

# Grant Union JV bests Dayville/Monument

By STEVEN MITCHELL  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Grant Union's junior varsity volleyball team defeated the Dayville/Monument varsity squad 3-1 on Tuesday, Sept. 28, in a nonconference tilt.

Grant Union is a 2A school that plays in the Blue Mountain Conference, while 1A Dayville/Monument competes in the High Desert League.

In a seesaw game where the Tigers were up by as much as five points, the Lady Pros came away from the match with the win.

Triela Smith, Dayville/



**Katelyn Barker** **Layla Wenick**  
**Aubrianna Osborne** **Bethany Wilburn**

Monument's head volleyball coach, said her team has good instincts but needs more playing time.

Smith told the newspaper that Grant Union's junior varsity team is fun to play and she was glad her team had the chance to play the Lady Pros.

Katelyn Barker, Dayville/Monument senior, said the

Tigers made good serves but struggled with their transitioning. By the time they made adjustments and got into a groove, it was too late to bring the matches back.

Barker said the team learned some important lessons the Tigers can bring to the squad's next couple of games.

Aubrianna Osborne, a



Steven Mitchell/Blue Mountain Eagle

**The Dayville/Monument varsity volleyball team gets into position Sept. 28 during the squad's game against Grant Union's junior varsity team.**

senior, said the Tigers are a young team and the most important thing for the team is to keep learning. The Tigers,

Osborne said, are not yet at a level where they can win many games against teams like Grant Union's junior varsity.

"Learning and improving is what's most important," Osborne said.

With a team culture that values learning and growing over winning and losing, Barker and Osborne said, the team's freshmen are eager to improve.

"They do the best they can, and they try really hard," Osborne said.

For her part, Bethany Wilburn, a freshman, said the seniors have been very supportive and she is learning and growing with the team.

"We try to be the older sisters," Barker said, "like what we wish we had when we were freshmen."

# Lady Pros win big as Dig Pink returns

By STEVEN MITCHELL  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Grant Union's volleyball team picked up a pair of wins on Saturday, Oct. 2, putting down both Enterprise and Pilot Rock by identical 3-0 scores in front of a packed gym that was a sea of pink ribbons, pink balloons and pink uniforms as the team brought back its annual Dig Pink event after a one-year hiatus due to COVID-19.



Grace Taylor

The year, according to Principal Ryan Gerry, the annual rally donates all of the funds from ticket sales and a raffle basket with donated items from local businesses to the Blue Mountain Hospi-



Steven Mitchell/Blue Mountain Eagle  
**Grant Union senior Paige Gerry jumps up to spike the ball Saturday, Oct. 2, during the Lady Pros' Dig Pink game.**

tal Foundation to help purchase a 3-D mammogram machine.

Gerry said volleyball teams around the state have their own versions of a Dig Pink game to help raise awareness of breast cancer and raise money to

fight the disease. What sets Grant Union apart, he said, is that the school has made the game an event with colorful decorations and recognition of community members who have been impacted by breast cancer.

Gerry said the volleyball team and a group of parents and coaches decorate the gym for the event every year.

Grant Union head volleyball coach Shanna Northway facilitates and organizes the entire event and recruits people to help support the process.

Northway declined the Eagle's request for comment.

Gerry said Grant Union would have the drawing for the fundraiser baskets on Oct. 19, during the Lady Pros' final home game against Burns.

The Oct. 19 matchup at home will be a rematch for Grant Union after falling to Burns 3-1 on Sept. 28.

# McCracken takes state barrel racing honors

By STEVEN MITCHELL  
Blue Mountain Eagle

A Grant Union High School student took the top spot in barrel racing and second in pole bending in the state, as the Oregon High School Rodeo Association saddled up the season.

Bailey McCracken, a sophomore, finished first out of a pool of 24 other riders in barrel racing. Barrel racing is when a horse and rider attempt to run a pattern around barrels in the fastest time.

McCracken finished with a cumulative score of 24, while finishing pole-bending in the No. 2 spot with a score of 41, beating out 23 other riders. Pole bending is a timed event, where a rider runs the horse through a weaving or serpentine path around six poles arranged in a line.

Another Grant Union student, Sarah Clark, took the no. 15 spot, with a pole-bending cumulative score of 4.

In the final rodeo of the season in Condon on Sept. 24-25, McCracken placed fifth in the top 10 in barrel racing with a time of 18.3 and fifth in pole bending with a time of 21.6.

Clark placed seventh out of the top 10 with a time of 21.9 in pole bending.

On the first day of the Condon Rodeo, Rowdy Israel, from Dayville, had a 5.83 time in the breakaway roping event.

Over the summer, Bailey McCracken and her brother Sam competed at the National High School Finals Rodeo in Lincoln, Nebraska. Bailey finished in the top third overall.

