Defense keys Lady Pros' win

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

While the Grant Union girls basketball team was handed their first loss in league play Friday, Jan. 7, falling to Enterprise 52-39, the Lady Pros turned things around and defeated Heppner 45-44 in front of a hometown crowd Saturday, Jan. 8, to even out their league record at 1-1.

Short a couple of their starting players, the Lady Pros headed into Saturday's contest a little out of sorts.

"We were kind off-kilter with some of our girls being out," Grant Union senior Riley Robertson said. "But we got back into it."

Both teams battled back and forth in the early going, neither gaining the clear advantage. However, with just over a minute left to play in the first period, the Mustangs nearly cut Grant Union's 12-6 lead in half, and by the end of the first half, Heppner pulled ahead 23-20.

Grant Union senior Carson Weaver said they turned the ball over in the first half but turned things around after halftime and worked together to pull out the win.

"We worked together to relieve the pressure and spread the pressure out," Weaver said.

Senior Riley Robertson said the team does not rely on one player to carry the team.

"It's not like we have a star player," Lady Pro senior Lauryn Pettyjohn said.

Pettyjohn and Robertson combined for 18 points. Meanwhile, senior Grace Taylor led the team with 11 points and was seven of eight at the free-throw line, and Kate Hughes and Paige Weaver (no relation to Carson) combined for 10 points.

Steven Mitchell/Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant Union's Carson Weaver (right) attempts to box out Heppner's Zandra Masterson during the Lady Pros' 45-44 win over the Mustangs Saturday, Jan. 8.

Grant Union boys split over the weekend

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — After winning their first league game Friday, Jan. 7, a decisive 53-38 victory over Enterprise, the Grant Union boys basketball team fell to Heppner 68-37 on Saturday, Jan. 8.

Heading into Saturday's game against the No. 7-ranked Mustangs, the Prospectors had an uphill battle ahead of them. Nonetheless, the squad put up a fight.

"We tried," Prospector senior Parker Neault said after the game. "They're big, fast and know what they're doing."

Neault said the game got off to an "OK" start, but the team did not make shots they needed and struggled to even get the ball to the hoop.

In the first period the Pros held their own, and at one point chipped away at Heppner's lead to get within four points, but the Mustangs opened it up and by the end of the first half, the score was 35-17.

Nonetheless, Neault said the team had improved, getting faster and finding themselves in the right spots defensively.

Ultimately, the team's success in their next league game on Tuesday, Jan. 11, against Pilot Rock will need to revolve around defense, Neault said.

Grant Union's head coach RC Huerta shared the same sentiment at the end of Saturday's game, but with one addition.

"We have to do a better job to execute our game plan and play better defense," Huerta said. "As long as you execute the game plan, things are going to get better."

As for Saturday's game, Huerta also noted that Heppner is a big, strong, athletic and well-coached team. However, Huerta said, the Pros still need to stick to their game plan.

"They (Heppner) executed the game plan better than us today," Huerta said. "And we have to get better at doing that ourselves."

Sophomore Sheldon Lenz and freshman Charley Knowles combined for 18 points, with nine apiece, and led the Pros' offensive effort.

Knowles, who entered the game in the fourth quarter, knocked down a pair of three-pointers and a two-point field goal, and was one of two at the free-throw line.

Meanwhile Lenz knocked down three field goals and made three out of four free throws, while Neault also made three out of four free throws and scored four from the field for a total of seven points.

Freshmen Lukas Blood and Ryland Beil finished the game with four points apiece. Blood scored all his points at the free-throw line, while Beil knocked down a pair of field goals.

Sophomores Talon VanCleave and Eric Culley combined for four points on a couple of field goals.

Steven Mitchell/Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant Union's Parker Neault (5), a senior, drives past Heppner's Brock Hisler Saturday, Jan. 8, in the second half of the Pros' 68-37 loss to the Mustangs.

Grant Union grapplers dominate invitational

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOSEPH — The Grant Union girls wrestling team dominated at the 13-team JoHi Invitational wresting meet Friday, Jan. 7-8, with three grapplers taking first place in their weight classes and two finishing third.

