



Grant Union girls half-point shy of state track championship

Athlete of the Meet Wright breaks her previous state javelin record, places first in high jump

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

One-thousandth of a second determined the 2A girls track and field champions.

A photo finish in the 100-meter dash gave 2 more points to the Enterprise Outlaws, who topped Grant Union by half a point to win the girls title at the May 17-18 2A Track and Field State Championships at Western Oregon University in Monmouth.

Grant Union senior Kaylee Wright and Enterprise senior Shelby Moncrief had duelled previously in the 100-meter dash, but the pressure intensified between the two sprinters at the championships.

In the 100 preliminaries, Wright won by a .006-second photo finish, but tables turned in the finals with Moncrief winning



Kaylee Wright



Contributed photo

The Grant Union Prospector girls track and field team, led by head coach Sonna Smith, take the podium at the state championships with their second-place trophy. The team was one-half point behind the Enterprise Outlaws.

by a hair-splitting .001 second.

Moncrief's time in the finals, a personal best, was determined to be 12.749, and Wright, setting a season record, finished in 12.750.

"Last year, I won with a hundredth of a second, but losing by one-thousandth of a

second, there is always something that can be changed with that," Wright said. "You can always just lean a little bit further."

Still, Wright has plenty of good news.

She was named 2A Athlete of the Meet, shattered her previous state javelin record with a throw of 139-05 for her fourth con-

secutive championship title and became high jump champion for the second year in a row, clearing the bar at 5-03.

Wright also raced with junior Sierra Cates, senior Trinity Hutchison and freshman Carson Weaver on the girls 4x100-relay team to place second, just .18 seconds behind Enterprise.

The Prospectors, led by head coach Sonna Smith, had 11 athletes competing on the girls team and seven on the boys team.

Grant Union hasn't had that many girls and boys taking the bus ride to state in 12 years, when the boys became state champions.

This year, the Prospector girls placed second as a team with 64 points, just .5 behind Enterprise. Monroe was in third with 62, followed by Kennedy with 54.

Wright, Sydney Brockway and Hutchison competed in track and field as freshmen in 2016, when their team became state champions. Each year since, the girls have placed second at state.

It was as a freshman that Wright set a state record in javelin, which she broke again her junior year and again this year.

She outthrew sophomore Izzy Steerman of Faith Bible by 10 feet at state this year.

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Eagle file photo

Grant Union Prospector catcher Jacob Vaughan tags a Rainier runner out at home plate earlier in the season at Malone Field in John Day. Grant Union pitcher Peyton Neault is at back right with first baseman Roen Langum. The team will host a second-round game May 22.

Prospector baseball team hosts playoff game Wednesday

Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant Union/Prairie City Prospector baseball team is scheduled to host the Lakeview Honkers in an OSAA state championship second-round playoff game at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 22, at the Seventh Street Complex in John Day.

Led by head coach Doug Sharp, the Prospectors are No. 6 among OSAA's

2A/1A teams.

Grant Union finished the regular season with a 17-6 overall record, 14-0 in Special District 7, topping the league.

No. 11 Lakeview (14-6, 10-2) finished second in Special District 6 and beat the Dufur/South Wasco Rangers to advance to the second round.

The winner of Wednesday's game at Malone Field, will advance to the

quarterfinal round set for Friday, May 24, the time and place to be determined.

The semifinal round is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28. The finals are set for Friday, May 31, at the Salem/Keizer Volcanoes Stadium in Keizer.

OSAA State Championship Event ticket prices, first round through finals, are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students. A student is considered age 5 up through a senior in high school.

No. 1 Prospector softball team hosts Lost River Raiders

Blue Mountain Eagle

Ranked No. 1 in state, the Grant Union/Prairie City Prospector softball team is scheduled to host the Lost River Raiders in an OSAA State Championship second-round playoff game at 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 22, at Seventh Street Complex in John Day.

The Prospectors, Special District 6 champions, are led by head coach Zach Williams.

Grant Union (21-2, 11-1) beat Lost River 9-1 earlier in the season at the March 22 Rocket Invite held in Pilot Rock.

The winner of the Wednesday, May 22, game will play in the quarterfinal round set for Friday, May 24, the time and place to be



Eagle file photo

Grant Union Prospector Marissa Smith hits the ball in a game against Heppner/Lone in John Day earlier in the season. The team will host the Lost River Raiders in a second-round playoff game May 22.

determined.

The semifinal round is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28. The championship final is set for Friday,

May 31, in Eugene at the Jane Sanders Stadium at the University of Oregon.

OSAA State Championship event ticket prices,

first round through finals, are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students. A student is considered age 5 up through a senior in high school.



Eagle file photo

Monument Tiger Mark Thomas sets his pace in the 1,500-meter run at a track meet earlier in the season in John Day.

Levi Burke wins 1A high jump

Prairie City and Monument athletes compete at state championships

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Prairie City Panther Levi Burke is the new 1A high jump champion.

Four Grant County 1A track and field athletes from Prairie City and Monument competed at the May 17-18 OSAA State Championships at Western Oregon University in Monmouth.

Burke, a senior, and fellow team members sophomore Tristan McMahan and senior Syd Holman qualified along with Monument Tiger sophomore Mark Thomas.

Prairie City Panthers

Burke set his sights high this year after his third-place finish at state last season.

"Last year was motivation to keep going," Burke said.

This time, Burke jumped 6-05 — 5 inches higher than the next closest competitor, Luke Martin of Sherman. Five other jumpers reached a height of 5-10.00 for third through seventh place.

Besides the title of champion, Burke also went undefeated in high jump this season at nine events.

"Levi came to state ready to go," said Prairie City head coach Nate Barber. "Levi decided that he wanted to stake his claim on the high jump, and he stepped up and did what we knew he could do."

Burke also placed seventh in javelin.

"He performed well the first day in javelin," Barber

said. "Two of the athletes that placed above him had great final throws that were their PRs for the season."

This is Burke's second year competing in track and field.

When asked how he did so well with just two years training in high jump, he said he has a love for sports.

"Emma Carniglia of John Day — she helped me a lot — and a lot of it was self motivation, trying to push myself to go farther," he said.

He said placing in javelin also felt good.

"It was all around a good weekend and good season," he said.

This was Holman's first year competing in track and field, and Barber was pleased with the "elite speed" he brought to the team.

Holman was ready to show that speed on the WOU track for the 100-meter dash, but unfortunately, a false start was called.

"I thought that the athlete in the next lane actually moved first, but the officials decided to place the false start on Syd and disqualified him," Barber said, noting the experience was frustrating.

Holman set a personal record in the 100 at the May 3 Grant Union Invitational, placing first and clocking in at 11.65.

The top three times at state ranged from 11.07 to 11.34.

McMahan, in his first year competing at state, placed third in the 110-meter hurdles.

He's competed since eighth grade in mainly horizontal jumping and sprints.

Just two weeks before state, he combined elements

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