

# Mustang nine split in season openers 7-1, 8-5

You win some and you lose some, as the saying goes, and the Heppner Mustangs did just that during their premier performance on the diamond this past weekend in Pilot Rock.

Despite the blustery, winter-time weather conditions Saturday, the Mustangs were hot during their first appearance at Pilot Rock's four-way tournament, blasting Prairie City 7-1. But things cooled down for the Heppner nine in the championship bracket, when they committed six errors and left 10 men on base, resulting in a 5-8 loss to Gervais.

Dennis Peck put in a fine showing at the mound for Heppner in the Prairie City contest, allowing only two hits, giving up no walks, and striking out eight hitters.

Due to time considerations, that game was limited to only five innings. But that was time enough for the Mustang batters to strut their stuff.

After a scoreless two-inning Heppner exploded for seven runs in the third. The runs came on singles by Doug Holland and John Bier, and a long, two-run double by Scott McEwen, aided by two walks and two errors by Prairie City. Prairie City's lone run was unearned.

In the Gervais game, Heppner started out strong, but failed to convert many of the team's 11 hits into runs. All totaled, the Mustangs left 10 potential scorers stranded on base. Gervais also tallied 11 hits, but converted them into eight runs, while giving up no errors.

In the first inning, Peck slammed out a triple, and was driven home on a Dale Holland single. Gervais countered with four runs in the second, then the Mustangs came back with two more in the third, off a long triple by Doug Holland, a double by Mike Stookey, and a single by pitcher Lionel Wood. The score remained static at 4-3 in favor of Gervais until the last of the sixth, when Gervais unleashed four more runs.

Heppner came close to closing the gap in the seventh and final inning. Singles by Dale Holland and Scott McEwen and a double by Rick Cole drove two runs home. But with bases loaded, the Mustangs went down in flames.

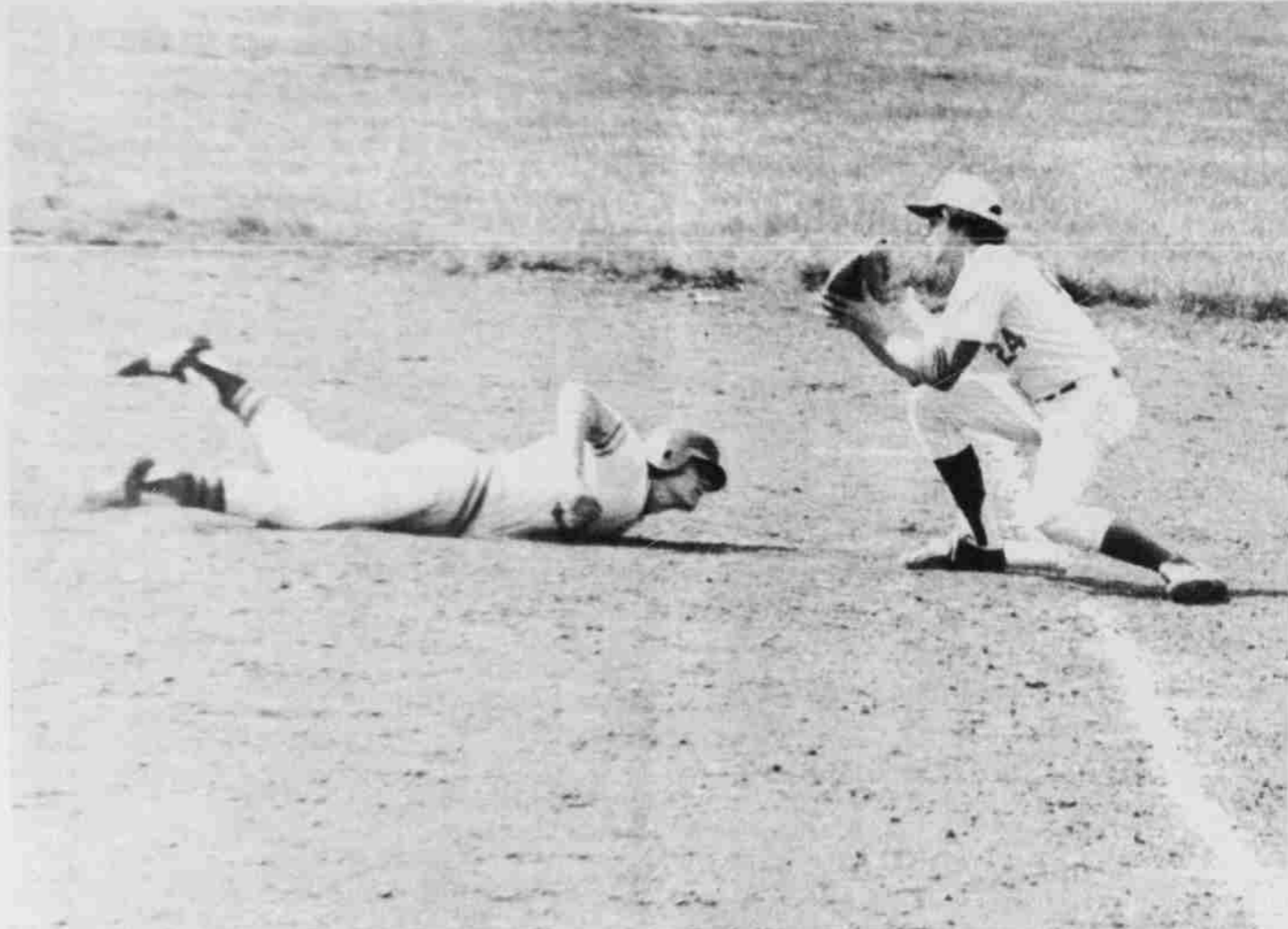
Dennis Peck, Scott McEwen and Doug Holland were named to the tournament's all-star team. Heppner finished second in the tourney.

