



Prairie City/Burnt River coach's ejection from game overturned

OSAA official states 6-man snap rule was misapplied

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

An official's decision to eject the Prairie City/Burnt River Panther football coach was overturned after the school appealed to the Oregon School Activities Association.

Six-man football has some different rules than 11-man or even 8-man, and one rule was misinterpreted by the officiating crew during the Sept. 13 game between the Panthers and the visiting Sherman/Condon Huskies. Oregon is in its second year of a two-year six-man football pilot program to allow small schools to continue

with the sport.

OSAA Assistant Executive Director Brad Garrett said Panther coach Scott Dean "was ejected and Prairie City appealed, which is allowable, and the commissioner granted that appeal."

He added, they see 300-plus ejections by the end of the year, in various sports, and not every appeal is granted. In this case, there was a misapplication of the rules, he said.

"No person is perfect," Garrett said.

He said both teams were incorrectly penalized for a direct hand-to-hand snap.

The misunderstanding stemmed from a bulletin that reminded officials that the quarterback has to be at least a yard from the line of scrimmage, and Garrett said the quarterback is indeed a yard behind when they receive the hand-to-hand.



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Prairie City/Burnt River football coach Scott Dean walks off the field after a timeout huddle with his team in the Sept. 13 game against the Sherman/Condon Huskies in Prairie City.

"We can't rewind the clock, but all the correct actions have been taken," Garrett said.

Dean said his team had been practicing their plays under center, where the center hands the ball directly under him to the quarterback, rather than pitching it back in the shotgun formation.

"We were under center

for the prior game and scrimmage for the most part," the coach said. "Not one time were we ever questioned."

"Direct or indirect, what got me fired up, on film, Sherman went under center five times before called on it," Dean said. "We had a center and snapping issue that under center we would have not had — 12 times in the game we mishandled the

snap, which we would have not done if not for the decision (incorrect or not) of the referee."

Prairie City Athletic Director Billy Colson said the ejection came when Dean continued to tell them that they were misinterpreting the rule. He said the coach's frustrations were exacerbated when the other team was allowed to take snaps under center.

"Hopefully, this interpretation is fixed moving forward, so that this type of miscommunication doesn't happen again," Colson said. "Everyone makes mistakes, and in working with the referee commissioner and OSAA, we were able to handle this situation professionally and move forward from it."

"I know that our coach was extremely frustrated, but at no point do I think

he was inappropriate in his language and demeanor," Colson continued. "I also know that our kids showed a lot of perseverance in the game with the difficulties of not being allowed to run a majority of their plays because of the misinterpretation of the rule."

Prairie City/Burnt River will host the Huntington/Harper Locomotives at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 27. If the ruling had not been appealed with that appeal granted, Dean would have been suspended from coaching that game.

Dean said he's happy the decision was overturned.

"I have not been ejected, ever, over rules," he said. "I will always stand up for my players and have 40-plus years of coaching. An injustice was corrected, and it's time to move on."

Grant Union volleyball defeats Heppner in first league game

Prairie City spikers sweep three teams

By Angel Carpenter
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The Grant Union Prospector volleyball team was victorious in its first league game of the season, beating Heppner 3-2 at the Mustangs' home court.

Grant Union won with scores of 21-25, 25-13, 13-25, 25-14 and 15-6.

"The match is pretty reflective through the scores," said Grant Union head coach Ali Abrego. "The first game was much closer than any of the rest, but Heppner is a hard gym to play in. The girls really just fought hard to win this weekend which was awesome to see."

Standouts in the match were Grace Taylor, Taylor Allen and Paige Gerry, Abrego said.

"Overall, going into the match, we talked a lot about how that particular game would set the tone for the season as far as momentum — wins vs. losses — that type of thing, and we really laid out some positive momentum and mindset going into that," she said. "The girls really worked hard, and I'm proud of how they are growing together."

After losing a 3-1 match to Grant Union at the Prairie City court on Sept. 17, the Prairie City Panthers went on to sweep three teams on the road, including Harper in the Panthers' first league game of the season.

Prairie City defeated Harper 25-4, 25-11 and 25-15. They also beat Sherman 25-17, 25-18 and 25-21 and Trinity Lutheran 25-10, 25-19, 23-25 and 25-18, both games played at Trinity Lutheran in Bend.



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Prairie City Panther Rilee Emmel spikes the ball as Grant Union Prospectors Grace Taylor (13) and Kaytlyn Wells (15) attempt to block.

