

Lady Pros lose a nail-biter

Grant Union ends season with 1-point loss to Stanfield

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

After winning their first game of the season June 10, defeating Weston-McEwen 38-30, the Lady Pros dropped their last game of the season on June 15 to Stanfield, losing 28-27, finishing their shortened season 1-5 overall.

Junior Paige Gerry said it was a “weird season” with COVID-19. She said some players went straight from softball right into basketball.

“Some of us only had one practice,” she said. “Some of us had zero practice before our first game.”

Gerry said, from her first game to the last, it was evident how much the team improved.

She said the win over Weston-McEwen was a big confidence booster — as was their game against Joseph, where the team lost 56-51.



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell
Grant Union's Paige Weaver, a junior, attempts a free throw during the game against Stanfield.

Junior Paige Weaver concurred. “All of us played really well,” she said. “It’s just sometimes you have other girls on the other team that played just as well.”

Gerry said the team was tired from their game with Joseph, considering how high the scoring was.

“I think most of us pushed

through,” she said. “We were just playing our hearts out.”

Weaver said most of the team plays all three sports together (softball, basketball and volleyball). She said they play with the mentality that you leave everything out on the field or the court — as if it were their last game.

Gerry said it was “really awe-



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell
Grant Union's Riley Robertson fends off two Stanfield defenders during the June 15 game.

some” for Jason Miller to step into the role of head coach this year. She said the team did not know who their coach was going to be until their first basketball meeting.

Miller is Grant Union's head football coach.

“I really liked him as a coach,” Weaver said. “I’m excited for next year.”

SHOOTING THE BREEZE Identifying marks

If there is someone out there who has absolutely never scoped themselves, I'm dying to hear from you. Aside from the obvious bloody cut, usually on your eyebrow or occasionally the bridge of your nose, the real wound is mental. Then if that isn't bad enough, your friends and acquaintances who recognize the scar for what it is will humiliate you at least until it's healed. Longer if there are photos or a scar. How does this happen?



Dale Valade

Humiliatingly enough, I too have had this happen to me. Three separate occasions I have been scoped, although to be fair, only once was it with my own rifle. The other two times were when shooting someone else's gun. Years ago, a family friend wanted to borrow my father's then-newest rifle, a custom-stocked 8mm Remington Magnum. A cartridge which was truly worthy of the Magnum moniker, my father's 220-grain handloads took it a step further leaving a jet stream across the sky wherever they flew and the flames from the muzzle blast always exceeding 30 feet in length. Our friend, unaccustomed to shooting a rifle that was setup for my father, leaned in close attempting to get the perfect sight picture in the Leupold scope. At the shot, not only was he scoped and bleeding, but the scope had actually broken the man's glasses.

Proper eye relief is critical to good shooting as well as avoiding scars. Shooters are almost always taken by surprise either by shooting a gun with either a bad stock fit or the wrong eye relief. And once in a while, a gun just kicks way too much, and that's another way to end up with bleeding eyebrows. Another one I've seen, especially with cheechakos or ladies — yes, ladies — is not putting the butt of the rifle on their shoulder. I've seen it improperly placed under the shoulder, in the armpit squeezed between the arm and the rib cage, rested on the bicep or my personal favorite faux pas, setting the toe of the butt pad on top of the shoulder. Any of these aforementioned could be considered the express lane of getting a scope cut as any rifle that kicks much more than a .22 will not be hesitant in stamping a scar in your favorite face.

The shame, however, is arguably the true scar that one retains with scope cuts. From double a social distance away or sometimes farther, somebody will spot your cut, know what it is and pick you apart. The only hope you have is that the wound heals faster than your ego; luckily mine did in all three cases. I do know a handful of men — yes, all men — for whom the cut was so bad that they bear a permanent scar to this day. Suffice it to say, it wasn't only their egos that were bruised in the process.

They say ladies love scars, but I'm practically sure that if they knew where your scope cut came from they may see you less as John Wayne and more as Don Knotts. Bottom line, keep that properly setup gun on your shoulder and you'll likely get through life without any identifying marks!

Have you ever been scope cut? Write to us at shootingthebreezebme@gmail.com!

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

Prospectors did not go down without a fight in final game

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant Union Prospectors did not go down without a fight in their final game of the season on June 15, losing to Stanfield 58-51.

Grant Union boys basketball head coach RC Huerta said after a challenging game against Joseph, where the team lost by 30 points, they could have easily “thrown in the towel” in their final game of the season.

Instead, Huerta said, the Prospectors came out of the gate swinging.

Everyone got into the action.

Senior Jordan Hall drained five 3-pointers and scored a total of 21 points. Upperclassman Devon Stokes hit three shots from downtown, scoring a total of 9 points, while Eli Wright came in with 5 points and 12 rebounds.

“They gave 100%, and they really battled,” Huerta said. “I thought that was impressive for such a short season.”

Stokes said the team came in with a “win the quarter” versus a “win the game” mindset. He said the focus was on fundamentals.

“We had our ups and downs,” he said. “They got up. We got up, it was a well-fought game.”

CJ Glimpse said the team shot better than they had all season. Especially Hall, he said.

“The last six, seven years, I wouldn't have spent it with anyone else,” Glimpse said.

Huerta said, with five graduating seniors, next year's team is going to be a younger team.

“We have a lot of young players and an excellent young core,” he said. “And they're just a hard-working, tenacious group of young men, and they're very coachable.”



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell
Grant Union senior Quaid Brandon comes down with rebound in the Prospectors' June 15 game against Stanfield.



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell
Jordan Hall goes up for a layup June 15 in the Prospectors' game against Stanfield.



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell
Grant Union's Jordan Hall goes up for a shot against Stanfield.

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