

Pros sweep Small Schools Meet

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant Union boys and girls track teams both placed first in the Small Schools Meet held at Grant Union High School on April 5. Grant County teams Prairie City and Monument also participated and had respectable showings at the event, which drew 11 teams from 1A, 2A and 3A schools.

The Grant Union boys came away with 127 points on the afternoon, well ahead of second place Heppner, which finished with 99 team points. The girls needed 142 points to place first, just edging out second place Crane, which left with 140 points on the day.

Prairie City's boys team finished the day in fourth place with 65 points. Powder Valley and Pine Eagle were right behind them, finishing in a tie with 64.5 points. The Monument boys, with their smaller numbers, finished the day with 8 points but did log an individual second place finish at the meet.

Prairie City's girls finished with 21 points on the day, which was good enough for ninth place. Pine Eagle and Powder Valley finished just ahead of the Lady Panthers with 26 and 22 points, respectively. Monument's girls finished with 5 points on the afternoon,



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Grant Union's Sydney Brandon, right, hands off the baton to teammate Carson Weaver during the 4x100 relay race at the Small Schools Meet at Grant Union High School on April 5, 2022.

picking up a fourth-place finish in the 800 meter dash.

Justin Hodge had another solid outing for Grant Union, finishing with wins in the 100 meter dash and 4x100 relay with teammates Luke Jackson, Cashton Wheeler and Andrew Hunt. Hodge also finished second in the long jump. Jackson had a productive day as well, taking home a win in the 200 meter dash and a third-place finish in the 4x400 relay to go along with his win in the 4x100 relay.

Grant Union's Brady Dole was a teammate of Jackson's in the 4x400 relay while finishing second in the 1,500 meter race and fourth in the 3,000 meter race. Freshman Ashton

Wheeler was a member of both Grant Union relay teams and finished fourth in the 200 meter dash.

Grant Union's Landon and Skylor Boyd finished second and fifth in the 110 meter hurdles. Prairie City's Eli Wright left the winner in the 300 meter hurdles, with Landon Boyd finishing fourth in the event.

Field events for the boys saw Prairie City hit their stride as the team scored top five finishes in five of the seven field events contested at the meet. Eli Wright led the way for the Panthers as he picked up wins in the high jump and javelin along with a third-place finish in the discus. Tucker Wright picked up a win in the triple jump and Cayden

Howard rounded out the Prairie City placers in field events, taking third in the pole vault.

Grant Union's boys had a trio of second-place finishes in the field events with Hodge in the long jump, Max Bailey in the pole vault and Tucker Carpenter in the discus. Monument's Michael Martin left with a personal record in the javelin, which was good enough for a second-place finish.

Katelyn Hughes and Carson Weaver led the Lady Pros to their first-place finish. Both Hughes and Weaver placed top five in four different events. Weaver placed second in the 100 meter dash, finishing a mere .03 seconds behind the winner. Weaver was also a member of the 4x100 relay team with Lauryn Pettyjohn, Katelyn Hughes and Sydney Brandon. Weaver and her team went on to place third in the 4x100 meter relay.

Hughes picked up a second-place finish in the 300 meter hurdles, as well as the third-place finish in the 4x100 relay. Hughes also placed fourth in the 4x100 relay with teammates Morgan Randleas, Abbie Justice and Lauryn Pettyjohn, who rain in both relays at the meet.

Monument and Prairie City each had a top four individual finisher. Prairie City's Janie Koopman placed

fourth in the 400 meter dash and Monument's Jin Bo Ciochetti finished fourth in the 800 meter race.

Field events for the girls saw the Lady Pros take control as they had a top five finisher in every field event of the afternoon. Morgan Randleas led the way, placing first in the shot put, second in the high jump and third in the triple jump.

Carson Weaver landed her third top-five finish in the meet, placing first in the javelin. Grant Union teammate Katelyn Hughes would place fourth in the event. Weaver also placed third in the high jump, placing in her fourth event of the afternoon.

