

Schedule woes

Here we go springtime. At least spring sports are right around the corner whether the area is socked with a couple snowflakes or not.

Baseball, track and golf, (this writer's favorite), are slated to begin in the Columbia Basin Conference during April and March. And again, the CBC schedule is messed up.

But we must be objective. Nobody in his right mind, except maybe Jim Scoggins of the Yakima Herald Republic, could look negatively on something as inanimate as a baseball schedule.

There are bad points to the slate and there are "no big deal" points to the schedule, and there aren't really any great points.

The biggest drawback in this year's diamond nine calendar is the Mustangs play only six league games. Couple that with the fact that Heppner was dumped into the western CBC half with perennial powerhouse Sherman County and that doesn't leave a heck of a lot of room for losses.



WIL PHINNEY

College teams boast that if they can win 30 of their games this year, they'll have a successful season. And most other AA high schools can list 14 games on a schedule of league contenders.

But not the CBC. Six games in the west since Ione won't be fielding a team this year. In the East, each team will have eight games.

From Mt. Angel at John F. Kennedy High School we find an example. Alan Howard, former Stanfield basketball coach, is assistant football and next year to be head basketball coach at the AA school. That team's schedule, Howard said, slates 14 league games. At Stanfield last year, the Tigers had 12 league games. It is a comparable-sized school in a tighter knit league.

One must wonder only why and how. Why did the league coaches and league administrators who made up the schedule decide to switch Riverside and Heppner in league halves? And how do they expect a team to compete with a six league game schedule?

Here's where the objectionism comes out. The answers are easy. Maybe.

At least the second one is easy. All Heppner must do to have a successful championship bid in the CBC west against the likes of the Huskies is win. Just win. There will be no room for losses, so they'll simply have to win.

Not a bad attitude. And it always works.

But back to the schedule. The west CBC now consists of Sherman County, Ione, Wasco County, Condon and Heppner. Scratch Ione from the list, because they won't field a team this year.

And that leaves four teams. If each team plays the other three twice, that's six league contests.

The full schedule lists 17 games. All are single headers except during an Apr. 2 tourney in Pilot Rock. Heppner will play all five East division squads in non-conference classification, according to Heppner Athletic Director John Sporseen.

"We got stuck in the middle," Sporseen says, trying to answer the first question, "Why?"

Sporseen figures it this way: Riverside and Heppner are about as inbetween in the league as anybody, mileage-wise. And anybody who plays against Sherman County and Wasco has to travel more. So maybe league officials decided they'd split up the cost between the two schools. During basketball, Riverside has to play in the league with Sherman and Wasco. During baseball, Heppner does.

There are more than a couple things wrong with that theory.

For the first and, of course, most important to fans is this: it doesn't make a doodley squat whether Riverside or Heppner plays against Sherman when we talk of dollars. I mean, both Riverside and Heppner High School are part of Morrow County Schools. Your dollars in school taxes will spend just as good in Boardman as they will in Heppner, and on the road in Sherman and Wasco counties, too.

Since Riverside will undoubtedly play Sherman County at least once this year, they'll either travel or host. We haven't seen a Pirate schedule yet, but let's hope the game was scheduled in Boardman.

Beneficial? Maybe to the players, if they don't have to travel quite so long. Sometimes a player would just as soon have that extra 50 miles to sleep if he's comfortable. Sometimes.

The CBC is a funny league. It stretches from Wasco County in the west to Weston-McEwen in the east. Not really funny. From those two spots, there are 130 miles, the way the crow flies. Unfortunately, as anybody that travels the CBC circuit knows, the highways in the conference aren't too straight. In fact, they aren't straight at all.

Look at this fact: Riverside and Heppner are about as close as you can get and still be 50 miles away from one another. From RHS to Wasco County is about 73 miles; from Heppner to Wasco County is about 68. From Riverside to Weston-McEwen is about 57 miles; from Heppner to WM is about 60. The way the crow flies isn't really representative, either. Riverside does have a freeway nearby to travel. It seems more and more senseless to argue the point, whatever it is.

Heppner will play six league games and a schedule of 17 games. The main objective to the schedule is that the Mustangs win all six league games and all 17 on the schedule.

Weighing both sides, it doesn't seem to make that much difference where the Mustangs are, either, except that it doesn't seem to make much difference if they'd have stayed in the east.

To go all the way, the Mustangs would have to face Sherman anyway, sometime. This way, they get it over in league play. And all their non-conference openers against west foes will give them insight as far as playoffs are concerned, and let's hope they are concerned.

