

Rockets, TigerScots corral Mustangs



Fingertip control

Mustang Howard Huddleston is all alone as the ball leaves his fingertips for the net. It was an off weekend for the Heppner squad as they dropped games to Pilot Rock and Weston-McEwen.

It was not exactly a stellar weekend for the Heppner Mustangs, as their season record dipped to 2-2 in league play following a 65-47 loss to defending champion Pilot Rock on Friday and a disappointing 68-58 showing against Weston-McEwen on Saturday.

The league-leading Rockets controlled Friday's contest from start to finish, outgunning the Mustangs with a near 50 per cent shooting average. Heppner put the ball in the air more often than the Rockets, but connected with the hoop only 22 times in 94 attempts for a dismal 23 per cent average.

More than twice as many fouls were called against Heppner than Pilot Rock, with starters Dennis Peck and Bryan Marlin fouling out in the final quarter. The Rockets offensive kingpin, Jeff Lavendar, on the other hand, managed to get through the game without being called for a single penalty, while racking up 20 points to become the game's top scorer.

"We just didn't play well," commented Mustang Coach Tom Day. "We were uptight the whole night—we came out tight and never loosened up. Our defense wasn't that great and we had a poor shooting night."

Peck was Heppner's high scorer for the night with 12 points, followed by Jim Parker with 10; Mike Stookey with 9; Lionel Wood, Dale Holland and Howard Huddleston, each with four, and Bryan Marlin and Darryl Bigelow each with two.

Saturday's home stand against Weston-McEwen was a closer contest, with the Mustangs keeping within reach of the TigerScots until the game's closing minutes.

At times, the Mustangs' play was sparkling, but Heppner could not maintain any prolonged scoring drives that were mandatory in order to overtake the TigerScots, who lost to Pilot Rock by a single point.

Heppner moved to within two points of Weston-McEwen in the closing seconds of the

third quarter, and threatened again midway in the final period, closing the gap to five.

"I might have made a couple of coaching errors," commented Day, by not calling time and giving his players a break as they whittled the scoring gap to three points in the third quarter, or during a couple of "bad lapses" in the fourth, when the TigerScots fought back to stretch out their lead. "They might have done better if I'd have broken the pace and given them a break," he candidly stated.

But the central reason for Heppner's defeat was more likely that "we just didn't play consistently," Day noted. "We really got it going a couple of times, but couldn't keep it up. And they took advantage of our lapses."

Stookey was high point man for the Mustangs with 17, followed by Peck with 13. Howard Huddleston was good for seven, Parker picked up six, Wood was credited with five, while Marlin and Holland each had three. Bigelow and

Curtis Day each chipped in a pair.

On the other side of the court, Ken Deveraux sank 25 points, followed by Kent Kilby, a sophomore, with 22. The Mustangs face another

challenge this weekend, when they meet CBC western

division leader Wahtonka at home on Saturday. On Friday, Heppner will travel to Umatilla.

Mustang frosh trounce Hermiston netters

With six players—several of them starters—sidelined with the flu or injuries, Heppner's freshman net squad took Hermiston by surprise Monday night, beating them by an impressive 52-38 margin.

"It was a big win for us," said an elated Coach Dale Holland, "especially since we only had seven boys who were able to make the trip."

The Mustang frosh jumped off to an 18-5 lead at the end of the first quarter, and stayed out of reach for the duration of the contest.

"We slowed the game down and beat them at the backboards," commented Coach Holland. "The whole team played quite well."

And indeed they did, according to the game's statistics. Heppner outrebounded Hermiston 36-21. The Mustang frosh

posted a 43 per cent shooting rate from the floor, and maintained a whopping 63 per cent success rate from the free throw line, where Don

Lott was five for five.

Dorian Farrar topped Heppner's scoring effort, sinking 14 points, followed by Lott with 13; Earl Hammond with nine; Robert Bier with eight; and Jeff Sumner and Andy Gorman, each with four.

Next week, the Mustang frosh will meet Pendleton's Helen McEwen freshman team.



Going up!

The Fillies Jackie Mollahan is about to hit the hoop for two points as the Heppner girls' squad downed Weston-McEwen Saturday night.

PR snaps Fillies' win streak; girls blast Weston-McEwen

The Heppner Fillies season-long winning streak came to an end Friday at the hands of the perennially powerful Pilot Rock team.

Prior to Friday's 31-58 loss to the lady Rockets, the Fillies had maintained a 9-0 season success rate. The loss made Pilot Rock the only undefeated team in CBC girls' hoop action.

The Fillies remained within reach of Pilot Rock during the early part of the game, finishing the half nine points behind. But defending champs opened up their shooting game to full throttle in the second half, giving the Fillies an uphill battle they could not win.

"We didn't play a good second half," said Heppner Coach Sheri Brock. "They started shooting from the outside and just couldn't miss, while we couldn't hit."

Pilot Rock was successful in just under half of their field

goal attempts, while the Fillies scored on about 30 per cent of their tries. The Fillies' rebounding game roughly equaled that of the home team, with Maureen Healy bringing in a whopping 16 for Heppner.

Healy was also the Fillies' top scorer, with 11 points, followed by Geri Grieb with nine and Jackie Mollahan with eight. Janice Weinke of Pilot Rock was the high point-winner for the game, with 16.

But the Fillies' winning ways were in evidence again on their home court the following night, when they overpowered Weston-McEwen 52-34.

The Heppner ladies outshot, out-rebounded, and out-defended the TigerScot girls, making few mistakes in the process.

The Fillies got off 79 shots to only 38 for the visiting team, and "forced a number of steals by pressing a lot,"

according to Coach Brock.

Maureen Healy, Geri Grieb and Lindy Devin tied for the Fillies' top scorer honors, each sinking 10. Weston-McEwen's Kathy Cahill was credited with 11 points, making her the game's high point scorer.

Healy was also the leading rebounder with 13, followed by Geri Grieb and Alice Abrams, each with five, and Wendy Meyers with four.

Last weekend's action made the Fillies 3-1 in league play and 10-1 for the season.

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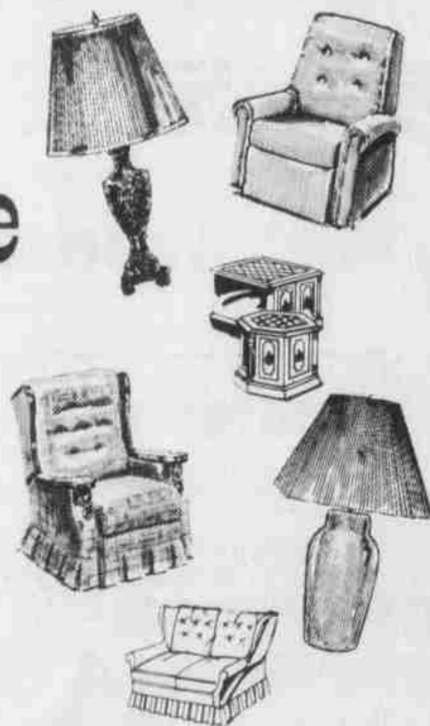
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