



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

Prairie City's football team stands at attention during the national anthem Friday before their first home game of the season against Wheeler County. The Panthers honored the 13 service members killed in Afghanistan last month.

# Panthers drop home opener to Wheeler County, 26-12

Prairie City beat Monument/Dayville the week before

By Steven Mitchell  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Prairie City High School's varsity football team lost their home opener Friday, 26-12, to Wheeler County.

The Panthers, fresh off a 54-0 win over Dayville/Monument last week, kept the game close throughout.

In the first quarter, Prairie City junior running back Cole Teel put the Panthers on the board with a touchdown. However, the Rattlers blocked a field goal attempt and answered back with a touchdown on the next possession.

The Panthers' defense held Wheeler's offense scoreless for the rest of the first quarter, but the Rattlers put another touchdown on the board before halftime.

Then, with a little less than three minutes to go in the third quarter,

Prairie City senior John Titus scored a touchdown to put the Panthers within one point of the Rattlers.

Wheeler was able to find a moderate offensive rhythm, scoring two more times in the third quarter, but the Panthers did not go down without a fight.

The Panthers' defense was relentless. Midway into the fourth quarter, junior Doyal Lawrence got an interception while Trey Brown picked up a sack.

Thompson said after the game that the Rattlers put a lot of pressure on Prairie City's offense which in turn "caused a few issues." However, he said the offensive line played well. "That was varsity football," he said.

Teel said, while the team did not play "great," they played "hard." "We did not run out of energy, and



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Prairie City junior Cole Teel (26) rushes the ball down the field Friday during the Panthers' home opener against Wheeler County. Prairie City lost 26-12 and is now 1-1 for the season.



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Prairie City senior John Titus runs the ball into the end zone Friday for the Panthers in the second half of the team's home opener against Wheeler County. The Panthers lost the game 26-12.

Thompson said he is impressed with the whole team, and Friday's game was valuable in that the team has a better read on where they match up in the league.

"Football's a funny game," he said. "You win some. You lose some. But we'll be ready next week."

## SHOOTING THE BREEZE BUILDING A FOUNDATION

One of the most important skills a hunter can develop is the ability to quickly build a stable shooting position. I watch hunting videos where they see the animal and then dink around getting set up for a shot and ask myself what I am doing wrong. Most of the time I find that I have mere seconds between seeing my target and shooting before the opportunity is lost.

Taking the time to learn what does and doesn't work will help you capitalize on your shot opportunities. Generally speaking, the closer to the ground you can get, the more stable you will be. While prone is usually best, I have rarely



Rod Carpenter

Shooting sticks are a real help here. To really make this position stable, straighten out your left leg and bring your right leg up so that your right elbow can rest on it. Take your pack and stuff it into the hole created between your right arm and leg for support. Use your left hand to hold the rifle in the crotch

of the shooting sticks and lean into them. Should you be unfortunate enough to be a lefty, you will of course have to reverse the operation. Quick note, any time you are using a rest like a bipod, shooting sticks or some kind of tripod, you should be pushing into it, not pulling it back into you. The tacti-cool kids call this "loading," and it makes for a smoother recoil impulse and better accuracy.

Of course, sitting or kneeling to use a rock or log is pretty common, but you should try it in practice because it really isn't as stable as some may think. When you are using something hard for a rest, it

is a good practice to put something soft, at least your hand, between the rest and the rifle. If the rifle is in direct contact with a hard surface when it is fired, it will bounce and throw the shot high. And you risk scratching your rifle, and that would be really tragic.

The least stable position, of course, is standing, but should still be practiced. It can be made more stable by using some kind of support like a fence post, or tree branch. Many moons ago I was fighting my way through a giant alder patch when I spied an elk walking away across a draw. I was neck deep in brush so I grabbed a handful of limbs in front of me to

use as a rest and was able to fill my tag. When using a rest while standing, don't make the mistake of putting one foot in front of the other. Your feet should be a little wider than shoulder width apart and squared up to the target. Lean into the support as much as you can.

In a world where tags are becoming increasingly rare and expensive, it is well worth your time to be prepared for any opportunity you may have.

Share your thoughts with us at shootingthebreezebme@gmail.com.

Rod Carpenter is a husband, father and huntin' fool.

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### Prairie City beats Dayville/Monument, 54-0

Prairie City football head coach Nick Thompson said his team had a collective total of 316 yards on offense and seven touchdowns in their season-opening win over Dayville/Monument, 54-0.

Prairie City defense, according to Thompson, held Dayville/Monument to a negative 37 yards. Meanwhile,

the team made six out of their seven field goal attempts.

Junior running back Cole Teele rushed for 92 yards and two touchdowns on six carries and then threw a 51-yard pass for a touchdown to sophomore quarterback Wes Voigt. Teele also had a reception for 51 yards.

Sophomore Trey Brown had one reception for 30 yards and then scored a touchdown as well, Thompson said.

On the defensive side of the ball, Tucker Wright had seven tackles, while Cody Reagan's pair of tackles led to a loss of yards and the other a sack.

Brown had two tackles, and Eli Wright had six and a half tackles.

### Grant Union volleyball team off to a 5-2 start to its season

The Lady Pros picked

up a win against Cove but dropped the next game to Baker on Sept. 10 at the Baker Invitational Tournament.

At the East vs. West Tournament at Heppner High School Sept. 4, the Pros bested Weston-McEwen and Heppner 3-0, but dropped their game against Vernonia 3-1.

The Eagle could not reach Grant Union High

School volleyball head coach Shanna Northway for comment before press time.

### Dayville/Monument varsity football team drops second in a row

Dayville/Monument's football team lost its second consecutive game, 20-6. The Eagle was unable to reach Dayville/Monument football team head coach Tim Auty.

### Dayville/Monument volleyball team picks up first win of the season

After their first two games were canceled, the Dayville/Monument volleyball team picked up their first win of the season Friday, besting Huntington 3-1.

The Eagle was unable to reach Dayville/Monument's volleyball team head coach Treila Smith.

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