

Grant Union girls learn lessons in loss to Burns

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

The 2A Grant Union Prospector girls had a no-quit spirit in their first game of the season, but took a 47-23 loss to the 3A Burns Hilanders on Dec. 4 in John Day.

Burns put up a defensive battle for the night, making it tough for Grant Union to find the basket while grabbing several steals.

It was the first nonconference game of the season for both teams.

Grant Union trailed 34-9 at the half, and Burns out-shot them 10-4 in the third quarter.

The Prospectors had a better fourth quarter, holding the Hilanders to just 3 points, while adding 10

points.

Baylee Combs led Grant Union with 6 points, scoring a 3-point shot in the first quarter and adding another at the final buzzer.

Prospector Carson Weaver added 4 points, and Paige Gerry scored 3 points at the free throw line.

Hilander Allie Hueckman had a game-high 13 points for the night.

Grant Union head coach Kristi Moore said she was happy with her players' efforts and expects to see improvement in future games.

"They played hard, they worked hard the whole time and they never gave up," she said. "They have a lot to learn, but we have a lot of potential."

She said players who



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union Prospector Riley Robertson battles to shoot the ball against Burns.

were in for four quarters of the junior varsity game played one quarter of varsity, and those who played

four quarters of varsity had one quarter of junior varsity playing time.

"They're all going to get

conditioned fast," Moore said.

She said the team came out a little nervous, but settled down at the half.

"They were able to focus more on what they do and their own team and their own plays, what they were needing to do to be successful," she said.

Prospector Tyler Blood said the game was rocky, but they got out their first-game jitters.

"We played our best," she said.

Teammate Kenna Combs agreed.

"Everyone gave their all and really hustled, even with the lack of subs," she said.

Burns head coach Brandon McMullen said the team graduated three starters last season, but they have a core

of juniors back, along with some inexperienced but athletic sophomores.

"It's a work in progress, but they're a fun group," he said.

McMullen said he was happy with his team's passing, and defense was a large emphasis from the start.

The Prospectors traveled to the Lions Tournament in Elgin, where they picked up a 41-38 win over the Baker Bulldogs junior varsity team on Friday and fell in a close contest to the Elgin Huskies, 46-44, on Saturday.

Grant Union will compete at the Columbia River Clash at Umatilla High School on Thursday through Saturday. The Prospectors face Irrigon at 7 p.m. Thursday, and the other games are to be determined.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Panther boys split

wins on the road

The Prairie City Panther boys basketball team had a close shave with the Joseph Eagles Friday, which resulted in the Panthers' first loss of season and the Eagles' first win of the season.

"We were down by 17 at the start of the fourth and fought hard to come back," said Panther boys head coach Bo Workman. "We took the lead by 1 point with 9 seconds left."

In those final seconds Joseph was able to score for the win.

"Now we know what we need to work on," Workman said. "It's still early in the season."

Prairie City picked up a 42-31 win over the Imbler Panthers on day two in Joseph.

Next up, the Panthers will compete at the Badger Tournament at North Powder High School, facing Bickleton (Washington) at 7:30 p.m. Friday and St. Paul Buckaroos at 3 p.m. Saturday.

The Prairie City junior varsity will also host the Grant Union junior varsity Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

"We'll have our hands full this week," Workman said.

Prairie City girls face tough Joseph team, beat Imbler

Prairie City Panther girls basketball head coach Bo Workman said it was little mistakes, which caused turnovers, that cost them a game to the Joseph Eagles, 48-16, on Friday on the road.

He said they need to be more aggressive to the basket.

"Joseph has an intense defense," he said. "We need to learn to not get rattled and take care of the ball."

After a night with the Prairie City teams sleeping on the Joseph gym floor, the Prairie City girls came up

with a 32-17 win over the Imbler Panthers.

"They handled the ball better, and Emily Ennis had 10 rebounds," Workman said. "That was a big deal, and we made a few more baskets."

Next up, the Panther junior varsity team will also host the Grant Union Prospector junior varsity on Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 5 p.m.

The Prairie City girls travel to the Badger Tournament at North Powder High School, where they'll face Council (Idaho) at 6 p.m. Friday and Tri Valley (Idaho) at 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

Dayville/Monument Tiger boys and girls compete at Paul Humphreys Tournament

The Dayville/Monument Tiger girls split wins at Friday-Saturday Paul Humphreys Memorial Tournament in Fossil in their first games of the season.

The Tiger girls fell 36-26 to the Condon/Wheeler Knights on Friday, then came back with a 35-22 win over Mitchell/Spray on Saturday.

The Dayville/Monument boys took losses to Condon/Wheeler, 60-37, and Mitchell/Spray, 57-45.

