

Mustang Tournament Hopes Higher

Heppner Wins Two Out of Three In Week's Play

The Mustangs roared back Tuesday night to bury Irrigon 68 to 30 and keep their tournament hopes alive.

Heppner will play Stanfield there Friday night and if they can win that game they will be tied with Stanfield for second place in the district. Should the Mustangs win they will play off the tie Saturday night. If they take third place, Heppner will then play either Helix or McEwen Monday night to determine who will get last place in the tournament to be played at Pendleton late next week.

By James Monahan

Tournament berths looked a little farther away for the Heppner Mustangs after the results from last weekend's split in basketball play. In a Friday night tilt that wasn't very impressive, the blue and gold hoopers edged out the Lexington Jackrabbits by a 43-36 score and met the Echo Cougars in an exciting contest that ended in a 45-38 loss for the Mustangs.

Lexington with only one win to its credit for the entire year gave their host a rude surprise throughout the contest.

Jumping to a 2-0 lead on a jump shot by Hunt the bunnies added gift shot for a 3-0 lead. Ruhl hit from the corner for the Mustangs first score and then Tibbles tipped in a duce for the horses first leading margin of the game. D. Piper took a rebound and dumped it back for a 6-3 lead.

Patrick sank a couple for the "long ears" last score of the quarter. S. Ruhl connected on a feed from J. Piper to complete Heppners first period shooting. Lex hit for one field goal and 4 freethrows for a second stanza total of 6 while the Mustangs rolled through 6 field goals for 12.

Del Piper opened the Mustangs scoring in the second with a fade-away hook. Piper added another tipin while Connor hit a long set from the side.

Piper again hit with a jump from the side. Connor fired in another 2 pointer from the side to up the Mustang lead to 18-9 before Nolan hit on a jump shot from the front.

A faulty upcourt pass gave S. Ruhl his first steal of the game as he intercepted it for a lay-in to bring the halftime score to a low 21-11 total.

"The Third Quarter Blue" accompanied the Mustangs through

out the entire third portion of play as the Mustangs lead dwindled from 11 points to 7.

Scoring for the Heppner cagers in the third section was started when D. Piper dropped through his third tip-in of the night. J. Piper scored a long set shot from front of the key to give the horses their longest lead of the game and after that shot the "bunnies" settled down to "basketball business".

Ahead only 32-25 at the final period's end the Mustangs continually lost ground in the scoring column and with 2:34 had only a 38-34 lead.

J. Piper was fouled and made good only one of his gift shots but immediately afterwards his brother Del hit for another gift shot to give the Mustangs a 41-34 lead with 58 seconds to go when Herman hooked through a shot. Ruhl ended the game's scoring with a jump from in deep in the key.

D. Piper was high for the night, clicking for 18 field goals and one gift shot while Ruhl was runner-up with 15. Mike Patrick was high for the bunnies with 11.

George Delapp's Cougars were still sitting on the U. M. C. League throne after their tussle with the Heppner Mustangs despite a 13 point output in the last six minutes of play.

Breaking the ice first the Mustangs scored on Skip Ruhl's short jump shot but Echo's Mike Tolar tied it up with a fade-away jump. From that point on Heppner continually forged ahead until they had posted at 13-6 first quarter lead.

The Mustangs defensive game sagged off in the second period and in the final two minutes the two squads traded bucket for bucket with Echo tying the game on a short shot by Ramos for a 21-21 halftime total.

Mike and Sam Ramos lead the Cougars in the last half as they potted 15 of the "cats" 24 points while the Mustangs collected 17. Heppner went behind as far as 11 points in the third and managed only 4 points the first coming on a pair of tosses by Ruhl with only 3:19 left in the first quarter. Tibbles dunked a tip-in for the other Mustang score.

Trailing 25-35 at the last stanza start the Mustangs outscored the Cougars by 3 points but failed to overcome the winning margin in the "catmen" had built up in the third.

The Mustangs outshot the Cougars from the field by two points but lost the tilt on the black line as they cannot only 4-12 while the Echo cagers rolled in 13 for 23.

High point laurels were won by Skip Ruhl with 14 while Mike and Sam Ramos tallied 10 apiece for the Cougars.

Livestock Marketing Trends For Oregon, United States Listed

Floodgates have been opened on the nation's record backlog of finished beef with more than one-half of the nearly six million winter-fed cattle likely to be marketed during the first three months of this year.

Livestock feeders who have held longer than usual hoping for better prices are "bunching" marketings rather than holding animals to heavier weights that meet consumer resistance, reports William Fowler, Oregon State college livestock marketing specialist.

