

Prospectors sink Pirates

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant Union football team picked up its second win in a row in convincing fashion on Friday, Oct. 7, dominating the Riverside Pirates in a 68-20 league victory.

The Prospectors struck first, finding the end zone less than two minutes into the contest on a 3-yard touchdown reception by Charley Knowles. The ensuing two-point conversion try was successful to put the Pros up 8-0.

Just over five minutes later, Jack Strong would find the end zone for the Pros and push their lead to 16-0 following a successful two-point conversion. The Pirates would respond immediately after Strong's touchdown scamper with a 95-yard kickoff return for a touchdown.

Riverside's two-point try failed, leaving the game at 16-6. The Pros would score again on a 4-yard touchdown run by quarterback Talon VanCleave with nine seconds left in the first period to take a commanding 24-6 lead following a two-point conversion.

The Pirates would fumble on their next possession, giving the Pros the ball and the momentum headed into the second quarter. The Pros would capitalize on that opportunity, pushing their lead to 30-6 following another VanCleave touchdown run of 5 yards. The two-point conversion was unsuccessful.

Riverside responded with touchdown passes of 10 and 37 yards in back-to-back possessions to draw the game to 30-18 after a pair of missed two-point tries. Momentum appeared to be swinging toward the Pirates as they recovered an onside kick following their second touchdown of the quarter.

Riddick Hutchison was having none of



Justin Davis/Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant Union defenders converge on a Riverside ball carrier during their game at Grant Union High School on Friday, Oct. 7, 2022. The Pros went on to win the game 68-20.

it, however, forcing a fumble that the Pros recovered on the Riverside 45-yard line. The turnover swayed momentum back to the Pros, who added a 23-yard touchdown run from Strong and a 20-yard touchdown reception by Preston Boethin to push their lead to 44-18 with under a minute left to go in the first half.

The Pros still weren't done, forcing and recovering another fumble with just over 42 seconds left in the half. Again the Pros would capitalize on the turnover, this time with a 30-yard touchdown pass to Isaiah Adams and a converted two-point attempt to take a 52-18 lead into halftime.

The Pros would score twice in the second half. Another touchdown catch from Boethin, this time a 34-yard reception, pushed the Grant Union lead to 60-18 following a converted two-point try.

The final touchdown of the night for the Pros came with 5:43 left in the third quarter when Adams jumped in front of the Pirate receiver he was defending to intercept the ball and take it all the way for a touchdown. Another converted two-point try left the game at 68-18.

The final score of the game came with 4:54 left. A fumbled snap in the end zone by the Pros led to a safety and two points for the Pirates. The tally was 68-20 at that point, and the Pros had their reserves in the game throughout the final quarter.

Offensive leaders for the Pros included VanCleave, who finished with three touchdown passes and a pair of touchdown runs. Strong finished with a pair of touchdown rushes and Boethin finished with a touchdown reception and a pair of two-point conversion catches. The win pushes Grant Union's record to 2-4 with a 1-2 record in the Blue Mountain Conference.

Grant Union football coach Jason Miller said he feels like his team is hitting its stride in the nine-man game. "I feel like we are finally gaining the confidence in our abilities and our responsibilities," Miller said.

Next up for the Pros is a trip to Stanfield on Friday, Oct 14. Miller said the Tigers are always tough at home and that focus and composure will be key to leaving with a victory.

The game against Stanfield is scheduled to kick off at 7 p.m.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Lady Pros fall to Stanfield 3-1
STANFIELD — The sixth-ranked Grant Union volleyball squad traveled to Stanfield for a league showdown with the fifth-ranked Lady Tigers and left with a 3-1 loss.

The first game of the match was a competitive 25-19 win for the Lady Tigers. The Lady Pros would respond, regrouping in the second game to tie the contest at 1-1 following a 25-15 win. The pivotal third game was won by the Lady Tigers 25-17 to set up a potential match-clinching fourth game between the two teams.

The fourth game was competitive but the Lady Pros ultimately came up short, falling 25-21 to lose the match 3-1. The loss puts the Lady Pros at 13-8 on the season with a 4-1 record in league play.

The Lady Pros will look to get back on track when they host Irrigon on Thursday, Oct. 11. The match tips off at 5 p.m.

Prospector cross country takes part in Mustang Invite

HEPPNER — Grant Union's cross country team traveled to Thompson Ranch in Heppner to run in the Mustang Invite along with seven other teams. The boys finished in sixth place with 167 points while the girls did not record a score in the varsity race.

Pacing the Prospector boys was Brady Dole, who finished 12th overall with a time of 17:45.5. Quinn Larson was the other Prospector runner to place in the top 50, finishing 39th with a time of 19:54.4. There were 117 runners in the boys race.

Maddie Bailey logged the fastest time for the Lady Pro runners, finishing 33rd with a time of 25:30.3. Abbie Justice recorded the second-fastest time for the Lady Pros. Justice finished 45th with a time of 28:08.7.

The Grant Union cross country season continues with a trip to Sisters for the Clash in the Cascades on Thursday, Oct. 13.

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Panthers blank Pine Eagle for third straight win

HALFWAY — The ninth-ranked Prairie City football team looked very much like a Top 10 squad on Friday, Oct. 7, mauling the Pine Eagle Spartans in a 72-0 rout at Pine Eagle High School. The win is the third in a row for the Panthers, who briefly fell below .500 earlier in the season.

The win brings Prairie City's record on the season to 4-2. The Panthers also have an identical 4-2 league mark.