Ukiah/Long Creek boys take losses in early season competition, girls are hampered by injuries

The Ukiah/Long Creek Mountain Lion boys basketball team struggled to coordinate on offense in their first game of the season, taking three road losses.

The Pilot Rock Rockets claimed a 71-55 win over Ukiah/Long Creek on Thursday in Pilot Rock.

The Mountain Lions played Mitchell/Spray on Friday, the Logger/Eagles winning 55-54, at the Paul Humphreys Memorial Tournament in Fossil. On Saturday they lost 69-38 to the

Condon/Wheeler Knights.

"They're all skilled players, and they're all good, but sometimes they played a little isolated," Ukiah/Long Creek head coach Amos Studtmann said of his team. He leads the Mountain Lions with co-coach TC Conner.

Studtmann said it's still early in the season, and the boys from the two different schools are just connecting.

In the game against Mitchell/Spray, the Mountain Lions were playing from behind, but with less than 30 seconds in the game, took a one-point lead.

"(Mitchell/Spray) found a guy on the weak side and put it in, then we didn't have enough time to come back," Studtmann said.

"When a game comes down to the final seconds, usually there were plenty of things earlier on that could have prevented it," he said. "We always focus on growth and improvement, rather than the win and loss column."

Next up, Ukiah/Long Creek travels to the Arlington Tournament on Friday and Saturday with games at 1:30 p.m. on Friday and 11:30 p.m. on Saturday. The boys also hosted Mitchell/Spray in Long Creek on Tuesday, past press time.

The Ukiah/Long Creek girls were hampered by several injuries, both in practice and at Thursday's game against Pilot Rock on the road, which ended in a 72-9 loss for the Mountain Lions.

Three starters were among four injured — including two rolled ankles and a broken finger — and the team had to cancel their games at the Pauls Humphreys Tournament.

Coach Amos Studtmann said he expects three of the girls to return to the game soon, although he wasn't sure if they'd be ready in time for the Arlington Tournament.

"They'll come back," he said.

Win

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of the fourth quarter, but Burns began to come back, taking advantage of multiple turnovers and free throw opportunities.

"We need to take care of the basketball better, and we had too many turnovers," said Huerta. "We gotta learn how to close teams out, and we have to work on improving our communication."

With nine fouls in the fourth quarter against

Grant Union, it gave Burns the opportunity to score 7 free throw points, which helped narrow Grant Union's lead to 3, 40-37 with 35.4 seconds left in the game.

Burns fouled Morris in the final seconds, sending him to the free throw line. Morris made both to seal Grant Union's 5-point win.

"I felt like we attacked the basket well, and our second half rebounding also improved, which helped us win," Huerta said. "Our bench overall

did a really great job and helped with the win."

Grant Union notched a couple more wins at the Lions Tournament in Elgin, defeating the Baker Bulldogs junior varsity team 72-32 on Friday and the Elgin Huskies 74-49 on Saturday.

The Prospectors compete at the Columbia River Clash at Umatilla High School, facing the Irrigon Knights at 7:30 p.m. Thursday. The tournament continues on Friday and Saturday with opponents to be determined.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, DEC. 12

Grant Union basketball @ Irrigon at the Columbia River Clash in Umatilla, boys 5:30 p.m., girls 7 p.m.

Dayville/Monument basketball vs. Condon/Wheeler in Monument, girls 6 p.m., boys 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 13

Dayville/Monument basketball @ Arlington Snowball Tournament, girls 6 p.m., boys 7:30 p.m.

Ukiah/Long Creek basketball @ Helix at the Arlington Snowball Tournament, boys 1:30 p.m.

Grant Union basketball @ Columbia River Clash in Umatilla, TBD

Prairie City basketball @ Badger Tournament in North Powder, girls vs. Council (Idaho) 6 p.m., boys vs. Bickleton (Washington) 7:30 p.m.

Grant Union wrestling @ Culver Tournament, TBD


SATURDAY, DEC. 14

Ukiah/Long Creek basketball @ Dayville/Monument at the Arlington Snowball Tournament, girls 10 a.m. (TBD), boys 11:30

Prairie City basketball @ Badger Tournament in North Powder, girls vs. Tri-Valley (Idaho) 1:30 p.m., boys vs. St. Paul 3 p.m.

Grant Union basketball @ Columbia River Clash in Umatilla, TBD


Grant Union wrestling @ Culver Tournament, TBD




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OSAA 2A All-State football honors announced

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Two Grant Union Prospectors were recognized by the OSAA on the 2A All-State team.

Drew Lusco, a senior, was named both Offensive Lineman of the Year and Defensive Lineman of the Year.

Justin Hodge, a sophomore, was named to the third team as a wide receiver.

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