



PRAIRIE CITY SPORTS PREVIEWS

Panther boys hope for another look at state

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

The competitive Prairie City Panther boys have a target on their backs, so to speak, after making the state championship level for three consecutive years.

Three seasons ago, coach Jonathan Gill led the team to the second round of state, and coach Sam Workman led them to the state tournament the past two seasons.

The Panthers earned the second-place trophy in 2018. Last year, seeded eighth going into the state tournament, Prairie City beat the top-seeded Sherman Huskies 71-49 in the semifinal round, and lost a 3-point game to the Days Creek Wolves to place fifth, the Wolves third.

Panther Levi Burke was named OSAA's 2019 Player of the Year, and the previous season, Panther Dorran Wilson, a 2018 graduate, was named Player of the Year. Both are now at the college level, with Burke playing for the Blue Mountain Community College



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter
Prairie City Panther Cole Deiter looks to score as Lucas McKinley lunges forward.

Timberwolves in Pendleton and Wilson playing for the Treasure Valley Community College Chukars in Ontario.

Five Prairie City senior players graduated last season — including Syd Holtman, who was named an

All-State honorable mention player — but the whirlwind of success for the Panthers is not expected to die down anytime soon.

"We lost some positives and gained some positives," said head coach Bo Workman.

Bo, the brother of Sam Workman, took on the role of head coach after a change in Sam's work prevented him from continuing as coach this season.

In his fourth year coaching the Prairie City varsity girls team, Bo will lead



Lucas McKinley



Kaden Madden



Carson McKay



Opie McDaniel



Cole Deiter

both teams with help from returning assistant coach Mike Workman, a longtime basketball coach who is also Bo and Sam's dad. Two additional assistant coaches, one for each team, are expected to be hired soon.

The positives head coach Workman is looking at for the boys team include two seniors, guard Lucas McKinley and 6-foot-6

center Cole Deiter, who are in their fourth year as starters, and guard Jojari Field, a junior, who will be in his third year starting.

"We should be competitive and be in the hunt this season," Bo Workman said. "I'm looking forward to coaching both the boys and girls. We have a good group of freshmen, JV and varsity."

There were 22 boys out for the team on day one.

"We've got the numbers, so we just need an aggressive defense and a little more full-court pressure," the coach said. "We have some good leaders, and I hope some of those guys will step up and be leaders like they have in the past. They need to help each other and know when to kick it in and step up."

Mike, a Prairie City graduate, had his first coaching experience in Prairie City in 1987, then Mt. Vernon until the high school portion closed. He also coached at Grant Union, then Jordan Valley for several years.

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Girls basketball team returns all starters

Five strong freshmen join the ranks

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Prairie City Panther girls basketball team is beginning the season with all of last year's starters returning, and additional talent, ready to hit the gas.

Head coach Bo Workman hopes having the talent and a few more athletes this season — 12 this year, compared to eight last year — will translate into success.

"Three of the seniors have started and had a lot of playing time," he said.

Three juniors, who were starters last year as sophomores, are all back, and five strong freshmen are also bringing their middle school experience to the team.

Seniors are Rilee Emmel, Hailee Wall, Emily Ennis and Aleah Johns.

Emmel scored 13 points against the Adrian Antelopes at last year's High Desert League District tournament, landing three 3-pointers.

She's looking forward to bonding with her team

during upcoming road trips. The Panthers will have six road games in December before they host the Echo Cougars on Jan. 10.

Emmel said their offense is looking good this season. "We have bigger girls for post players, so I'm excited to see how it goes down low," she said.

"I'm excited for the numbers we have," Ennis said. "My goal for the season is to make it fun for my senior year and to make it memorable."

Johns said she's seeing a lot of potential in the underclassmen.

"I'm excited to see how they progress through the season," she said. "My goal is to make the most out of this year."

Wall said she's also eager to see how the freshmen play this season.

"I'm looking forward to what we'll bring out this year," she said. "We made a team goal to make it to state, hit some good milestones and make it a fun year."

Workman began his tenure as varsity girls coach when this year's seniors were freshmen.

"They're the leaders," he said. "Hopefully, we'll have



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter
Prairie City Panther Kat Ashley, right, races down the court during practice, and Rilee Emmel stays with her.



Aleah Johns



Hailee Wall



Emily Ennis



Rilee Emmel

a little deeper bench to give players some rest at times."

