

SPORTS ROUNDUP

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

Four GUHS grapplers heading to state after girls claim 4th at districts

REDMOND — Four Grant Union Lady Pro grapplers are moving on to the state tournament later this month after the girls squad claimed fourth overall at the Oregon School Activities Association Special District 3 Tournament.

Mallory Lusco took first in her 235 weight division, while Delaney Coombs, a senior in her first year on the team, took second in the 190 weight class.

Zoey Beam and Jaydika Anderson finished third in the 107 and 170 weight brackets, respectively.

All four will move on to the state tournament.

Grant Union head coach Andy Lusco said six out of his eight wrestlers scored team points to contribute to the squad's fourth-place finish.

He added that June Wolf, who scored six team points, went 2-2 in her matches but did not place. Macy Carter scored three team points to contribute as well.

Lusco noted that Serenity Marcano and Morgan Majors wrestled hard in very tough brackets.

Coming in fourth, Lusco said, was an "amazing finish," especially considering the tournament included 27 other 1A-6A teams and Grant Union's girls are freshmen or first-year wrestlers.

"This team has worked very hard," Lusco said.

For their part, the boys finished 11th overall out of 16 teams at the Bank of Eastern Oregon Wrestling Tournament in Heppner on Saturday, Feb. 5.

Riddick Hutchison took third in the 182 weight bracket, while in the 170 weight class Alex Finley and Sam McKracken placed fifth and sixth respectively. Meanwhile, Mason Bengé took fourth in the 132 weight division, and Jack Strong placed fifth in the 145 weight bracket.

Lusco said the boys are working hard to get to weight, get healthy and get ready to perform at districts.

Enterprise edges Grant Union boys basketball on the road

ENTERPRISE — After a big league win over Weston-McEwen on Jan. 29, the Grant Union boys basketball lost a close one on the road, falling to Blue Mountain Conference rival Enterprise 60-55 on Saturday, Feb. 5.

The 2A Prospector squad is 3-7 league play as they head into the season's final two games.

RC Huerta, the team's head coach, did



Steven Mitchell/Blue Mountain Eagle

Lady Prospector Delaney Coombs (left) and Baker's Sheylin Karolski battle it out on Friday, Jan. 21, 2022, at the Grant Union Wrestling Tournament. Coombs held her own in the match.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 9

Prairie City Basketball @ Jordan Valley, girls, 4 p.m. (MST)

Long Creek Basketball @ Crane, boys, 5 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEB. 10

Prairie City Basketball vs. Huntington, girls, 5, boys, 6:30 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, FEB. 11

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

Grant Union Dance @ Sheldon Competition, noon

SATURDAY, FEB. 12

Dayville/Monument @ Four Rivers, girls, 4, boys 5:30 p.m. (MST)

Grant Union Dance @ Sheldon Competition, time to be determined

Grant Union Basketball vs. Stanfield, girls, 4, boys, 5:30 p.m.

Grant Union Wrestling @ Pine Eagle Invite, 10 a.m.

Long Creek Basketball @ Jordan Valley, boys, 3 p.m. (MST)

Long Creek Basketball vs. Four Rivers, boys, 4 p.m.

squad prepares to close out the season this weekend.

Jason Miller, Grant Union's girls basketball head coach, said the Lady Pros battled hard to overcome an early deficit and pull within six points in the second half. "We just could not get over the hump," Miller said.

The Lady Pros face the No. 1 and 2 teams in their league as they head into their final games of the season.

In order to win, Miller said, they need to play well on both sides of the ball.

"We have to continue to play tough defense and make every possession on offense count," Miller said.

Dayville girls basketball team wins one out of two

MONUMENT — After picking up their second win of the season in a non-league contest at Harper Charter on Feb. 4, the Dayville/Monument's girls 1A basketball team fell to Huntington 39-15 at home on Saturday, Feb. 5. The squad is 2-13 overall and 0-9 in High Desert League play.

