



Steven Mitchell/Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant Union's Parker Neault (5) scores a run on Saturday, April 23, 2022, against Dufur.

Prospectors drop twin bill

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant Union/Prairie City baseball team dropped a doubleheader at home to the No. 5-rated South Wasco County/Dufur Rangers on Saturday, April 23.

The Prospectors lost the first game 4-2 and fell 18-8 in the second game.

Parker Neault pitched four innings in the first game, recording five strikeouts while surrendering two earned runs on seven hits. Mason Morris pitched for two innings and gave up a pair of runs (one earned) on two hits and fanned three. Riddick Hutchison came in for relief in the final part of the game,

striking out one and allowing a hit.

Neault went 2-3 at the plate, while Syrus Workman finished 1-3 with an RBI double and scored a run. Trevor Gabbard, Lucas Blood and Talon Van Cleave each went 1-3 and scored a run. Even though the Pros lost by 10 runs in the second game, the squad flexed their offensive muscle. Freshman Ryland Beil roped a double and put up two RBIs, while Van Cleave and Gabbard went 1-3 with one RBI apiece.

Meanwhile, Hutchison and Morris each stole a base.

The Pros were reflective after Saturday's doubleheader. Morris said that the team needs to work on hitting the ball better and not letting things get in their heads.

According to Morris, 90% of baseball is mental and the other 10% is physical.

Hutchison said playing a No. 5-ranked team gave the squad some important points to focus on.

"They gave us something to learn on," he said, "and mistakes we need to work on."

Grant Union/Prairie City is now 2-3 in the Blue Mountain Conference and 7-7 overall.

The team was scheduled to face Pilot Rock/Nixyaawi/Ukiah in a home game at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 26, after the Eagle's press time.

The Pros are home again on Saturday, April 30, for a doubleheader against Union/Cove. The first game starts at 11 a.m. and the second starts at 1 p.m.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Grant Union added two more road wins on Friday, April 22, against Elgin/Imbler, winning by scores of 20-3 and 18-2. Stats from that game were not available before press time.

The Lady Pros remain undefeated on the season.

Prairie City track squad competes at EOU

LA GRANDE — The Prairie City track team competed in the 1A/2A/3A Regional Track Meet hosted by Crane High School at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande on Saturday, April 23.

The boys finished with 10 points, which was good enough for 15th place. The girls finished in 11th place with 33 points. A total of 19 teams participated in both the boys and girls competitions.

Eli and Tucker Wright had busy afternoons for the Panthers, each placing in two events. Eli placed third in both the javelin and high jump. Tucker placed third in the long jump and fourth in the triple jump.

Janie Koopman was also busy at the meet as she competed in four events

for the Lady Panthers. Koopman's best result of the afternoon was a fifth-place finish in the high jump.

Grant Union track gains experience in Vale

VALE — The Prospector track team participated in the Wayne Invitational at Vale High School on Friday, April 22. The boys came away with 26 points, finishing just behind Ontario in 10th place. The girls finished five points behind eighth-place Tri-Valley with 29 points in the meet.

Riddick Hutchison and Lucas Wolf led the boys with third-place finishes in the javelin and discus, respectively. Tucker Carpenter and Quinn Larson both picked up fifth-place finishes in the shot put and pole vault.

The girls were led by Katelyn Hughes, who finished fifth in the javelin, 300 meter hurdles and 4x100 relay with teammates Lauryn Pettyjohn, Morgan Randleas and Carson Weaver. Weaver would later notch a third-place finish in the javelin. Mallory Lusco rounded out the Lady Pro top five finishers, placing fifth in the discus.

SHOOTING THE BREEZE Stock Fit: Length of Pull

During a recent visit to my gunsmith's shop in Bend, I brought up the issue of length of pull. As measured on a rifle or shotgun, length of pull is the distance between the trigger and the very back edge of the buttplate.

How pivotal is this measurement to proper fit of a stock and accurate shooting? Mr. Wills quickly grabbed his gauge and measured my length of pull, which turned out to be 13.5 inches.

According to Randy, in the case of a rifle, as long as you're within one-half inch of your length of pull — hereafter referred to by the acronym LOP — you'll have no issues. If LOP on a .22 or the like is a bit short, it's not an issue due to the non-existent recoil. The same cannot be said in the case of a hunting rifle.

Accentuated recoil, though not purely the fault of a too-short or too-long stock, can be a symptom of improper LOP. Most factory rifles tend to come with a "one size fits all" length of pull of between 13.5 and 13.75 inches.

Off a bench rest you'll likely not notice much difference in LOP as long as the eye relief on your scope is properly set. Field positions, especially offhand, are less forgiving. If you're a stocky man of 5 feet 2 inches tall or an Amazon woman of 6 feet 4, run-of-the-mill stock dimensions may be a source of excessive recoil or difficulty in snapping the rifle to your shoulder.

Randy continued that with shotguns, it was absolutely important to have the correct LOP; there was no half-inch margin for error with shotguns as with rifles. I have in my collection a variety of long guns measuring everywhere from 12 and 7/16 to 14 1/4 inch LOP. Most

of these are rifles which land within the half-inch margin of my proper length of pull.

