

'Stangs split opening twin bill

Behind the five-hit pitching of Dennis Peck and the extra-base slugging of Mike Stookey, Dale Holland and Peck, the Heppner Mustangs opened their 1978 season by downing Pilot Rock 7-3 in the first game of a twin bill

Tuesday in Heppner. In the second game, errors, which the Mustangs had avoided in the opener, came back to hurt them as the Rockets squeezed out a 7-6 win. In the first game, the

Mustangs jumped on top with two runs in the second, two more in the third and three in the fourth before Pilot Rock solved Peck's pitching for three runs in the final frame of the five-inning contest. Stookey was the big hitter for

Heppner, blasting a home run and double while both Peck and Holland collected a two-bagger and a single. Five Mustang miscues in the second game allowed the Rockets to pick up seven runs on just four hits and put the

game out of reach despite a final inning Heppner rally which produced three runs and had the go ahead run on base with no outs. Lionel Wood started on the mound for the Mustangs with John Bier relieving in the fifth. Leading at the plate for Heppner was Dale Holland who stroked a two-run double, while Bryan Marlin, Curtis Sweek and Scott McEwen each picked up singles.



Mike Stookey (24) heads for home plate welcoming party after swatting homer.

Practice starts for Cardinal tracksters

The track teams at Ione High School officially opened practice this week with boys coach Gordon Meyers welcoming 10 Cardinal tracksters and girls coach Barbara Stefani putting eight lady Cards through their paces.

The five members of the boys squad returning for another campaign are sophomores Gari Gaustad, Robin LaRue, Bruce Millman, Jerry Rietmann and Terry Starr. Joining the returnees will be junior John Lindstrom, sopho-

more Larry Snider and freshmen Shawn LaRue, Treve Peterson, Greg Rietmann and Les Thompson. Meyers said he should have each of the tracksters placed in their specialty events by Tuesday's opening meet at

Heppner.

The girls squad is anchored by senior distance runner Grace McElligott and junior Janet McElligott, who tosses both the discus and javelin. Other members of the team include sophomores Brenda

G T SPORTS

Fillies open season today in Pendleton 4-way meet

Heppner's Filly tracksters will get their first taste of team competition today when they travel to Pendleton for a four-way meet with Elgin, the Pendleton JVs and the Walla Walla JVs.

The 12-member squad which Filly coach Sherri Brock will take to the meet leans heavily towards the underclass ranks—only one senior and two juniors are listed—but should show a good balance between the field and running events.

Bolstering the field segment of the team will be senior Diane Holland, a shot, discus, and javelin specialist, who has already shown improvements over last year's performances. Holland has recorded a practice javelin toss that out-distanced her best throw of a year ago and she should be a threat in all three events.

Junior Maureen Healy, one of the top high jumpers in the state last year, will be tough to beat again this time around. She will also be competing in the 200 and 400 meters as well as the hurdles.

Sophomores Jackie Gentry and Shelly Mann along with freshman Bonnie Nix, Kellie Hammond, and Nancy Miller will also see action in the field events while doubling up in the

sprints and hurdles. Brock lists her 400 meter relay team as junior Laurie Harrison, Gentry, Hammond and freshman Susan Johnson while the mile relay will consist of sophomore Alice

Abrams, Janice Sherman, Geri Grieb and Mann. Heading up the middle distance and distance crop will be Abrams in the mile and 800 meters and Sherman and Grieb in the 800.

Sports Log

Baseball	
Saturday, April 1	Heppner plays in Pilot Rock Tournament Pilot Rock 9 a.m.
Monday, April 3	Ione Jr. Hl. at Riverside 1:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 4	Ione at Riverside 3 p.m.
Track	
Thursday, March 30	4-way meet Elgin, Walla Walla JV, Pendleton JV, Heppner Pendleton 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 1	Heppner in Willamette Relays (Boys Only) Salem 11 a.m.
Tuesday, April 4	5-way meet Riverside, Umatilla, Umapine, Heppner, Ione Heppner 4 p.m.
Tennis	
Tuesday, April 4	Ione at Riverside 3 p.m.
Golf	
Thursday, March 30	Umatilla at Heppner 1 p.m.
Saturday, April 1	Pendleton at Heppner 1 p.m.