Dayville/Monument boys basketball team drops two in a row

MONUMENT — Coming off a 53-22 loss to Harper Charter Friday, Feb. 4, Dayville/Monument's 1A boys basketball team fell to Huntington 53-38 Saturday, Feb. 5.

Long Creek boys basketball team loses second straight

LONG CREEK — After a 74-15 loss to Four Rivers on the road, Long Creek's 1A boys basketball team fell to Adrian 95-18 on Saturday, Feb. 5.

SHOOTING THE BREEZE

The .44 Magnum could be the ultimate six-shooter

If you're looking for the ultimate all-around sixgun, look no further.

"I know what you're thinking, punk! Did he fire six shots or only five? Well, to tell you the truth, in all this excitement I kinda lost track myself. But being this is a .44 Magnum, the most powerful handgun in the world and would blow your head clean off, you've got to ask yourself a question: Do I feel lucky? Well, do ya, punk?!"

Clint Eastwood's Dirty Harry Callahan monologue is as iconic as the handgun itself. But as is often the case with Hollywood firearms mastery, this statement wasn't true even back when it was spoken. Nevertheless, Clint Eastwood chasing bad guys with a hand cannon always filled seats at cinemas worldwide.

The origins of the .44 Remington Magnum go back to a cowboy-turned-gun writer, none other than Elmer Keith. For many years Elmer had been loading single-action Colt and double-action Smith & Wesson revolvers in .44 Special and .45 Colt to maximum levels with his handloads. But due to the thicker and more uniform brass cases afforded in the .44 Special — versus those in the .45 Colt — Elmer could goose it to higher pressures without splitting the case or the gun, and it became the standard platform for his experimentation.

Keith used these high-pressure loads both near and far with incredible satisfaction as a hunter and a guide. When others began to take notice, he realized that by elongating the .44 Special he could offer this greatly improved performance in a new generation of revolvers without worrying about stressing the old ones.

In late 1955, Remington began developing ammunition. In January of 1956, Smith & Wesson's first revolvers hit store shelves. In November of that same year, Ruger released a .44 Magnum version of their pop-

ular single-action Blackhawk revolver. These two revolvers were so popular that they gave rise to several more, including Callahan's Model 29, the Ruger Redhawk, and several semiautomatic handguns. Ruger's famed Deerstalker Carbine, released in 1959, was the first factory rifle chambered in the .44 Magnum, with Marlin and Winchester offering lever guns shortly thereafter.

While supremely useful, accurate and powerful, it was pop culture figures like Dirty Harry Callahan, Travis Bickle and Jack Cates that helped sales tremendously. Make no mistake, this cartridge is no Hollywood dandy but rather the real McCoy.

Firing its standard load of a .429-caliber, 240-grain bullet from 1,200-1,400 feet per second, it is fully rated for use on deer and bear. Both jacketed and cast lead bullets can and have been used with great success.

Neither the .357 Magnum or .45 Automatic come close in power nor versatility. Heavier bullets of up to 340 grains in weight are available if you are going berry picking in grizzly country or wish to rattle the arthritis loose in every joint between fingertip and rotator cuff.

If there is any downside to the big .44, it is recoil. Standard loads are manageable by most, but if you find them excessive, the aforementioned .44 Special with its more pastoral recoil can safely and more enjoyably be fired from any .44 Magnum revolver. If you're feeling lucky, the .44 Remington Magnum may just be the perfect all-around revolver for you!

Are you a fan of the .44 Magnum? 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.



Dale Valade



The Outpost

Pizza, Pub & Grill

VALENTINE'S DAY
& WEEKEND SPECIALS

Friday February 11

Prime Rib or Alfredo Chicken Parmesan

Saturday February 12

Prime Rib or Alfredo Chicken Parmesan

Sunday February 13

Ribeye Steak w/Shrimp or Shrimp Fettuccine

Monday February 14

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