By STEVEN MITCHELL Blue Mountain Eagle

PRAIRIE CITY — The Prairie City girls basketball team opened the 2021-22 season in thrilling fashion, fighting off a gritty Enterprise squad to claim a 56-53 double-overtime victory Friday, Dec. 3, in front of a packed gymnasium of hometown fans after a nearly two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was a back-and-forth game that saw the Lady Panthers up by four points early in the first quarter after juniors Betty Ann Wilson, Laken McKay and Kaitlynne Ashley scored a combined 12 points. However, the Lady Outlaws would not go away quietly. They battled back and trailed at the end of the first quarter by one point.

The game tipped back into Enterprise's favor when the squad jumped ahead by as much as three points, but the Lady Panthers knotted up the score 31-31 to end the first half.

The teams remained deadlocked at 39-39 as the game headed into overtime.



Steven Mitchell/Blue Mountain Eagle Prairie City junior Betty Ann Wilson

drives to the hole during the Lady Panthers' season opener Friday, Dec. 3, against Enterprise. Prairie City's girls basketball team won the contest in double overtime, 56-53.

In the first overtime, neither team led by more than a point and ended the extra period at 47 points apiece. Then, however, the game tipped Prairie's way as the squad jumped ahead 51-47 due to Wilson, who scored a game-high 30 points, putting up four points before fouling out with less than two minutes left to play.

While Enterprise tied the game with a little over a minute left to play, clutch free throws by freshmen Savanah Watterson and Reece Jacobs, McKay and sophomore Jaycee Winegar allowed the squad to pull out the win.

Prairie's head coach, Bo Workman, said Friday's victory was a genuine team effort and showed the rest of the girls that even with Wilson on the bench, they still had what it took to pull out the victory.

Workman noted that Wilson is the team leader.

"She know's how to play basketball, makes everybody better, and everybody's ready.'

Wilson said the team's freshmen have great attitudes and are eager to learn, and added that it meant a lot to her that they stepped up to pull out the win.

"Everybody had a good game," Wilson said, "and everybody played a big

SPORTS ROUNDUP

By STEVEN MITCHELL Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant Union's wrestling season got off to a busy start with competitions in Burns on Friday, Dec. 3, and Baker on Saturday, Dec. 4.

The Prospectors went on the road to compete at the Baker Duals tournament with three other teams, Baker, Imbler, and Nampa Christian/Garden Valley.

Grant Union fell twice to Baker, 60-18 and 42-24. The Prospector grapplers were defeated by Imbler, 24-18, but prevailed against Nampa Christian/Garden Valley,

At Friday's Woodfin Memorial Duals in Burns, the Pros faced Vale, Crane and Burns.

Grant Union lost to Burns, 42-21, tied Crane, 24-24, and fell to Vale, 46-27.

Andy Lusco, Prospectors wrestling coach, said he was pleased with the team's effort.

"Our roster was pretty short of where it needs to be to compete consistently," Lusco said. "We will need to get eligible, healthy, and down to competition weight."

Lusco told the Eagle Grant Union has a young team, and this week the squad would be working on wrestling fundamentals.

"This is a young team and we will get better fast," Lusco said.

Lusco said it is great to be back on the mat during the sport's regular time of year and season after pandemic protocols forced the program to compete in the late spring and summer months.

"We have a great turnout on both the boys' and girls' sides," Lusco said. "And we're excited to see them grow and compete."

SPORTS SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, DEC. 9

Grant Union basketball @ Umatilla, Columbia River Clash, 5,

Prairie City basketball @ Union, Calvin Hiatt Memorial Tourna-

FRIDAY, DEC. 10

SATURDAY, DEC. 11

TUESDAY, DEC. 14

Grant Union boys split at Elgin Tourney

On Friday and Saturday, Grant Union's boys basketball team won one and lost one at the Elgin

Lions Tourney. The Pros decisively defeated Elgin 61-3 in

Saturday's game. Elgin, a younger, smaller team, allowed the Pros to work on building various skills, according to RC Huerta, Grant Union's boys basketball coach.

Huerta said the Pros held their own in Friday's 50-42 loss to Baker.

After Baker put up 20 points in the first quarter, Grant Union clawed their way back and got within four points. But ultimately, Baker beat the Prospectors with free throws down the stretch.

Nonetheless, Huerta said he was proud of how the team stayed scrappy until the final buzzer. "We were on the

ground for balls, and we were hustling and crashing the boards," Huerta The Pros, he said,

rebounded the ball very well for an undersized team. Huerta said he has a

young team this season, and his most important message to them is to play hard on defense, work on the little things, and communicate with one another.

"We have a young team," Huerta said. "And they're hardworking, and they're going to continue to get better and learn."

Grant Union girls win one of two

The Lady Pros won one out of two over the weekend at the Elgin Tourney.

On Saturday, Dec. 4, the girls team fell to La Grande, 49-27, after picking up a 48-38 win over Baker. The Lady Pros are 1-1 on the season.

Panthers topple Outlaws in opener

By STEVEN MITCHELL Blue Mountain Eagle

PRAIRIE CITY — After a nearly two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, Prairie City's boys' basketball team dominated Enterprise 63-45 on Friday, Dec. 3, in the Panthers' sea-

Bo Workman, the Panthers' head coach, said he did not know what to expect after two "I have an almost brand new

team," Workman said. According to Workman, just a few of the players on the squad had played varsity.

One returning varsity player, senior Marcus Judd, said it has been nice to be back.

"It's been too long without the sport," Judd said. "I really missed it, and that's why we put a lot out there tonight."

Judd added that while he missed playing, he had some pre-game jitters, but after the Prairie girls' dramatic double-overtime win, he forgot about them and was pumped to get back on the court.



Steven Mitchell/Blue Mountain Eagle

Prairie City sophomore Wes Voigt goes for a layup Friday, Dec. 3, during the team's season opener against Enterprise. Voigt finished the game with 10 points in Prairie's 63-45 win over the Outlaws.

"That girls game and the double-OT win really got it (nervousness) out of me," Judd said. "After that, I was excited, roaring and ready to go."

Indeed, the Panthers exploded out of the gate. At the end of the first quarter, the squad had a commanding 14-7 lead.

Eli Wright nailed five of his 10 field goals in the first quarter. The 6-foot-3 junior finished

the game with 21 points, while Wes Voigt, a sophomore, connected on two of his three field goals in the first quarter. In the first game of his high school career, Voigt was four of seven at the free-throw line, for a total of 10 points.

Doyal Lawrence, a junior, put on a shooting clinic in the third quarter in his varsity debut, draining four consecutive game with 14 points. Workman said Lawrence's

three-pointers and sinking both

of his free throws to finish the

performance played a significant role in the Panthers' victory. "That was a huge deal," Workman said. "He's just lights

out. When he is on, he is just Lawrence said the win was a team effort.

"We play together, we work hard together, and we just do our best," Lawrence said.

For his part, Judd scored nine points on three field goals and was one of two at the freethrow line, while Tucker Wright finished the game with six points on two field goals and connected on two of his three free-throw attempts. In addition, John Titus, a senior, scored three points from beyond the arc.

While Workman liked what he saw from his brand new team Friday, he said the team has a lot of basketball ahead of them.

"It's going to be a work in progress," Workman said. "We're just going to stay humble. We got a ways to go."

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> "Sleigh Ride" Paint Party! Saturday, December 11, 2021, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

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