



Prairie City volleyball team poised for a good season

Panthers top Grant Union junior varsity, Enterprise

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

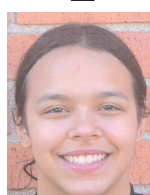
Despite being eliminated in pool play Saturday at the Grant Union High Invitational Volleyball Tournament in John Day, the Prairie City Panthers kicked off their season with a bang and have high hopes.

The Panthers defeated Grant Union's junior varsity team 25-21 in their first



Jordan Bass, Prairie City volleyball head coach.

set and 25-12 in their second. After that, they made quick work of Enterprise, taking the first set 25-19



Betty Ann Wilson



Hannah Wall

and the second 25-16. They took a tie in their matchup against Heppner, dominating the first set 25-9 and falling short in the second 25-23. The Lady Panthers fell 2-0 in their final matchup against Weston-McEwen.

Midway through the tournament Saturday, junior Betty Ann Wilson said the squad



Laken McKay



Zinny Locke

was playing well as a team but could "be a little cleaned up."

Hannah Wall said what most people do not know about the team is that, in addition to being highly competitive, they have an "unbreakable bond."

"We're very close," Wall said.

Wilson said the highly

competitive streak of the team could be a double-edged sword.

"Sometimes it makes it not as great," she said. "But sometimes it makes it super good."

Wilson said the team grew up together, and they have played together for quite some time.

Zinny Locke, the team's libero, who joined the team this year after transferring from Grant Union High School, said the group welcomed her with open arms.

"Everyone is all really welcoming and really sweet," she said.

Lady Pros take top spot at home tournament

Volleyball team travels to Heppner Saturday

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant Union Prospectors volleyball team took first place in the Grant Union Invitational Tournament Saturday to kick off the season.

In the all-day, six-school pool tournament in the Grant Union High School gym, the Lady Pros won six games in pool play before heading into their bracket.

Grant Union faced Crane in the semifinals and won the first set 25-18 and the second 25-20.

Prospectors head coach Shanna Northway said the team had been sitting for two and a half hours before their game against Crane and came out "kind of flat," and it took a little bit to get going.

But the Lady Pros rode the momentum from the win over Crane into the finals, dominat-



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

From left, Grant Union sophomore Halle Parsons, sophomore Brilynn Combs, head coach Shanna Northway, senior Grace Taylor, senior Paige Gerry, sophomore Drewsey Williams, senior Carson Weaver, sophomore Jaydika Anderson, senior Lauryn Pettyjohn and freshman Addy Northway celebrate after their first-place finish Saturday at the Grant Union Invitational Tournament.



Lauryn Pettyjohn



Grace Taylor

ing Jordan Valley in two decisive sets, 25-20 in the first and 25-11 in the second.

Northway said the team is

playing well together and has great chemistry. She said they are a strong-serving team.

"We just keep other teams from being able to get into their offense," she said. "Jordan Valley has some really, really great hitters, and we didn't have to defend them because they just couldn't get into their offense."

Lauryn Pettyjohn said the communication between the

team has been much better this year.

"Our communication has made a big difference," Pettyjohn said. "We kind of have better team chemistry than we did last year."

Next up, Grant Union's volleyball team will travel to the Heppner Invitational Tournament on Sept. 4. The competition kicks off at 9 a.m. at Heppner High School.



Eagle file photo

Panthers head coach Nick Thompson huddles up with his offense during a game last spring.

'The mindset of a successful team'

Panther football team shows promise at jamboree

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

Prairie City's football made a good showing Saturday at the jamboree game in Echo.

Nick Thompson, Panthers head coach, said in addition to Echo, the squad faced teams from Huntington, Joseph and Wasco.

In the jamboree format, Thompson said each team gets about 10 plays on offense or defense against each opponent.

Though it was less game time than a full quarter, Thompson said it was an excellent opportunity to see how they would match up against the rest of the league this season.

Thompson said, by watching the film from the contest and talking to spectators, he believes the High Desert League should be competitive this year, which, he said, is a "good thing."

"Rather than having one really dominant team or two dominant teams, I think it's going to be up for grabs," he said. "I'm excited about that."

Thompson said the Panther defense did not allow Echo to get a first down to kick off the jamboree.

He said offensive highlights included two rushing touchdowns from junior Cole Teel. One of Teel's touchdowns was a 50-yard rush, Thompson said.

He said sophomore Lane Clark, a backup running back, stepped up and showed "good things" as well.

"He's never played running back and showed some really good things," Thompson said.

Overall, Thompson said Clark rushed for 50 yards and got an interception during the defensive series against Huntington. "He did really well," Thompson said. "I was impressed."

Thompson said Wes Voigt, who stepped up as quarterback as a freshman, connected with senior John Titus for a 50-yard touchdown pass.

Thompson said sophomore guard Cody Reagan had two receptions and played well on the offensive and defensive lines. He said Reagan caused pressure on defense and split a sack with junior Eli Wright, and then got another one by himself.

Thompson said Tucker Wright, who played linebacker, stepped up defensively as well and got an interception.

Overall, Thompson said the Panthers are playing well as a team. At the same time, he said, they have improvements to make.

He said the team has new additions from Grant Union with brothers Eli and Tucker Wright, and Trey Brown.

Thompson said the Panthers are more mature this season with an eagerness to learn.

He said he talked to a couple of the players on the bus ride home Saturday about wanting to see their teammates succeed as much or more than they want to succeed themselves.

That, Thompson said, "is the mindset of a successful team."

Silvies to host championships for golf associations

Blue Mountain Eagle

Silvies Valley Ranch will be the host of two upcoming golf tournaments in the Pacific Northwest region.

The Pacific Northwest Golf Association will be having its 37th Men's Mid-Amateur Championship Sept. 14-16. The Oregon Golf Association 17th Tour Championship will be held the following weekend, Sept. 25-26.

The PPGA Men's Mid-Amateur Championship features a 54-hole stroke format that will be played on the ranch's Hankins

and Craddock courses. The schedule of the tournament is as follows:

Round 1: Tuesday, Sept. 14 – Craddock Course

Round 2: Wednesday, Sept. 15 – Hankins Course

Round 3: Thursday, Sept. 16 – Craddock Course

The PPGA held its first Mid-Amateur championship in 1985 at the Skagit Golf and Country Club. The last champion of the tournament was Jon McCaslin back in 2019 at The Home Course in DuPont, Washington.

The OGA's Tour Championship is an invitation-only, two-day event that features both individual and partner competitions. The Individual Series will be composed of 36 holes of individual stroke play. The Partner Series will feature 36 holes of four-ball play, where the lower score of the two partners is the team score for each hole.

OGA competitions are held annually at select public and private courses throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington.

For more information about Silvies Valley Ranch, visit silvies.us or call 1-800-SILVIES.

Sherman sets state weightlifting record

Bench press and deadlift wins earn gym owner 'Most Inspirational' award

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

A Grant County gym owner set two state weightlifting records on Aug. 14 at the Idaho State Championships in New Plymouth.

Megan Sherman, the owner of Canyon Creek Cross Training in John Day, set the state record in bench press and deadlift, winning the competition's "Most Inspirational" award.

Sherman, 37, said after she missed the three attempts on the squats por-



Megan Sherman

tion of the weightlifting competition, she returned and took the top spot in bench press and deadlift in the 148-pound division.

On her first attempt on the squats, she said she missed the rack, and then on the second, she said she did not get deep enough on the squat. On the third, Sherman said she decided to up her weight and could not get it back up.

"It was a little bit of a heartbreak," Sherman said. "I almost cried."

She said she had some disruptions in her routine, which included a lack of sleep. The disruption in her practice, coupled with the pressure of per-

forming in front of a crowd of upwards of 200 people and about 50 other lifters, got "in her head," she said.

She said she had to get herself back to a place of "pure focus."

Sherman said she has multiple state records. For example, in the non-drug tested division, she has the squat, bench and total weight records.

Sherman said her goal in competing in the contests is to come in and set a bar for someone else to try to beat.

She said the competitions also get her out of her comfort zone as she said she is a little "introverted."

"It's kind of fun for me to go (compete)," she said. "And if I come back with something, then it's more accreditation for my gym."

SPORTS SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, SEPT. 3

Prairie City/Burnt River football @ Dayville/Monument, 1 p.m.

Prairie City/Burnt River volleyball @ Dayville/Monument – canceled

SATURDAY, SEPT. 4

Grant Union volleyball @ Heppner Invitational Tournament, Heppner High School, 9 a.m.

Prairie City/Burnt River volleyball vs. Lone/Arlington, TBD

Grant Union boys cross country team ranked fifth overall in poll

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

A coach's preseason poll ranked the Grant Union boys cross country team fifth overall in Divisions 1A-2A.

Sonna Smith, Grant Union's boys cross country head coach, said the team has all but two returning runners from last year's squad. Smith noted in a Monday email the team was

ranked eighth in the state for Divisions 1A-2A at the end of last season.

This season, Smith said, the team has two new freshman boys to round out the team, Logan Randleas and Reid Dole.

She said the girls team did not get ranked in the top 10. However, she pointed out they compete in divisions 1A-3A, a much larger pool.

The girls team, Smith said,

did not lose any runners last season, and this year, she said, they added two freshmen Eliza Ashley and Maddie Bailey, a sophomore Alyssa Catalani and a junior Emma Schlarbaum.

Seventh Street Complex Time Trials

Boys
Brady Dole: 18:34
Quinn Larson: 20:31
Logan Randleas: 22:08

Max Bailey: 22:59
Skylar Boyd: 23:33
Reid Dole: 24:36
Landon Boyd: 25:27
Girls
Maddie Bailey: 24:33
Kate Hughes: 25:50
Abbie Justice: 29:23
Riley Robertson: 30:30
Alicia Archibald: no time
Emma Schlarbaum: no time
Alyssa Catalani: no time
Paige Weaver: no time