No. 1-ranked Lady Pro softball team improves to 6-0

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Lady Prospectors looked every bit the part of the No. 1-ranked softball team in the state during the Iron Triangle Tournament held over spring break in John Day.

The Lady Pros went 3-0 in the tournament, scoring 42 runs and giving up 18 over the course of three games to push their record to 6-0 on the season.

Their closest game of the tournament was their first, a gritty 16-12 win over the seventh-ranked Harrisburg/Mohawk Eagles on Monday, March 21. Grant Union found itself down 12-7 headed into the bottom of the fifth inning before scoring nine unanswered runs in the fifth and sixth frames to secure the come-from-behind win.

Savannah Patterson was the top Lady Pro at the plate, going 2-5 with four runs scored and five RBIs. Addy Northway went 2-5 at the plate and finished with three runs scored and an RBI. Lilly Rockhill went 2-4 with a run scored and two RBIs. The team finished with 15 total hits in the game.

Drew Williams picked up the win, pitching five innings. Williams struck out three batters and gave up 10 runs in the contest. Halle Parsons pitched two innings in relief and didn't surrender a run.

The second game of the tournament saw the Lady Pros defeat the Enterprise Outlaws 12-2 in six innings on Tuesday, March 22. Grant Union never trailed in the game, leading 4-2 after the first inning. The Lady Pros would add two more runs to their tally in the second and fourth innings to push their lead to 6-2. A sixth-inning offensive blitz saw Grant Union score six more runs and hold Enterprise scoreless to end the game with a 12-2 win.

Justin Davis/Blue Mountain Eagle

Drew Williams delivers a pitch during Grant Union's game against Scio on Wednesday, March 23.

Savannah Patterson was a perfect 4-4 at the plate with three runs scored and four RBIs. Addy Northway and Paige Gerry both finished 2-3. Northway scored three runs and Gerry scored two runs and logged an RBI. Lady Pro bats were hot once again in this game as the team finished with 16 hits in total.

Halle Parsons picked up the win, pitching all six innings. Parsons surrendered four hits and two runs while striking out five batters.

The final game of the tournament for the Lady Pros took place on Wednesday, March 23, and saw a matchup of top-ranked teams as Grant Union battled 3A's No. 1 Scio Loggers.

Grant Union would never trail in this game, scoring 10 unanswered runs through the third inning to take a commanding lead. The Loggers would respond, getting on the board in the fourth inning and blasting a three-run home run in the fifth to trail 10-4. The Lady Pros fired back with a four-run sixth inning to end the game with a score of 14-4.

Paige Gerry was 3-4 at the plate in the contest and finished with three runs scored and three RBIs. Halle Parsons and Paige Gerry both finished 2-4 at bat. Parsons scored one run and drove in three RBIs. Robertson finished with a run scored and two RBIs. The Lady Pro bats once again came to life in this contest as the team logged 15 total hits on the afternoon.

Drew Williams pitched the entire game and notched the win for the Lady Pros. Williams surrendered four hits and four runs while striking out six batters.

Grant Union softball head coach Zach Williams says his team is playing well, but he didn't expect a perfect start.

"We're playing as a team, a lot of girls have contributed so far and like we thought, our depth is our strength. We scheduled a tough stretch of games intentionally and we weren't disappointed with the competition. I expected us to be tough, but I definitely didn't expect us to be 6-0."

Williams also refrains from calling his team's win over No. 1 Scio a statement game despite the result.

"Scio's No. 1 pitcher couldn't really throw against us. That was a bit disappointing, but they're a very solid team and we're excited to get that win. Our hope is that the girls get better every day and keep pulling together as a team. League play starts Friday, so we really can't afford to have any letdowns."

The Lady Pros are in action again on Friday, April 1, in a doubleheader against Echo/Stanfield. The first game starts at 2 p.m. in John Day.

