



Grant Union earns trip to State Championships

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

The No. 12-seeded Grant Union Prospector volleyball team is advancing to the OSAA 2A Volleyball State Championship, facing the No. 4-seeded Portland Christian Royals at 4 p.m. Friday on court 2 at Redmond's Ridgeview High School.

The Prospectors took full advantage of their wild card spot for round one of the state playoffs Saturday defeating the Monroe Dragons 3-1.

"We played one of the best games that we have all season and knocked off the No. 5 team in the state," said Prospector head coach Ali Abrego.

Grant Union won with scores of 14-25, 25-18, 25-23, 25-21.

Abrego said her team came out timid in the first set, but gained their bearings in the second.

"The third set was intense and a real turning point for us — we

fought hard to secure the win," Abrego said. "We were disciplined for three consecutive sets, something that we've struggled with in the preseason."

She said each team member had a solid game, contributing to the win.

"This win was a real team effort, and we worked hard to eliminate our own mistakes," she said.

Grant Union has a 14-16 overall record, 7-5 league, and Portland Christian is 25-3 and 12-0.

A noisy sendoff will take place at 5 p.m. Thursday, as the Prospectors travel out of town to Redmond. The tradition usually includes emergency vehicles with sirens blaring and lights flashing, leading the way and fans in their vehicles following behind the bus, honking their horns. Fans also waves from the sidewalks in John Day and Mt. Vernon.



The Grant Union Prospector volleyball team is advancing to the state championship tournament in Redmond Nov. 8-9 after defeating the Monroe Dragons on Saturday. In the photo, Kaytlyn Wells (15) is in action earlier in the season against the Union Bobcats.

Prospectors topple TigerScots to advance to state playoffs

Prospectors finish second in Special District 6 with win over Weston-McEwen

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The Grant Union Prospector football team came away with the victory they needed Friday, crushing the Weston-McEwen TigerScots 46-6 and punching their ticket to round one of the OSAA Football State Championships.

The Prospectors, seeded No. 16, will face the top-seeded Kennedy Trojans at 1 p.m. Saturday at Kennedy High School in Mt. Angel.

Friday night's contest began with a 6-6 tie after the first quarter.

Grant Union head coach Jason Miller said his team then stepped up defensively and forced a turnover — an interception by sophomore Justin Hodge.

"We scored a touchdown on that drive and scored again just before the half to go up 18-6," Miller said. "The second half, we were able to move the ball and get stops on defense."

It was Grant Union's final league game, finishing second in Special District 6 behind the No. 3-seeded Heppner Mustangs.

The Prospectors had an early look at Kennedy in the preseason, the Trojans taking the 42-14 win on Oct. 4.



The Grant Union Prospectors advance to round one of the OSAA State Football Championships on Friday, facing the Kennedy Trojans in Mt. Angel. In the photo, Jack Strong, left, and Tanler Fuller (20) wrap up a Heppner ball carrier earlier in the season.

Looking forward to this week's game, Miller said Kennedy is ranked No. 1 for a reason.

"They are solid across the

board and have a lot of experience," he said. "We have improved since we played them last, and we feel like we can force this game to

the wire, if we continue to play physically tough and smart."

There will be a noisy sendoff for the Prospectors

as they leave for the game at 8:30 a.m. Friday. The tradition usually includes emergency vehicles with their lights and sirens blaring and

vehicles following the bus, honking their horns, as well as people waving from the sidewalks in John Day and Mt. Vernon.

Prairie City volleyball team ends season at state first round in Joseph

Panther Rilee Emmel, a senior, prepares to slam the ball during the Oct. 26 District 1A High Desert League Tournament in John Day, defeating the Adrian Antelopes.



Eagle file photo

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The Prairie City Panthers volleyball team pushed the Joseph Eagles to four sets in their round one state playoff battle Wednesday, Oct. 30, in Joseph, the Eagles winning 25-18, 25-14, 19-25 and 25-18.

"The playoff match was a really exciting battle for our team," said Prairie City head coach Jordan Bass. "They played hard, and a lot of things we have been working on all season came together."

The Panthers earned the round one

match after placing third at the District 1A High Desert League Tournament on Oct. 26, defeating the Adrian Antelopes.

Bass said the crowd of fans in the gym made for a loud competition, but she said, "I think it fed into our energy instead of taking away from it."

"I made some in-game adjustments and the girls responded well," she said. "It was really fun to watch them and see how determined they were to play their best."

Prairie City claimed a victory in the third set with a serving run from Panther Shaine Madden, a senior.

"That really threw Joseph out of system and gave our girls the opportunity to get our offense going," Bass said. "Even though we ended on a loss, this team worked really hard to get there and should be proud of the season we had."

HIGH DESERT ALL-LEAGUE HONORS FOR PRAIRIE CITY

First team
Co-player of the year: Rilee Emmel, senior, outside hitter
Co-setter of the year: Katie Hire, junior
Second team
Emily Ennis, senior, setter
Hailee Wall, senior, middle blocker
Honorable mention
Shaine Madden, senior, libero
Samantha Workman, junior, middle blocker