"The matches in Bend were more challenging, but the team did well and came out on top," said Panther assistant coach Louanne Zwegardt. "We had 95% serving as a team against Sherman with Rilee Emmel, Hailee Wall, Emily Ennis and Samie Workman all serving 100%."

Katie Hire had three aces and only one error on 17 serves. Emmel had six kills, and Ennis had five.

"Shaune Madden continues to dominate our back row, which is allowing our setters to get the ball to our hitters," Zwegardt said. "The girls got a little tired in the second match, particularly since Trinity Lutheran did a good job of keeping the ball in play. We still had strong serving."

Emmel had six aces and only one error on 22 serves. Laken McKay had five aces and one error

on 23 serves, and Hailee Wall had five aces and two errors on 18 serves. Hire and Emmel each had 10 kills.

"We were able to get playing time for everyone, which makes a difference for developing players," Zwegardt said.

The 1A Panthers hosted the neighboring 2A Prospectors Sept. 17 with the Prospectors winning 3-1.

Grant Union won the first two sets 25-18 and 25-16. Then Prairie City took a stand, taking the third set 25-21.

Grant Union went on an 11-0 run in the fourth to overtake Prairie City 25-9 in the final set for the victory.

"The last game showed how we should be playing all season," Abrego said.

She was happy with good serv-

ing runs from sophomores Taylor and Gerry, and said seniors Allen and Kaytlyn Wells both hit well.

"It's a good win for us going into the weekend," Abrego said. "It's always good to have a positive swing going into the start of league."

She said they'd need to focus on being disciplined and controlling the momentum of the game.

"We struggled in the beginning, but we came back, hitting well," she said, adding they also played good defense.

Prairie City coach Jordan Bass said her team has the skills to win.

"We're still working on start to finish and keeping that energy and drive to win the whole game, not just a set," she said.

"If they want it, they've got to play like they want it," she added. Emmel said they didn't play



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union Prospector Grace Taylor spikes the ball over the reach of Prairie City Panther Hailee Wall (5) on Sept. 17 in Prairie City.

to the full potential against Grant Union they've shown previously.

"We need to stop being so timid and be aggressive to everything and learn how to battle, be strong and maintain throughout," Emmel said. "We'd rather compete against these teams, because that's the level that we're at."

Allen, the Prospector senior, said their defense and hitting was strong and she is looking forward to league play.

The Prospectors continue with league competition this week, facing Stanfield at noon and Weston-McEwen at 2 p.m. Saturday at Stanfield, then Union at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 1, on the road.

"We are looking forward to meeting them, and putting our discipline to the test," Abrego said. "Union has a tough environment to play in as well, and I think they will provide our girls with an opportunity to prove what we want."

Tigers attack Mountain Lions at Dayville volleyball court

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The Dayville/Monument Tiger volleyball team may have swept the Ukiah/Long Creek Mountaineers in Dayville Friday, but both teams played with heart.

The Tigers won with scores of 25-17, 25-14 and 25-16.

Dayville/Monument pulled away early in the first set, Tiger senior Aubrey Bowlus had three good serves, including two aces, when her team gained an 18-7 point lead.

Ukiah/Long Creek sophomore Lilly Cave answered with four good serves and two aces to narrow the gap to 7 points, but Dayville/Monument came back swinging for the 8-point win.

The teams tied the score four times in the second set before the Tigers started to pull away.

Dayville/Monument fresh-



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Dayville/Monument sophomore Aubreianna Osborne sends the ball back to Ukiah/Long Creek in Friday's game, her teammate Katie Barker in back.

man Hannah Hand was instrumental in the push forward with seven good serves, including three aces. A gentle tip at the corner from Tiger sophomore Aubreianna Osborne had the Mountain Lions unable to return.

"We had some players step

up and work on their transitioning and offense and defense," said Dayville/Monument head coach Treila Osborne. "Haylee Collins and Hannah Hand did a great job and served very well — they all served well."

Early in the third, Ukiah/Long Creek junior Kitty

Vaughn had an ace, then Bowlus hit hard on the next play to get the ball back, and Tiger senior Denali Twehues added two aces.

The Mountain Lions kept their fight strong, keeping within 1-2 points until the halfway point. Dayville/Monument senior Katie Barker closed the game with two good serves.

"This week we worked really hard on teamwork and talking to each other," said coach Osborne.

"Denali, Aubrey and Aubreianna were our anchors this week," she said. "They were talking to our other players and were very consistent."

She added that junior Samantha Adams "did a great job and was coachable, eager and she hustled," and Katie Barker "hit well in the front row and had lots of great kills."



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Ukiah/Long Creek junior Jenny Kim saves the ball in Friday's game against Dayville/Monument.