



Lady Pros softball makes history, takes second in state

By Steven Mitchell
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant Union/Prairie City softball program made history over the weekend when they took second place in the state tournament, the best finish ever for the program.

After a 24-7 shellacking of Colton High School Saturday — senior Jordyn Young and freshman Drewsey Williams each hit grand slams while junior Paige Gerry hit a home run — the Lady Pros fell to Kennedy High School in the championship later in the day, 16-0. Coach Zach Williams said the team

made too many defensive errors, seven, against a quality team in Kennedy.

“We had a great season, and I could not possibly be more proud of the way this team battled and played together as a team,” he said. “We had some great senior leadership that will be sorely missed next season from Jordyn Young, Jesaka Culley and Maddie Spencer.”

In a fraught season of closures, cancellations and interruptions due to COVID-19 lockdowns, the Lady Pros — with a young roster — dominated their league with a 14-2 record.

The team beat Rogue River 19-1 in the first round of the playoffs and beat

North Douglas 14-4 in the second round before Saturday’s games.

“We’re a very young team, and I definitely never thought we’d be going to the state playoffs at the beginning of the season,” Young said.

Senior Madison Spencer told the Eagle, even though the team did not win the championship game, it was a great experience to be a part of a team that made history with the school’s first second-place finish.

Juniors Riley Robertson and Paige Gerry both said they wanted to win it all



Contributed photo/Tanni Wenger Photography

The Grant Union/Prairie City Prospectors softball team poses with their trophy after placing second at the 2A State Championships Saturday.

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Hall, relay team win track titles

Boys team places second at state

By Steven Mitchell
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Two state titles helped the Grant Union boys track and field team to second place Saturday at the 2A State Track Championships in Union.

Senior Jordan Hall placed first in the 110 hurdles, while Justin Hodge, Quaid Brandon, CJ Glimpse, and Luke Jackson took the top spot in the 4x100 relay.

Hall, named athlete of the meet, also took third in the triple jump, fourth in the long jump and fifth in the javelin.

Hall told the Eagle in a Monday interview that hurdles are his favorite competition.

“I definitely didn’t expect just to go and win it,” he said. “But (winning the race) was big. I was almost in tears.”

He said he was beyond nervous ahead of the race.

“I wanted to throw up the entire time I was so nervous,” he said. “There were kids next to me who were talking about how they were faster than their times were showing.”

Hall said he took the advice of his coaches and pretended that the runner next to him was three seconds ahead of him. The advice paid off.

He said he ran about 30 meters past the finish line.

“Finally, I turned around and looked at everybody, and I was shocked,” Hall said. “It was emotional for sure.”

The members of the 4x100 relay team said the experience of winning the state championship was a “great feeling.”

Jackson, a junior, said he was nervous for the first half-hour of the tournament.

But, he said, the team practiced and had the competition down.

Hodge said the experience of winning at state was “cool” and “amazing.” Hodge said it was his job to “run straight, run fast, and to get there.”

Jackson, who moved to Grant County from Boston last year, said he loved running with the relay team.

“Track’s a team sport,” he said. “But this is like a real team.”

On the girls side, senior Abby Lusco took fifth in the discus competition. Lusco told the Eagle that she threw better at the district competition. She said the weather was “atrocious.”

She said she placed higher than she was seated, and she was happy with that.

Lusco said an injury, coupled with the COVID-19 lockdowns, interrupted her senior year.

“We had several meets canceled over the entire season, which really didn’t give us many chances to perform,” she said. “But I’m grateful that we had one (season) at all.”



Contributed photo

Grant Union senior Jordan Hall, left, poses with the trophy he received after being named male athlete of the meet at the 2A track championships Saturday. Katie Hanson of Gervais was named the female athlete of the meet.

Contributed photo

The 2A state champion boys 4x100 relay team from Grant Union, from left, Luke Jackson, Justin Hodge, CJ Glimpse and Quaid Brandon.

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SPORTS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, May 26
 Grant Union basketball @ Heppner, girls 3 p.m., boys 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 27
 Grant Union basketball @ Umatilla, girls 3 p.m., boys 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 29
 Grant Union wrestling @ Culver, 4 p.m.

Three Grant Union students qualify for state rodeo competition

Strong, McCrackens to compete in Prineville June 9-12

By Steven Mitchell
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Three Grant Union High School students will compete

at the state rodeo contest in Prineville June 9-12 after finishing in the top 20.

In Oregon High School’s Rodeo Competition in Burns on May 14, Jack Strong in both the saddle bronc and bull riding competitions finished in the top 20, qualifying him to go to the state competition.

Sam McCracken won the average in the boys cutting to move on to state. He brought home the state title in cow cutting at the Oregon State High School Rodeo State Finals last year.

In the recent contest, Bailey McCracken placed in all rounds of pole bending, fin-

ishing in third and sixth place. In barrel racing, she finished in fifth and sixth place and was seventh and eighth place in girls cutting.

Sarah Clark had a great barrel run of 18.918, which placed her in the 26th place on May 14. Clark has been working on a young horse

all season and has been more competitive.

The National High School Rodeo Competition in Lincoln, Nebraska, will be held on July 18. For a rider to qualify for the national competition, they must finish in the top four in their respective finals.