



Steven Mitchell/Blue Mountain Eagle

Prospectors head coach Jason Miller gives the team a pep talk on Friday, Oct. 15, against the Heppner Mustangs.

# A ROUGH HOMECOMING

Grant Union Pros go down swinging against No. 1 Heppner

By STEVEN MITCHELL  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant Union's football team had a tall task in front of them Friday, Oct. 15, in the form of the No. 1-ranked Heppner Mustangs.

The Mustangs were not only undefeated, they were ranked first in the state in Division 2A heading into Friday's matchup. In fact, no team in the Division 2A Special District 5 league had scored a point against them all year.

The Prospectors put up a fight but came up short, falling 36-12 to the powerful Heppner squad on homecoming night at Grant Union High School.

The loss left Grant Union 3-2

overall and 3-1 in league play.

Down 36-0, the Pros managed to crack the scoring column before the first half was in the books on a 60-yard kickoff return by Justin Hodge. Late in the game, Hodge had a touchdown called back on a holding penalty.

Grant Union's head football coach, Jason Miller, said his team did not perform as well as it should have against top-ranked team in the state.

"We did not play tough or disciplined," Miller said. "Heppner is a quality football team."

Quarterback Maverick Miller, a senior, said the team knows they could have played better.

"I think we were all pretty nervous," Maverick said. "We were playing the best team in the state."

Toward the end of the game, however, that nervousness seemed to have disappeared.

With one second left on the

clock, Tanler Fuller caught a TD pass from Miller, a never-say-die effort in what may have been his final play in a Prospector uniform at Grant Union.

"It came down to the end of the game," Fuller said. "At half-time, we built up a lot of intensity. We were losing pretty badly, but we decided to come out (strong), this being our last home game, and Maverick threw a perfect ball, and I went up and got it and got to score a touchdown as a senior on homecoming night."

All in all, Hodge thought the team did a good job. "We made mistakes, but we kept playing," he said.

If the Prospectors win one of their next two games, against Umatilla and Weston-McEwen, they will be in the playoffs, Miller said.

And if the Pros win two play-off games, then Grant Union could play at home again, Hodge added.

# Prairie City edges Dayville/Monument

By STEVEN MITCHELL  
Blue Mountain Eagle

PRAIRIE CITY — Dayville/Monument and Prairie City were neck and neck at times in a three-set thriller Wednesday, Oct. 13, but the Panthers pulled away to beat the Tigers 3-0.

Dayville/Monument played strong in the first set and at one point jumped out to a 24-19 lead, but Prairie City capitalized on a couple of errors and outscored the Tigers down the stretch to win 26-24.

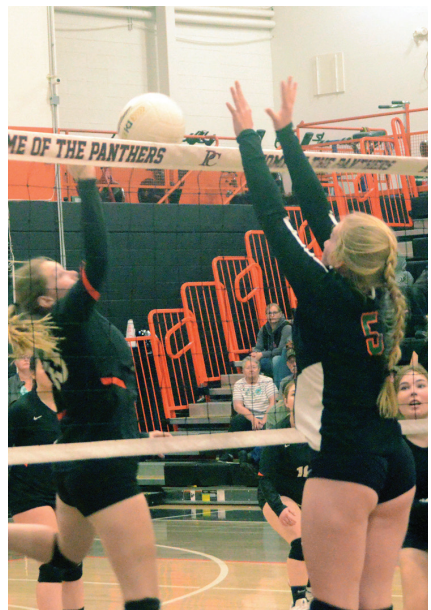
In the second set, the Panthers established the tempo early on and took a 17-11 lead. But while the Tigers clawed their way back at one point to get within four, Prairie City ran away with the win, 25-18.

In the final set, Prairie City got into form quickly and extended an early lead. The Tigers chipped away at the deficit to get within five points midway through the set, but the Panthers went on to win 25-13.

Despite the loss, Dayville/Monument head coach Treila Smith told the Eagle after the game that her team was peaking at the right time.

Smith said the team had excellent serves, blocked well and provided great coverage. But in the end, Smith noted, minor errors cost the team points.

Nonetheless, Smith said she was proud of her players and that as the season has progressed, so has her team. "We're inexperienced," Smith



Steven Mitchell/Blue Mountain Eagle

Hannah Wall (left) leaps to hit the ball.

said. "But if you watch our freshmen from the beginning of the season until the end, we have been amazing."

Jordan Bass, Prairie City's head coach, told the newspaper the Panthers had a long day of volleyball. Wednesday's match against Dayville/Monument was the team's second.

The Panthers played Adrian and lost 25-22, 25-21, and 29-27. Adrian also bested the Tigers ahead of the team's game against the Panthers, 25-11, 25-21, and 25-17.

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### SPORTS SCHEDULE

#### WEDNESDAY, OCT. 20

Grant Union volleyball @ Nyssa, 4:30 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, OCT. 21

Grant Union cross country, Gold Rush Run, Seventh Street Sports Complex, 4:30 p.m.

Prairie City football vs. Joseph, 7 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, OCT. 22

Grant Union football @ Umatilla, 7 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, OCT. 23

Grant Union volleyball, Blue Mountain Conference District Tournament, Grant Union, noon

High Desert League District Volleyball Tournament @ Prairie City, 10 a.m.

By STEVEN MITCHELL  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant Union's girls' cross country team finished in second place at the Idlewild cross country meet in Burns, while the boys' team was edged out of second place by just one point.

