



McCluskey closes in two wins over Huskies

Grant Union wins first eight league games

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Prospector Logan McCluskey, a sophomore, worked some magic at Malone Field, closing two games for the Grant Union/Prairie City baseball team's double sweep of the Sherman/Arlington/Condon Huskies on Saturday 7-3 and 9-2.

Grant Union's No. 1 pitcher Warner Robertson, a junior, took on the Huskies for six innings in game one.

Sherman's Wade Fields pitched five innings for the Huskies with Cort Colby finishing.

Robertson singled in the bottom of the first, driving in leadoff hitter Tristan Morris, who had stolen second base.

The Prospectors were up 2-0, when the Huskies battled back with three runs in

the top of the third.

In the bottom of the fourth, Morris turned the tables when he singled, and Peyton Neault and Russell Hodge scored runs to give Grant Union a 4-3 lead.

Robertson struck out a batter in the fifth with first baseman Roen Langum tagging a runner out and Hodge catching a fly ball for an out in left field.

Grant Union moved ahead 7-3 in the sixth when McCluskey singled for an RBI. Then Jacob Vaughan hit up the middle for an inside-the-park two-run homer.

With McCluskey back at the mound, Grant Union sealed the win with two strikeouts, and centerfielder Cole Deiter caught a fly ball.

Freshman Mason Morris pitched six innings in game two.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter
Grant Union/Prairie City Prospector Damion Young scores a run in Saturday's game one against Sherman/Arlington/Condon.

Grant Union head coach Doug Sharp said Morris' fast ball "really moves."

Sharp said sometimes the freshman has difficulty "commanding it, but when he's on, it's hard to square him up — he did a great job."

The wind was whipping

in the bottom of the sixth inning.

When McCluskey came in to pitch, there was one runner out, and the bases were loaded. He struck out the remaining two batters and left three runners on base.

Sharp said he thinks

the Huskies were feeling defeated at the start of game two.

"They knew our kids were ready to play," he said, adding, "Our guys were relentless."

Langum, a senior, said when they got behind in game one, they didn't get down on themselves.

"We came back and talked each other up and won it," he said.

"We probably played the best baseball we've played in a long time," said Vaughan, also a senior, who is catcher. "In the first game, it was our defense, and the second game our offense — we hit really well."

Sharp said, when his team was behind, they continued to play with confidence.

"It doesn't phase them," he said.

"That's actually a pretty good team," he said of Sher-

man. "That first pitcher (Fields) was good. We knew it was going to be a tough challenge. The kids kept on battling."

Grant Union was scheduled to face the Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii/Ukiah Rockets on Tuesday, April 30, in Pilot Rock, past press time.

The Prospectors are ranked No. 6 among OSAA's 2A/1A teams. They are No. 1 in league (11-6 overall, 8-0 league), and the Rockets are No. 2 (10-4, 7-2).

Grant Union beat Pilot Rock 13-4 on April 10 in John Day.

"A lot could still happen," Sharp said. "It'll be a big game at their ballpark."

Sharp said his top pitchers have only an inning or less left of pitches and will have to rest due to pitch-count rules, and likely Peyton Neault and/or Damion Young will take the mound.



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter
Grant Union Prospector Madi McKrola is safe, sliding back to first base in Friday's game against Echo/Stanfield.

Prospector softball team sweeps two

Girls ranked first among 2A/1A field

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Ranked No. 1 in the state among OSAA's 2A/1A teams, the Grant Union/Prairie City Prospector softball team swept two league opponents at Seventh Street Complex Friday and Saturday.

On Saturday, the Prospectors faced the Adrian Antelopes for the first time, winning 13-1 and 22-2.

Grant Union also swept the Echo/Stanfield Cougars 14-4 and 14-1 on Friday.

Big highlights for Friday included Prospector Taylor Allen, a junior, hitting two home runs in game one, and Marissa Smith, a senior, hitting a homer in game two.

Grant Union faced a challenge in the third inning of game one when their No. 1 pitcher Macy Strong went down with a migraine and starting center fielder Baylee Combs came out of the game with flu-like symptoms.

"We had two girls off the bench come in," said Prospector head coach Zach Williams.

Freshman Harli Grove took over for Strong with three strikes, letting the defense work.

The score was 14-1 going into the top of the fifth, and Echo/Stanfield scored three runs, but Grove held them off for the 10-run win.

Allen pitched game two, and Grove started in left field with freshman Riley Robertson behind the plate.

