

Heppner-Ione rivalry game begins basketball season

Football season has just ended and already Heppner and Ione will be going at it on the basketball floor this Saturday beginning at 6 p.m. with the girls' varsity game and the boys' varsity contest will follow at 8 p.m.

In the first game, Heppner Coach Sheri Brock will match up against Ione Coach Martha Doherty's team.

Heppner has lost four seniors from last year's team that was second in the league to Pilot Rock. Three of the players lost were starters.

She does have her starting center, Geri Grieb, back from last year and also three other players that started some. Lynn Dee Devin started some at guard as did Mary Kincaid. Kellie Hammond was a part-time starter at center. Other returnees from last year include Alice Abrams, Deann Conner and Margaret Kincaid. All are forwards.

Organizational meeting set for city league

Anyone interested in playing in the Heppner City League for basketball is invited to attend the organizational meeting tonight at 8 p.m. in the Heppner High School gym.

Since there are not enough teams or referees, league play will be delayed one week.

Practice games may be played this Sunday beginning at 5 p.m. if teams can make the arrangements.

Play will begin Dec. 9 if eight teams have not been formed and officials have not been found. Other arrangements will be discussed at the meeting tonight.

Newcomers to the team are Cindy Bowman, Lottie Laughlin and Nancy Miller, all guards; and forwards Sandra Ward and Shelley Mann.

The starting line-up for this weekend's game will be selected from Abrams, Hammond, Devin, Kincaid, Grieb and Ward.

Coach Brock expects that Pilot Rock will be the team to beat. She said her team will like to run the fast break and play a zone defense.

"We are going to be an aggressive team," the coach said. "This is going to be a new year because most of the teams in the league have lost their main players."

Ione will have a much shorter team when the two schools begin play Saturday. The tallest player for the Cardinals is 5-foot-9 while Heppner has about six players that height or taller.

The Cardinals do have their top two scorers from last year back in senior Martha McElligott and sophomore Michelle LaRue.

Two other seniors, Lori Edwards and Kim Pettyjohn, are also on the team.

There will be only one junior playing for Ione and that is Lisa Meyers, who is playing in her first year of basketball.

Seven sophomores are on hand to lead the team in coming years.

Besides LaRue, other sophomores are Anita Palmer, Diann Morter, Margaret Doherty, Liz McElligott, Tammy Holt and Sandra Thompson.

Players who saw a lot of action last year and who will be playing against Heppner are McElligott, Edwards, LaRue, Palmer, Holt and Thompson.

"We just missed going to districts last year but we were

outmatched in terms of height as we probably will be again this year," Coach Doherty said. "We lost only two players from last year's team by graduation so we do have the advantage that everyone has seen plenty of action."

The coach said the teams to beat in the league are Echo, Arlington and Helix because they all have a lot of height.

The second game of the night will feature the Heppner boys' varsity against Ione's.

Both schools have not had much time to practice for the game since they both were involved in late football play-off action.

Heppner has two returning starters and two-year lettermen in Jim Parker, 5-foot-11, and Dale Holland, 6-foot-3.

Other seniors on the team with varsity experience are Larry Palmer, Curt Day and Todd Sherer.

Players with junior varsity experience are John Bier, 6-foot-1, Rick Cole, Tony Currin and 6-foot-2 Jim Launer.

Sophomores on the varsity with experience on the freshman team are John Murray, Dale Holland and Dorian Forrar.

"The late football season is a disadvantage because of the lack of practice we have had but it has been an advantage because of the super attitude the players have about winning," Coach Dale Holland said. "I am happy so far about our play even though we are behind in the number of practices but Ione is in the same boat we are. They have a bunch of fine athletes there and they will be tough."

Holland said the strength in the team lies in its defense with the basic man to man mixed in with some zone. He

said the team will be tough on the boards because they are "good physical kids."

He said the balance on the team is excellent which will be a great asset because Heppner will be able to substitute quite a bit. Holland said the three sophomores have been playing very strongly and that big Jim Launer has improved as much as anyone.

Holland expects Weston-McEwen and Pilot Rock to be the teams to beat in the Eastern Division of the Columbia Basin League and that Riverside should do well in the Western half.

