

SHOOTING THE BREEZE

Traditional plaids have a fascinating history

While not the tradition that it once was, hunters wearing red and black plaid as their choice of vestiture to attend their mountain synagogues for their devout observance of hunting season was once quite commonplace.

Traditionally considered of Scottish origin, plaid or tartan designs as we know them have been encountered in various world cultures as far back as the eighth century B.C.

The unique patterns of handwoven twill are most often related to the clans of Scotland in more recent history. The word "plaid" is taken from the Scottish Gaelic "plaidie," which when translated means blanket. At first mostly a rectangular full-size blanket worn over the shoulder as a sash or around the neck as a cape, but then socks, kilts and caps eventually adopted the tartan pattern.

Somewhere along the line the clans adopted their own unique tartans for daily vestiture. The representation of clan-specific plaid in Scotland, however, wasn't officially adopted until the 1700s.

The first recorded use of the tartan as a military uniform, irrespective of any single clan pattern, was in the 1745 Scottish Rebellion. The Royal Highland Regiment wore a "Black Watch" pattern when they rose up against the rule of an oppressive English monarchy. After their resistance was crushed, England passed the Dress Act of 1746, which banned the wearing of plaid for all but military uniform applications.

The mass migration to the New World both before and after the American Revolutionary War brought a huge influx of tartan-clad settlers to the colonies and frontier alike.

The red and black MacGregor plaid — buffalo plaid, as it's sometimes called today — was popularized by Jock McCluskey.



Dale Valade

Jock McCluskey was a descendant of one of Scotland's most famous outlaws, Rob Roy MacGregor. Jock traded his woven plaid blankets with Native Americans as far west as Montana Territory.

In 1850 the tartan received another popularity boost. The founder of Woolrich Woolen Mills, John Rich, traveled around selling buffalo check shirts and fabric to lumberjacks and their wives in the woods of Pennsylvania.

Plaid received further mainstreaming through the drawings of William B. Laughead featuring an oversized logger with a blue ox named Paul Bunyan and the 1924 release of plaid patterns from the Pendleton Mills.

While the red and black MacGregor or buffalo pattern is the most widely distributed and arguably useful for hunters, tartans of all kind are still in fashion today.

Even though camouflage and blaze orange may have edged plaid out in the hunting fields, tartan patterns are more popular than ever in other venues. I think you would have to look pretty hard to find a hunting camp in Eastern Oregon that didn't have at least one plaid-clad Elmer Fudd sitting around the campfire.

Whether you're carrying a Browning or the bagpipes, the historic tartan pattern is a wonderful tradition still alive and well nearly 3,000 years later. Talk about longevity.

Do you wear plaid? Write to us at shootingthebreezebme@gmail.com and check us out on Facebook!

Dale Valade is a local country gent with a love for the outdoors, handloading, hunting and shooting.



Steven Mitchell/Blue Mountain Eagle

Prairie City's Wes Voigt (center), a sophomore, drives past two Four Rivers players during the Panthers' game against the Falcons Saturday, Jan. 29, 2022.

Prairie City squads win big

Panthers defeat Four Rivers for second straight win

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

PRAIRIE CITY — Fresh off a 49-24 win over Huntington on the road on Thursday, Jan. 27, the Prairie City's boys basketball team bested Four Rivers 67-39 in front of a hometown crowd on Saturday, Jan. 29.

Eli Wright heaped on 22 points for the Panthers and teammate Marcus Judd chipped in 11 to help push the Falcons aside and allow the team to improve to 5-5 in High Desert League play.

Bo Workman, Prairie City's head basketball coach, said his team knew going in that Four Rivers



Freshman Reece Jacobs, Freshman Skylar McKay, Sophomore Jaycee Winegar, Freshman Savannah Watterson, Sophomore Brooke Teel, Junior Betty Ann Wilson

could pose a problem. "They're a dangerous team," he said. "Every team is dangerous, and you have to know what to expect."

He said the boys team came out and played hard in the first half.

Indeed, by the break, the Panthers were up 37-15.

In addition to solid offensive output by Judd and Wright, Doyal Lawrence, a junior, poured in 11 points with three 3-pointers and a 2-point field goal. While junior

Cole Teel came in with seven, sophomores Wes Voigt and Tucker Wright scored 6 and 4 points, respectively.

In the final seconds of the game, freshman Syrus Workman drained a buzzer-beater to put the finishing touches on the victory. "I had only had a few seconds to make the shot," Workman said. "So I went for it, and it felt great."

Lady Panthers claim 42-16 league victory

Like the boys squad, the Lady Panthers came out of

the gate on fire to down the Lady Falcons 42-16 in a High Desert League matchup on Saturday.