Partly-finished steers may also move rapidly to avoid competition with last fall's big pig crop scheduled to hit retail markets by late spring, Fowler says.

Main hope for feeders of heavy cattle lies in the defense department's announcement that the military will continue through March its program for accelerated purchases of boneless beef. The program was started in December at the request of the U. S. department of agriculture.

Nationally, winter feeding of cattle has increased one-third since 1950 with this year's 5,823,000 head running one percent above last year's previous record. Corn belt feeders, with about 70 percent of the total, held their numbers close to last year's. But Western states were feeding 1,563,000 head on January 1—three percent above last year's previous record.

Oregon feeders had 45,000 head on January 1 for a 24 percent increase over last year, Fowler reports.

Even more significant than total numbers of cattle, the specialist explains, is the present rate of marketing. Farmers' intentions on January 1 were to market 51 percent of the total numbers during the first three months of the year compared to 44 percent for the same period last year.

Fowler explains that farmers can no longer afford to give cattle extra finish while waiting for better prices. Other feeding trends noted by the specialist this winter are fewer calves and lightweight cattle on feed, about the same numbers of middleweights, and a big increase in heavy cattle.

MARION GREEN NAMED INSURANCE REPRESENTATIVE

Marion C. Green, local business man, has been appointed as local life insurance representative for the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States.

Green is presently associated with Empire Equipment Co. as parts manager and will work life insurance on a part time basis.

He is married and has one son and is well known in the Heppner community having lived in Heppner all his life.

He will specialize in mortgage, family income, juvenile and estate analysis.

DOG-GONE

Sportsmen who have hunted behind Smokey the Chesapeake Bay retriever owned by Dr. A. D. McMurdo will be sorry to hear of his death last week. Smokey had been sick with infectious Hepatitis for over four months and had dwindled to a mere skeleton. He was 10 years old last November.

Ed Rice of Portland is visiting at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Rice.

Farm Land Values Up, Farm Incomes Down; OSC Reviews Reasons

Farm land values, high during the past two years, have been supported by several factors other than farm income, reports Manning Becker, farm management specialist at Oregon State college.

In the past, the value of farm land and buildings went up when farm income increased and went down when farm income declined. But since 1953, farm land values have slowly and steadily risen to a new record high in the face of declining farm income.

And regular reports to the U. S. department of agriculture from 16,000 farmers and 10,000 real estate men show this to be a nationwide trend.

Becker says several factors are probably responsible for this unexpected strength in farm land values:

First, farmers are strong bidders for additional land to enlarge their own farming operations. Many farmers see the use of machinery on more land as a way to increase their production efficiency in the face of the present cost-price squeeze.

Second, it's been easier to obtain credit for farm purchases. Several large lenders reduced interest rates and raised appraised values for loan purposes in 1954.

Third, a booming non-farm economy has encouraged investment in farm land by urban people.

Despite the influence of these three factors on land values during the past few years, Becker believes that over the years farm land values will depend—as they have in the past—upon the general level of farm earnings.

Some current investments in farm land may be based on the belief that land will develop "scarcity" value as our population continues to increase. But Becker thinks technical advances in agriculture during the next 20 years will make it possible for farmers to produce all our population will need from present farm acreage.

BLOW CONTROL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEET SET

Morrow county farmers living within the boundaries of the Lexington blow control district are reminded of the annual meeting of that organization which will be held at the Alfred Nelson home February 27 beginning at 8:00 p. m. Business will be taken care of with a discussion of the reasons for the district.

Election will be held to fill the unexpired terms of Bob Kil-Kenny and Albert Lindstrom. All are invited to attend.

MAHONEY'S LEAVE FOR HAWAII

Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Mahoney left Monday for a vacation visit to the Hawaiian Islands. They expect to return to Heppner about March 4.

Mr. and Mrs. David Brizendine of Arlington were Saturday guests of Mr. and Mrs. William Labhart.

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Ruggles spent the weekend in La Grande where they visited with Mr. and Mrs. Bus Dodson.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Halder-son of Condon were Saturday evening guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Gribble.

Radioactive Treated Foods Show Promise; Flavor, Looks Vary

OREGON STATE COLLEGE—Wide variations in flavor, appearance and texture of different foods treated with radioactive materials have been reported by an Oregon State college food technologist, who urges large-scale tests to determine how well irradiated foods will be liked and accepted by consumers.