"The last two years we have finished third in the league and you have to finish in the top two to get to the district tournament and that is our goal," the coach said. "I think we definitely will be a contender."

Coach Del LaRue of Ione said all of his players were instrumental in the success of the football program and that some of the players won't even begin turning out with the varsity until today.

"There is no way we are going to be able to execute very well this weekend," he said. "I am just going to play it by ear. I gave them a few days off because I felt the rest would help more than the workouts. I just said if you want to play Saturday, you have to start turning out by Thursday at the latest."

LaRue has six lettermen returning from last year but three are injured. Robin LaRue was injured and had to have surgery early in the football season and he won't be able to play until January. Glen Krebs was injured in the championship game last weekend and will be out for awhile and Gregg Rietmann

has been playing football for weeks with a broken hand and he will miss some action.

"We will be short handed," LaRue said. "We won't even have our varsity picked this week at all."

LaRue does expect seven players to see a lot of action. They are Dennis Stefani, Mark Patton, Les Thompson, Shawn LaRue, Paul Snow, Treve Peterson and Ralph Morter.

"We are not going to have much finesse but we will have a lot of momentum coming off the state championship football game," LaRue said. "We are probably going to stumble

in offense. Normally, I like to play a man-to-man defense but we probably will play zone this weekend. We have been a small team in the league for a long time so we have to rely on quickness and hard work."

LaRue said he expects Dufur to be a power in the league this year. Arlington has been the power the last two years winning the state title two years ago and coming in second last year. But Arlington has lost most of its tall players and Dufur has good size and a good JV team so LaRue favors that team.

Dufur was second in the league last year and Ione was fourth.

Mustangs dominate stats

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with 90, junior Ray Miller had 89 and Murray 87.

Doug Holland had three interceptions and Rick Cole returned 14 punts for 167 yards and a 11.9 average.

Doug Holland was also second in rushing with 115 carries for 643 yards and a 5.6 average. Both Holland and Murray will be back for two more years. Chris Zita had 77 carries and 285 yards and Brett Sherer had 23 carries and 112 yards.

Dale Holland led the receivers with 31 grabs for 378 yards and a 12.2 yard average per reception. He was second to Murray in scoring with 38 points offensively. Chris Zita had 36 offensive points and Jim Parker 32.

John Bier was the quarterback leader and he passed the ball for 673 yards connecting on 57 of 95 for a 60 percent ratio. He had only three interceptions. Bier passed for eight touchdowns. The awesome team statistics display

why Heppner had such a great year with a 10-1 record.

Heppner outscored its opponents 330-72 for an average of 30-6.5 per game. The team was amazing in the first quarter of every game as it scored 122 points to only three for its opponents. The second quarter statistics show Heppner with a 102 to 20 edge and the third period was also in Heppner's favor 66-18. Only in the fourth period, when Heppner usually went to its reserve players, did the opponents come close to outscoring the Mustangs but Heppner still scored more 40-31.

The Mustangs had more first downs, 175 to 95, in the 11 games. The run-oriented team actually made more first downs passing than its opponents, 32-23. Opponents did have more first downs by penalty, 17-10, but the number Heppner gained twice as many yards in total offense, 3,207 to 1,619.



Becky Fulleton rides around a barrel on her horse Solomon.

Heppner rodeo pro going to nationals

Roice and Betty Fulleton of Heppner are beaming with pride because their daughter, Becky, is going to the rodeo finals in Oklahoma City, Okla. Dec. 1 to 9.

Becky Fulleton, who lived most of her life in Heppner, is a rodeo professional who drove more than 100,000 miles this year by herself to compete in rodeos. She took along her horse, Solomon, to 93 rodeos this year and won \$12,881 in prize money, which ranks her 12th nationally.

This will be her second straight year to go the nationals. Last year she was

10th in the nation winning \$11,000.

Fulleton, 26, is a barrel racer and the only woman on the Girl's Rodeo Association circuit to travel alone.

