



Prospectors victorious against Panthers

Close second set ends 27-25

By Rudy Diaz
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant Union Prospectors volleyball team was victorious against the Prairie City Panthers March 17.

In competitive sets that included many rallies, spikes and an intense second set for both teams, Grant Union won in Prairie City with scores of 25-12, 27-25 and 25-17.

"The second set was definitely the most intense of the three," said Grant Union senior Jordyn Young. "It was pretty competitive."

Young said a combination of good hits and great serves helped the Prospectors get the win for the night.

Prairie City senior Katie Hire said she felt the game was definitely a battle between both teams, but she felt like her team improved from last week.

"I think we worked as a



Grant Union seniors Madison Spencer and Abby Lusco block a spike launched from the Prairie City Panthers on March 17.

The Eagle/Rudy Diaz

team really well," Hire said. "We really pulled it together in the second set, and we got a lot of opportunities and things opened up to us to score."

Grant Union began the game with momentum and carried it throughout the first set with a distant lead. At 21-9, Prairie City junior Caitlin Willet ended a rally between both

teams with a spike to score the 10th point for the Panthers. The Panthers defense blocked a spike from the Prospectors for a point, and then Prairie City senior Samantha Workman served the ball for another point, 21-12.

Once Grant Union got the ball back at 22-12, the Prospectors closed the

set with Grant Union senior Madison Spencer serving the ball and scoring the final point.

In the second set, the Panthers and Prospectors stayed close until 7-4 with Grant Union in the lead. Grant Union junior Paige Gerry then helped build momentum for the Prospectors when she

tipped the ball back to Prairie City to score a point. Gerry then scored an additional 2 points with a serve and an ace.

The Panthers then answered back with their own momentum that started with a kill from Hire. The Panthers defense continued the momentum as they blocked two spikes launched from the Prospectors. A combination of blocks and serves carried the Panthers back to a lead at 13-10.

The set continued with multiple rallies, aces and blocks. At 25-25, both teams continued the pressure and the fight to win the set. Grant Union junior Lauryn Pettyjohn closed the nail-biting set when she served the final point, 27-25.

In the final set, Grant Union closed the game, 25-17.

Grant Union head coach Shanna Northway said the game went well.

"We served as tough we could against them, and (Prairie City) passed well," Northway said. "We have things we need to work on such as covering short serves. That killed us today, and then we were out of system to much."

Prairie City head coach Jordan Bass said it was exciting to see the girls battle and the team working together. She said there are a couple of freshman players on the team who were able to get great experience in the game such as freshmen Brooke Teel and Jaycee Winegar who had big plays in the sets. She also said, when Hire was on, she was on fire.

"This year in particular, our serving was really tough, and I think our ability to keep the ball alive and keep playing is really going to serve us well as we keep moving on," Bass said. "We need to get some of our offense more involved. So (senior) Samantha Workman, one of our middles, she was really doing some good work, but we just need to get her more involved."



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

Sophomore Cole Teel rushes past Eagles defenders Friday in the Panthers' 48-26 loss to the Joseph.

Prairie City falls to Joseph 48-26

Panthers face Echo April 2 in Prairie City

By Steven Mitchell
 Blue Mountain Eagle

It was a competitive game of football until the end in Joseph's 48-26 win over Prairie City in the team's second loss of the season.

"I think we just need to do a few things better," Prairie City head coach Nick Thompson said. "I think there are some fundamental things — blocking, tackling, snaps — there are just some things that we wish that we would have done better. Having said that, (Joseph is) a tough team. They always have been."

Although the Panthers were able to tie up the score 13-13 in the second quarter with touchdowns by freshman Wes Voigt and sophomore Cole Teel, the Eagles were able to capitalize on missed snaps, tackles and blocks to open up a large



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

Senior Tanner Way catches a pass from senior quarterback Jayden Winegar for a touchdown Friday in the fourth quarter against Joseph.



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

Senior running back Declan Zwegardt crashes into a defender for a first down Friday in the Panthers game against the Eagles.

enough lead to where the Panthers could not catch up.

Senior quarterback Jayden Winegar said the Panthers improved quite a bit from their March 5 loss to South Wasco County, where they fell 55-6.

With a never-say-die mentality,

the score of 40-13 with less than 10 minutes to go in the fourth quarter, Winegar connected with senior Tanner Way on two touchdown passes and an extra-point conversion to cut the deficit to 48-26.

Winegar said he would like to see the team continue to improve on

their open-field tackling and work on pass defense and blocking up front on offense.

Thompson said he was proud of the Panthers in their second outing.

"My big question to them is, did you learn something, and did you have fun?" he said. "If we got those

two things, then we're moving in the right direction."

The Panthers March 12 game against Harper Charter was canceled due to COVID-19 concerns.

The team is scheduled to face Echo at 1 p.m. Friday, April 2, in Prairie City.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Cross-country team competes in Burns

Grant Union cross-country competed at the Burns Invite on March 18 in the team's third competition this year.

Head coach Sonna Smith said the boys team placed third, and the girls did not have a complete team.

Brady Dole placed fourth with a time of 18:51. Smith said Dole's time was his best this season and moved him up in league standings.

Sophomores Quinn Larson and Max Bailey finished in 20:36 and 20:59, respectively, while freshman Skylor and Landon Boyd finished in 21:06 and 22:10.

Senior Jesse Randleas clocked his best time of the season, coming in at 23:02. Junior Cole Ashley came in at 27:22

For the girls, freshmen Alicia Archibald and Abbie Justice came in at 6:45 and a 26:57, respectively, while juniors Audrey Walker and Riley Robertson came in at 31:20 and 32:35.

Next up, the Prospectors will host a meet on April 2 at Seventh Street Complex at 1 p.m.

Lady Pro volleyball team splits matches Friday and Saturday

After shutting out Prairie City 3-0 on March 17, the Lady Pros dropped a game to Heppner 3-2 and came back to blank Stanfield 3-0.

Head coach Shanna Northway did not immediately respond to the Eagle's request for comment Monday.

Next up, Crane will host the Prospectors on March 29 at 5 p.m.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

MONDAY, MARCH 29
 Grant Union volleyball @ Crane, 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 30
 Dayville/Monument volleyball vs. Grant Union JV, 4 p.m.

Prospectors fall to Heppner
 The Grant Union football team fell to Heppner 35-16 Thursday. Head coach Jason Miller said the team played hard and did better against Heppner than they did before when they were blanked 35-0 in their first game of

the season.

He said Heppner is a bigger, faster, stronger team than Grant Union. He said another factor was that "simple mistakes" made big plays for Heppner as well.

He said Devon Stokes had a couple big passes for yards and a touchdown.

Next up, Miller said the Prospectors' Friday game at 1 p.m. was canceled. He said Lakeview canceled the game, citing travel difficulties.

Grant Union will host Umatilla on April 2 at 6 p.m.

Dayville/Monument falls to Sherman/Condon

The Dayville/Monument Tigers football team lost to Sherman/Condon 39-7 Friday. Coach Kyle Hand

said it was a tough loss, and they were unable to secure two outside kicks. After getting down early, they could not recover, he said.

Their April 2 game with Harper Charter was canceled.

Next up, the Tigers will host Prairie City on April 9 at 1 p.m.

Lady Panthers volleyball games with Crane and Joseph canceled

Prairie City's last two games were canceled on both Thursday and Friday.

Billy Colson, Prairie City's athletic director, said the school district had to cancel the games due to COVID-19 and contact tracing. He said the April 2 game with Dayville/Monument is still scheduled at this point.