Sonna Smith, Grant Union's head coach, said the team performed great in the four-day meet.

Two Grant Union boys finished in the top 10 overall. Brady Dole took sixth place with a time of 19:33, while fellow junior Quinn Larson posted a time of 21:14 to finish 10th.

Junior Max Bailey finished 14th with a time of 22:46. He was followed by sophomore Landon Boyd in 15th place with a time of 23:01, freshman Logan Randleas in 18th at 23:33, sophomore Skylor Boyd in 20th at 23:48 and freshman Reid Dole in 22nd with a time of 24:54.

For the girls, four runners placed in the top 10 overall.

Sophomore Alicia Archibald finished the 5,000-meter course with a time of 25:03, good for fourth place

overall, with freshman Maddie Bailey right behind in fifth with a time of 25:57. Katelyn Hughes was eighth with a time of 27:53, while fellow senior Paige Weaver clocked in at 28:50 to finish ninth.

Two more Grant Union girls finished in the top 20. Riley Robertson, a senior, logged a time of 29:38 to secure 13th place, and freshman Eliza Ashley finished 18th with a time of 38:19.

Smith said the team is excited for Grant Union's home meet, the Gold Rush Run, on Thursday, Oct. 21.

Smith noted that the boys' race would have over 100 competitors and the girls' race would have between 80 and 90.

"It will be a good chance for us to highlight Seventh Street Park and the river running trail to those not from the area," Smith said. "The runners are also aiming for their best times of the season."

#### Prairie City football wins fourth consecutive game

The Panthers beat Echo 44-22 on Friday, Oct. 15, in what Prairie City head coach Nick Thompson said was a

quarter, which saw the Panthers run away with the game.

The difference-maker, Thompson said, was the team's physicality and execution in running the football down the field.

Thompson gave credit where credit was due, recognizing that Echo was a formidable foe. He said the Cougars are one of the few teams his squad faced this year that threw the football predominantly and predicted their

touchdowns on the season.

"(Teal) has continually proven himself every week," Thompson said, adding that his star running back "needs to be in the conversation" about the top players in the High Desert League.

Quarterback Wes Voigt was six of 13 for 100 yards and had two passing touchdowns with one interception, Thompson said. John Titus had one carry for a three-yard touchdown. Eli Wright had three receptions for 50 yards and a touchdown. Wright's touchdown, Thompson added, was the icebreaker at the end of the game that catalyzed his team's turnaround.

Defensively, Wright had six and a half tackles, including three sacks and another tackle for a loss. Cody Reagan had three and a half tackles and one tackle for loss. Tucker Wright had six tackles, Voigt had five, and Brian Brown had two sacks and one solo tackle.

"Those guys were flying around," Thompson said. "It was a great performance from them."

The Panthers improved to

5-1 in their division and face Joseph on Thursday, Oct. 21, at 7 p.m. in Prairie City.

#### Dayville/Monument football team falls to Pine Eagle

The Tigers fell to Pine Eagle 57-6 in their final game of the season. The newspaper was unable to reach Tigers head coach Tim Auty for comment.

#### Dayville/Monument volleyball team defeats Harper Charter

The Dayville/Monument volleyball team defeated Harper Charter 3-0 to improve to 3-8 overall and 2-4 in league play.

#### Grant Union volleyball team wins two in a row

The Lady Pros picked up a pair of wins on Saturday, Oct. 16, beating both Enterprise and Pilot Rock by identical 3-0 scores to improve their record to 18-9 overall and 10-2 in league play.

#### Prairie City volleyball team drops two in a row

Prairie City's volleyball team lost to Crane and Jordan Valley, dropping both matches by a score of 3-0. The Lady Panthers' overall record is 5-9, and they are 2-3 in league play.

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### First Place Awards

- Best Writing** - "A New Generation of Political Action," "Plowing Snow," "COVID-19 Fallout," Rudy Diaz
- Best Graphics** - "Oregon Lawmakers Unholster New Gun Controls," Randy Wriighthouse
- Best Government Coverage** - "Sex Talk," Sean Hart
- Best Coverage of Business or Economic Issues** - "Quarantine Lean," Steven Mitchell
- Best Enterprise Reporting** - "EOC Overspends Budget," Steven Mitchell
- Best Page One Design** - Randy Wriighthouse
- Best Special Section or Issue** - "Explore," Blue Mountain Eagle staff

### Second Place Awards

- Best Spot News Coverage** - Rudy Diaz, "Neighbors Rescue Jewell from Fire"
- Best Writing** - "The Changing Face of Rural County Fairs," "BLM March Proceeds Peacefully," "Many Rapid Tests Not Being Counted by the State," Steven Mitchell
- Best News Photo** - "BLM March Proceeds Peacefully," Steven Mitchell
- Best Sports Photo** - "Prairie City Girls Extend Win Streak," Steven Mitchell
- Best Overall Website** - Blue Mountain Eagle staff
- Best Editorial** - Sean Hart
- Best Enterprise Reporting** - "Sex Talk," Sean Hart

### Third Place Awards

- Best Lifestyle Coverage** - Steven Mitchell, "A Distant Mother's Day"
- Best Editorial Page** - Sean Hart
- Best Special Section or Issue** - "Election 2020," Blue Mountain Eagle staff



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- Seaside Signal
- Redmond Spokesman
- Chinook Observer
- Coast River Business Journal