

# Heppner IVs stung by Umatilla in OT thriller

A wild, triple overtime contest, stung by controversial calls and decision changes, tripped up Heppner's junior varsity Friday in a game they thought they'd won.

When the fans stopped jeering, and the refs stopped whistling, Heppner was on the short end of a 70-68 tilt. Umatilla overcame an 11 point fourth period deficit to win the game.

Dave Piper sunk an eight foot shot with three seconds to go in the fourth period to

knot the score at 54. In the first overtime, which ended in a 62-62 deadlock, Piper and Gordon Hoffnagle had four points each. But the hero of that first OT had to be Umatilla's Guy Journot.

And possibly the inexperienced refs. With the score 62-60, Heppner leading, the clock listed four seconds to play. Umatilla end bounced the ball, but there was a referee's time out for injury.

When the ball came back into play, the ref gave it to Heppner. The Mustangs' Mark Piper canned a lay-in to take a seemingly, 64-60 edge. But Vik coach Kelly Bissinger wouldn't take it that easily.

Bissinger finally persuaded the refs that the ball should have been Umatilla's. The clock was ticked back down to three seconds.

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The Gazette-Times

## SPORTS



### Card girls win

Ione's Cardinal females put nine girls in the scoring column to produce a 34-16 win over Helix last Friday. Grace McElligott led all scorers with (Continued on page 8)

### CBC stats

## Christman third in assists

Columbia Basin Conference statistics after six games were released this week. Heppner ranks ninth in defense and eighth in offense.

Carl Christman tops the Mustang charts, ranking third in assists with 4.2 per game. Simantel of Sherman County is the league leader with a 5.3 average.

Wayne Seitz is 14th in rebounding with an 8.0 game average. Jeff Lavender of Pilot Rock tops that list with 12.8 per game.

Heppner lists no one in the scoring department, but Mark Huddleston is eighth in field goal percentage. Huddleston, 10 for 21 this season, is hitting 47.6 per cent. Lavender is tops with a 60.7 per cent.

Brian Marlin is 10th and Dennis Peck 11th in free throw

shooting. Marlin is nine for 14 for 64 per cent and Peck is 14 for 22 for 63 per cent. Condon's Bert Thayer is hitting 85 per cent from the line.

Heppner is ranked last in team defense, on the average, giving up 70 points a ball game. They are eighth in offense, averaging 52 points per game. Pilot Rock is the defensive leader, giving up 44.4 points per game. Weston-McEwen is averaging 76.8 points a game offensively.



by Wil Phinney, sports editor

### THE PROBLEM IS SIMPLE

The problem to anyone who knows basketball is simple. Heppner's Mustangs can't find the hoop with the basketball. There are a number of possible solutions, all of which seem more than unorthodox or logical.

A trip to the optometrist could possibly be a life saver for the 1-12 Mustangs. Or, bigger hoops.

One can only sit around and wonder if anyone would notice a basketball rim, an inch bigger in circumference than legal standards permit.

Last year, Dean Nafziger won nine games and was canned. This year, Heppner more than likely won't win nine, but if concerned sports fans are sincerely concerned, they won't even think about ridding themselves of a find such as Chris Borgen.

The thought is repulsive when you think of the hours, and time, and energy and sacrifice young Borgen has given the Mustangs.

Heppner can handle the ball; they can dribble the ball; most of the time, they can pass the ball.

A coach can coach a junior or a senior how to get the ball; how to run with the ball; how to get to where he's supposed to get with the ball. A coach can even coach a player when to shoot the ball.

But he can't coach the ball into the bucket. Heaven knows, Chris Borgen sits on the sidelines and tries.

It's a disappointing year for Chris Borgen so far, inasmuch that his first season as a high school coach is a loser. But if one would ask him, Chris would only beam about the constant optimistic attitude and perseverance of his troops. And that is what will make this year a winner for Borgen and that is why Heppner sports fans should take this year in stride as a builder for both the Mustangs and for Chris Borgen.

### No Floor General

Borgen has been blessed with rebounders, dribblers, ball hawks and passers. He has the men who can jump and run and dive for a loose ball.

But he doesn't have a man a team can look up to, knowing that he will come through for a needed double figure mark. He does not have the shooter who can consistently hit 50 or 60 or 70 per cent of his shots.

He doesn't have the man to take charge once Borgen gives the squad their direction from the sidelines. Seniors are sparse on the unit; a couple share the bench with younger teammates.

Dave Allstott would more than likely have been that needed cog in this sputtering machine. Allstott was a conference standout last year as a junior. As a senior, he would have gained all the needed respect as a leader and a performer on the court.