Wildlife Commission to study Elk hunting practices

by Ken Durbin
Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
The state of Oregon has reached a dilemma in regulating bull elk hunting. There has been a steady increase in hunter numbers, causing a decrease in hunter success, and some people feel that the acceptable balance between hunter numbers and bulls available for harvest was reached sometime during the 1960s.

In 1977 some 113,000 elk hunters had a success rate of about 10 per cent. In some units most of the available bulls are taken each year and the harvest depends primarily on spikes. There is little opportunity to increase elk numbers in eastern Oregon under present land uses and most ranges are at or near their carrying capacity for elk. In western Oregon elk distribution can be improved to some degree by trapping and transplanting but total numbers cannot be increased indefinitely.

Some elk hunters are demanding action to reduce opening weekend hunter congestion, attain more mature bulls in the herds, and distribute hunters more evenly within management units. At the same time other groups resent any more restrictions and believe that supply and demand will resolve the crowding. Landowners bothered by elk want more elk harvested.

These are a few of the facts. The Fish and Wildlife Commission is going to be taking a very hard look at elk management in the weeks between now and final setting of the 1978 big game hunting regulations on May 27. Before then the Commission will conduct two public meetings in Portland and nine town hall meetings in cities around the state. A schedule of those meeting times and places will be available in the near future.

It is very likely there will be significant changes in elk management in the next few years and participation of

interested hunters or their lack of participation at public meetings will undoubtedly have a strong bearing on what form these management changes will take.

Hunters have already seen changes in recent years that have meant restrictions in one form or another on elk hunting in Oregon. Each of the changes has been an attempt to limit or spread out elk hunting pressure.

Not so many years ago separate tags were established for Rocky Mountain and Roosevelt elk. Two years ago the season for antlerless elk was separated from the general bull season and those with controlled elk permits were not allowed to hunt in the general bull season.

A separate tag for elk bowhunters was set up so a hunter was required to choose between rifle hunting or bow-hunting, not both. Last year several areas were set up for taking only 3-point bulls or larger.

Two units, Chesnimnus and Sled Springs, were established last year for limited entry bull hunting. A shorter bull season has been tried in recent years which increases bull survival somewhat, but crowds hunters into a shorter period of time, aggravating congestion problems. Staggered closing dates where hunting in units with low bull numbers ended early increased bull survival in those units, but it increased hunting pressure in some of the units that remained open.

Those are a few steps that have been tried in recent years. Now let's look at what might be done to further

relieve hunting pressure and permit greater bull escapement. These are options that have been suggested. You may have others and the Commission would like to know about them.

One option is more limited entry bull units. This, as with Chesnimnus and Sled Springs units last year, would resolve congestion in the units affected but might put more pressure on unrestricted units.

Another possibility would be limited entry for bull hunting in all units. This way hunter numbers could be controlled to provide the hunting experience and bull escapement desired. But it would mean only about half the number of the hunters presently hunting elk would be accommodated each year.

A split season consisting of three days controlled bull season, then a four-day closure, followed by a longer general bull season in all elk units could be tried. Hunter numbers would be limited in the first part of the hunt and selected through a drawing. A hunter successful in the drawing for the first period would not be permitted to hunt in the second period. Obviously, success would be highest for the first group but the system would prevent the severe opening weekend crowding.

Conduct the cow season first. This would alert and scatter the bulls before the bull season and help solve the problem of hunters congregating around known herd locations opening morning. This would also likely mean a higher success rate on the antlerless animals and thus

fewer antlerless permits could be issued.

Another possibility is a split bull season (first three days or last 12 days). The hunter would select the period when he purchased a tag. Under such a system hunters could plan their hunt early because they would not have to wait for a drawing.

A 3-point bull regulation in all units would undoubtedly cut down on hunter numbers the first year but pressure would begin to climb again as herds contained more branch-antlered bulls. Again, fewer cows could be carried through the winter on a given amount of forage in order to accommodate carrying more bulls.

Past experience with 3-point regulations has also shown illegal kill of spikes to be a problem. Hunter success would decline significantly.

Another possibility, of course, is to continue with present regulations. Bull hunters will continue to increase, cow hunts would continue as needed, and hunters could go where they desired. Hunter success and the hunting experience would continue to decline.

There are undoubtedly other options that have not been listed. Those who are unable

to attend one of the hearing or town hall meetings are invited to sent written comments to

the Fish and Wildlife Department, P.O. Box 3503, Portland, Oregon 97208.

to attend one of the hearing or town hall meetings are invited to sent written comments to

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