



STRONG REBOUNDING by Jerry Cutsforth, particularly at the offensive end, helped the Mustangs come out on top in both of their starts in the Heppner Invitational Tournament last weekend.

Mustangs tune up with Riverside win

Heppner dismantled a previously unbeaten Riverside Pirate team and served notice to the rest of the Columbia Basin Conference by posting a 54-44 win in the opening round of the Heppner Invitational Tournament Friday.

Pressure defense by the Mustangs frustrated Pirate shooters to the point that they could hardly buy a basket in the first half. Heppner jumped to a 12-4 lead after the opening period and stretched the margin to 22-7 before taking a 28-14 lead into the locker room at halftime.

Dennis Peck came up with a couple of key steals in the first quarter as Riverside repeatedly turned the ball over. Early in the game Heppner did a good job of keeping the

ball away from Riverside's pair of 6'3" scoring threats, Luke Maynard and Chris Haberstick, who together could manage only one first half field goal.

At the other end of the court, the Mustangs ran their patterned offense effectively as they worked the ball inside against the taller Pirates. Jerry Cutsforth kept the ball alive with some strong offensive rebounding and Heppner shot at a 39 per cent clip, connecting on 17 of 44 shots from the floor.

Peck was the leading scorer for Heppner as he got his 16 points on jumpers from the outside and drives through traffic. Mark Huddleston came off the bench to score 12 points and light a fire under the Mustangs in the second half.

Bryan Marlin hit for eight early in the game while Dale Holland and Ken Grieb both added six.

Holland and Cutsforth handled much of the rebounding where Heppner carried a slight 37-34 edge.

In one of the more telling statistics of the game, Riverside turned the ball over 31 times while Heppner lost the ball 16 times.

Haberstick ended the game with 11 points, Maynard had 10 and Steve Wilkie had 10.

Mustang coach Tom Day said the Riverside win was encouraging, but he is still seeking more consistency from his players.

"There were still some flashbacks to what I saw of last year's offense," Day said. "We've still got to work on keeping things more controlled."

Riverside closed the gap to eight points at the end of the third quarter but was never able to get any closer in the final period as Peck and Huddleston both continued to score from the outside.

Sports Briefs

Mustangs place 3 on All-Star list

Three members of Heppner's undefeated basketball team were named to the six-man Tournament All-Star squad announced shortly after the Mustang's trophy clinching victory over Union Saturday.

Dennis Peck, Bryan Marlin and Jerry Cutsforth were joined on the All-Star list by Max McIntosh from Condon and Wade Titus and Dennis Baremore, both from Union.

The Mustangs took first place in the tourney with a 54-44 win over Riverside and a 57-49 victory over Union. The Bobcats reached the finals by beating Condon 65-57 and the Blue Devils earned a third place finish with a 69-54 breeze past the Pirates.

Wahtonka added

The Columbia Basin Conference added a tenth member school last week when the Oregon School Activities Association Board of Control approved a request from Wahtonka High School of The Dalles to enter the league.

Wahtonka, which in the past has competed in the Class AA Greater Oregon Conference, will begin CBC competition next fall. The Board vote on the league change was unanimous, according to the school's athletic director.

The addition of Wahtonka brings a 5-5 east-west split to the conference and precludes CBC teams from seeking a non-league opponent for the football season. West teams include Wasco County, Sherman County, Riverside, Condon and Wahtonka while the east aligns with Heppner, Umatilla, Oregon Trail, Weston-McEwen and Pilot Rock.

Enrollment projections indicate Wahtonka will be under the maximum 200 students in the top three grades allowable for Class A status. This year the school had 206 students enrolled and if the total does not drop below 200 next fall, Wahtonka will not be eligible for post-season competition.

Wishart named to All-State

Jim Wishart, a senior defensive end on the Mustang's 6-3 football team, was last week named to the second all-state defensive team for Class A schools. Two other Columbia Basin Conference players were also named to the team while three CBC players won first team honors.

Joining Wishart on the second team were linebackers Charlie Berry of Oregon Trail and Blake Cimmiyotti of Umatilla. Flanker Dave Simantel, quarterback Jim Macnab and lineman Bret Gray—all from state runner-up Sherman County—were placed on the first team.

Selections were made by a panel of coaches representing each of the seven Class A districts in the state.

City play continues

Del LaRue scored 14 points and Tom Day added 13 to lead Summers to a 43-36 win over Watkins in the opening game of the city league basketball schedule Sunday. Gary Watkins hit for 11 and John McCabe scored 10 for the losers.