Heppner Coach Dale Holland said he was pleased with his Mustangs' performance during the season opener. "They hit the ball real well," he said, "and the pitching was good, especially in the first game. I was pleased with the way we came back in the second game and made a real ball game out of it. But we need to work a little more on our fielding."

The Mustang varsity will remain idle until April 12, when they travel to Arlington for a doubleheader.

Prairie City	0 0 0 1 0
Heppner	0 0 7 0 -

Gervais	0 4 0 0 4 -
Heppner	1 0 2 0 0 2



## Out!

Mike Stookey snares a throw from Mustang pitcher Dennis Peck to pick off a Prairie City runner who extended his lead just a little too far. Heppner clipped Prairie City 7-1 and lost to Gervais 8-5 in play last weekend.

## Cardinal track team fields 20

Gordon Meyers and Del LaRue, the duo that coached the lone football team to a state championship are back together again. Meyers is taking 13 boys through track season and hoping that number is not unlucky for him, while LaRue coaches seven girls through what they hope to be a winning season.

The Cardinal boys have a relatively young squad with no seniors, but what they don't have in age they make up for in numbers and experience.

Meyers took three boys to the state meet last year. Jerry Rietmann and Les Thompson

man, is working on the 880 yard run and the 440 yard dash.

Girls Coach Del LaRue has two senior girls out, Janet McElligott and Kim Cofenas. McElligott is in the field events, the shot put, discus and the javelin, while Cofenas is in the relays and the hurdles.

Brenda Patton and Kim Pettyjohn are the juniors out. Kim is competing in the 440 yard relay, 100 yard dash and possibly the 220. Brenda competes in the 440, the 440 yard relay and the 220.

Lisa Meyers is the only sophomore girl out for track. Lisa will be the only long distance runner on the agenda with the 880 and the mile.

Margaret Doherty and Michelle LaRue are welcome freshmen on the team. Doherty is a sprinter and last year had times in the 100 yard dash better than the high school district leaders, she'll also run the anchor leg on the 440 relay and long jump. Michelle LaRue is the only other girl in field events with the shot put, discus and javelin.

