Page competes in stock saw on 16-inch diameter white pine with a Stihl 660 chainsaw at the Sydney Easter Royal Show in Australia. In the event, competitors cut one cookie down and one cookie up within 4 inches, not touching the line that goes around the block. Everyone cuts with the same chainsaws.

Kate Page competes in timbersports overseas

Grant Union grad chops wood down under

By Angel Carpenter
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Kate Page competed April 12-23 in the woodchopping and sawing competition at the Sydney Easter Royal Show in Australia.

Page, who graduated from Grant Union High School in John Day in 2009, competed in timbersports while attending the University of Montana in Missoula.

Since graduating from the university, she works as a firefighter for the Forest Service in Montana and still enjoys competing in the sport nationally — and now internationally.

"I love the hard work that goes into it," Page said. "I love the history of the equipment they used for logging."

This was Page's first time traveling out of the country to compete.

During her April 9-17 stay, she took fourth in her heat in the underhand championship chop, but only the top three advanced.

Chopping underhand involves a log placed horizontally on a clamp with two foot holes cut into the log for the competitor to stand on. The competitor cuts through their log while standing on it, first cutting one side, then turning around to cut through the other side.

In her handicap underhand chop, she had a mark of 8. She took second place, beating the third-place finisher by 10 seconds, but was disqualified.



Contributed photo

Kate Page competes in the single buck event on 16-inch diameter white pine with a 5-foot-by-10-inch saw. Each competitor cuts one cookie, and everyone has different lengths and styles of saws.

"I learned that their blocks down here are much harder," she said on April 17, while in Sydney.

She said the women cut and saw on wood commonly called "woolybutt," which is a type of eucalyptus, belonging to the myrtle family that is native to Australia.

She and Arden Cogar Jr. took seventh overall in the Jack and Jill event.

The Easter Royal Show, celebrating rural traditions as well as modern-day lifestyles, is Australia's largest ticketed event.

Revenue from the show allows the Royal Agricultural Society to invest in agricultural programs, competitions, education, youth and rural communities.

Page isn't taking a break from timbersports now that she's back in the states.

On Friday-Saturday, April 26-27, she'll face off with U.S. opponents at the Pro-Amateur Show in Missoula. Then she'll prepare for the Western Professional Men's and Women's Qualifier held Saturday and Sunday, June 1-2, in Shelton, Washington.

Ten women and 20 men will compete in Shelton, and the top three women and top five men will advance to the July 26-29 Stihl Timbersports U.S. Professional Men's, Women's and Collegiate Championship in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Page, who is the daughter of Rick Page and Donna Speakman, both of Mt. Vernon, was in the top eight for women Stihl competitors in the nation last year.

"Right now, I'm a U.S. competitor," Kate Page said. "They do not have a women's world series yet, only men's. I hope one day there is a women's world series, and hopefully I'll be in it."

SPORTS SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

Grant Union softball @ Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii, 3 p.m., 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

Grant Union golf @ Enterprise Invitational at Alpine Meadows Golf Course, 11 a.m.

Grant Union softball vs. Echo/Stanfield, 1 p.m., 3 p.m.

Grant Union, Prairie City, Long Creek track and field @ Nyssa, 1 p.m. (MT)

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

Monument, Dayville track and field @ Sherman Invitational in Moro, 11 a.m.

Grant Union baseball vs. Sherman/Arlington/Condon, noon, 2 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

Prairie City, Long Creek track and field @ Ranchers Invitational in Crane, 3:30 p.m.

Grant Union teams win Pepsi Invitational in Union

The Grant Union boys and girls track and field teams won Saturday's Pepsi Invitational in Union.

"This is the first time our boys have won the Pepsi (Invitational), and Union has been hosting the meet for 13 years," said Grant Union head coach Sonna Smith. "Our girls defended their title from last year. All the coaches are extremely happy."

The Prairie City Panthers, led by head coach Nate Barber, also competed in Union.

Both coaches noted weather was a challenge with everything from a drizzle to steady rain throughout the event.

Helping the Grant Union boys achieve the top spot at the meet was the 4x100-meter relay team with Jordan Hall, Quaid Brandon, Mason Morris and Justin Hodge earning first place with a time of 47.05.

Morris set a personal record in the triple jump with 42-2, bettering his previous mark by about 2.5 feet. He also set personal records in the 200, placing third, and javelin, placing fourth.



Contributed photo

The Grant Union Prospector boys track and field team, led by head coach Sonna Smith, poses with their first-place trophy won at Saturday's Pepsi Invitational in Union. Front, from left: Gage Brandon, Cole Ashley, Quaid Brandon, CJ Glimpse, Nathan Hodge, Donovan Smith, Jacob Smith and Quinten Hallgarth; back row, Justin Hodge, Mason Morris, Jordan Hall, Mason Gerry, Drew Lusco, Tanner Elliott, Braden Spencer and Jesse Randleas. The Grant Union girls team also won the meet, defending their title.

"Sydney Brockway, in her first competition at pole vault, had a performance of 7-6, moving her to second in our league," Smith said.

In the girls 4x100, the team of

Sierra Cates, Trinity Hutchison, Carson Weaver and Kaylee Wright had a first-place finish.

Wright earned 30.5 points for her team and was the high-point

athlete for the girls competing in Union.

Wright set a personal record in javelin with 144-09, beating the state record she set last year for the second time this season. She had a first-place finish in the 100-meter dash with 13.13 for a season record. She also earned second place in the high jump, behind Karli Bedard of Enterprise — both girls cleared the bar at 5-00.

For Prairie City, Levi Burke set a personal record in the 100 with a time of 12.01. He also placed first in the high jump, second in long jump and sixth in javelin.

"Levi is just being Levi," Barber said. "It was nice to see the PRs."

Lane Williams set three personal records in the 400, shot put and javelin and a season record in the 100.

"Lane tried a new technique in shot put and that helped him out," Barber said. "He had a good week of practice."

Jake McHatton placed second out of the 1A competitors in discus with a throw of 101-03.

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