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

By STEVEN MITCHELL  
Blue Mountain Eagle

**Grant Union football wins two in a row** Grant Union's football team picked up a win on the road on Friday, Oct. 1, a 56-6 shellacking of the Riverside Pirates in Boardman. It was the Prospectors' second straight win. The team is 2-1 overall and 2-0 in league play.

Jason Miller, Grant Union's head football coach, said in an email Tuesday that the Prospectors' big win at home over Irrigon Sept. 23 helped build momentum for the team's road game at Riverside.

The Pros played well in all aspects of the game, according to Miller. Miller noted the passing game improved substantially. Meanwhile, the squad's defense created three turnovers.

"Weekly improvement is the goal," Miller said, "and it looks like we are taking steps in the right direction."

Miller said Friday's game against Stanfield, a team he called "a quality opponent," will test the Pros' toughness.

**Panthers pounce Huntington, 53-0** Prairie City's football team blew out the Huntington Locomotives 53-0 on Friday, Oct. 1, and went up 3-1 overall and in league play.

Nick Thompson, Panthers head football coach, said Sunday that his team scored 47 points in the first half.

Thompson said 13 players on the team got a tackle; those players included Lane Clark, with five and a half tackles, and Bo Workman, with three tackles, all for a loss of yards.

According to Thompson, the Panther defense forced a total of six turnovers. Wes Voigt recovered one fumble, while Tucker Wright forced a fumble and then later recovered another.

Thompson noted that Doyal Lawrence played a significant factor defensively and picked up four and a half tackles.

Having an early and substantial lead allowed younger players more playing time and gave others on the team opportunities to play different positions.

"I was really impressed by quite a few of these guys that haven't played a bunch of minutes yet this year," Thompson said. "They definitely took advantage of (the opportunity)."

**GUHS cross country in top 10 at Baker Invite** Grant Union's cross country team took seventh place at the Baker Invite Saturday, Oct. 1. Quinn Larsen, a junior, fin-

ished the boys varsity 5,000 meters with a time of 19.51.

Junior Brady Dole finished with a time of 20.19; Max Bailey, a junior, finished in 21.39; Skylor Boyd, a sophomore, 22.21; Landon Boyd, a sophomore, 22.28; and freshman Logan Randleas followed with a time of 23.16.

Smith said the girls team still did not have enough runners to be considered a full team. However, Smith said, the absent runners would be back ahead of the Oct. 16 Burns meet.

Nonetheless, freshman Maddie Bailey ran in the girls 5,000 meters, clocking a time of 26:28. Riley Robertson, a senior, logged a time of 29:03, and senior Paige Weaver finished with a time of 30:14.

Smith said a group of parents made the trek to Baker City to cheer on the Pros runners, and they made an impact on the athletes and coaches.

"We had great support at the Baker meet from parents and want to let them know how much it means to the athletes and coaches," Smith said in a Monday email.

Smith said overall the boys team is running well, but the squad needs to improve over the next two weeks for upcoming meets.

Grant Union's Oct. 27 home meet, the Gold Rush Run, followed two days later by the Special District 3XC, both will be held at the Seventh Street Complex in John Day.

For now, though, Smith said the runners are focusing on preparing for the Heppner meet on Thursday, Oct. 7.

Thursday's meet in Heppner, Smith noted, is where athletes can have a breakout performance for the season.

**Dayville/Monument volleyball drops two going into busy stretch** After back-to-back losses on the road, the Dayville/Monument volleyball team is looking ahead to games against Mitchell/Wheeler/Spray and Ukiah this week. The Tigers fell to Crane 3-0 on Saturday, Oct. 2, and South Wasco County 3-1 on Friday, Oct. 1.

Triela Smith, Dayville/Monument head volleyball coach, could not be reached for comment.

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

Thursday, Oct. 7	Grant Union volleyball @ Heppner, 5 p.m.	Stanfield, 3 p.m.	Prairie City football vs. Pine Eagle, 7 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 8	Grant Union cross country @ Mustang Invite, 3 p.m.	Dayville/Monument volleyball @ Wheeler County, 2 p.m.	Prairie City volleyball vs. Pine Eagle, 5 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 8	Dayville/Monument football @ Wheeler County, 4:30 p.m.	Grant Union volleyball @ Weston McEwen/Stamfield, 3 p.m.	Saturday, Oct. 9
Friday, Oct. 8	Dayville/Monument volleyball @ Wheeler County, 4:30 p.m.	Grant Union volleyball @ Weston McEwen/Stamfield, 3 p.m.	Dayville/Monument volleyball @ Ukiah, TBD
Friday, Oct. 8	Grant Union football vs.		

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