For a guy who has played golf all through school, I sure can get rattled over a baseball schedule.

CBC stars named

Mollahan leads all-star group

Jackie Mollahan leads a group of six Heppner High School hoopsters in all-star selections. Ms. Mollahan, a sophomore guard, was named to the Columbia Basin Conference east all-stars.

Maureen Healy was named to the second team of CBC east stars.

Gaining honorable mention status were Deb Holland, Vicki Edmundson, Guy Kenny, and Ken Grieb in the boys' group.

Mollahan finished the season as Heppner's top point getter with 138 and an 8.6 average. She was listed tenth in the CBC final season stats.

She also was seventh in steals, with an average of 3.2 per game, hawking the ball away 50 times during the season. Mollahan was sixth in the conference in assists with a 3.1 average and had the highest Filly field goal percentage at 46.

Mollahan was 62 for 134 from the field and canned 24 of 46 tries from the charity stripe.

Healy, another sophomore Filly, was ranked number two in conference rebounding, yanking down 210 caroms for a 13.1 average. Kathy Monjay of Riverside had 237 rebounds this year.

Healy was also 14th in scoring with 122 points and a 7.6 average. She was a step ahead of Mollahan with a 3.8 steal average for fifth place in the league.

Healy was the Fillys' leading rebounder with 210 for the year. She led the squad with 28 assists and 56 steals.

CBC all-stars for boys and girls follow:

CBC boys' first team: Jeff Lavender, Pilot Rock, forward; Dave Simantel, Sherman County, forward; Rich Snow, Oregon Trail, center; Mike Brown, Umatilla, guard; Doug Warner, Weston-McEwen, guard; and Bert Baunach, Sherman County, forward.

Second team: Lyle Brittain, Jeff Woodside, Wasco County; Craig Colquitt, Sherman County; Marty Perrine, Pilot Rock; Luke Maynard, Riverside; Don Sutton, Oregon Trail.

Honorable mention: Bert Thayer, Condon; Teri King, Weston-McEwen; Tim Puckett, Wasco County; Brian Harris, Condon; Charlie Alford, Weston-McEwen; Chris Haberstick, Riverside; Tim Sams, Weston-McEwen; Doug Price, River-

side; Rick Kurz, Umatilla; KEN GRIEB, Heppner.

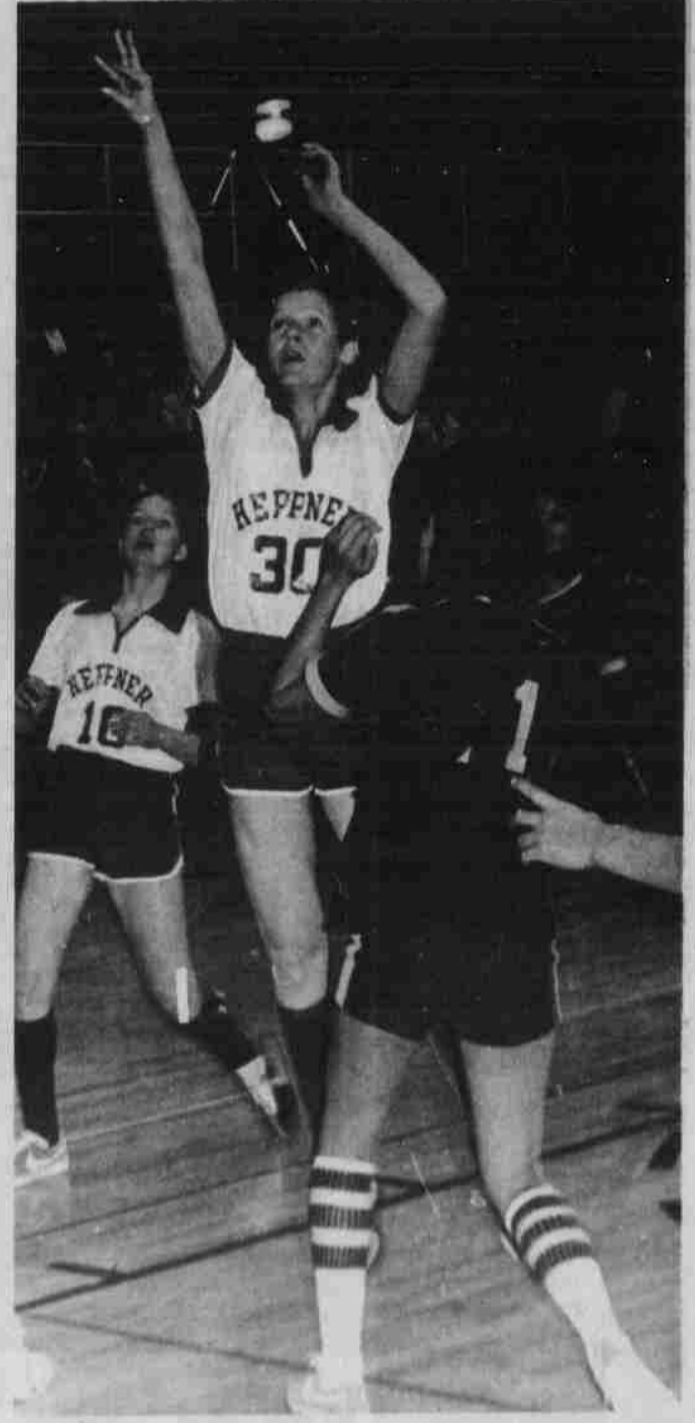
CBC east girls' first team: Liz Cahill, Weston-McEwen; Terry Connor, Pilot Rock; Sheryl Licht, Weston-McEwen; Cindy Hamilton, Pilot Rock; JACKIE MOLLAHAN, Heppner.

