

READY TO TEE OFF

Grant Union golf team looking forward to a full season

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle



Grant Union golfers, from left, Layla Wennick, Charley Knowles, Audry Walker, Tanler Fuller, Sheldon Lenz and Bridger Walker practice putting at the John Day Golf Club on March 30, 2022, while assistant coach Zach Denney, far left, looks on.

Justin Davis/Blue Mountain Eagle

Ron Lundbom, now in his 16th year as head coach of the Grant Union golf team, is ready for a return to normalcy.

After the COVID-19 pandemic largely wiped out the last two golf seasons, Lundbom is looking forward to a complete season, which will include a district tournament in 2022.

Grant Union is fielding seven golfers this year, four boys and three girls. The turnout is "about average for the past half a dozen years," according to Lundbom.

Lundbom, who owns the NAPA Auto Parts store in John Day, said not being employed by the school district has made recruiting golfers challenging.

"Basketball coaches can see you roaming the halls for a couple semesters and talk to you," he noted. "I can't do that."

As a result, the kids who are already a part of the program are the most prominent recruiters for the golf team.

The team has already had one

unofficial match, in Echo. The event is more of an icebreaker for newbies and a refresher for seasoned golfers.

"Echo is more of a preseason, let's see how you do type of event. It's developed into that over the years as more new golfers are taken to the course," Lundbom said.

The match also provides an oppor-

tunity for teaching golf etiquette to kids who may never have played golf and walked a nine- or 18-hole course, he added.

Despite that, Lundbom says he saw promise in his team at Echo.

"We watched putts to see how the team did. Then we had our team score, and we used that to see how we

would've done in district." The team isn't that far away from where it needs to be for a competitive showing at district, according to the Echo scorecards.

"We're at about a stroke a hole," Lundbom said. "We shave one stroke per hole and we're where we want to be, using past years as a guide."

Lundbom would like to see the Grant Union golf form a co-op with Prairie City. That arrangement might allow him to field an entire girls squad and would put the golf team on the same level as the other spring sports.

"Baseball and softball co-op in the spring," he said. "It would be nice if the kids in Prairie got the opportunity to co-op in golf if they wanted to."

Overall, Lundbom is hopeful his team can make a run at the district meet in Pendleton this year.

"I'm optimistic this year," he said. "It'll be interesting when the scores count and you have to count all your scores."



Steven Mitchell/Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant Union/Prairie City catcher Riley Robertson, a senior, protects the plate Friday, April 1, 2022, during the Lady Pros' doubleheader against Echo.

Grant Union track sees mixed results at Sisters Invite

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle

SISTERS — The Grant Union track team came away from the Sisters Invite on Wednesday, March 30, with a solid performance by the boys and valuable experience for the girls.

The boys placed second overall, finishing with 80.5 points. The girls notched a seventh-place finish, leaving the meet with 29.5 points.

The 10 teams that participated in the invitational meet were mostly from class 2A and 3A schools. Class 6A's Summit and class 4A's Madras and Sisters, the host team, made up the rest of the field.

Individually, the Prospector boys ended the day with fifth-place or better finishes in eight events.

Justin Hodge and Luke Jackson finished third and fourth in the 100 meter dash. Jackson also placed third in the 200 meter dash. The 110 hurdles saw a pair of Prospectors secure top five finishes, with Landon Boyd and Quinn Larson placing third and fourth.

The team's lone first-place finish came in the 300 meter hurdles courtesy of Landon Boyd. Skylor Boyd also placed in the event, finishing fifth.

The 4x100 relay team, consisting of Andrew Hunt, Mason Morris and holdovers from last year's state championship team Justin Hodge and Luke Jackson, finished third. The 4X400 relay team of Luke Jackson, Cashton Wheeler, Brady Dole and Landon Boyd logged a fifth-place finish at the meet.

Field events for the boys resulted in two top five finishes. Justin Hodge secured his fourth top four finish in the meet competing in the long jump. Hodge finished fourth in the event. Mason Bengé rounded out the top five placers for the boys, finishing fifth in the triple jump.

The Grant Union girls had top five finishes in six events.