"Those freshmen stepped up and did what they needed to



Grant Union Prospector Taylor Allen pitches against Echo/Stanfield in game two, getting the 13-1 win.



Grant Union first baseman Marissa Smith throws to pitcher Taylor Allen after tagging an Echo-Stanfield runner out in Friday's game.

do," Williams said.

He said, hitting-wise, the team needs to make adjustments quicker when facing pitchers with different speeds, "but they did well, and they did enough to get two 10-run victories. I'm proud of them."

Grant Union will face the

Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii/Ukiah Rockets at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Wednesday in Pilot Rock for more league action.

They host Heppner/Ione at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday, May 4, in John Day for their final league games of the season.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter
Grant Union Prospector Gage Brandon set a personal record in pole vault at the small school meet.

Athletes set aspirations high at small school meet

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County track and field athletes are honing their skills as they prepare for their final meets before district competition.

Grant Union, Prairie City and Long Creek's teams took flight April 23 at the Grant Union Small School Meet in John Day, along with four other teams.

Taking the top team score for the boys was 2A Grant Union with 180 points, followed by 3A Burns with 160, 1A Crane with 104 and 1A Prairie City with 77. Long Creek, a 1A team, placed sixth with 33 points.

The Grant Union girls tied for first with Burns with 201.5 points. Crane placed third with 101 points, and Prairie City placed fourth with 36.5. Long Creek and Mitchell-Spray tied for fifth with 22 points.

Jordan Hall, a Grant Union sophomore, set personal records in all of his events. He placed first in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 17.13, second in the triple jump with a mark of 39-7 and fourth in javelin with 132-1.

Hall, along with teammates Quaid Brandon, Mason Morris and Justin Hodge, shaved nearly one second off their time in the 4x100 relay for their best time of the season.

Morris placed first in the triple jump, setting a personal record with a mark of 42-9.5. He was also second in the 200, behind Burns sprinter Klayton Nutter.

Gage Brandon set season records in his events, which included the 110 hurdles, 300 hurdles and pole vault.

Setting personal records for the girls were Rylee Browning in the 1,500 and 3,000; Lauryn Pettyjohn in the 100 and 300 hurdles; and Sierra Cates in the 200.

Abby Lusco and Sophie Brockway added to their marks in discus, and Kaylee Wright and Shelby Brooks added height to their high jumps.

Trinity Hutchison set a personal record in the 300 hurdles with first place. She placed first in all her events — the long jump, triple jump and 4x100 relay with teammates Sierra Cates, Carson Weaver and Wright.

Wright was also first in all her events, which also included the 100 and javelin.

Hutchison was happy with her results.

"I'm just enjoying the season so far," the senior said. "It's a good day."

Long Creek freshman Carter Burnette improved his marks in discus

and javelin.

"I think our team is doing good overall," he said at the meet, noting several of his teammates were setting personal records.

His teammate Henry Grannis, a junior, said his favorite event is discus. He earned second place in the event behind Grant Union's Drew Lusco.

Grannis said he didn't beat his previous record, but said, "I'll do better at the next meet."

James Kreamier set a personal record in the triple jump, placing fourth with a mark of 38-00.50

Long Creek's assistant coach Peter Case said his team's running form is "starting to click."

"Our returning runners are doing much better than last year," he said, noting they've added to the skills they learned previously.

For the girls, Long Creek sophomore Dorothea Johnson set personal records in the triple jump, placing second with a mark of 28-00, and in the shot put, placing 10th. She also placed third in the triple jump.

Cheers could be heard across the field when Prairie City senior Levi Burke broke his personal record in the high jump with a leap of 6-07, adding 3 inches to his mark.

Tristan McMahan shaved off time in his 300 hurdles event, placing third.

In his first year of track, senior Syd Holman is giving impressive performances, and he set personal records in all his events.

He placed second in the 100 with a time of 12.01 behind a Burns sprinter. He also competed in the 200, javelin and long jump.

"I just wanted to PR," he said at the meet. "In the long jump, I did well with 18 flat. I'm happy with that, considering I learned how to do it this week."

Prairie City head coach Nate Barber said he's glad Holman joined the team this season.

For the girls, Abbey Pfefferkorn improved in the 200, placing fourth — first among the 1A athletes — and high jump, placing fourth.

Her teammate Mikiah Kimble also set a personal record, finishing third in high jump behind 2A and 3A athletes.

Rilee Emmel also bettered her javelin throw, and Samantha Workman added height to her pole vault performance.

Barber commented on the sunny day.

"Better weather equals better results," he said. "It definitely helps."