An injury plagued him, though, and Borgen's boys will have to do without.

Looking at the schedule, Heppner has seven games left. Comparing stats since the season's start, there looks to be a possible four wins in those contests.

Heppner could conceivably knock off Condon again, then Riverside, Umatilla and Wasco County. But it'll be tough unless the ball starts hitting the hoop and falling through.

So far, it's been an interesting season. A season without a lot of happiness in records, but a builder, with hopes for a better next year.

A coach with an excuse always gets pegged for a cop-out from many fans; but Borgen can truthfully say with confidence and the same amount of optimism, 'Wait till next year.'

# Mustangs scare SC before dropping 12th

Coming off what Coach Chris Borgen called Heppner's "worst" game of the year, the Mustangs fell to Sherman County Saturday, 77-63, in what Borgen called the "best game of the year."

Had it not been for a 31 point second quarter for the Huskies, Heppner might not have just scared Sherman County. The Mustangs led after one

period, something they haven't done too much of, 16-14. Averaging less than 30 per cent from the field this year, the Mustangs broke a shooting slump and canned 58 per cent in the first half and ended up with a 41 per cent effort from the field, the best this season.

But Sherman was hot, too. In the second period, the Huskies erased the two point HHS lead, and raced to a 45-35

intermission lead. The Huskies were 30 for 84 for 35 per cent. They were 19 for 42 in the first half, all but eight of those buckets coming on put up shots.

The 31 points came mainly from three sources. Simantel, the game's leading scorer with 23, had 11; Colquitt, who finished the game with 21, had 12; and Baunach, finishing

with 19, had six in the second period.

Heppner's shooting rested a bit in the second half, but the Mustangs still shaved a point off the third quarter score, trailing 56-47.

"It was our best game of the year," Borgen said. "We should have won it. A few key calls really hurt."

Borgen said Heppner played with "intensity and enthusiasm."

The Mustangs shot 23 for 56 for 41 per cent. They were 14 for 24 in the first half and nine for 32 in the second.

Brian Marlin and Wayne Seitz paced Heppner with 13 each and Mark Huddleston added 10.

Heppner was outbounded 41-34. Seitz led the board work with nine. Ken Grieb, Kevin Haguewood and Mark Huddleston each had three assists.

Heppner 16 19 12 16 63  
Sherman 14 31 11 21 75

Heppner: Peck 7, Myers 3, Christman 6, Young 3, Haguewood 1, Huddleston 10, Rauch 1, Marlin 13, Grieb 6, Seitz 13. Field goals: 23; free throws: 17-28; fouls: 23.

Sherman: Simantel 23, Colquitt 21, Baunach 19, Fritts 2, Skiles 1, Macnab 2, Kalista 6, Inman 1. Field goals: 30; free throws: 17-32; fouls: 23.

## Borgen predicts win

Coach Chris Borgen said he'd go out on a limb this week and predict a victory over league-leading Weston-McEwen on the Tiger-Scot hardwood Friday.

Borgen was enthusiastic about his squad's loss at Sherman County Saturday, 75-63.

"We shot exceptionally well," Borgen said, noting that the Mustangs hit "52 per cent" in the first half. Closer figuring revealed that the percentage was even better than that at 58 and that the entire game was 41 per cent.

"We're coming out of a long slump," Borgen said. "40 per cent for this team is great."

Borgen said he was "really pleased with every individual who went onto the floor." He was particularly happy with the team's riot squad.

"They (riot squad) put us in the lead in the first period and battled back other times," Borgen said of the scrappy, Oregon Duck defense his riot squad engages.

"We finally played with the confidence we've been lacking," Borgen said. "We believed in ourselves."

The head mentor, who called the Umatilla game on Friday "Heppner's worst" and Saturday at Sherman the "best," said his Mustangs "feel ready to nail Weston-McEwen."

"I'll go out on a limb," Borgen said, "and predict a win. We're going to upset some people. I think we've finally got our confidence."

"Everything is just right to get Weston-McEwen. No doubt. Everything feels right."

## Dufur drops Ione

Dufur outscored Ione 33-23 in the second half Saturday to steal a tight ball game, 59-49.

Ione Coach Del LaRue said Saturday was Ione's "best all-around effort" of the year.

Ione was even with Dufur after a half of play at 26, but a strong third period and a strong defensive fourth gave

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### Heppner

### Player's of the Week

### Ione

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COLUMBIA BASIN ELECTRIC CO-OP



22 pts., 16 rebounds

Wayne Seitz



13 pts., 6 steals

Jackie Mollahan



8 pts.

Grace McElligott



20 pts., 8 rebounds

Dennis Stefani

Heppner 676-9146

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