Prairie City's girls would see a trio of top five finishes in field events, led by Zoey Beam and Janie Koopman's fourth-place finishes in pole vault and high jump. Brooke Tell would finish the day with fifth place in the long jump for the Lady Panthers.

The Grant Union track teams will be in action next on Friday, April 15, at the River's Edge Meet in Hermiston. The meet has a noon start time. Prairie City heads to Burns for the Lions Arlie Oster Invitational the same day. Events start at 11 a.m. Monument's next competition is at the Sherman Invitational Track Meet in Moro on Saturday, April 16. Start time is 11 a.m.

Grant Union Lady Pros overpower Nyssa 16-1

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JOHN DAY — The Grant Union softball team trailed for all of half an inning against Nyssa before rattling off 16 unanswered runs on their way to a dominant 16-1 win Saturday afternoon in John Day.

The Bulldogs struck first, scoring a single run in the top of the first inning to take a 1-0 lead into the bottom of the frame. The Lady Pros would respond by scoring a pair of runs in the bottom of the first to take a 2-1 lead. That was all the scoring the Lady Pros would need, but it wasn't all they would get.

Powered by a Sivanna Hodge solo home run, the Lady Pros would add to their lead in the second and third innings to push their advantage to 6-1 headed into the fourth.

Then the floodgates opened. After holding the Bulldogs scoreless through the top half of the fourth, the Lady Pros would erupt to score 10 runs in the bottom of the fourth and end the game early with a 16-1 win.

The win keeps the Lady Pros perfect on the season at 11-0. The 16 runs scored in the game mark the 10th straight game the team has scored at least 10 runs and their fourth straight scoring at least 15 runs.

Once again the Lady Pros were efficient at bat, racking up 14 hits while only seeing one batter strike out on the afternoon. Riley Robertson finished a perfect 3-3 at the plate, ending the day with three RBIs and three runs scored. Hodge finished 1-3 from the plate, but her solo home run opened up the game and got the Lady Pro offense flowing.



Justin Davis/Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant Union's Riley Robertson slides into second base during the Lady Pros' 16-1 victory over Nyssa on Friday, April 9, 2022.

Savannah Watterson and Raney Anderson each logged a pair of hits in the game and finished with three RBIs each. Addy Northway also finished the day with a pair of hits while driving in two runs.

Drew Williams picked up the win for the Lady Pros, pitching all four innings. Williams surrendered a single hit while striking out 10 batters in doing her part to help keep the team's

perfect record intact.

Grant Union head coach Zach Williams says Grant Union ace Drew Williams and the rest of his team have prepared themselves to be in this position for a long time.

"Drew is still young — she's a 15-year-old sophomore — and she is definitely still getting better. She has been working with her pitching coach out of La Grande all winter, along

with physical therapy and winter workouts to improve her overall strength," Williams said.

"She has been pitching to me in the backyard since she was about 6 years old and has watched the past GU teams/players with a dream of competing for league/state championships and eventually going to college to be a pitcher."

Williams says Drew "isn't alone" as most of the team has spent a large portion of their childhoods competing throughout the Northwest to put themselves in the position they find themselves in.

"They show up to the ballpark loose and relaxed but ready to go to work," he said. "I think they all truly love the game and competing, and I think that plays into their success as well."

Williams adds that the depth of this Lady Pro squad is a huge part of why the team is currently

undefeated and never truly out of a game when they find themselves trailing.

"It's a huge part of their success so far. We have had probably seven or eight different starting lineups so far this season, and it doesn't seem to make much difference as far as the outcome is concerned. I would say it makes coaching easy, but it also presents challenges. We have so many talented young ladies in the program, and figuring out who plays and who sits can be very stressful, but the ability to hit top to bottom in the lineup means we are never really out of a game."