Steven Mitchell/Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant Union/Prairie City catcher Riddick Hutchison, a junior, tags out Ontario's James Dyas (12) on Friday, March 25, 2022, during the Prospectors game against the Tigers.

Pros take 2 out of 3 in Les Schwab tourney

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The Grant Union/Prairie City baseball team defeated the Ontario Tigers 13-3 Friday, March 25, as the Prospectors took two out of three games at the Les Schwab Grant Union Tournament last week.

RC Huerta, the Prospectors head coach, said the game started a bit slow for his team, but the squad showed resiliency and played well overall.

Huerta said the team's defense has been picking up and the Pros have been hitting the ball well.

"We've been making good plays, and it's encouraging to see that," Huerta said.

One of those good plays occurred toward the end of the game when Prospector catcher Riddick Hutchison tagged out Ontario's James Dyan at home to keep Grant Union's comfortable lead intact.

Hutchison said after the game that he thought the 2-A Prospectors were going to have their work cut out for them in facing a 4-A Ontario team, but overall he thought the team played well.

"We got the sticks swinging," Hutchison said.

Huerta said he likes to get the Prospectors as many opportunities as possible to play good teams.

Grant Union/Prairie City started the three-day tourney at the Seventh Street Sports Complex on Wednesday, March 23, with a 13-6 loss to the 4A Sisters Outlaws.

The Prospectors followed that up on Thursday, March 24, with 16-6 win over the 3A Nyssa Bulldogs.

Friday's win was Grant Union/Prairie City's third. The Prospectors are 3-3 this season.

Grant Union/Prairie City's next game is a conference matchup on the road against the Stanfield/Echo Tigers at 11 a.m. Saturday. April 2.

Grant Union track teams break the ice

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle

PRINEVILLE — The 2A Grant Union track team more than held its own in the Crook County Ice Breaker, an 11-team meet held March 17 in Prineville that was filled with 4A, 5A and 6A squads.

The Prospector girls finished fifth with 56.5 points, 2.5 points behind 5A Ridgeview and just ahead of 4A Estacada. The boys finished fourth with 80.5 points, 5.5 points behind 5A Crook County and well ahead of Class 6A's Caldera.

Individually the girls had three top-six placers across four events. Carson Weaver placed second in the 100 meter dash and fifth in the high jump. Katelyn Hughes placed fifth in the 300 hurdles. Rounding out the placers for the girls was Heidi Jackson, who placed sixth in the pole vault.

The boys had 11 top-six finishers across 11 events. Justin Hodge placed second in the 100 meter dash, second in javelin and second in the long jump. Luke Jackson placed fourth in the 100 meter dash. Brady Dole placed fifth in the 800 meter race. Landon and Skylor Boyd both placed in the 110 meter hurdles, with Landon finishing second and Skylor finishing sixth.

In field events, Tucker Carpenter placed fifth in shot put. The triple jump saw three individual placers for the Prospector boys, with Mason Benge finishing in third place. Andrew Hunt placed fourth in the event, and Cashton Wheeler placed fifth.

Grant Union coach Sonna Smith was happy with the team's finish in competing against some of the larger schools in the state.

"We beat every 3A team at the meet and even some of the larger schools as well," she said.

"Our numbers are our strength. We had some events where we had multiple placers in a single event, and we scored points in the events that we didn't win but had people compete and finish."

Smith says she's still evaluating her team and figuring out the best distances for her runners.

The Grant Union boys and girls track teams are in action next on Wednesday, March 30, at the Sisters Invite in Sisters. Field events start at 4 p.m. and track events start at 4:30 p.m.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31
4 p.m.: Grant Union track at Sisters Invite
FRIDAY, APRIL 1
2 p.m.: Grant Union softball doubleheader vs. Echo/Stanfield
SATURDAY, APRIL 2
11 a.m.: Grant Union baseball doubleheader vs. Stanfield
TUESDAY, APRIL 5
4 p.m.: **Grant Union and Prairie City track at Small School Meet, Grant Union**
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