Dr. H. W. Schultz, head of food technology at Oregon State, points out that ionizing treatments hold tremendous possibilities for preserving foods without refrigeration and for ridding foods of parasites.

It is still impossible to say, however, whether the flavor and

"looks" changes that come with treatment of many foods will make them "unacceptable" to consumers, Schultz continued. Research is needed to clarify these points.

"Some foods, such as milk and cheese, bananas, orange juice, and certain cured meat products such as frankfurters have become notorious examples of producers of undesirable flavors when irradiated." The OSC food processing expert said.

On the other side of the picture, asparagus, bacon, green beans, beef liver, broccoli, brussel sprouts, carrots, chicken, codfish cakes, pork and pork sausage rate "good" on the appraisal chart.

Many meats—which are among the key foods under study—show promise, Schultz said. It appears that irradiation of meat may cause no greater flavor changes than those produced in some food canning or freezing he reported.

Raw meat generally is "very slightly browned" on the outer surfaces when given ionizing treatments, Schultz found, but when cooked there is no discernible effect. Texture sometimes is changed. Ground beef takes on a "crumbly" texture when irradiated at high dosages and beefsteak texture is described as "softened."

A panel of trained taste testers rated the irradiated meats "different" than non-irradiated, Schultz said, but it is not known to what extent this difference will influence consumer acceptance of the meats.

No changes in flavor or texture have been reported with bread but a "light straw" color resulted from the ionizing treatment. Potatoes have been found to develop an "off flavor" and brownish color. Eggs give a stale appearance.

The three major areas for which ionizing radiations might be considered for foods according to Schultz, are (1) for preservation by total sterilization using relatively large dosages of radioactive materials; (2) "pasteurizing" treatment where smaller dosages are used to cut the microbial population and extend storage life; and (3) for destroying parasites in food products using still smaller dosages.

OSC has an extensive program of research underway at present on meats. Heading up these studies are Robert F. Cain, E. C. Bubl and H. C. Nordan. Findings to date show ionizing treatments might make it possible to keep



"Fasten your safety belt, Horace!"

Local News In Brief

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Beardsley of Portland were recent visitors at the home of Mrs. Beardsley's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Swaggart over the weekend.

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Evans over the weekend were Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Kari of Pendleton and Dick Kari of Hanford, Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Scritsmeier of Portland were in Heppner over the weekend to attend the Elks Annual and to visit with Mrs. Scritsmeier's sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Faye Prock.

Among weekend visitors here for the Elks Annual were Mr. and Mrs. Percy Dickerson, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. McElvain and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hendricks of Pendleton.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Parker of Pasco were weekend visitors at the home of Mrs. Parker's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clive Huston.

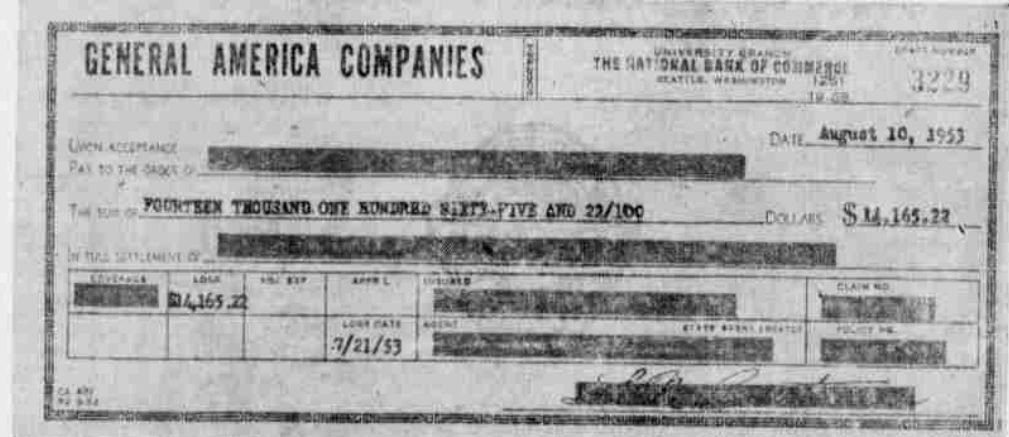
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Case of Seaside, were guests last weekend at the home of his brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Case.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Johnson of Pendleton were Heppner visitors over the weekend and were house guests at the home of her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Edger.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Parrish of Portland visited over the weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Parrish.

meat for long periods without refrigeration.

In the studies, raw meats are canned and then sent to Arco, Idaho, for immersion in canals where radioactive rods are cooled. Other foods are treated in a similar fashion.



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