



Steven Mitchell  
Blue Mountain Eagle, File  
**Prairie City junior Betty Ann Wilson celebrates after the Panthers beat Adrian to clinch a state playoff berth on Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022. Wilson scored 28 and was named Player of the Game.**

## Wilson earns all-state honors

By JUSTIN DAVIS  
Blue Mountain Eagle

PRAIRIE CITY — Prairie City High junior Betty Ann Wilson has been selected to the all-state basketball team at the 1A level. Wilson led the Lady Panthers to a third-place finish in the High Desert League tournament and subsequently led the team to a road victory in the opening round of the state basketball tournament. The Lady Panthers were bounced out of the state playoffs after a loss to Damascus Christian in the second round.

Wilson said she found out about her selection to the all-state team after her mom saw a post on Facebook. It's pretty cool," Wilson said. "We ended to season on a good note and I'm glad that I was recognized this year. It's my first year getting recognition. It kind of puts us on the map. It's always an honor to be recognized as one of the best in the state. Even if it is kind of a biased opinion, it's still cool to see your name up there."

The goal this year for Wilson was to be recognized as one of the best players in the state. "Coming in I knew what to expect because we have almost all the same girls from last year so I just kind of worked to get that spot," she said. "My goal was to get Player of the Year but shout out to Kortney Doman, she deserved it. But that was my ultimate goal, to get the recognition that I felt like I deserved."

Wilson said she hopes the state selects co-players of the year next season and that she's standing alongside Doman. "I expect her to bring out her best game," Wilson said. "It's always been a bit of a rivalry. I have all love for Kortney. I've played against her and played with her, and I see what her teammates see in her."



Justin Davis/Blue Mountain Eagle  
**The Grant Union/Prairie City softball team congratulates pitcher Drew Williams at the plate following her home run against Toledo on Friday, May 27, 2022. The Lady Pros had four home runs in the 15-0 quarterfinal victory.**

# Lady Pros still alive

Grant Union/Prairie City softball team playing for state championship berth

By JUSTIN DAVIS  
Blue Mountain Eagle

**T**he Grant Union/Prairie City softball team cruised through the second round and quarterfinals of the state tournament at home this past week.

An 8-0 win over the Bandon Tigers and a 15-0 win over the Toledo Boomers have the Lady Pros in the state semifinals and hosting one more state tournament game.

The first-round matchup with Bandon took place on Wednesday, May 25, at the Seventh Street Sports Complex. The game was scoreless for one and a half innings until Savannah Hodge hit a towering two-run home run in the bottom of the second to give the Lady Pros a 2-0 lead. The Lady Pros would add another run in the fourth inning before Hodge's bat

again showed itself via a two run double to give the Lady Pros a 5-0 lead headed into the fifth.

Adding another run in the fifth and a pair of runs in the sixth grew the Lady Pro lead to 8-0 with one more chance for the Lady Tigers to make a run headed into the seventh inning. A comeback was not in the cards, however. The Lady Pros blanked the Lady Tigers in the top of the seventh frame to leave the game with an 8-0 win and advance to the state quarterfinals.

The quarterfinal matchup with Special District 4 champions the Toledo Boomers two days later was even more dominant than the second-round win.

The Lady Pros tacked one run onto the scoreboard in the first inning but were still having a tough time figuring out Toledo pitcher Mariah Frederic through two frames. The floodgates opened in the third inning. Led by homers from Drew Williams, Savannah Watterson, Riley Robertson and Savannah Hodge, the Lady Pros turned in a 12-run third to take a commanding 14-0 lead into the fourth. Another pair of runs in the bottom of the fourth inning for the Lady Pros triggered the

mercy rule and ended the game at 15-0 after four innings.

Savannah Hodge's bat loomed large over the two games. Hodge had a home run in both contests and finished the two-game stretch a combined 4-5 at the plate with five RBIs. Drew Williams pitched both games for the Lady Pros and struck out a combined 20 batters while giving up three hits and not surrendering a single run.

Grant Union/Prairie City head coach Zach Williams said a big part of what makes the Lady Pros so dangerous is their pitching, backed by a solid defense.

"Having an above-average pitcher like Drew is definitely a big part of what has made our team successful this year," he said. "She also knows she has an above-average defense behind her and doesn't have to strike everybody out. She can pitch contact and get hitters to make bad contact and get outs as well."

Williams also cited the strength of his batting lineup and pointed to Hodge's big game against Bandon as confirmation. "Hodge was huge," he said. "Three for four with four RBIs out

of the eight spot is pretty unheard-of. Our lineup being great 1-9 definitely gives us an advantage. There is no safe spot in our lineup for a pitcher to let up."

Williams said the key to continued success is for his team to keep doing the things that have gotten them this far into the state tournament.

