

District volleyball roundup

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The Grant Union volleyball team opened its postseason with a 3-1 win over Union Saturday, Oct. 23.

The Lady Pros bested the Bobcats in the first set, 25-19, but dropped the second one, 25-15.

Grant Union clawed their way back in the third set, 25-19, and won a 25-22 nail-biter to close out the match and move on to the league playoff match in Stanfield Tuesday, Oct. 26. That match began after press time.

Senior Paige Gerry said the team was generally pretty nervous, with Saturday's game being so consequential. However, she said, the team knew they would come in and "get it done."

In the last minute of the fourth set, which saw the Lady Pros down 22-20 at one point, senior Grace Taylor said the team turned the "fear into excitement" because they knew they would keep moving on to the second round of the playoffs.

Prairie City

The Prairie City Lady Panthers hosted the six-match High Desert League Tournament Saturday, Oct. 23.

In the first match, Prairie City swept Dayville/Monument 25-13, 25-7, 25-10, but they lost their second match to Crane 3-1. However, the Lady Panthers came back to win their third match



Steven Mitchell/Blue Mountain Eagle
Grant Union senior Paige Gerry (8) blocks a shot by Union sophomore Marielle Graffunder Saturday, Oct. 23, during the Lady Pros' district playoff match against the Bobcats. Grant Union won the match 3-1 and moved on to face Stanfield Tuesday, Oct. 26.

against Adrian 3-1 and will go on the road to face Central Christian in their first league playoff match at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27.



Contributed photo/Chris Carlin Photography
Dayville/Monument freshman Bethany Wilburn chases down a ball Saturday, Oct. 23, as senior Ana Bayard (11) and freshman Jin Bo Ciochetti (3) look on during the Tigers' match against the Panthers at the High Desert Volleyball Tournament in Prairie City.



Steven Mitchell/Blue Mountain Eagle
The Grant Union girls cross country race kicks off Thursday, Oct. 21, at the Seventh Street Sports Complex in John Day.

Prospectors run for gold

By STEVEN MITCHELL
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JOHN DAY — Grant Union High School hosted upwards of 100 cross country runners for the Prospectors' 2021 home meet, the Gold Rush Run, at the Seventh Street Sports Complex on Thursday, Oct. 21.

Visiting schools included Heppner, Burns, Vale, Nixyaawii Community, Union, Pilot Rock, Enterprise, Four Rivers and Culver.

Prospectors head coach Sonna Smith said the meet was an excellent way to showcase the Seventh Street Complex and the riverside running trail for those not familiar with the area.

The Pros honored seniors Paige Weaver, Riley Robertson and Katelyn Hughes to kick off the meet.

Hughes said the opening ceremonies brought a realization that this was her last home meet with teammates she has grown up with.

While Grant Union will be hosting the 3A/2A/1A-Special District 3 Championships Friday, Oct. 29, at the Seventh Street Complex, Robertson said Thursday's meet was her last high school cross country competition. After that, she said she would be in Nashville for the FFA National Convention.

"I was really excited at first (about the race), but I almost started to cry a couple of times because Kate and I have been running together for three years," Robertson said.

Robertson said initially she did not know if she would enjoy cross country, but ultimately she came to love the sport.

"It is hard, but it's rewarding," she said. Robertson called Smith an amazing coach and said the sport has a supportive culture.

"You can be first or you can be last, and you'll definitely get the same amount of cheering," she said, "as long as you're gutting it out."

And she said the people who cheer are not necessarily supporters of one's own team.

"It's awesome to run into that screaming crowd," she said. "It gives you the energy to keep going."



Brady Dole, a junior, finished in 18th place with a time of 18:05.



Quinn Larson, a junior, finished 29th with a time of 18:59.

Smith said Grant Union ran good races overall. For the boys, she said all but two athletes finished with their best times of the season. She added that the two who did not log their best times were struggling with injuries.

In the boys' race, Prospector junior Brady Dole finished 18th overall with a time of 18:05. Dole said he carved roughly 25 seconds off his previous time. Junior Quinn Larson finished 29th overall with a time of 18:59, followed by junior Max Bailey, who finished 55th with a time of 20:43. Reid Dole finished 74th overall with a time of 22:59, while fellow freshman Logan Randleas finished 84th with a time of 24:53.

On the girls' side, Smith said all the runners had their season's best times. Aliciana Archibald, a sophomore, finished 14th overall with a time of 22:58, lopping off nearly four minutes from her last time. Maddie Bailey, a freshman, finished 26th overall, logging a time of 23:39. Hughes finished 39th with a time of 25:24, while sophomore Abbie Justice finished 55th with a time of 28:29. Eliza Ashley, a freshman, finished 60th with a time of 30:04.

District tourney

For the first time since the 1990s, Grant Union will be hosting the district tournament this year. The meet is set for 3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 29, at the Seventh Street Sports Complex.

"Grant Union athletes are ready to race hard on Friday," Smith said. "I would like to invite everyone to come and support the team."

Smith said she is looking for six more volunteers. Anyone interested can text Smith at 541-620-0073.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

Prairie City will host Alsea on Saturday, Oct. 30, at 1 p.m.

Grant Union falls to Umatilla, 28-22

Prairie City beats Joseph for fifth win in a row

After falling to the Eagles 48-26 earlier this year, the Panther football team avenged the loss with a decisive 66-12 win over Joseph on Thursday, Oct. 21.

The newspaper was unable to get in touch with Prairie City head coach Nick Thompson for comment.

After a difficult homecoming loss to Heppner earlier this month, the Prospector football team fell to Umatilla by six points on the road Friday, Oct. 22. Grant Union will take on Weston-McEwen Friday, Oct. 29, at 7 p.m.

Prospectors head coach Jason Miller did not immediately respond to the Eagle's request for comment.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 27	meet, Seventh Street Sports Complex, 3 p.m.
Prairie City volleyball @ Central Christian, 5:30 p.m.	Grant Union football @ Weston-McEwen, 7 p.m.
FRIDAY, OCT. 29	SATURDAY, OCT. 30
Grant Union cross country, Special District 3A/2A/1A	Prairie City football vs. Alsea, 1 p.m.

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