



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

Junior Justin Hodge rushes for a first down Thursday with senior Jordan Hall (1) blocking in the Pros' victory over Umatilla.

Prospectors win a close one on senior night

Grant Union travels to Stanfield Friday

By Steven Mitchell
 Blue Mountain Eagle

It was a dog fight until the end in the Grant Union football team's final home game of the season Thursday, but the Prospectors turned up the heat in the last two minutes to put down Umatilla 34-28.

Senior Jordan Hall put Grant Union on the board in the first quarter, catching a touchdown pass from senior quarterback Devon Stokes.

Junior Justin Hodge scored four touchdowns, including the Prospectors' touchdown in the game's final two minutes.

"I went all in for the seniors tonight," Hodge said. "I just wanted to be there for them."

In a competitive, back-and-forth game that could have gone either way with each team playing tit-for-tat on offense, the Vikings took a 28-26 lead with a little over two minutes to go in the fourth quarter.

Stokes, who said he was "kind of thrown into" the role of quarterback, told the Eagle that in the Pros huddle he said to his offense to play as hard as they could until the final buzzer.

In his final home game in a Pros jersey, Stokes said it meant a lot to him that his teammates stepped up to win the game.

Senior Jordan Hall told the Eagle that football was not his first sport, but that the strong bond with his teammates is what brought him back every season.

"I wasn't going to play this year," he said. "Everybody was dogging me and making me come out, and I finally did. It's great to have support and friends that are gonna back you."

The Prospectors travel to Stanfield for a 3 p.m. game Friday, April 9.



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Senior Devon Stokes runs the ball down the field Thursday during the Prospectors' game against Umatilla.

Grant Union falls to Heppner in four sets Thursday

Team hosts Weston-McEwen Saturday

By Steven Mitchell
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Grant Union's volleyball team lost to Heppner in four sets Thursday.

Senior Jordyn Young said, while some on the team were hitting well and playing hard, the team needs to communicate better.

Grant Union fell to Heppner in the first set 25-21, but bounced back in the second, winning 25-23, and lost 25-20 and 25-23 in the third and fourth sets.

Head coach Shanna Northway said Thursday was representative of how the team has played all season in that the team gets so close in winning matches but has struggled to finish for the win.

"All season long we've been battling in close matches," she said. "We're right there on the edge in every match, and we are not quite pushing through like the way I know we can."

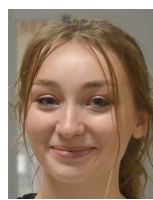
Northway said the team has struggled with last-minute changes to their roster and rotation in their games with Crane on March 29, where they lost 3-0, and then in Thursday's game as well.

Nonetheless, the Lady Pros had nearly 20 more kills than Heppner and, as a team, were at 85% for digs and blocks.

Senior Madison Spencer led the team with 35 digs. At



Senior Jordyn Young



Senior Kenna Combs

the same time, juniors Lauryn Pettyjohn and Paige Gerry had 32 and 13. Offensively, Gerry led the team with 15 kills while Spencer had nine and senior Abbie Lusco had eight.

Spencer said, with Thursday being Grant Union's senior night, the team carried many emotions onto the court.

She said that coupled with a lack of communication and a change to the team's offense with their regular setter being unable to play factored into the loss.

Spencer said not being able to have the junior varsity team in the stands to cheer them on played a role too.

With their final game less than a week away, Lusco, who will attend Eastern Oregon University in the fall, said she would miss her teammates when the season officially ends. However, she said she is ready to move on with her life, so the feeling is "bittersweet."

The team was scheduled to face Pilot Rock Tuesday past press time before the 1A/2A east regional invite April 9 at North Powder. Grant Union will host Weston-McEwen at noon Saturday, April 10.



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

Junior Paige Gerry gets into position to serve Thursday during the Lady Prospectors' game against Heppner



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

Junior Carson Weaver throws up the ball for a serve Thursday in their game against Heppner.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Grant Union cross country boys heading to state tournament this week

The Grant Union cross country team is going to the state tournament April 10.

Head coach Sonna Smith said the boys team received one of the wildcard bids because three of the teams in Grant Union's district have three of Oregon's top five teams.

At Friday's Special District 5 Spring Championship, the Pros placed third as a team with 71 points, behind Enterprise (30) and Heppner (25). The remaining

teams were incomplete.

Grant Union's top runner, Brady Dole, a sophomore, finished in ninth place (18:33.3), followed by Quinn Larson (19:09.5), Max Bailey (21:52.6), Jesse Randleas (22:18.8), Skylor Boyd (23:38.8), Landon Boyd (24:36.4) and Cole Ashley (27:26)

Dole, Smith said, shaved 8 seconds off of his best time, and Larson improved his time by 2 seconds.

As for the girls' team, Smith said Abbie Justice, Alici Archibald, Kate Hughes, Riley Robertson and Audrey Walker, ran for the girls and finished

third place for the team in the one-two run.

Monument/Dayville handily defeats Echo 46-8

The Tigers won their second game of the season, decisively defeating Echo, 46-8.

Head coach Kyle Hand said every player contributed and it was a great team win.

"Got a contribution from everyone," he said.

Hand said the April 10 game against Prairie City has been canceled.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

Dayville/Monument football vs. Mitchell/Spray/Wheeler, 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

Grant Union volleyball @ 1A/2A East Regional Invite in North Powder, TBA

Dayville/Monument volleyball @ Mitchell, 2 p.m.

Grant Union football @ Stanfield, 3 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

Dance team at Grant Union gym, 9 a.m.

Grant Union volleyball vs. Weston-McEwen, noon

Boys cross country @ state tournament, Lebanon, 1 p.m.