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Ione's first meet is Saturday at Condon.

# Eckman-Van Marter vie for basketball first place

Eckman will have one last chance to tie Van Marter for first place in Town Team basketball action this Sunday, during the final day of season play.

This past Sunday, Eckman overpowered Watkins 64-46, with Jim Lankford sinking 16 points for the winners. Watkins has only been defeated once this season, by unbeaten Van Marter.

Van Marter whalloped Smith by a 54-27 margin last Sunday, with Frank Pearson tallying 13 points and Tom Day connecting for 12. Don Papineau picked up 12 points for Smith.

Forest Service, boosted by 17 points from Lee Padberg,

outdistanced Greenup 57-46, despite a 20-point game by Greenup's Clint Barber.

Pat Campbell exploded for 20 points and John McCabe was good for 18 during Lane's

76-40 rampage over Johnston.

Other teams facing off for the final day of league play on Sunday will be Greenup and Johnston, Smith and Watkins, and Lane and Forest Service.

## County Mounties slate basketball benefit in Ione

In what might be one of the more bizarre matchups of the 1979 basketball season, the Morrow County Mounties will take on the Rolling Stone in the Ione High School gym on April 20.

No, the Mounties are not led by Sgt. Preston of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the Rolling Stone is not conducted by rocker Mick

Jagger. The Mounties, in this case, anyway, are members of the Morrow County Sheriff's department. The Rolling Stone consists of a hodgepodge of youths from the Ione-Lexington area.

The contest is designed to raise money for recreation equipment for area youths, in an effort to provide an alternative for spare-time idleness.

In addition to the use of its gym, Ione High School has donated uniforms for both teams. IHS coaches Del LaRue and Gordon Meyers will referee the contest.

Area merchants have donated prizes ranging from turkeys to rod and reel outfits for a halftime drawing. Tickets will be on sale soon.

Tip-off time is set for 8 p.m. on April 20. Admission will be

\$1 for adults and 50 cents for students. Everyone is invited to attend.

# Nine lettermen return to Card baseball ranks

The 1979 Ione baseball team fields nine lettermen each with plenty of game experience under his belt.

"This year's team should be very versatile," says Ione Coach Jerry Martin. "Because of the number of positions that each player can handle."

He starts off his cast with Kevin McCabe a jack-of-all-trades who pitches, plays catcher and infielder. McCabe was last year's honorable mention All Conference player. John Lindstrom, a senior, returns as an outfielder, short stop and third baseman. Danny McElligott the other senior doubles as both third baseman and short stop.

Robin LaRue, another honorable mention All Conference player, looks like he'll be the first baseman for the Cards. Dennis Stefani pitches and plays a catcher-infielder combo, too. Glen Krebs, a junior, comes back with plenty of experience as an outfielder, and Frank Engelman returns at first base and outfield.

The sophomores boast seven players including returning letterman Leslie Thompson, a

catcher and pitcher; Barney Rea an outfielder and second baseman; Shawn LaRue an infielder; and Gregg Rietmann a catcher-infielder. Tim Key, Richard Ladd, and Ralph Morter all outfielders join the team, along with freshman Jeff Hams at catcher-outfielder.

"I'm looking forward to this season," says Coach Martin, "and because we're in a tough division they'll have to make themselves very competitive." Martin is undecided as to who will be the starters and promises he'll "give each player plenty of opportunity to demonstrate their skills."

McCabe, Robin LaRue and Rietmann were all leading

Cont. on page 5

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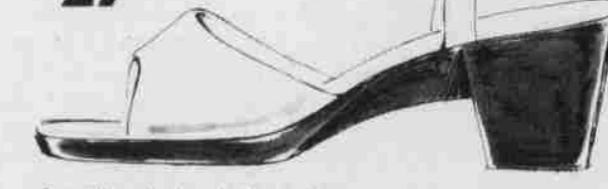
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