



Contributed Photo

The Grant Union Boys golf team following their district championship at Birch Creek Golf Club in Pendleton on Tuesday, May 10. From left to right: Coach Zach Denney, Tanler Fuller, Bridger Walker, Charley Knowles, Sheldon Lenz and head coach Ron Lundbom.

GUHS boys run to track title

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle

ATHENA — The Grant Union track team is sending 11 competitors to the state track meet following a strong showing at the 2A Special District 5 track meet at Weston-McEwen Track in Athena on Friday, May 13.

The Prospector boys finished with 124 points to win the district championship, edging out host Weston-McEwen, which finished second with 122 team points.

Weston-McEwen and Echo/Stanford finished in a tie for the girls district championship with 112 points. Grant Union finished third with 89.5 team points. Pilot Rock and Heppner were right on the heels of the Grant Union girls, finishing fourth and fifth with 87 and 86 team points, respectively.

The Grant Union boys will send eight competitors to the state meet, led by seniors Justin Hodge and Luke Jackson, who will compete in three events each. Hodge picked up district championships in the 100 meter dash, javelin and 4x100 relay. Jackson won district championships in the 200 meter dash and 4x100 relay and was the runner-up in the 400 meter race. 4x100 relay teammates Cashton Wheeler and Mason Morris will join Hodge and Jackson in defending Grant Union's 4x100 2021 state championship at the state meet.

Morris also qualified for the state meet in the long jump, placing second at district in the event. Also punching a ticket to the state track meet for the Pros was Quinn Larson, who placed second in the pole vault. Grant Union's lone "wild card" qualifier — reserved for selections outside top-two finishers — was Riddick Hutchison, who qualified for the meet following a third-

place finish in the javelin. Andrew Hunt and Brady Dole will make the trip to state as alternates for the 4x100 relay team.

The Lady Pros qualified three for state, all in field events. All three were district runners-up, with Morgan Walker placing second in discus, Katelyn Hughes second in javelin and Morgan Randleas second in the long jump.

Grant Union head track coach Sonna Smith said the first-place boys finish came about due to her team stepping up following the loss of a score in one of the field events. "It was crucial that everybody left in the meet tried to move up as much as they could, so I was really impressed with their effort."

Smith said the girls outperformed her expectations. "I thought we were going to come in fifth and we came in third," she said. "Third, fourth and fifth were all really close together. There was a spread of three and a half points between all those places."

Smith feels her team's best chances to place at state lie with the 4x100 relay team and individual events that the relay team's members will compete in.

"Our 4x100 relay team is seeded second, so they have a very good chance of placing," she said. "Justin Hodge and Luke Jackson, who are also on the relay team, have an excellent chance of placing in the 100, 200 and 400. And then Mason Morris has an excellent chance of placing in long jump."

The team now gears up to head to the 2A State Track Meet at the University of Oregon's renowned Hayward Field in Eugene on Thursday, May 19, through Saturday, May 21. Field events start at 10 a.m., and track events start at 12:30 p.m.

Pros take district golf title

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle

PENDLETON — The Grant Union boys golf team claimed its first district championship during 16-year head coach Ron Lundbom's tenure on Tuesday, May 10, at the Nixy District Golf Championships in Pendleton.

The championships were contested over two days and started on Monday, May 9.

John Day ended the first day of the boys competition with 434 team points, which was good enough for the lead heading into the second and final day. Eventual runner-up Vale finished the first day within striking distance of the Pros with 462 team points. Heppner finished the first day in third place with 464 points.

Grant Union's Tanler Fuller finished the first day of competition in fourth place individually, shooting a 94. Fuller finished the day six strokes back

of leader Wyatt Browne of Enterprise. Fuller's teammates also shot well. Sheldon Lenz shot a 100 on day one, Charlie Knowles a 116 and Bridger Walker a 124.

The Prospector girls didn't have enough team members to post a team score. Senior Audry Walker shot a 109 on day one of competition. Grant Union's other girls golfer, Layla Wenick, shot a 128 on day one.

Day two provided a bit of intrigue as second-place Vale and third-place Heppner bested their day one scores by shooting 438 and 442, respectively. It wasn't enough to hold off the Prospector boys, however, as they shot a 433 to finish with 877 team points and win the district championship.

Vale finished second with 900 points and Heppner finished third with 906. Enterprise finished the meet in fourth place with 913 team points.

