

# Sonics, Lakers, Blazers knotted



Basketball is not a one man show anymore...literally. (G-T Photos)

Mike Currin scored 14 points two weeks ago to lead the Bank of Eastern Oregon Lakers past the Grain Growers' Sonics, 24-12, and earn a share of the senior division league lead in Heppner Little League Basketball.

In the junior division, the Kinzua Knicks remained unbeaten and alone in first with a 3-0 record after disposing of a stubborn Columbia Basin Celtic unit, 11-6.

The Sonics, Lakers and First National Bank Blazers are all knotted at 2-1 in the senior division. The Lakers pounded the Sonics, 24-12, and the Blazers slipped past the Odd Fellows' Suns, 13-8. The Suns remain fourth with a winless, 0-3 mark.

The Lakers, paced by Currin's 14 points, were also sparked by the four point tallies of Greg Connor and Mike Casler. Tom Huston added two. The Sonics were led by Archie Lucas' four points, followed by three from Billy Smith and two from Jay Hayes and Ryan VanCleave.

The Blazers picked up six from Shane Laughlin and two each from Marty Britt, Jon Sumner and Wade Debraal. Matt Howard added one to the victory cause. On the losing end, the Suns were paced by Rodney Cole's six points and Jay Keithley's two.

Kinzua Knicks remained relied on the basketball expertise of Stan Sporseen. Sporseen, who has been carrying the Knicks offensively, did just that again this week, scoring all his team's 11 points in their 11-6 triumph.

The Elk's Cavaliers, dropping to 0-3, got four from Tony Haguewood and two from Todd Lindsay.

The Knicks were paced by Rene Struthers and Mike Bergstrom on defense while

the Cavs cited Jeff Ball, Trisha Mahoney for outstanding defense.

Gardner's Jazz moved into second all alone with the 14-8 walloping of the Columbia Basin Celtics. Jazz, sparked by eight points from Todd Gorman and six from Jodi

Padberg, also cited Ronnie Dougherty and Travis Hyatt for defense and Nathan Lowe for rebounding.

The losers picked up six from Tom James and two from Stephanie Sumner. Marty Brannon and Cam George were cited for hustle.

## Alone in third

# Mustang griders finish 7-2

Heppner's Mustangs finished the 1976 football season last week with not less than a respectable, 7-2 record. The Mustangs fell to Columbia Basin champion Umatilla and second place Sherman County. Heppner was third.

Two games back, Mustang Head Mentor John Sporseen said he would be happy if his team could overcome the back to back losses to the top teams and whip Pendleton's JVs and Wasco County.

Sporseen said 85 per cent of the teams in the state would love to have a 7-2 record, and as a first year coach at Heppner, he would be happy with that.

Sporseen took the Mustangs, termed the "Cardiac Kids" by one paper, to an impressive 5-0 league record after the first five weeks of CBC action. For five weeks, Heppner was knotted with eventual champs, Umatilla (who face St. Mary's in a semifinal game at Medford Friday).

Sherman County interrupted the Cardiac Kids' hopes, 16-0; then the Vics added a second straight loss, 21-0. After that, Heppner pounded Pendleton JVs and Wasco County last week.

Team stats were impressive. Heppner scored 161 points in nine games, allowing their opponents 77. In quarter scores, Heppner outscored their opponents, 48-0, 33-28, 48-14, and 32-35.

Some individual, final season stats follow: Defense... Carl Christman was the leader with 29 unassisted tackles, 43 assists and 136 total defensive points. Christman intercepted three passes for 86 return yards.

Following Christman, an offense and defense first team all-star, John Schiller, had 116 points with 18 unassisted tackles and three fumble recoveries. Mark Parker had 104 points on 14 unassisted tackles and two recovered fumbles, along with an interception that went for a touchdown.

Tim Daly had 25 unassisted tackles for 90 points, Brian Marlin had 96 points on five interceptions for 101 yards, Marty Smith had 65 assisted tackles and 94 points, and Jim Kenny had 90 points on two interceptions.

In the kicking game, Marlin had 21 punts for 696 yards and a 33.1 average. Bob Smith booted 28 kickoffs for 2,039 yards and a 37 yard average.

Returning, Dennis Peck had six returns for 143 yards and a 23.8 yard average. Marlin had five returns for 100 yards and the 20 yard average.

On offense, Steve McLaughlin paced the rushing gainers. McLaughlin had 109 carries for 343 yards and a 4.9 yard average with five TDs. Tom

Skow had 50 carries and a 3.0 average and three touchdowns. Wayne Seitz had 42 carries for a 3.6 yard average and two TDs. Most amazingly, when stats are revealed, Peck had four carries for 88 yards

### Final statistics

and a 22 yard average and two touchdowns.  
Marlin had 34 carries for a 4.4 average.

In passing, Dave Allstott, before his injury that put him out of football, hit 50 per cent of his aeriels, completing 22 of 44 for 395 yards. Bruce Young hit 40 per cent on 14 of 35 for 126 yards. Jerry Cutsforth

added six for 19 for 121 yards. On the receiving end, Christman was the standout, catching 17 passes, four going for touchdowns, for 410 yards and a 24.1 yard average. Seitz caught 10 passes for 98 yards and a touchdown.

The leading scorer for the Mustangs was McLaughlin with 34 points, followed by Skow and Allstott with 18 each, Christman 14, and Marlin, Parker and Peck with 12.

## lone hoopsters must face same inexperience

Del LaRue has got to look at the future...even before the season starts.

LaRue, like Gordon Meyers during the grid season, will be plagued by that nasty, yet inevitable disease during basketball season...inexperience.

But, the inexperience might work a little better on the hoop floor than it did on the grid iron. For one thing, lone's Cardinal roundballers will have more quickness than they've ever had.

Lone is coming off a losing 8-11 season last year and this season doesn't promise a much better record. Two returners come back as let-termined for LaRue.

The brother duo, Ashley and

Kevin McCabe, will be the nucleus around a 21 man turnout in four grades at lone.

Lone has little height, except for 6-2 Rick Gilbert, a junior who has junior varsity experience. After that, the Cards will rely on speed and quickness and put it in the shape of a strong defense.

One senior, McCabe, three juniors, five sophomores and 12 freshmen will make up the Card roster. LaRue, in his sixth year at lone, had his first losing season last year.

But, he sees quickness as the lone strong point and plans to capitalize on that asset.

LaRue said lone would work hard on defense, incorporating a zone press with different

variations and a man-to-man half court defense. On offense, it will be a standard 1-3-1. LaRue said he doesn't think the Cards will have any scoring standouts but should have six or seven players who can score.

While the Cards ridded themselves of a pesky and winning Echo Cougar club when Echo consolidated with Stanfield, they picked up the Arlington Honkers, which could prove just as costly.

Arlington's sports program has improved drastically in the last couple years to where the Honkers are considered the favorites with Helix, to win the Big Sky Conference.

Also on the Card schedule of league contests is Umatilla, a team they figure to stand up to. They play each team three times.

The Cards open their season with Spray, Dec. 3, at lone.

City League Basketball? Want to give it a try? All adults interested in forming city league basketball teams should meet at Heppner High School on Sunday, Nov. 21, at 7 p.m.

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