The Panthers will look to win their fourth straight game while still seeking a spot in the eight-team state playoff when they travel to Harper Charter on Friday, Oct. 14. Kickoff for the contest is scheduled for 4 p.m. MDT.

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Hello Grant County,

Upcoming Events
October 14 & 15 Grant County Farmer's Market Harvest Fest and Best of the Old West Quilt Show
Grant County Fairgrounds — 14th - 3-8pm • 15th - 9am-2pm

October 15th — National Fossil Day at the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument — 9am — 5pm

Bank of Eastern Oregon is collecting Hats and Mittens through October 21st
November 12
Deck the Halls Gala — 6pm

Sponsored by Painted Sky Center for the Arts — 6 pm Grant County Fairgrounds

Daycare and Workers Are a Big Problem in Grant County!

At our Chamber Board meeting on September 15, Megan Brandsma and Laci Wheeler from Frontier Childcare Resource and Referral and Aaron Treadwell, the Executive Director from Umatilla-Morrow Head Start spoke to the board about the shortage of daycare and the absence of a Head Start program currently in Grant County.

Head Start is not able to operate currently due to the lack of a teacher and other necessary employees.

If you are interested in starting a child care facility, contact Megan - 541-589-2066 or Laci — 541-620-4427.

If you are interested in helping Head Start contact Aaron at 541-564-6878.

The Chamber is concerned about the lack of a dependable workforce in our county. We have talked to several of our businesses who are struggling to keep their doors open because they can't find people who want to work! How do we solve this problem? If you have any ideas or answers, we'd like to hear from you.

Business Enhancement Grant Update
Funds are still available for Business Enhancement Grants. Applications are available at the Chamber office and online. The program has recently been revised to include security for businesses. Business Enhancement grants provide matching funds up to \$2,500 for Chamber members making exterior and interior improvements to their businesses intended to restore and rehabilitate their buildings. Grant applications must be submitted before the project is started.

Chamber Board to Meet
Our next Chamber Business meeting will be Thursday, October 20, 2022. The board meets at 10:30 AM at the Chamber Office.

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Prairie City earns a split

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle

PRAIRIE CITY — The Prairie City volleyball team played host to local rivals Dayville/Monument and Crane for a round robin set of matches on Saturday, Oct. 8, emerging with a 3-0 sweep of the Lady Tigers and a 3-1 loss to the Crane Lady Mustangs. The young Dayville/Monument squad went 0-2 on the afternoon but battled in all six games they played.

The first match of the afternoon pitted the Lady Panthers against the Lady Tigers of Dayville/Monument. The first game was a one-sided affair with the Lady Panthers emerging victorious with a 25-7 score.

The second game was much more competitive until the Lady Tigers ran out of steam to fall 25-17.

Prairie City would close out the Dayville/Monument squad in the third game, taking a 25-12 victory and winning the match 3-0.

The Dayville/Monument team would have little time to reflect as they faced off with second-ranked Crane immediately following their match with Prairie City. The Lady Mustangs looked the part of the No. 2 team in the state, dispatching the Lady Tigers with scores of 25-9 and 25-8 in the first two games.

The third game was much more competitive than the first two but still ultimately resulted in a 25-15 Lady Mustang win and a 3-0 sweep of the match.

The nightcap was the matchup everybody had been waiting for as the Lady Panthers got to measure how they stacked up against one of the best teams in the state in hosting the Lady Mustangs.

The first game of the match was a back-and-forth

affair that saw the Lady Panthers fall behind and then rally to a 25-23 win to take a 1-0 lead in the match. The Lady Mustangs would regroup, however, winning the next three matches in a row with scores of 25-16, 25-17 and 25-18 to take the match 3-1 and deal the Lady Panthers their second loss to Crane on the season.

Much like the first game, the Lady Panthers would find themselves down and attempting to rally to victory in the final three games of the match. Unlike the first game, though, the Lady Mustangs would blunt the Lady Panther attempts at come-from-behind victories.

Dayville/Monument coach Cheyenne Clark said she sees her team getting better. "Whether it's hitting or serving or our blocking or whether it's just talking, they're improving with every single game."

"This game in particular (against Crane) we came in with a different mindset, with having little wins rather than the overall score as a win, just because we have little goals to accomplish and they did. Crane is a hard-hitting team and we knew that and a hard-serving team and they were able to dig some of their hits and dig some of their serves, so I was really proud of them with that," Clark said.

Clark's team came into the match with Prairie City with a different approach, focusing on intangibles that will make the team better in the long run. "For us in that game we wanted to work on our mindset and our overall having a better attitude and coming in with confidence, and we were able to do that," Clark said. "These girls, if they were to just believe and have more confidence in themselves, they would be able to play better overall."

SPORTS SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, OCT. 13	@ Harper Charter, 4 p.m. (MDT)
Grant Union cross country, Clash in the Cascades, Sisters HS	Prairie City volleyball vs. Pilot Rock/Ukiah, 5 p.m.
Prairie City volleyball vs. Elgin, 5 p.m.	SATURDAY, OCT. 15
Grant Union volleyball vs. Irrigon, 5 p.m.	Grant Union volleyball vs. Enterprise, noon
FRIDAY, OCT. 14	Grant Union volleyball vs. Heppner, 4 p.m.
Grant Union football @ Stanfield, 1 p.m.	TUESDAY, OCT 18
Dayville/Monument football vs. Pine Eagle @ Monument HS, 1 p.m.	Grant Union volleyball vs. Stanfield, 4 p.m.
Prairie City football	Home games in bold

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