Prairie City sophomore Jaycee Winegar scored a game-high 20 points, while junior Betty Ann Wilson had eight on two 3-pointers and a 2-point field goal.

Winegar said the team passed the ball well, which made the difference in the game.

"The goal in the game," Wilson said, "was to get everybody on the court to score."

SPORTS ROUNDUP

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant Union Lady grapplers claim first at home tourney

JOHN DAY — Grant Union's girls wrestling team took first place at the Grant Union wrestling tournament on Jan. 25.

The Lady Pros competed against wrestlers from eight schools: Baker/Powder Valley, Irrigon, Heppner/Ione, Enterprise, Adrian, Union, Echo and Imbler.

Grant Union's girls, as a team, had 59 points.

Mallory Lusco took first place in her 235 weight bracket, while Zoey Beam and Macy Carter took second in their 125 and 107 weight categories.

June Wolf also claimed second place in her 135 weight bracket, while Delaney Coombs took third in the 170 weight division.

In a Monday, Jan. 31, email, Grant Union head wrestling coach Andy Lusco told the Eagle the girls squad had improved tremendously since the season's first week.

For example, Lusco noted that Mallory had a swift pin over a "pretty tough girl" at heavyweight, while Anderson had a "breakout day" and won her group as well. Additionally, he said Wolf has

really come along and is wrestling her best matches late in the season.

Lusco added that Carter, Coombs and Morgan Majors have shown "amazing growth" late in the season.

Finishing a wrestling season, Lusco said, is an accomplishment in and of itself.

Being a novice or freshman wrestler and continuing to improve each week while dealing with the stress of competing with more experienced wrestlers is something to be proud of, according to Lusco.

"This is a special group of young women," Lusco said. "I'm excited to see them this week at the regional qualifier."

On the boys side, Grant Union dropped a dual meet to Burns on Jan. 25, 42-36.

Nonetheless, Grant Union's grapplers collected a flurry of wins.

Jack Strong pinned Orion Houck in the 145 weight division. Meanwhile, Justin Hodge pinned Bruin Thomas to win the 165 weight bracket.

Lusco said overall he thought the boys squad competed well.

He said in addition to Hodge and Strong, Tanler Fuller, who came off an injury less than a month ago, wrestled very well.

Moreover, Lusco said the entire lineup had a good showing in the match.

Grant Union girls basketball gets a split over the weekend

JOHN DAY — The Grant Union girls basketball team split a pair of close Blue Mountain Conference contests over the weekend. After losing a 35-37 thriller to Heppner on the road Friday, Jan. 28, the Lady Pros came home and won 38-34 over Weston-McEwen on Saturday, Jan. 29.

Grant Union boys basketball team loses two in a row

JOHN DAY — The Grant Union boys basketball team dropped two in a row over the weekend.

After a 71-34 loss to Heppner on the road on Friday, Jan. 28, the 2A Prospectors fell to Weston-McEwen 55-37 at home on Saturday, Jan. 29, in their eighth straight loss in Blue Mountain Conference play.

Long Creek boys basketball team loses two in a row

LONG CREEK — Long Creek's 1A boys basketball team suffered a two-game skid, with the Mountaineers losing at home 90-15 to Crane Thursday, Jan. 27, and falling 54-28 to Harper Charter on the road Saturday, Jan. 29.

The boys team is 1-8 overall and 1-6 in High Desert League play.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 2

Long Creek Basketball @ Prairie City, boys 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEB. 3

Dayville/Monument Basketball vs. Four Rivers, girls 6, boys 7:30 p.m.

Prairie City Basketball @ Adrian, girls 6, boys 7:30 p.m. (MST)

FRIDAY, FEB. 4

Grant Union Wrestling @ Oregon School Activities Association Girls Special District 3, Redmond, time to be determined

Long Creek Basketball @ Four Rivers, boys 7:30 p.m. (MST)

Prairie City Basketball @ Adrian, girls 5, boys 6:30 p.m. (MST)

SATURDAY, FEB. 5

Grant Union Wrestling @ Bank of Eastern Oregon Tournament, Heppner, 10 a.m.

Grant Union Wrestling @ Oregon School Activities Association Girls Special District 3, Redmond, time to be determined

Grant Union Basketball @ Enterprise, girls, 6, boys 7:30 p.m.

Long Creek Basketball vs. Adrian, boys 1 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 8

Long Creek Basketball @ Huntington, boys 4:30 p.m.

Prairie City Basketball vs. Dayville/Monument, girls 5, boys 6:30 p.m.

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