



Justin Davis/Blue Mountain Eagle

Dayville/Monument running back Ethan Thompson looks for running room during the Tigers' homecoming game on Friday, Sept. 30, 2022, at Monument High School.

# Tiger comeback bid fails

Dayville/Monument falls 47-20 to South Wasco County

By JUSTIN DAVIS  
Blue Mountain Eagle

**M**ONUMENT — The Dayville/Monument Tigers found themselves down 20-0 in the first quarter of their homecoming game with the South Wasco County Redsidies on Friday, Sept. 30, ultimately falling 47-20 after failing to claw their way back into the six-man football contest.

The start of the game would be a harbinger of things to come as Dayville/Monument went three and out on their opening drive. That was followed up by a 30-yard touchdown pass on the very first play of the game by the Redsidies. South Wasco County would go on to score touchdowns of 20, 50, and 28 yards on their next three possessions to push a 20-0 first quarter lead to 27-0 at halftime.

The Tigers would finally find the end zone with just over 17 seconds left in the third quarter via a 33-yard touchdown reception by Tyler Thompson to edge themselves closer to South Wasco County at 27-7. The Redsidies would respond to that score with a 27-yard touchdown strike to push their advantage to 33-7 with just under eight minutes left in the contest.

Roughly one minute later the Tigers would find the end zone again. This time, a 55-yard touchdown reception by Ethan Thompson would bring the deficit down to 33-14 with just under seven minutes left in the game.

Once again the Redsidies would prevent the Tigers from drawing closer, using a 55-yard touchdown scamper to bring the score to 40-14 with 6:32 left in the game. South Wasco would add another 50-yard touchdown strike with just under 1:30 left to push their advantage to 47-14.

The Tigers wouldn't quit, adding Gauge Jenks' 75-yard kickoff return for a touchdown to narrow the South Wasco County lead to 47-20. The Redsidies would get the final

possession, however, kneeling on the ball to run the clock to zeroes and leave Monument with a 47-20 High Desert League win.

Dayville/Monument coach Chris Carlin said his team wasn't concentrating on the fundamentals in the first half and that is what led to the lopsided score at halftime. "We just had to stick to our fundamentals and wrap up and tackle and start blocking," he said. "We weren't doing any in the first half. That's pretty much the difference."

Carlin also praised the South Wasco coaches and team following the game on Friday. "Great group of guys across the field. Hats off to them, coaches and players. Probably one of my favorite teams to play in our league. Stand-up character all around," he said.

The loss leaves Dayville/Monument at 1-4 on the season overall, with an identical 1-4 league record. The Tigers have a bye this week and will be in action next at Monument High School against Pine Eagle. Kickoff for that game is scheduled for 1 p.m.

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

By JUSTIN DAVIS  
Blue Mountain Eagle

### Pros pick up first win of season

**JOHN DAY** — The Grant Union football team got into the win column this week with a 30-12 victory over the Lyle/Wishram Cougars on Friday, Sept. 30, at Grant Union High School. The win is the first for the Pros after starting 0-4 in the inaugural season of nine-man football at the Class 2A level.

Prospector coach Jason Miller said the team didn't really do anything differently this week in comparison to previous weeks. "Nothing really different this week," he said. "We moved some personnel and continued to rep our offense and defense. With a young team like this, it takes time and repetition."

There are things the team can still improve upon, however. Miller cited tackling and limiting turnovers as things he'd like to see cleaned up. "Riverside is a quality opponent with good speed. We need to shore up our pass coverage and continue to improve our tackling. Offensively, we need to limit our mistakes and turnovers," Miller said.

The Pros will look to say in the win column when they visit Riverside in Boardman on Friday, Oct. 7. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

### Panthers crush Huntington for second straight win

**PRAIRIE CITY** — The Prairie City/Burnt River football team won its second straight game in rebounding from a two-game skid with a resounding 62-0 blanking of the Huntington Locomotives on Friday, Sept. 30, in Prairie City.

Panther coach Nick Thompson first praised Huntington's improvement from last season. "I have to commend Huntington, they had a few kids that were competitors and they've gotten much better (compared to) last season."

The key to the lopsided win was physicality and blocking, according to Thompson. "Our guys did a good job of playing physical and staying with blocks. Our front three guys, Cody Reagan, Trey Brown and Eli Wright, are all really key to any success

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

### THURSDAY, OCT. 6

Grant Union volleyball @ Stanfield, 5 p.m.