Second team: Newbold, Weston-McEwen; Hopkins, Umatilla; MAUREEN HEALY, Heppner; Janice Weinke, Pilot Rock; Kathy Ward, Pilot Rock.

Honorable mention: Cindy Doherty, Pilot Rock; VICKI EDMUNDSON, Heppner; DEB HOLLAND, Heppner; Trainer, Umatilla; Kathy Cahill, Weston-McEwen; GUY KENNY, Heppner; Trudeau, Umatilla; Cook, Oregon Trail; Brown, Oregon Trail.



Jackie Mollahan, sophomore guard, drives to the bucket in the manner that won her first team CBC honors. (G-T Photo)



Maureen Healy, sophomore forward, was named to the second CBC team. "Mo" gained a reputation as a leading rebounder. (G-T Photo)

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Mustangs, Fillys finish strong

Heppner High School hoopsters, both boys and girls, finished high in Columbia Basin Conference statistics this season.

The highest spot was achieved by Maureen Healy in rebounding. Healy, a sophomore named to the second team all-stars this week, finished with 210 caroms for a second place ranking in the CBC. Riverside's Kathy Monjay was first with 237 rebounds.

Healy was fifth in scoring with 56 and 19th in scoring with an 8.1 point average.

Jackie Mollahan, a first team CBC'er, was sixth in assists with 50 and 3.1 average; was seventh in steals with a 3.2 average; and was 10th in scoring with an 8.6 average.

Other Heppner girls achieving high rankings were Wendy Meyers, 15th in rebounding with a 7.2 average; Janice Healy, 17th in rebounding with

a 6.1 average; Deb Holland in rebounding with a 5.1 average; Vicki Edmundson, 15th in

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Riverside slates Donkey basketball

Riverside High School's Lettermen's Club will wage Donkey Basketball against a Boardman civic group, to be announced, March 9 at 7:30 p.m. The event, comprising 24 burro straddled players, will be held in the Riverside gym. Admission is: adults \$1.50, students \$1 in advance and \$1.50 at the door, children 11 and under \$.75 and pre-schoolers are free.

Following the feat of skill and daring, the Girls Athletic

Association and the Lettermen's Club will sponsor a slave auction. Buyers can purchase a slave for an eight hour day on the Saturday of their choice. All proceeds will go toward the purchase of new athletic uniforms and equipment.

Halftime entertainment will feature student magician Jack Donovan. Donovan will attempt an escape stunt while handcuffed, wrapped in a bag and hung from a basketball hoop.

Stubblefield, Monjay on west CBC stars

Cheryl Stubblefield and Kathy Monjay of Riverside were selected to the first team CBC West Subdistrict all-conference squad by the conference coaches last week-end.

Stubblefield was sixth in the league in scoring with a 13.1 average and Monjay led the league in rebounds, pulling down an average of 16.9

per game. Joining them on the West Subdistrict first team was high-scoring Kelly Lindell of Wasco County, who scored

nearly 20 points per game. Also on the first team were Karla Von Borstal of Sherman

County, Helen Kelly of Wasco County and Karen Skul of Sherman.

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