Workman, who also coaches the boys varsity team this season, has his father Mike Workman back as assistant coach.

Mike said they always have high hopes at the beginning of the season.

Having greater numbers is one of the positives this season.

"We have some strong freshmen coming in," Mike said. "(They were) highly successful on the junior high team — I don't think they lost many games."

He said the teams in the

PRAIRIE CITY GIRLS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Dec. 6: @ Joseph, 6 p.m.	2 p.m.
Dec. 7: @ Imbler in Joseph, noon	Jan. 24: @ Burnt River in Unity 6 p.m.
Dec. 13: @ Badger Tournament vs. Council (ID) in North Powder, 6 p.m.	Jan. 25: vs. Jordan Valley, 2 p.m.
Dec. 14: @ Badger Tournament vs. Tri-Valley (ID) in North Powder, 1:30 p.m.	Jan. 31: @ Huntington, 6 p.m.
Dec. 20: @ Sherman in Moro, 4:30 p.m.	Feb. 1: vs. Four Rivers, 2 p.m.
Dec. 21: @ Hood River JV in Hood River, 4:00 p.m.	Feb. 7: @ Harper, 5 p.m.
Dec. 30: @ Crane, 5 p.m.	Feb. 8: @ Dayville/Monument in Dayville, 2 p.m.
Jan. 3: @ Imbler, 6 p.m.	Feb. 14: @ Adrian, 5 p.m.
Jan. 4: vs. Cove, 2 p.m.	Feb. 15: vs. Crane, 2 p.m.
Jan. 10: vs. Echo, 6 p.m.	Feb. 20-22: High Desert League District Tournament, John Day
Jan. 17: vs. Dayville/Monument, 6 p.m.	Feb. 25: 1st Round State Playoffs
Jan. 18: vs. Ukiah/Long Creek,	Feb. 28: 2nd Round State Playoffs
	March 4-7: State Championship, Baker City

league they're watching out for include the Adrian Antelopes, Jordan Valley Mustangs and Crane Mustangs.

"Crane's a powerhouse the next couple of years," Mike said. "They're definitely a contender for a state title, no question. They're one of the favorites."

Other teams in the 1A High Desert League include: the Dayville/Monument Tigers, Long Creek/Ukiah

Mountain Lions, Burnt River Bulls, Four Rivers Falcons, Harper Hornets and Huntington Locomotives.

Juniors, who were starters last year as sophomores, are Abbey Pfefferkorn, Samantha Workman and Katie Hire.

Bo said the team is sharpening their skills on defense.

"We've got the numbers to play a little more aggressive defense," he said. "I see us being competitive."

Youth wrestlers place well in recent tournaments

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Fourteen out of 25 Grant County Wrestling Club members earned first-place finishes at the Nov. 16 Pendleton Tournament. The team was in the top 10 out of 30 teams present, winning 72 out of 101 matches.

"These kids should be very proud of themselves, improving every week," said Stephanie Parsons, the team's media representative.

At the Nov. 23 Union Tournament, several Grant County wrestlers placed first in their brackets, including 6-year-old Tenley Parsons, who was competing for her first time.

Union Tournament competitors included: Porter Adams, Miles Ballou, Ginny Clarry, Tristan Clarry, Coltonnie Clement, Dawson Clement, Leo Dedmore, Hank Giffin, Levi Hueckman, Blake Kimball, Cody Knowles, Jack Knowles, Zander Lambeth, Weston Lieualen, Wyatt Lieualen, Owen Parsons, Taylor Parsons, Kayleb Rogers, Zeke Rookstool, Beau Van Cleave, Jerett Waddel and Carter Wyant.



Contributed photo/Stephanie Parsons
Several Grant County Wrestling Club members placed well at the Saturday, Nov. 23, Union Tournament. Pictured are Jerett Waddel (first), Taylor Parsons (third), Owen Parsons (first), Halle Parsons (back) and Tenley Parsons (first). This was Tenley's first time competing.

Grant Union volleyball team raises \$3,000 for mammogram program



Contributed photo
Grant Union volleyball head coach Ali Abrego, center (holding check), presents a check for \$3,000 to Jena Knowles of the Blue Mountain Hospital District. The team raised money to support the BMHD mammogram program through their annual Dig Pink events held in October.