Grant Union cross country Mustang Invite @Thompson Ranch in Heppner

### FRIDAY, OCT. 7

Prairie City football @ Pine Eagle, 2 p.m.

Prairie City volleyball @ Pine Eagle, 4 p.m.

Grant Union football vs. Riverside, 7 p.m.

### SATURDAY, OCT. 8

Prairie City volleyball vs. Dayville/Monument, noon

Dayville/Monument volleyball vs. Crane @ Prairie City HS, 1:30 p.m.

Prairie City volleyball vs. Crane, 4 p.m.

### TUESDAY, OCT. 11

Grant Union volleyball @ Weston-McEwen, 4 p.m.

"we have on both sides of the ball," Thompson said.

The win was a team effort with everybody on the roster getting game time. "Cole Teel had a career day rushing the ball. Mason Teel, a freshman, had a touchdown-saving tackle to keep the game at a shutout. Everyone got into the game, including our five foreign exchange students that came to us from Burnt River High School in Unity," Thompson added.

The pros will head to Pine Eagle in Halfway on Friday, Oct. 7, looking for their third straight win. Kickoff for that game is slated for 2 p.m.

### Fifth-ranked Lady Pros take trio of matches

**JOHN DAY** — The fifth-ranked Grant Union Lady Prospector volleyball team won a trio of home matches in dominant fashion, notching a match win on Thursday, Sept. 29, before emerging 2-0 in a doubleheader on Saturday, Oct. 1.

The match on the 29th was a Blue Mountain Conference matchup with Weston-McEwen that saw the Lady Pros emerge with a 3-1 victory.

The Lady Pros won the first two games 25-22 and 28-26 to head into the third game looking for a sweep. The Lady Tigerscots prevented the shutout, win-

ning the game 25-22 and setting up a fourth game between the two teams.

The fourth game would be the end of the line for the Lady Tigerscots. The Lady Pros rebounded from their Game 3 loss to close out the match with a 25-23 win in Game 4 to win the match 3-1.

The first match of the doubleheader on Oct. 1 was another league matchup, this time with Enterprise, and the Lady Pros once again emerged with a 3-1 win. Like the matchup on Sept. 29, the Lady Pros would take a commanding 2-0 match lead following 27-29 and 25-8 wins in Games 1 and 2.

The Lady Pros would fall in the third game 25-13 to find themselves once again looking to stop a rally after being up two games to none. The Lady Pros would once again blunt a rally in the fourth game, taking the game 26-24 and the match 3-1.

The second game of the doubleheader was another Blue Mountain Conference showdown, this time against Heppner. There would be no drama in this match as the Lady Pros would win 3-0 with in games of 25-23, 25-23 and 25-22.

The trio of wins leave the Lady Pros sitting at 13-6 on the season with a perfect 4-0 league record. The Lady Pros will look to keep their momentum going when they travel to Stanfield for a league matchup on Thursday, Oct. 6. The match has a 5 p.m. tipoff.

### Lady Panthers continue winning ways

**PRAIRIE CITY** — The sixth-ranked Prairie City Lady Panthers shook off their first High Desert League loss of the season with a trio of 3-0 victories on Friday, Sept. 30, and Saturday, Oct. 1. The first match of the three-game series was a home matchup with league foe Huntington.

The Lady Panthers were dominant, posting scores of 25-11, 25-11 and 25-15 to win the match 3-0 with little drama. The second and third matches took place at Monument High School on Oct. 1 and were largely one-sided affairs as well.

The early matchup pitted the Lady Panthers against Jordan Valley. The first two games were very one-sided with scores of 25-15 and 25-18, leaving the Lady Panthers seeking a sweep in the third game.

The pivotal Game 3 was much more competitive than the first

two but still saw the Lady Panthers emerge victorious with a score of 26-24 and a 3-0 sweep of the match.

The final matchup of the three-game stretch for Prairie City saw the team face off with Grant County rival Dayville/Monument. The Lady Panthers were again dominant, posting scores of 25-15, 25-13 and 25-14 to take the match 3-0.

The wins push Prairie City's record to 16-4 on the year with a 3-1 High Desert League record. The Lady Panthers will look to add more matches to the win column when they travel to Halfway for a non-league matchup against Pine Eagle on Friday, Oct. 7. Tipoff is scheduled for 4 p.m.

