



Contributed Photo

The .250-3000 Savage has enjoyed enduring popularity with hunters.

SHOOTING THE BREEZE The .250-3000 Savage is one sweet load

In my family, the Savage Model 99 lever-action rifle, in various calibers, to this day holds a very special place in everyone's hearts. The Savage designs were quite modern for their time, and though initial prototypes were rejected at military trials, the 1895 and 1899 models found success as commercial rifles. Hunters especially found the modern cartridges in the unique lever-action design to be very effective in the field.



Dale Valade

Savage strove to hire the greatest minds to engineer new cartridges on a regular basis, providing cutting-edge technology that is viable even 100 years later. The hammerless design featured a rotary magazine and a side-ejecting bolt which enabled the use of spitzer bullets and ease of mounting optics. Although the Chicopee Falls engineers created many innovative cartridges, they truly outdid themselves in 1915 with the design of the .250-3000 Savage.

Although Charles Newton advised that a 100 grain bullet at around 2,800 feet per second would've been most suitable to deer hunters, Savage's marketing team knew the selling power in speed. The .250-3000 is thusly named for being the first cartridge to ever hit 3,000 feet per second of muzzle velocity.

Against Newton's advice, the .25 caliber cartridge was loaded with an 87 grain bullet and given a relatively slow 1-14" twist rate, perfect for stabilizing these lightweight speed demons. And boy, did these rifles sell!

While it is doubtful that an additional 13 grains of bullet would have given dramatically better performance, the frangible cup and core, thin-jacketed bullets of the day did cause some outcry when on occasion game animals would require follow-up shots to anchor.

Demand for a heavier bullet circulated, but due to the slow 1-14" rifling twist,

stubby roundnose 100 grain bullets with an arched trajectory failed to impress most Western riflemen. I'm sure

Mr. Newton may have had to wash the "I told you so" from his tastebuds with something a little stronger than Coca-Cola.

The twist was eventually amended to 1-10" but not before the advent of the .243 Winchester cast a giant shadow on sales of the original high-velocity cartridge. So great was the demand for the .243 that Savage offered the cartridge in its own rifles, and eventually the .250 was retired by the very company it had made rich and famous.

Although you don't hear much about the .250-3000 these days, those who own them know what they have. Most of them are well-used and well-loved. Many a youngster was handed a mild-kicking .250 Savage for a first-year deer rifle and just never decided to buy anything larger.

Many folks own a .22-250, the very successful and more popular progeny of the old .250-3000! Even the bewilderingly popular 6.5 Creedmoor is dimensionally the .250-3000 Ackley Improved necked up to .264 caliber.

While either an 87 or 100 grain bullet is marginal for larger deer like elk or caribou, the .250 still sees frequent use for these animals as well. The .250-3000 Savage is most at home shooting coyotes and chucks, deer and antelope in deadly accurate, lightweight lever action and bolt action rifles.

But if you're lucky enough to already own a rifle thusly chambered, I'm not telling you anything you don't know. The little Savage is one sweet load.

Are you a fan of the .250 Savage? Write to us at shootingthebreezeme@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.

ON TO STATE



Prairie City's Eli Wright (31) evades Jordan Valley defenders Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022, during the High Desert League District tourney at Grant Union High School.

State

Continued from Page A7

on four 3-pointers, five 2-point field goals and six free throws to lead Prairie City. Meanwhile, teammates Kaitlyne Ashley and Jaycee Winegar combined for 22 points, and Brooke Teel poured in five points.

Wilson, who was named Player of the Game, said she thought the Lady Panthers played well as a team and kept the intensity up throughout the whole game. Typically, she said, the squad's intensity falls off in the third quarter, but that was not the case in Saturday's game.

"(Saturday's game) was probably our best game of the season, in my opinion," Wilson said.

Wilson said it is pretty special to be heading to state after losing last season to COVID-19.

Prairie City boys

Like the girls team, the Prairie City boys routed Four Rivers 72-53 to kick off the competition on Thursday, Feb. 17, then suffered a 62-41 setback at the hands of the top-seeded Crane Mustangs on Friday. However, in what was universally regarded as their best game of the season, the Panthers bested Jordan Valley 67-51 on Saturday.

Doyal Lawrence, a junior, put on another clinic in shooting, nailing five 3-pointers and a 2-point field goal for a team-high 17 points. Fellow junior Eli Wright, who was named Player of the Game, chipped in 15 points, hitting six 2-point field goals and going three for eight at the free-throw line.

Senior Marcus Judd knocked down four 2-point field goals and was six of nine from the free-throw line for 14 points. For his part, John Titus scored 11 on three 2-point field goals, a 3-pointer and two free throws.

Prairie City coach Bo Workman said he was worried about facing Jordan Valley, having lost twice to the Mustangs in the regular season.

"(Jordan Valley) had a number on us, but our kids played hard," Workman said.



Prairie City's Brooke Teel runs the ball down the court Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022, against Adrian at the High Desert League tourney.



The Prairie City faithful cheer on the Panthers as the squad closes in on a victory and a state playoff berth Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022.

The Mustangs, Workman said, ran into some shooting difficulties in the final quarters of the game.

"(The Mustangs) hit their shots (and) it's a tight, tight game," Workman said.

Workman added that another factor in the game was that the Panthers' bigger players, like Judd and Wright, started producing points in the paint.

Wright said Jordan Valley was a tough team the entire game. But, he said, what made the difference were halftime adjustments.

"We just made our adjustments," he said, "and knocked down our shots."

Cole Teel, Wes Voigt and Tucker Wright combined for 10 points to round out the scoring.

Grant hoops teams take tourney losses

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

PENDLETON — Grant Union's basketball teams have both suffered losses in the Blue Mountain District tourney at the Pendleton Convention Center.

The girls team fell to Heppner 46-34 on Friday, Feb. 18, in the Lady Prospectors' first game of the tournament.

The girls season ended at the tourney. The Lady Pros finished the season with an 8-15 overall record and were 5-7 in league play.

On the boys side, the Prospectors beat Weston-McEwen 56-41 Friday in the first game of the competition but lost to Union 64-27 the next day.

The boys season ended at the tournament and they finished with an overall 6-19 record and were 3-9 in league play.



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian
Grant Union's Paige Weaver (right) chases down a loose ball. The Heppner Mustangs defeated the Grant Union Prospectors 46-34 at the Blue Mountain District Tournament Friday, Feb. 18, 2022, at the Pendleton Convention Center in Pendleton.



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian
Grant Union's Parker Neault (5) drives toward the basket. The Union Bobcats defeated the Grant Union Prospectors 64-27 at the Blue Mountain District Tournament Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022, at the Pendleton Convention Center in Pendleton.

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