Grant Union's Fuller finished day two with a score of 95. Fuller's two-day score of 189 netted him a tie for fourth place in the individual stand-

ings. Lenz and Knowles finished within one stroke of one another on day two. Knowles shot a 108 and Lenz shot a 109. Walker shot a 131 on the final day of the tournament.

Walker and Wenick, the Grant Union girls, had strong finishes on the second day of competition. Walker shot a 124 on day two and Wenick finished with a 131.

The boys win marks the first time Grant Union will send a complete boys golf team to the state championships. Lundbom said he knew the boys had a chance to win district and "after day one it looked good."

"Strange things can happen, but we held on on day two to bring home the district title and tie for fourth place individually," Lundbom added.

Lundbom says to the best of his memory, this is the first district championship team Grant Union has had in boys golf. "We have been second three times and sent two individuals to state during my time as coach, but this is something special," he said.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

SPORTS SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, MAY 19
2 p.m.: Grant Union baseball doubleheader vs. Lyle
10 p.m.: Grant Union track, 2A state meet @ Hayward Field, Eugene

FRIDAY, MAY 20
7:30 a.m.: Grant Union golf, boys state tournament @ Quail Valley Golf Course, Banks
Home games in bold

three times in the game while logging 13 hits. Parker Neault led the way at the plate, finishing a perfect 3-3 with two runs scored and an RBI. Riddick Hutchinson finished the game 3-4 with three runs scored and an RBI.

The Pros split a doubleheader with Sherman/Arlington/Condon/Wheeler on Saturday, May 14. The first game was a dominant 22-2 win for Grant Union. The second game of the afternoon was a 6-3 loss for the Pros. Stats for the doubleheader with the Huskies weren't available at press time.

Lady Pros stay undefeated

The No. 1-ranked Lady Pro softball team looked every bit the part in a three-game stretch that saw the team outscore their opponents 40-7.

The first game against Baker took place on May 10 and resulted in a 7-2 victory for the Lady Pros. Drew Williams pitched five innings and gave up no earned runs while striking out 10. Halle Parsons pitched two innings in relief. Parsons struck out one batter and surrendered an earned run.

Paige Gerry paced the Lady Pros at the plate. Gerry finished the game 3-4 with a run scored and two RBIs. Rainey Anderson went 2-3 with two runs scored and an RBI. Halle Parsons had a productive day at the plate as well, finishing 1-3 with a run scored and two RBIs.

A doubleheader at Pilot Rock on Thursday, May 12, saw the Lady Pros flex their offensive muscle and outscore the Pilot Rock 33-5. Game one was a 14-3 offensive blitz

by the Lady Pros. Drew Williams pitched the entire contest and gave up two earned runs while striking out five batters. The Lady Pros ended the game with 11 hits. Addy Northway led Grant Union at the plate, finishing 3-4 with two runs scored and three RBIs. Savannah Hodge went 2-4 with two runs scored and three RBIs.

The second game of the doubleheader was a dominant 18-2 win for the Lady Pros. Halle Parsons pitched all three innings and surrendered a pair of runs while striking out two batters. Riley Robertson finished the contest a perfect 3-3 at the plate while scoring a run and driving in three RBIs. Rainey Anderson was 2-3 at the plate with two runs scored and five RBIs. The Lady Pros finished the contest with 14 hits

and didn't strike out at all.

Prairie City track sends two to state meet

Prairie City's boys and girls track teams both placed ninth at the 1A Special District 4 Championship Track Meet in Baker on Friday, May 13.

Two athletes, one boy and one girl, punched their tickets to state and will compete in two events each. Eli Wright placed second in javelin and won the district championship in the high jump. Janie Koopman notched a pair of third-place finishes in the high jump and 400 meter race to qualify for the state meet.

The pair head to Hayward Field in Eugene for the 1A State Track Meet that takes place on Thursday, May 19, and Friday, May 20.

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle

Pros go 2-1 over 4-day stretch

The Grant Union/Prairie City baseball team scored 35 runs over three games to go 2-1 over the course of four days.

The Pros won their first game at Pilot Rock on May 10 in convincing fashion, defeating the Rockets 10-0 in five innings. The team scored five runs in the fourth inning after building a 5-0 lead through the first three frames to lead 10-0. Neither team scored in the fifth inning, leading to the game to be called due to the 10-run rule.

Talton VanCleave pitched the entire five-inning shutout while only giving up two hits. Grant Union batters only struck out

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