### Young D/M volleyball squad falls to Jordan Valley

**MONUMENT** — The Dayville/Monument Lady Tigers gained experience but ultimately fell to the Jordan Valley Lady Mustangs 3-0 on Saturday, Oct. 1, at Monument High School. The matchup between the Lady Tigers and Lady Mustangs was the first of two games the Lady Tigers played on Saturday.

The other was a 3-0 defeat at the hands of the Lady Panthers of Prairie City. Game scores for the matchup with Jordan Valley were 25-4, 25-23 and 25-9. The two losses leave the Lady Tigers at 2-8 on the season with an 0-4 record in the High Desert League.

The Lady Tigers are in action next on Saturday, Oct. 8, when they travel to Prairie City to face the red hot Lady Panthers. The match has a noon tipoff.

### Grant Union cross country teams run in Baker

**BAKER** — The Grant Union boys and girls cross country teams competed in the Champs Invite in Baker City, with both teams finishing in 10th place. The boys finished the meet with 247 team points while the girls finished with 260 team points.

Pacing the boys team was Brady Dole, who placed 14th overall with a time of 18:35.0. Pacesetter for the girls was Maddie Bailey, who finished 55th with a time of 25:36.4.

Next up for the Grant Union cross country squad is a trip to Thompson Ranch in Heppner on Thursday, Oct. 6, for the Mustang Invite.



Dale Valade/Contributed Photo

Approach downed animals from behind and be ready to give a finishing shot if necessary.

## SHOOTING THE BREEZE

# Make sure they're down

Is he dead or only incapacitated? Make certain it's the former.

What you are about to read are true stories. The names have been omitted or changed to protect the innocent and the infamous. A basic truth amongst hunters is that while we firmly believe that our shot was true, sometimes outside influences — or inside influences — have caused have caused us to not make a good shot. The discerning hunter will finish his quarry before walking up on it. Others do not.

A childhood friend recounted that his uncle had been charged two consecutive seasons in a row by wounded, revenant deer. The first time included a graphic struggle, worthy

of any Hollywood action film. After enduring it, "Uncle Larry" cursed his previously untarnished shooting iron, blaming it for such outhouse luck. By the following October, Uncle Larry had purchased a newer, supposedly much more powerful hunting rifle before hitting the woods. As outhouse luck generally goes, Uncle Larry shot another, much smaller buck and again was forced to resort to hand-to-hand combat to rule the day. I do not remember what his excuse was for the second go-round.

Another story took place years ago in the Steens. Three local fellas decided to hit the hills for a buck hunt. One was a construction worker; we will call him Henry. The second was a Marine; we will call him Will. The third was a barber, and we will call him Jack. On opening day Henry had stalked into a four point buck with deep-forked antlers that were spindly and sharp. After Henry shot the buck, he proceeded towards the animal as it began to stir. As he got closer the buck was able to waller itself up onto a sagebrush and get on its hind legs. Despite being shot, the buck charged Henry and impaled him through the manhood and up about six inches into the stomach. Luckily Henry was able to fight off the buck and kill it. Will and Jack helped him back to camp. After a few days they made their way to the local horse vet who advised Henry to seek immediate medical attention. He declined and thereby earned himself the nickname "bandaids."

I once read a story in one of the various gun rags wherein a whitetail deer hunter had shot a wall-hanger buck. After arranging it for a photograph, he draped his rifle across the horns. Next he set the timer delay on his camera and turned just in time to see the buck quickly vacating with his rifle still resting across the antlers. I do not remember if he ever saw the buck or his gun again.

Sloppy shooting, whether with a .22 or a howitzer, is usually to blame, and although I wasn't there I feel safe in laying that one at both Henry and Uncle Larry's feet. Bad shots can happen to anyone. But the secret to avoiding this altogether is to approach every deer ready to shoot. Walk up behind it, never in front. If he is uphill, walk a semi-circle around until you are both on higher ground and behind him. Touch the animal on the eyeball with the muzzle of your rifle. If it blinks, it is still alive and will need an appropriate finisher. If it doesn't blink, it is dead.

Making sure they're down for good will save you any unpleasanties like the aforementioned. Whether you are just starting out or a seasoned veteran, it pays to be patient and careful. We owe our quarry a quick death. But if we don't give him one, he may understandably try to return the favor.

How do you make sure they're down? Write to us at shootingthebreezebme@gmail.com and check us out on Facebook!

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