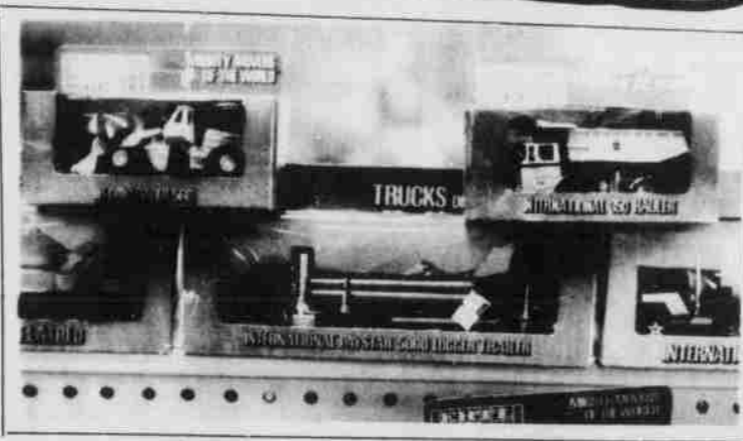
She bought Solomon in 1976 for \$4,500 but she says the horse is worth more than \$30,000 on the open market.

She received three bachelor's degrees in college, two were made possible by rodeo scholarships from Cal State University in Fresno, Calif.

Fulleton was the 1975 college national champion.

She began participating in rodeos when she was 16.

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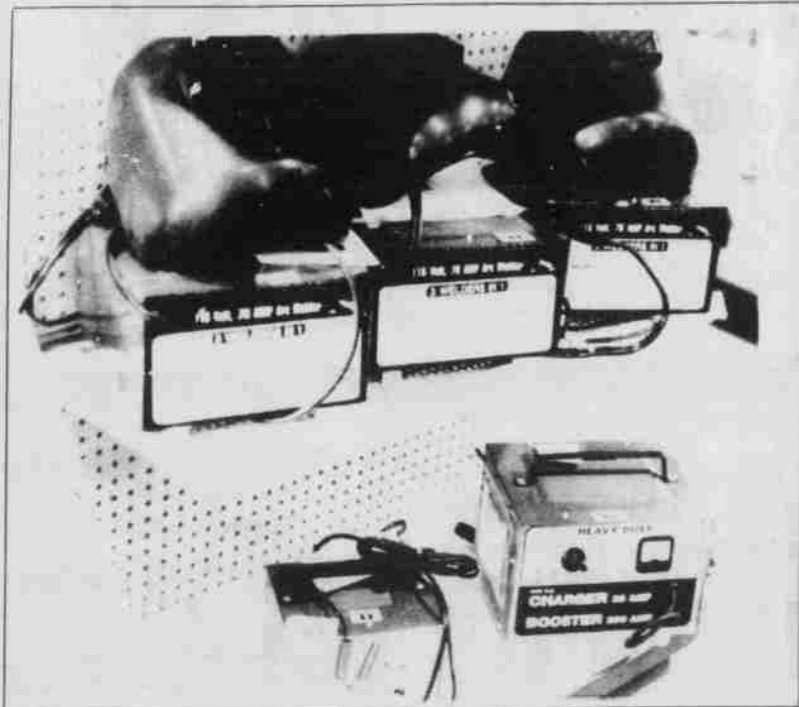
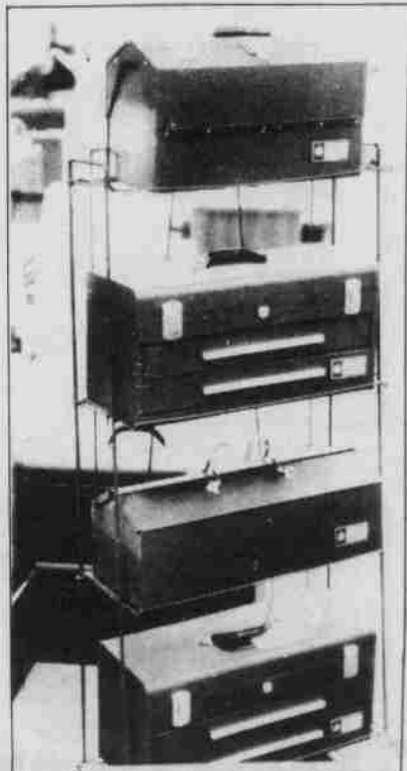


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