Carson Weaver got things started for the Lady Pros, finishing fifth in the 100 meter dash. Aliciana Archibald's 3,000 meter race was good enough for a fourth-place finish in the event. The girl's 4X100 team, composed of Lauryn Pettyjohn, Katelyn Hughes, Sydnie Brandon and Carson Weaver, ended the meet with a fifth-place finish.

Field events produced three fifth-place finishes for the girls: Carson Weaver on javelin and Morgan Randleas in both the high jump and long jump.

Lady Pros win 2 to stay unbeaten

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The Grant Union/Prairie City team collected a pair of league wins Friday, April 1, with a doubleheader sweep of Echo that extended the squad's season-opening win streak to eight.

The undefeated Lady Pros handed Echo a 12-2 shellacking in the first game and dominated the second game, winning it 15-5.

Zach Williams, Grant Union/Prairie City's head coach, said that in addition to stellar pitching performances from aces Drew Williams and

Halle Parsons in Friday's doubleheader, the team put up a solid offensive and defensive effort.

"Top to bottom, the lineup hit well," Williams said. "They played great defense and pitched well. You do those three things, you are usually pretty successful."

In the first game, Williams said, the Lady Pros got behind by a couple of runs but kept it together and waited for the pitches at the plate.

It did not take long for the team's bats to come alive, with Rainey Anderson and Parsons hitting home runs.

Anderson, who went two for two with a walk, notched

five RBIs in the game, while Parsons was three for four and had four RBIs.

The offensive onslaught also saw extra-base hits from Savannah Watterson, Riley Robertson, Paige Gerry, Sivanna Hodge, Williams, Parsons and Addy Northway.

Meanwhile, Drew Williams was lights out from the mound. Before the 10-run "mercy" rule ended the first game in six innings, the sophomore allowed one earned run, gave up just six hits and struck out 14.

In the second game, which went the complete seven innings, Drew Williams and

Parsons kept Echo's bats from doing too much damage, giving up 11 hits and five earned runs.

Meanwhile, Drew Williams helped herself when she hit a home run late in the game, while Watterson, Anderson, Reece Jacobs and Hodge all had extra-base hits.

Asked how it feels to be ranked first in their division, Williams said it puts a lot of pressure on the team.

As the top-ranked squad, they are the team to beat, he said.

"In a perfect world," Williams said, "we'd be No. 1 on the last day of the season and No. 5 the rest of the year."

SPORTS SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, APRIL 5

4 p.m.: Grant Union baseball vs. Heppner/Ione

4 p.m.: Grant Union track Small School Meet

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

1 p.m.: Grant Union golf at Heppner Invite

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

Noon: Grant Union golf in Nixy Invitational at Birch Creek Golf Course, Pendleton

Noon: Prairie City track Prairie City

Annual Meet

2 p.m.: Grant Union softball doubleheader vs. Heppner/Ione

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

1 p.m.: Grant Union softball vs. Nyssa

TUESDAY, APRIL 12

4 p.m.: Grant Union baseball vs. Heppner/Ione

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

4 p.m.: Grant Union baseball vs. Burns

Home games in bold

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FOR GRANT COUNTY COMMISSIONER

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SPEECH & QUESTIONS
Mt Vernon Community Center
Friday April 8th 7pm

Paid for by Scott Knepper

NATIONAL Sexual Assault AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH

START BY BELIEVING
What to Say:
"I believe you."
"I'm sorry this happened."
"I am here for you."

BE SUPPORTIVE
What to Say:
"You can tell me as much, or as little as you want."
"It's not your fault."
"I'm glad you told me. I'm so proud of you."

ASK HOW YOU CAN HELP
What to Say:
"What can I do to support you?"
"I can stay with you tonight. Would that help?"
"Do you want me to go with you to the hospital or police station?"

AVOID "WHY QUESTIONS"
What to Say:
Even with the best of intentions "why" questions can sound accusatory and make survivors blame themselves.

Help is available for victims of sexual assault in Grant County. If you or someone you know has been a victim of sexual assault, please call:

Heart of Grant County 541-620-1342

Grant County Victim Assistance Program 541-575-4026

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