

Fillies burn out Rockets in last league game

By DANAREID



Pam Orr (25) catches pass in Fillies' last league game against Pilot Rock.

School districts talented & gifted program now in its 3rd year

A special program for talented and gifted students in the Morrow County School District is now in its third year. The program is designed to offer a challenge to students with very high academic ability at all grade levels in all grade levels in all schools, explains John Edmundson, program supervisor.

Students who are involved in the program have participated in science fairs, book fairs, health fairs, newspaper publication, advanced placement

classes, creative thinking groups, problem solving classes, fast track classes, independent study projects, academic summer camps, foreign language study, math contests and computer contests.

Teachers who coordinate the program are given an extra duty contract in the same manner as a person who is responsible to coach an athletic team.

Edmundson says the program costs the district about \$11,000 per year, most of which is used to pay coordinators and to purchase supplies and materials.

"The project has gotten a good start and we hope to continue to improve it," the program supervisor said.

Local market didn't receive contaminated goods

No bakery products were required to be removed from Central Market during the recent E.D.B. recall, says owner Forrie Burkenbine.

E.D.B., a suspected cancer causing agent used in chemicals to treat stored grains, has been found in excessive levels in some flour and bakery goods; however, Central Market did not receive any of the contaminated goods, said Burkenbine.

The Fifth Quarter

Sports by Mike Oths

(Editor's note: The Gazette-Times welcomes a new column, "The Fifth Quarter, Sports by Mike Oths." Oths, of Heppner, will write the column regularly for the G-T)

With another Winter Olympics in the books, I can't resist a comment about the approach that the media and others take to the games.

Print and broadcast journalists expressed great relief that Phil Mahre and Steve Mahre, America's greatest-ever Alpine skiers, have "vindicated" themselves by claiming the gold and silver medals in the slalom race at Sarajevo. These same people were only last week criticizing the Mahres for their startling admission "that the Olympics were not the most important things in their lives." The brothers Mahre were excoriated for having mentioned that (a) the Olympics were just another race, (b) that they were having trouble concentrating on the races, and (c) that they were looking forward to retirement.

It is unfortunate that this attitude reflects the all-too-common sentiments that we as a nation take toward the Olympics. When Americans win it's "We win"; When Americans lose it's "They let us down — THEY lost."

To begin with, those who dished out the criticism after the Mahres fared badly in the Giant Slalom (and it was because they didn't win) fail to understand Alpine skiing. Not unlike golf tournaments, the best players don't always win. The fine edge that is needed to win, and the luck that plays such a large role, can't be present every week. In saying that he wasn't on top of his game, Phil Mahre was simply stating a fact. Furthermore, I suspect that he was serving advance notice that he wouldn't tolerate the notion that his career would have been somehow a failure if he had failed to win an Olympic Gold.

Nothing can detract from the fact that Phil Mahre is the only American to come close to winning the overall World Cup skiing title, much less from the fact that he won that title three years in a row. His only point—and a very good point at that—is that failure to win Olympic medals should not be the measure of a career. I suspect further that both Mahre brothers must wonder where all the media attention was when things were going well.

The absurdity of the media's approach to the Olympics certainly must have reached its peak at the press conference following Sunday's slalom competition. When everyone criticized Phil's "lack of concentration" they apparently didn't bother to ask why his attention might be divided. As it turns out, his wife gave birth to a son only minutes before his victorious run, a fact of which he was unaware. At the press conference, a reporter asked, "Which is more important: your gold medal or having a new baby boy?" That Mahre's response to that question was even printable was to his credit. (He said that it was the most ridiculous question he had ever heard.)

The bottom line to all this is that the media, in all its control effort to hype the Olympics, has gone completely out of control. To me, the Olympics are as much about the speed-skater from the Virgin Islands as they are about the Soviet hockey team. They are more about athletes like pairs figure-skaters Peter and Kitty Caruthers who were genuinely more proud of the fact that they had done their best than about the fact that they had "failed" by only getting a silver medal.

They are definitely not related to the medals charts showing the scoreboard of each country's haul of awards. Similarly, they are not about the "commentators" who tell us that we need to pump more money into Olympic training because our medals total was lower than they expected. Finally, they are about raising a cheer for this year's hockey team, which played just as hard as the team from 1980, and which because of media pressure was in a no-win situation from the start.

I hope Phil and Steve Mahre win a few more races before they hang them up for good, but more importantly, I hope that Phil Mahre's son grows up to be healthy and that he gains his father's sense of perspective. That would be worth a gold medal!

The Heppner varsity Fillies met the Pilot Rock Rockets to play their last league game Friday, Feb. 17 at Heppner.

The tip off went to the Fillies as the first quarter started. Heppner took the ball down court and set it up to run through the plays. The Fillies were patient on offense and ran through their plays until there was an open shot for two points. Heppner hustled back on defense to hold the Rockets from scoring. From the start of the first quarter Heppner took control and made the Rockets play their game.

The second quarter was started as the tip off went to the Rockets. Heppner hustled back on defense and faced the Rockets to turn the ball over. Heppner took the ball down court and had the first two points of the second quarter. The Fillies were playing great defense, forcing Pilot Rock to shoot outside the key. Heppner was rebounding well and by the end of the second quarter the Fillies were still ahead. The score was 33-23.

The third quarter started with the tip going to the Fillies. They took the ball down court all the way in for two points. Heppner continued to play good ball and kept control through the rest of the third quarter. The score at the end of the quarter was Heppner 43, Pilot Rock 23.

The tip off went to the Fillies to start the fourth quarter. They took the ball down court and set it up to run through their plays. Heppner worked the ball around until they could get it in to put it up for two points. The Fillies were rebounding pretty well both offensively and defensively.

The Fillies continued to have control of the game until the end of the fourth quarter. The final score was Heppner Fillies 55, the Pilot Rock Rockets 38.

"Our execution on offense was good. We were patient, we took good shots and we hit a high percentage. Our play on defense was super. We knew we had to shut down their inside game and that's exactly what we did. I think we'll be ready for Sherman County this time," said Coach Mike Royer.

Pam Orr lead the team with 22 points, 8 rebounds and 8 steals while Stephi Payne had 5 assists.

The Fillies will travel to Pendleton Thursday, Feb. 23, to compete in the district tournament. The Fillies will play Sherman Co. at 7:30 p.m. at the armory.

P.M.H. Aux. holds meeting

The Pioneer Memorial Hospital Auxiliary met on Valentine's Day for a monthly meeting. Money making projects were discussed, and it has been decided to change the monthly meeting date to the third Monday of the month, instead of the third Thursday, according to Betty Brown, an auxiliary spokesperson. Next meeting is to be held March 19 at Kate's Pizza and Pastry in Heppner and

will begin with a no host luncheon at noon. Members are asked to bring a guest, and interested persons are invited to attend, Brown said.

Merle Boyce was honored with a gift for being Resident of the Month, and celebrated her 80th birthday one day early.

The Soroptimist Club of Heppner sponsored the Valentine party, and Valentines were presented to residents from children of the local

churches and elementary school.

Heppner Women's Aglow to meet

The Heppner Women's Aglow Fellowship will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 28, 7:15 p.m. at All Saints' Episcopal Church parish hall in Heppner.

Guest speaker for the evening will be Evelyn Donnell of LaGrande.

Everyone is invited to attend, said a spokesperson.

"Life consists not in holding good cards but in playing those you do hold well." Josh Billings

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