"Our gameplay doesn't change much from game to game," he said. "Pitch well and do the little things on defense and make routine plays be routine plays. Finally, put the ball in play hard by being patient and swinging at pitches we can drive."

The Lady Pros played fifth-seeded Nestucca on Tuesday, May 31, at the Seventh Street Sports Complex in John Day. Results were not available for that contest before press time.

A victory by the Lady Pros in the semifinal matchup would have the team traveling to Jane Saunders Stadium in Eugene to take on the winner of Lakeview and Kennedy for the 2A softball state championship. The championship game will be played on Friday, June 3, with a time still to be determined.

# Nine-run hole too deep for Pros

Postseason run comes to an end for Grant Union/Prairie City baseball team

By JUSTIN DAVIS  
Blue Mountain Eagle

MOUNT ANGEL — The Grant Union/Prairie City baseball season is over.

The Pros lost to a tough Kennedy team on the road Wednesday, May 25, after falling into a nine-run hole in the first inning they just couldn't claw their way out of. The Pros fell in the second round state playoff game 13-0 to finish the season with a record of 16-11.

Grant Union/Prairie City head coach RC Huerta was disappointed with the loss but added that you can't fall behind early to a team like Kennedy and expect to climb back into the game.

"This is what I've been talking about all season: You can't have that bad inning," he said. "Kennedy was tough, but when you shoot yourself in the foot. ... You know, we just weren't on that day, and that makes it tough. Not to make excuses, but about half of the team came down with sickness. It was a hot day and they weren't feeling good. I felt like they were ready to play, though, but that first inning just made it tough."

Huerta said his team battled all sea-



Steven Mitchell/Blue Mountain Eagle, File  
**Grant Union senior Parker Neault (5) scores a run on April 23, 2022, against Dufur. Neault and the Prospectors finished their season with a 13-0 loss to Kennedy in Mount Angel on Wednesday, May 25, 2022.**

son after starting slow and being out of the playoff picture for much of the season. "Having 11 players all year and starting three freshmen, three sophomores, a junior and three seniors — what we did was quite a feat, I feel. I'm pretty honored to be the coach of that program, and they really worked hard and did a good job."

Despite the disappointing loss, the cupboards aren't bare and the Pros

have a great amount of talent coming back to the squad next season.

"This is an excellent thing to learn from," Huerta said. "Just because you go play a good game in the first round, you still have more games to go. For them to have a taste of that at such a young age, I think the young guys are going to learn from that. They aren't going to want to have that again. They're going to come out next year

foaming at the mouth. I'm excited about the future."

Huerta also took time to praise the leadership of the team's three seniors for setting the foundation the team built upon this season.

"Those three seniors, nobody thought they would become the leaders that they were back when I first got here," he said. "Parker (Neault) and Mason (Morris) were on my team when I first got here, and Kobe (Fell) came on as a sophomore. They're quiet and unassuming and just go about their business, but the leadership skills they developed and setting the foundation for the young guys to look up to them, it was huge. The young guys are really going to benefit from that. They had a tough loss, and they'll learn from that."

The support from the community is something Huerta also acknowledged.

"I'm grateful to be alive and I'm grateful to be in this community," he said. "It's a tremendous feeling when they are there to support you, and the kids feel the same. You drive by Chester's and they bring out doughnuts. The coaching staff remembers that and the kids remember that and we want to work hard for them. We want to get bigger and bigger crowds at the games. If we can continue to get that all-encompassing support — and I think we will — things will just continue to grow and get better and better."

**Eastern Oregon Livestock Show**  
The Oldest Show in the Northwest  
UNION, OREGON  
**JUNE 6 - 12, 2022**  
ALWAYS THE FIRST FULL WEEK OF JUNE

Adult Dances Friday & Saturday  
Parade Friday @ 2 pm

4-H Horse Show - Mon & Tue, June 6th & 7th  
4-H & FFA Livestock Show - Thu & Fri, June 9th & 10th  
Market Animal Auction - Saturday, June 11th @ 9am

Tickets are available from Queen Candidates or online until June 6th  
Horsemanship - Sunday, June 13th @ 2pm  
Queen's Coronation - Tuesday, June 7th @ 7pm

**ARE YOU A First Time Home Buyer or a Veteran?**

Talk to us about a **FHA, VA, OR VA, or USDA Home Loan.**

These Loan Programs may offer qualified buyers:  
Lower Rates,  
Lower Monthly Payments and/or  
Less Down Payment.

**INQUIRE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH OR CALL:**

Raymond Seastone  
541-922-2828  
Arletta Arnspiger  
509-546-7262  
Kaitlin Orcutt  
541-303-8281

**OUR TEAM takes the stress out of Buying Your Home!**

**Bank of Eastern Oregon**

KAITLIN-NMLS #1043345 RAYMOND-NMLS #937744 ARLETTA-NMLS# 508276 / RATES & TERMS MAY VARY. ALL LOANS SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL