

Cardinals Suffer Two Heartbreakers in 7-B Event

Mustangs Top Vale and Grant To Win Title

Deadly on offense and sticky on defense, the unsung Heppner Mustangs bowled over two favored teams from the eastern division of the Greater Oregon league to capture the district 7 A-2 tournament championship at La Grande Friday and Saturday nights.

They overcame halftime deficits in both games to do the job.

After overwhelming the Vale Vikings in the second half Friday night for a 76 to 59 victory, they came back Saturday night to defeat a "dream team," Grant Union of John Day, 58 to 48. They won their

birth in the state tournament at Coos Bay, March 11 to 13, with poise and finesse before a howling crowd that filled every available spot in the Eastern Oregon College gymnasium.

Their job against Grant Union was to stop Dave Dieker, the 6-4 junior center who has run rampant on scoring through the season. Using a 4-man box zone defense with the fifth man assigned especially to Dieker, the Mustangs did the job. They held him to five field goals and one free throw for a total of 11. He had tallied 24 the night before when the Prospectors slapped Wahtonka, 53 to 49.

Meanwhile, the Mustangs fired at the basket at a 470 clip. They took only 47 shots, waiting for the good ones, but made 22. The Prospectors, facing the tough Heppner defense, made only 17 of 61 tries, or .279 percent.

Bill McLeod, who later was chosen as a first team all-star selection from the tournament, drew the roving assignment on Dieker through much of the game, and he was on the big man like a mustard plaster, although giving him 5 inches in height advantage.

The championship contest started as a nip-and-tuck affair with the lead changing several times in the first quarter. McLeod, John McCabe and Jon O'Donnell carried the early scoring for Heppner, and Ken Stevens, Chris Labhart, out of the hospital only a few days, and Dieker started hitting for the Prospectors. At the end of the first quarter the jump shot of Dieker gave the Grant five a 13-11 edge.

Prospectors Pull Away

From there, the Grant team started pulling slowly away. Mike Lenz started drilling the hoop with long ones, and with 3 1/2 minutes gone in the second quarter, the Prospectors held their biggest lead at 26-20. But sophomore John McCabe and Dave Hall, two of Heppner's heroes and both of whom made the tourney all-star second team, used their quickness and agility to score on drives and keep the Mustangs alive.

By halftime it was 30 to 26 for Grant.

Labhart moved the lead to six again at the start of the third on a layin, but at this point, Heppner started to apply its second half rush. Hall drove all the way for a layin, McLeod tallied on a reverse layin, Hall followed with a jumper, and McLeod zeroed in from the baseline. This brought the score to 34-32 for Heppner with 3:41 gone in the third quarter. Never from that point did Grant take the lead again.

By the end of the period, Heppner held a 40-37 edge over the team that had defeated them twice in the regular season.

Mustangs Close With Rush

While the Mustangs continued with a rush in the final stanza, the Grant team started to lose its poise, and Heppner came on. With the edge holding at about eight points, it became clear with some two minutes to go that the Mustangs would go to state tournament, and the Heppner bench was a scene of resounding joy. McCabe seemed to wrap it up when he drove for a layin, was called for a foul after the shot. His two-pointer made it 51-43 for Heppner, and the foul was his fifth. He left the game jubilantly, an unusual attitude for a man retiring on fouls!

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Grant Union set the pace in the contest with a deliberate type offense, waiting for the good shot. Heppner seemed surprisingly content with this, unusual for a team with their quick hands, ball hawking technique and speed. They preferred to set their defense against Labhart, Dieker and Company instead of trying for steals on a full court press on the theory that they couldn't afford to let the big boys get set. The strategy paid off.

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By the middle of the fourth quarter and despite the 24 point production of Rick Johnson of the Vikings, the Mustangs had Vale on the ropes. With 3:43 to play, Heppner had an astounding 20-point lead, 67 to 47. Although Coach Bob Clough cleared his bench, the 20 points came close to holding through the rest of the contest.

The third quarter was disaster for Vale, and if it weren't for Steve Kenison, it would have been worse. He was the only man to hit for the Viks during the quarter, scoring all nine of his team's points.

McLeod was high man for Heppner with 16, although scoring was evenly balanced with Kilkenney and McCabe each notching 15, and O'Donnell, playing his best game of the season, getting 14. It was O'Donnell who started a rather tense Heppner team off in the first quarter when he scored three timely field goals.

Johnson Hits 24

Johnson's 24 for Vale came on seven field goals and 10 free throws. Kenison had eight field goals and a free throw for 17. Heppner shot a torrid 516 in the game (32 of 62) while Vale hit .397 (24 of 63).

In the Grant-Wahtonka game Friday night, the Prospectors threatened to blast the Eagles from time to time, but the Wahtonka team always came fighting back. Labhart, who had undergone an appendectomy only a week earlier, was held out until late in the game for the Prospectors.

Halftime favored Grant, 26 to 18, and the lead was 42-32 at the start of the fourth quarter, but in the final stanza the never-say-die Eagles put on a late rush and closed to within four at the buzzer, making the final tally, 53 to 43.

Scoring in that one was as follows:

GRANT 53—Dieker 24, Stevens 9, Ogilvie 8, Labhart 7, Deist 4, Simmons 1.

WAHTONKA 49—Herman 19, Matheny 7, Speck 6, Busick 5, Nichols 2, Wilkes 10.

In the consolation game Saturday night, Vale rapped Wahtonka, 67 to 58.

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Dick Carpenter, Heppner High principal and district chairman, acted as master of ceremonies in presentation after the game. Dr. Howard Richardson, director of athletics at EOC and tournament director, presented the district trophy to Co-captains Bill McLeod and David Hall of the Mustangs.

Scoring of the Heppner games:

Two heartbreaking losses after an opening victory in the district 7-B basketball tournament in Bendleton last week ended hopes of the lone Cardinals for a state tournament berth.

The Cards topped Umapine last Wednesday afternoon, 65 to 55, in the opener with Jim Swanson turning in a tremendous performance by scoring 32 points. In the second game—the crucial one for the Redbirds—Long Creek came from behind Thursday night to edge them on a last second field goal, 66 to 64, and knock them out of championship contention. In a battle for third place Friday night, McEwen of Athena overcame a late-game deficit and tipped the Cardinals in double overtime, 62 to 60.

Coach Gene Dockter's five thus finished in fifth place in the tournament.

Tournament champion was Prairie City, which topped Long Creek in the finals, 63 to 50. McEwen gained third on its two-point win over Umapine, and Umapine took fourth by virtue of a 49-42 victory over Mt. Vernon. Prairie City will represent the district in the state B tournament which will be this week, also in Bendleton.

Riverside lost its first two games, bowing to Prairie City in a hard-fought contest Wednesday, 60 to 56, and to Mt. Vernon, 56 to 43, in the consolation round Thursday. Stanfield also was eliminated after two games, losing to Long Creek in its opener, 77 to 64, and to Umapine in consolation, 57 to 38.

Umapine Wins Sportsmanship

Umapine won the C. K. Kluge Memorial Sportsmanship trophy, which was presented for the second year. Ron Daniels, Mor-

row county school district superintendent, presented the tourney championship trophy to Prairie City Friday night as Eastern Oregon representative on the OSAA Board of Control.

Long Creek, held without a bucket in the first period, started hitting in the second, however, and outscored the Redbirds, 21-12. Still, at halftime the lone five was ahead, 35 to 29.

Third period was nip and tuck, and the game came to the wire with lone leading by six points with a minute and a half to go. Allen and Mike Weissenfluh, Long Creek's court wizards, had turned on the steam in the first of the fourth.

Violations Hit Lone

A rash of violations was whistled by the busy officials who stopped lone four times in the waning seconds. This enabled the Lone Creek five to knot the count at 64-64. Lone held the ball with seconds to go and was attempting to set up a last shot when they again were called on a turnover. With 16 seconds to play Long Creek set up a shot. It bounced off the rim, and in the ensuing scramble for the rebound, Allen Weissenfluh got it, put it up and dropped it through. With that shot went lone's hopes for a district championship.

Halvorsen tallied 28 in this contest to lead the Cards. Swanson totaled 24 which gave him 56 in two games.

Against Umapine in the opener, the Redbirds moved well in front early and had a 21-9 first quarter lead. At halftime the county was 33 to 24 with the Chiefs coming back.

Swanson, with teammate Halvorsen slowed by his foul trouble, came through with 22 points in the second half, and 15 of them in the fourth period.

Ron Rainwater, Chiefs' high scorer who had trouble finding the range, started hitting in the second half, and the Umapine five came within four at 45-41 late in the third. From there, however, the Cardinals started slowly pulling away for the 10-point victory.

McEwen Overcomes Lead

Against McEwen, the Cardinals didn't run away from the opposition in the early stages but held a 32-25 halftime margin. They added another two points to the lead in the third quarter and seemed to be on the way to victory with the 44 to 35 lead.

But DeWayne Dunlap fired 10 points in the fourth quarter while his team was scoring a total of 21, and lone managed only 12. This brought the score to a 56-56 deadlock at the end of regular play.

In the first overtime, the Redbirds took a 60-56 lead with 38 seconds to go, but Doug Dunlap tallied, lone missed a field goal try, and Frank Ward hit for McEwen to bring the first overtime to a 60-60 standoff.

Both teams had trouble hitting in the second overtime, but Ioneullen 10, Moses 6.

McEwen 65—Lovgren 7, Swanson 32, Halvorsen 13, Ball 4, Sherman 8, Nelson 1.

Umapine 55—Jamison, Rainwater 26, D. Key 1, Hodgen 9, Marlatt 11, G. Key 8.

Ione 64—Lovgren 4, Swanson 24, Halvorsen 28, Ball 4, Sherman 4, Nelson, Palmateer

LONG CREEK 66—A. Weissenfluh 24, M. Weissenfluh 18, Moore 4, Morgan 6, Hueckman 14, Howell, Rehder, Horn.

Ione 60—Lovgren 8, Swanson 10, Halvorsen 21, Ball 4, Sherman 15. (2 points scored for lone by DeWayne Dunlap of McEwen in a "wrong way" basket).

McEwen 62—Doug Dunlap 14, Ward 7, DeWayne Dunlap 21, Ioneullen 10, Moses 6.

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Against Vale, the Mustangs trailed through most of the first half, but overcame a one-point deficit at the start of the third quarter when McCabe tallied on a layin to give Heppner the edge at 33-32. From that point, Vale never regained the advantage. McLeod, McCabe and Kil-

kenney connected on a burst of points that shot Heppner in front, 38 to 32, and the teams traded buckets through the rest of the quarter which ended with the Mustangs leading, 47 to 41.