Zoey Beam, June Wolf and Mallory Lusco took first in the 114-117, 127-128, and 204-228 weight divisions, respectively, while Serenity Marcano and Jaydika Anderson took third in the 131-135 and 144-154 weight classes.

Grant Union's girls scored 56 points to take first in the meet as a team. The closest team behind the Lady Pros was Imbler, with 30 points.

On the boys' side, the team took fifth overall, with 92 team points, only two points behind Pine Eagle's fourth-place finish.

Grant Union grappler Justin Hodge brought home a first-place medal in the 160 weight division while Rolando Moreno placed third in the 285 weight class. Mason Benge, grappling in the 132 weight class, finished third.

Jack Strong, wrestling in the 145 weight category, placed fifth. Riddick Hutchison finished fourth in the 170 weight class, while Sam McCracken placed fifth. Alex Finley, wrestling in the 182 weight division, took sixth.

Andy Lusco, Grant Union's head coach, said after a few weeks off, the athletes came back to wrestle and worked hard.

While some members of the team were out with illness, Lusco said that those who could compete wrestled well.

Lusco said the assistant coaches did an excellent job of getting the athletes ready to perform.

This week, Lusco said, the team is preparing for Redmond's Oregon Classic Wrestling Tournament.

The team's preparation will focus on conditioning and skill improvement and getting to proper weight to fill weight classes, Lusco said.

Prairie City girls win one of two

PRAIRIE CITY — After a 49-18 shellacking of Four Rivers Friday, Jan. 7, the Lady Panthers lost 46-44 to Jordan Valley Saturday, Jan. 8. The squad is 1-2 in league play and 5-6 overall.

Prairie City boys split a pair

PRAIRE CITY — Like the girls squad, Prairie City's boys team handily defeated Four Rivers Friday, Jan. 7 at home, but lost a close game to Jordan Valley the following day.

In Friday's matchup, the Panthers downed Four Rivers 65-46, then dropped their Saturday matchup with Jordan Valley, 58-54.

The boys team is 1-2 in league play and 7-4 overall.

The Eagle was unable to reach boys and girls head coach Bo Workman for comment.

Long Creek falls to Adrian

ADRIAN — Long Creek's boys basketball team fell to Adrian 69-11 in a road game on Friday, Jan. 7.

Friday's game was Long Creek's third game of the season. The squad's Jan. 4 game against Dayville/Monument was canceled.

The Eagle was unable to reach coach TC Connor for comment.

Dayville/Monument girls drop two

DAYVILLE — The Dayville/Monument girls basketball team faced stiff competition over the weekend. In the squad's Friday, Jan. 7, matchup at home, Jordan Valley handed the Lady Tigers a 61-11 loss.

Dayville/Monument dropped their second home matchup against Crane 72-5.

The Eagle was unable to reach Lady Tigers head coach Andy Wilburn for comment.

D/M boys lose two after hiatus

DAYVILLE — Dayville/Monument's boys basketball team dropped two in a row at home Friday and Saturday, Jan. 7 and 8, after a long break with the holidays and two cancellations on Dec. 30 and Jan. 4.

In Friday's game the Tigers fell to Jordan Valley 64-30, then lost 85-14 to Crane on Saturday.

Tigers head coach Mike Davis could not be reached for comment.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JAN. 13
Prairie City Basketball vs. Adrian, boys 6, girls 7:30 p.m.
Grant Union Wrestling @ Madras, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 14
Grant Union Basketball @ Stanfield, girls 6 p.m., boys 7:30 p.m.
Long Creek/Ukiah Basketball vs. Four Rivers, boys 4 p.m.
Grant Union Wrestling @ Oregon Wrestling Classic, Redmond, time TBD

SATURDAY, JAN. 15
Dayville/Monument vs. Huntington, girls 2, boys 3:30 p.m., Monument High School
Grant Union Basketball @ Weston-McEwen , girls 4, boys 5:30 p.m.
Grant Union Wrestling, Oregon Classic, Redmond, time TBD

TUESDAY, JAN. 18
Prairie City Basketball @ Dayville/Monument, girls 6, boys 7:30 p.m.
Long Creek/Ukiah Basketball vs. Huntington, boys 4:30 p.m.

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