The Lady Pros' next outing is a home doubleheader against Enterprise at Malone Field in John Day on Saturday, April 16, at noon. They then travel to Lakeview for a pair of games on Tuesday, April 19, starting at 3 p.m.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant Union baseball team falls to Heppner

HEPPNER — The Grant Union baseball team lost a close league road game on April 5, falling to Heppner 3-0. The game was scoreless through the first three and a half frames before Heppner struck first, scoring two runs in the bottom half of the fourth inning. Heppner would add their third run in the sixth inning and keep the Pros off the board for the remainder of the contest. Grant Union coach RC Huerta said pitcher Parker Neault "threw a gem. We just couldn't get any runners across." Crazy wind conditions and bitter cold contributed to the result as well but "the boys battled," Huerta said. The loss leaves the Pros at 7-4 on the season with a league record of 2-1.

Lady Pros take two from Heppner

HEPPNER — The Grant Union softball team outscored the Heppner Lady Mustangs

32-1 in a pair of league games in Heppner on Friday, April 8. The first game saw the Lady Pros emerge with a 17-1 win that was called early. Heppner was held scoreless in the second game as the Lady Pros went on to secure a 15-0 win.

Area track teams compete in Prairie City

PRAIRIE CITY — The Grant Union, Prairie City and Monument track teams competed in the Prairie City Annual Track Meet on Friday, April 8.

Finishing with 141 points, the Grant Union boys beat out nine other teams to win the meet. The Prairie City boys team finished in fourth place with 81 points. Mitchell-Spray finished in second place with 87 points, one more than third-place Crane.

The girls' competition had 12 teams, with Grant Union finishing second with 98.5 points. Meet winner Crane finished the afternoon with 157 points.

Prairie City's Lady Panthers finished in sixth place

SPORTS SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

11 a.m.: Grant Union golf, Grant Union HS Invite @ John Day Golf Club

11 a.m.: Grant Union track, River's Edge Meet @ Hermiston

Noon: Prairie City track, Lions Arlie Oster Invitational @ Burns

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

10 a.m.: Monument track, Sherman Invitational Track

Meet @ Sherman County High School

11 a.m.: Grant Union baseball, doubleheader vs. Lyle

Noon: Grant Union softball, doubleheader vs. Enterprise/Wallowa/Joseph

TUESDAY, APRIL 19

3 p.m.: Grant Union softball, doubleheader vs. Lakeview

Home games in bold

with 37 points. Ten points separated sixth-place Prairie City from fourth-place Condon, which finished the meet with 47 team points. The Monument girls amassed 8 points on the afternoon.

The Grant Union boys finished with multiple individual

placers, led by Justin Hodge and Brady Dole. Hodge came away with a pair of first-place finishes in the 100 meter dash and shot put while placing second in the javelin. Dole picked up first-place finishes in the 800 meter and 1,500 meter races. The Prospectors ended

the meet with 13 top three finishers in all events.

The Prairie City boys also had multiple top three finishers, led by Eli Wright. Wright had a very productive day, finishing first in the javelin and high jump. Wright also placed second in the 300 meter hurdles. Prairie City also picked up a second-place finish in the pole vault from Cayden Howard. The Monument boys team competed at the event but didn't score any team points due to small numbers leading to a limited number of participants in races and field events at the meet.

The Grant Union girls also had multiple individual placers, led by Carson Weaver, who placed top three in four separate events. Weaver logged second-place finishes in the high jump and the 4x100 relay with team-

mates Lauryn Pettyjohn, Sydney Brandon and Katelyn Hughes. Weaver also placed third in the javelin and 100 meter dash. Hughes added a second-place finish in the 300 meter hurdles to her second-place finish in the 4x100 relay.

Prairie City and Monument's girls finished the day with a number of individual placers as well. The Monument girls were led by Jin Bo Ciochetti, who finished second in the 800 meter race. Prairie City's Janie Koopman had a pair of top three finishes, winning the 400 meter race and placing third in the high jump. Mallory Lusco and Morgan Randleas also had top three finishes for the Lady Panthers. Lusco would finish second in the discus and Randleas would place third in the long jump.

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