One particularly nasty kicker is an old Savage 94C 20 gauge single-shot. Not surprisingly, its lightweight and long 14 and 3/16 length of pull makes for an unpleasant experience each time I pull the trigger. My Remington 870 20 gauge, by contrast, has a 13 and 13/16 LOP and is much heavier and more pleasant to shoot.



Dale Valade

Before you rush down to Ace Hardware to buy stock spacers or bust out your hacksaw, be sure you have your length of pull properly measured. Traditionally, this was achieved by gripping your long gun with your shooting hand, finger on the trigger — you will have triple-checked that the firearm is NOT loaded before doing this — and by cradling the buttstock upon the inside of your forearm while holding it at a 90 degree angle to your bicep, you would see whether or not that gun was too long, too short, or just right.

The trouble with that is it's not an exact science. Save yourself unnecessary confusion and go see your preferred local gunsmith. He will properly measure your LOP and get you squared away. Likely your guns fit you well enough to shoot them already. But if you've got an unrepentant kicker or if you're planning to build a custom stock or firearm in the near future, do yourself a favor and do it right. Close is only good enough for horseshoes and hand grenades!

Want to sound off? Write to us at shootingthebreezebme@gmail.com or check us out on Facebook!

Dale Valade is a local country gent with a love for the outdoors, handloading, hunting and shooting.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, APRIL 29 11 a.m.: Grant Union golf, GUHS Invite @ John Day Golf club 1 p.m. MDT: Grant Union and Prairie City track, Don Walker Invite @ Nyssa High School 2 p.m.: Grant Union softball, doubleheader vs. Union/Cove	SATURDAY, APRIL 30 11 a.m.: Grant Union baseball, doubleheader vs. Union MONDAY, MAY 2 5 p.m. MDT: Grant Union Softball @ Nyssa TUESDAY, MAY 3 3 p.m.: Grant Union baseball vs. Baker Home games in bold
--	---

Murray's Drug
HEPPNER | CONDON | BOARDMAN

Serving Eastern Oregon since 1959!
Pharmacy • Hallmark Cards • Gifts • Liquor Store

Heppner (541) 676-9158
Condon (541) 256-1200
Boardman (541) 481-9474

www.MurraysDrug.com

Your Rural Family Health Clinic

Grant County HEALTH Department
528 E. Main, St. E, John Day

Monday - Thursday 7am - 6pm
Friday 8am - 5pm

Appointments available

Call and schedule your appointment today!
TOLL FREE 888-443-9104 or 541-575-0429

Services Provided:

- Primary Care
- Acute Care
- Women's Health Exams
- Men and Children Exams
- Immunizations
- Family Planning
- Contraception
- Pregnancy Testing & Referrals
- HIV Testing & Referrals
- Cocoon
- WIC
- High Risk Infants
- Maternity Case Management

AGCO PARTS **MASSEY FERGUSON** **HESSTON**

Robbins Farm Equipment

3850 10th St. Baker City 541-523-6377
62302 Pierce Rd. La Grande 541-963-6577
1160 S Egan Burns 541-573-6377
86812 Christmas Valley Hwy. Christmas Valley 541-576-2160

Careers that make a difference
Work with people with disabilities!

www.ImpactOregon.careers

impact (888)807

TOM CHRISTENSEN CONSTRUCTION

(541) 410-0557 • (541) 575-0192
CCB# 106077

REMODELS • NEW CONSTRUCTION • POLE BUILDINGS
CONCRETE EXCAVATION • SHEET ROCK • SIDING
ROOFING • FENCES • DECKS • TELESCOPING FORKLIFT SERVICES

CANYON CREEK Clinic
Shawna Clark, DNP, FNP
541-575-1263
235 S. Canyon Blvd. John Day, Oregon 97845

Accepting new Patients! Go to:
www.canyoncreekclinic.com

Leaf Filter GUTTER PROTECTION

BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!
15% OFF & 10% OFF
FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!
CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE 1-855-536-8838

Prepare for Power Outages & Save Money

GENERAC PWRCELL SOLAR + BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
ACT NOW TO RECEIVE A \$300 SPECIAL OFFER!
(844) 989-2328

Prepare for power outages today

WITH A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR

\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE
CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE
(877) 557-1912

dish BRING EVERYTHING YOU LOVE TOGETHER!

Blazing Fast Internet! ADD TO YOUR PACKAGE FOR ONLY \$19.99/mo. where available

2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE \$69.99/mo. 190 CHANNELS Including Local Channels!

CALL TODAY - For \$100 Gift Card 1-866-373-9175 Offer ends 7/13/22.

AT&T internet FEEL THE SPEED, EVEN AT PEAK TIMES.

- Get strong, fast Wi-Fi to work and play throughout your home.*
- No annual contract.
- Power multiple devices at once—everyone can enjoy their own screen.
- Over 99% reliability.

888-486-0359

One solution for oxygen at home, away, and for travel

Introducing the INOGEN ONE - It's oxygen therapy on your terms

No more tanks to refill. No more deliveries. No more hassles with travel. The INOGEN ONE portable oxygen concentrator is designed to provide unparalleled freedom for oxygen therapy users. It's small, lightweight, clinically proven for stationary and portable use, during the day and at night, and can go virtually anywhere—even on most airlines. Inogen accepts Medicare and many private insurances!

1-855-839-0752