

# SHOOTING THE BREEZE Takedown rifles

Civilization has always had a fascination with over engineering. Sometimes complex is necessary, but simplex, due purely to having less parts, usually is a more enduring design as there are fewer things that can break. Guns are no exception. The museums are full of curious pieces, which although eye catching and pioneering to say the least, proved to be too costly and unreliable to ever be popular and are now relegated to exhibition rather than use.



One interesting trend that has a cultish following is that of the takedown rifle. Oh, we've all seen them in the movies. Who could forget the scene in "The Good, The Bad and The Ugly" where Eli Wallach disassembles several six guns of various designs to fashion his own? Or the scene in Joe Kidd wherein Clint Eastwood steals and later assembles a jigsaw puzzle custom rifle in order to take out a distant sniper? Oh, Hollywood!

In reality there are several takedown guns that do work and are useful designs. In the days of yore, youth were especially drawn to takedown designs as such could easily be hauled around in a backpack while riding a bicycle concealed from the view of uppity metropolitan neighbors to the countryside for some hunting. As early as the 1890s some citizens, even in the West, began to feel their mining and mill towns were too cosmopolitan for open display of firearms.

Traveling hunters or exhibition shooters found that long guns that could be broken down into smaller, more compact cases were easier to find space for in planes, trains and automobiles alike. Takedown guns can be much easier to clean when a wide variety of tools may not be available. Finally, takedown guns can offer greater versatility with multiple barrels of various calibers. For example, you could get a Savage 99 rifle in .30-30 WCF and get extra barrels in .22 HP, .25-35, .32-40, .38-55 or .410 shotgun.

Takedown rifles were not all peaches and cream, however. The rifles could easily develop excessive headspace, a potentially dangerous problem only solved by the hand of a gunsmith. Accuracy frequently suffered as a result of the necessary play in machining required for being able to take the gun apart. These days, those issues are almost non-existent. Modern designs like the Blaser R8 straight-pull bolt action or the Thompson/Center Contender and Encore single-shot designs can house some of the world's most powerful and useful cartridges and can be taken apart, reassembled and used without complication. Many with such rifles claim they will even maintain their zero during the takedown and travel process, but of course, they always double check at their destination.

Part of the popularity with the Glock handguns and Ruger 10-22 and AR-15 types of rifles in my opinion comes from the hundreds of different custom choices one can choose to tailor their ideal gun. These takedowns offer much of the same to the custom-crazed gun owner. If excessive length or weight are problems, the takedown rifle may just be the ticket.

Do you own a takedown rifle? Write to us at shootingthebreezebme@gmail.com!

*Dale Valade is a local country gent with a love for the outdoors, handloading, hunting and shooting.*



Grant Union/Prairie City Prospector Tristan Morris rounds third base in a game against the Lakeview Honkers in 2019.

Eagle file photo

## Spring sports kicking off this week

By Steven Mitchell  
Blue Mountain Eagle

After COVID-19 snuffed out spring sports more than a year ago, baseball, softball, golf and track and field are back beginning Wednesday as the Grant Union baseball team faces Baker City in the Prospectors' home opener. The first pitch is at 4 p.m.

On Saturday, the Prospectors baseball team faces Western-McEwen for a doubleheader in Athena starting at noon. The team hosts Union/Cove for a doubleheader Tuesday, April 20, starting at 1 p.m.

Grant Union's softball team kicks off their season Saturday on the road and will face Heppner for a doubleheader starting at 1 p.m. The team will travel to Baker/Pow-

der Valley Wednesday, April 21, for a game beginning at 4 p.m.

On Friday, the Pros track and field team will travel to Harper to compete at the Dianna Thurmond Invitational. The start time is to be determined.

Meanwhile, the Grant Union golf team will host the Grant Union High School Invitational at the John Day Golf Club. The tee-time is 11 a.m. Friday.

Long Creek's track and field program, according to Jennifer Garinger, will have a season as well. So far, the team does not have any scheduled meets.

Monument's track and field coach Lisa Neuberger did not immediately respond to the Eagle's request for comments on the upcoming spring season.



Grant Union/Prairie City Prospector Peyton Neault hits the ball in the game against Lakeview in 2019.

Eagle file photo

## Pros boys cross country is first GU team to finish at state

The boys squad took third in league and eighth overall in field of over 100 runners and 12 teams

By Steven Mitchell  
Blue Mountain Eagle

This year's Grant Union boys cross country team was the first Prospector team to compete at a state tournament over the weekend at the Spring 2021 Cross Country 3/A, 2/A, 1/A State Championship Tournament in Lebanon.

In a field of over 100 runners and 12 teams, the boys squad took eighth in non-league competition and claimed third place in their league.

Sophomore Brady Dole earned All State Honorable Mention.

Smith told the Eagle that as Grant Union closes out their COVID-19-compressed season, the team sits atop their respective league



Eagle file photo

Grant Union Prospector Quinn Larson, right, competes in the 2019 Gold Rush Run at the Seventh Street Complex in John Day.

after beating Heppner, a competitive team that took second at the district championship meet. She said all seven varsity runners had their best times of the season, and the top five run-

ners on the team all posted a personal record:

- Brady Dole, 18:29.85
- Quinn Larson, 18:43.54
- Max Bailey, 19:44.90
- Skylor Boyd, 20:25.09
- Landon Boyd, 21:09.64
- Jesse Randleas, 21:30.06
- Cole Ashley, 25:23.40

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

Smith said she was thankful to both the parents for being so supportive and the school district for making the trip a possibility in "the current year of ever-changing restrictions."

"It has been a pleasure for me to coach these young men," she said.

With six of the seven athletes returning next season, she said they "are looking forward to better things to come."

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### Grant Union finishes shortened season on top in 44-38 win over Stanfield

The Prospectors carried the momentum of their dramatic win over Umatilla on the road to Stanfield, winning another close game 44-38. Grant Union finished the season with a winning record, going 3-2.

Jason Miller, Prospectors head coach, said the game was almost a "carbon copy" of the game against Umatilla.

He said one team would get the ball, march it down the field three yards and end up in a pile of dust and score. Then, he said the other team would get the ball and

do the same thing all over again.

Miller said the Pros stepped up on defense and stopped them to finally "seal the deal."

He said the season was certainly unusual but the team stepped up and were "gamers."

"We had a great time," he said. "I'm glad we got to do it for the seniors."

### Dayville/Monument pounces Rattlers 32-6

With the cancellation of their final game of the season, Dayville/Monument was able to bring in Mitchell/Spray/Wheeler, who the Tigers defeated 33-0 in their

season opener. Monument head coach Kyle Hand said the Rattlers played competitively, but Dayville/Monument won 32-6.

At halftime, the two teams locked up the score 6-6. Hand said his team adjusted at halftime and "exploited

weaknesses."

Hand said he was proud of the whole team. He said juniors Nic Ciochetti and Zach Ferguson both stepped up and made good plays in the second half to get the team going.

Hand said the team was

thrilled to play five games of competitive football.

### Dayville/Monument volleyball loses to Mitchell/Spray/Wheeler

The Dayville/Monument Lady Tigers ended their volleyball season with a 3-1 loss

to Mitchell/Spray/Wheeler.

Monument, who defeated the Mitchell/Spray/Wheeler in their home opener 3-1, ended their season 1-6.

Lady Tigers head coach Treila Smith could not be reached for comment.

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