In the second game, a balanced scoring attack propelled Eckman to a 59-44 win over VanMarter. Jim Lankford was high man with 12, followed by Rob Eckman with 11, Ken Eckman with nine and Keith Curnutt, Carl Harrison and Dave McLaughlin, all with eight points. LaVerne VanMarter tossed in 18 and Darrell Spivey added 13 for the losers.

Dan Coiner scored 12 points as Greenup posted a 56-47 win over Galbraith in the final game. Following Coiner were Delbert Binchus with nine and Wilford Jones with eight. Gary Schwartz hit 16 points for Galbraith followed by Roger Henry with 13 and Chuck Ernst with 12.

This week's schedule:
6 p.m. Summers-Galbraith
7 p.m. Greenup-VanMarter
8 p.m. Eckman-Watkins

Heppner takes tourney crown

Hot off their Friday night drubbing of Riverside, the Heppner Mustangs came back the following evening to blow past Union 57-49 and cop the first place trophy in their own invitational tournament.

As was the case against the Pirates, Heppner streaked to a 12-4 first quarter lead and although Union came back to briefly tie the game in the third quarter, the Mustangs never trailed on the way to their fourth victory in as many starts.

The Mustangs took the floor with confidence despite the stress of the tournament final situation and their tenacious man-to-man defense soon had the Bobcats reeling.

After strong offensive rebounding by Jerry Cutsforth and two long set shots by Ken Grieb staked the Mustangs to an early lead, Union whittled away at the gap and closed to within one point midway through the second quarter. Heppner then put on another burst and stretched it out to 25-18 before taking a four point cushion at intermission.

Union fought back again to tie the game at 33 all late in the third period but a Bryan Marlin jumper at the buzzer put the Mustangs ahead for good.

Dennis Peck, scoreless in the first quarter, warmed to the occasion to finish with a game high 19 points and 12 rebounds. The rest of the Mustangs spread the points around as Sam Myers had eight, Marlin seven, Dale Holland, Mark Huddleston and Grieb six and Cutsforth five. As a team, Heppner was 23 for 60 from the floor and 11 of 27 at the line.

Trailing Peck in the re-

bounding department were Holland with 11, Huddleston with nine and Myers with

seven. The Mustangs managed a 48-37 rebounding edge over the visitors.

Mustang jv's bomb Condon

Heppner's junior varsity Mustangs continued their winning ways on the basketball court with a 53-32 victory last week at Condon. The win brought the team's season mark to 3-0.

Coach George Koffler credited his team with a "super defensive effort" which allowed Condon only 13 points in the first half. Despite the aggressive play, the Mustangs were tagged with only four fouls in the opening half.

Heppner converted on 20 of 47 shots from the floor and hit

nine of 15 free throw attempts. Bob Miller led the Mustang scoring attack with 13 points followed by Mike Stookey and Richard Schmidt with eight each.

Koffler said Todd Sherer and Larry Palmer both turned in strong defensive performances and helped keep Condon from working the ball in close to the basket.

"It was a good one to win because it was our first game against a similar size school," Koffler said.

Pony girls team stands at 2-1

With victories over Riverside and Condon last week, Heppner Junior High's 8th grade Pony girls team improved their season record to 2-1.

The Ponies topped Condon 34-9 for their latest win as Sandra Ward scored 12 points and both Darcy Holloman and Cindy Gauchnauer added six. Earlier in the week, Ward totaled 13 points and Gauch-

nauer contributed seven in the Ponies 45-28 win over Riverside.

Heppner opened the year with a 44-12 loss to Pilot Rock in a game which Coach Teresa Deford said her team was simply not prepared for.

Other members of the team include Cindy Bergstrom, Donna Devin, Patti Devine, Karen Kenny, Janet Plocharsky, Tami Schoonover, Donna Munkers and Sherri McMinn.

Blazers drop jv Fillies

A more experienced Oregon Trail junior varsity team dealt the jv Fillies their first defeat of the year, 37-22 Thursday at Echo. The game was close until the third quarter when the Oregon Trail team, many of whom had varsity experience, "simply wore us down," according to Filly coach Les Payne.

"They forced us out of our offense but we still stayed scrappy," Payne said. "Oregon Trail hurt us with their zone press."

Payne said Lynn Dee Devin kept the Fillies in the game as she came up with nine steals to go with her six points. Alice Abrams was the leading point producer for Heppner with 13 while Deann Connor handled much of the rebounding duties.

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