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HEPPNER 76

McLeod 7, 2, 1, 16

Hall 2, 2, 3, 6

Kilkenney, R. 7, 1, 2, 15

McCabe 6, 3, 2, 15

O'Donnell 5, 4, 3, 14

Stillman 0, 0, 1, 0

Pettyjohn, L. 0, 0, 0, 0

Pettyjohn, S. 0, 0, 0, 0

Dobbs 2, 1, 2, 5

Healy 0, 0, 0, 0

Ashbeck 2, 1, 0, 5

Kilkenney, P. 0, 0, 0, 0

TOTALS 31, 14, 15, 76

VALE 59

Johnson 7, 10, 3, 24

Jacobs 4, 0, 4, 8

Kenison 8, 1, 5, 17

Yraguen 1, 0, 4, 2

Freeman 2, 0, 1, 4

Wayne 0, 0, 0, 0

Hodge 0, 0, 0, 0

Ceniga 0, 0, 0, 0

Page 1, 0, 0, 2

Moore 0, 0, 1, 0

Adams 1, 0, 1, 2

TOTALS 24, 11, 19, 59

VALE 59

HEPPNER 15, 17, 16, 29-76

GRANT UNION 48

Deist 1, 2, 5, 4

Labhart 2, 0, 4, 4

Dieker 5, 1, 4, 11

Lenz 4, 5, 1, 13

Stevens 3, 2, 3, 8

Jolley 0, 1, 0, 1

Lang 0, 0, 0, 0

Magee 0, 0, 1, 0

Ogilvie 0, 0, 0, 0

Owens 0, 0, 0, 0

Simmons 1, 2, 2, 4

Southwick 0, 0, 1, 0

TOTALS 17, 14, 23, 48

GRANT UNION 13, 17, 7, 11-48

HEPPNER 11, 15, 14, 18-58

Here's How Heppner Won District Championship

Heppner-Vale Game

Time	Player	Action	RUNNING SCORE
Heppner Vale			
:29	O'Donnell	FIRST QUARTER Missed free throw, foul on Kenison	0 0
1:35	McCabe	Missed free throw, foul on Kenison	0 0
1:47	Kenison	Layin, feed from Johnson	0 2
2:13	Johnson	Two free throws, McCabe foul	0 4
2:29	O'Donnell	Layin	2 4
2:43	Johnson	Layin	2 6
2:58	Hall	Missed free throw, Jacobs foul	2 6
3:05	Kilkenney	Tipin	4 6
3:41	Johnson	Free throw, O'Donnell foul	4 7
4:01	Adams	Missed free throw, O'Donnell foul	4 7
4:04	Kilkenney	Missed free throw, Yraguen foul	4 7
4:17	Johnson	Pusher, outer key	4 9
4:36	McLeod	From key	6 9
5:05	O'Donnell	Short hook	8 9
5:14	Kenison	Layin	8 11
5:31	Kilkenney	Missed free throw, Johnson foul	8 11
6:09	O'Donnell	Jump shot in key	10 11
6:46	Hall	Underhand layin (Heppner's first lead)	12 11
7:07	Jacobs	Tipin	12 13
7:28	McLeod	Layin	14 13
7:45	Yraguen	Short jumper	14 15

Heppner-Grant Union Game

Time	Player	Action	RUNNING SCORE
Heppner Grant			
:24	Lenz	Free throw, McLeod foul	0 1
:38	O'Donnell	One hander from left	2 1
:51	Stevens	Free throw, Hall foul	2 2
1:11	McLeod	Jump shot	4 2
1:24	Dieker	Free throw missed, McLeod foul	4 2
2:20	Stevens	Long push shot	4 4
2:34	McCabe	Jump shot	6 4
2:46	Labhart	Hook	6 6
4:37	McLeod	Made one of two free throws, Deist foul	7 6
5:41	McCabe	Drive through key	9 6
5:56	Dieker	Free throw, O'Donnell foul	9 7
6:23	Dieker	Jump shot	9 9
6:45	McLeod	Reverse layin	11 9
7:02	Lenz	From baseline	11 11
7:25	Dieker	Jump shot	11 13

2 Mustangs Named To All-Star Team

Two Heppner High Mustangs, Seniors Russ Kilkenney and Bill McLeod, were named to the all-opponent sub-district all-star basketball team (western division of the Greater Oregon League) at a coaches' meeting in La Grande during the district tournament, Coach Bob Clough announced.

Others completing the first five are Larry Mathews of Pilot Rock, Ed Busick of Wahtonka, and Gale Corwin of Madras. David Hall, Heppner senior, made the second team. Others on the second five are Leo Coelsch of Sherman, Tom Matheny of Wahtonka, Jerry Nangus of Pilot Rock and Bruce Wilkes of Wahtonka.

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District Champs To Leave Sunday

(Continued from page 1)

tournament three times—in consecutive years—1953, 1954, and 1955. They placed fifth in 1953 and 1955 but didn't place in 1954.

As in 1965, Heppner will enter the tournament with one of the poorest season's records at 16-8, but this doesn't take into account the team's eight consecutive wins, the last loss being January 27 to Condon.

And the late season opposition has been the toughest. Little is known here about Rogue River except that it has a 21-1 record and that it just squeaked by unranked Lakeview, 74 to 71.

While Rogue River is ranked tops in the polls, the Mustangs just made the lower rankings this week after their winning of the district tournament. In the A. P. poll the Mustangs are tied for ninth, in the Oregonian poll they are tied for eighth, and in the Journal poll they are plummeted to 13th!

However, Coach Bob Clough said firmly after the district tournament, "We'll be contenders down there." He expressed confidence in his team and said that everyone performed admirably in the district tournament.

"I just couldn't pick out any one of them," he said. "They all were just great."