

The Heppner Gazette-Times

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

VOL. 103 NO. 10 MARCH 6, 1985

6 PAGES

8 PAGES

Heppner, Oregon

25



Weather
by the City of Heppner

	High	Low	Precip	Snow
Tues., Feb. 26	49	27	0	
Wed., Feb. 27	56	38	0	
Thurs., Feb. 28	62	34	.10	
Fri., March 1	42	21	.26	
Sat., March 2	41	21	0	
Sun., March 3	48	32	.10	
Mon., March 4	46	32	0	

Total precipitation for Feb., 1985 was 1.61 inches.

Fillies take regional, move on to state



Jody Padberg drives the lane against Imbler

photo by Clark Wallis

By DANAREID

The Heppner Fillies upset the Imbler Panthers 47-42 as the Fillies take a spot in the State Tournament this week. Heppner and Imbler played the second girls game of the Regional Tournament Friday, March 1 in LaGrande.

The Fillies, once again were up against another tall team. Starting for the Panthers was Teresa McDonald 5'6", Dara Doles 5'10", Penny Jacoby 5'8 1/2", Mary Royes 5'8 1/2" and Michelle Kilgore 5'6". The Fillies were taking their quickness and speed against the Panthers height starting Stephani Payne and Dana Reid at guards, Lana Reid and Jodi Padberg at forwards and Penny Conner at center.

The tip was controlled by the Panthers as the Fillies started in a zone defense. Imbler tried to work the ball inside for a shot but it was no good as the Imbler Panthers knocked the ball out of bounds. The Fillies worked the ball around as a three point play was made and Heppner had the first score on the board.

The Fillies also started out in a full court press on defense. Heppner took control of the game as they ended the first quarter 10 points ahead 15-5. The Fillies were playing tough defense, keeping the Panthers out of the key. Heppner continued tough defense in the second quarter. The Fillies ran a fast break from the start of the game as they had several layins. Heppner held the point lead as the second quarter ended.

Jodi Padberg scored 15 of the Fillies 23 points at the end of the first half. "We had a 10-point lead but we

knew the game wasn't over yet," said coach Royer after the first half.

"I'm just glad we kept the pace up as long as we did and kept the pressure on defensively." To start the third quarter Heppner grabbed the tip and headed down court. The Fillies went all the way to score the first two points of the second half. Another basket scored by Heppner gave them a game-high spread of 17 points, 35-18.

Halfway through the third quarter, the Fillies fell apart as the Panthers came back, bringing Heppner's lead only to three points. At this point Royer commented, "I was a little concerned but I was confident that we could do the job defensively and we did." Something in Heppner snapped as they got back in the game and played tough defense. The third quarter ended with the Fillies at a seven point lead.

The Imbler Panthers scored and pulled within three points, 41-38, with only five minutes to play. Both teams were really hustling as the game was coming to an end. Heppner scored a free-throw to take a 5-point lead. Imbler scored once more to put it back to only two. It was back down to Heppner's end another bucket, and the last of the game as the final score was 47-42. The Heppner Fillies were on to State!

Two key players for the Fillies fouled out in the fourth quarter, Lana Reid and Stephani Payne, but Heppner stayed in the game and went for the win.

Jodi Padberg's 14 points in the second half gave her a total of 29 points, leading the Fillies. "The first

quarter and a half was some of the best basketball we've played all season. I think we ran out of gas a little in the fourth quarter, but we hung on. It was a great win," commented coach Royer.

A big crowd turned out to root the Fillies on. There were doubters in the crowd, but not amongst the Heppner fans. They had different thoughts as they showed their confidence that the Fillies could take another win.

The win over the Panthers meant the Fillies season was not over yet as they would continue to the State Tournament this week for their final week of basketball this year.

The loss for Imbler did not put them out, however, as they went on to play Pine Eagle (the winner of the Pine Eagle-Umatilla game) Saturday, March 2. Imbler came out on top of that one as they put Pine Eagle out and proceeded to advance to the State Tournament.

The Heppner Fillies will play Amity, Thursday, March 7, at 1:30 p.m. The game will be played, once again, at the Pendleton Armory. With a win, the Fillies will then play Friday night at 7 p.m. for the semi-finals against the winner of the Regis-Lost River game, played Thursday at 7 p.m.

With a win at this game the Fillies will be qualified for the Championship game played Saturday at 7 p.m. If something happens and the Fillies lose their first game against Amity they will go to the losers bracket and play the loser of the Regis-Lost River game working towards the consolation game.

Accompanied by chants of "We're Number One," and "On to State," Heppner High School's girls team captured its first-ever regional basketball championship Friday night in LaGrande, with a 47-42 victory over Imbler High School.

The Fillies, led by the hot shooting of Jodi Padberg, jumped out to a big early lead over Imbler's Panthers, then survived a furious second-half rush to claim the regional title and a spot in this week's State Tournament in Pendleton.

Cold Imbler shooting, and what Heppner coach Mike Royer called "probably our best half of the season," staked the Fillies to a lead of as much as 16 points, midway through the second quarter. Imbler shaved the lead to ten at halftime, but the Fillies pushed it out to fifteen again in the third quarter. A late Imbler rush left the score at 37-30, Heppner, at the end of the third period.

The entire fourth quarter was intensely played before the huge crowd in the steamy Eastern Oregon State College fieldhouse. Heppner

seemed to tire noticeably in the final period, but Royer cited the fact that his players reacted well to the pressure in the closing minutes. The Fillies regained their composure in the last 1:30, despite the loss of point guard Stephani Payne, who fouled out. Penny Connor's basket in the final minute made the score 47-42, and gave Heppner the breathing room it needed to ice the victory.

Heppner, 16-3, will now play Amity, runner-up from Region A, which earned its spot in the State Tourney with a win over favored Neah-Ka-Nie, 41-38, on Saturday night in Newberg. Amity is located twenty miles northwest of Salem.

Also on Saturday, Imbler grabbed the second spot from the Eastern Regional, knocking off defending state champion Pine Eagle, state champion Pine Eagle.

Amity comes into the State tournament as champions of the West Valley League, having posted a 19-4 season mark and a perfect 14-0 record in league play. Amity won its district championship with a win over Nestucca, then lost to Corbett

38-37 in the regionals. They bounced back with the win over Neah-Ka-Nie, however, to earn their second trip to the State tourney in four seasons.

In Amity, Heppner will face a team that has a rare distinction - they're smaller than the Fillies. Coach Lynn Freshour describes his team as "small, but well-balanced. We like to run and fast break." The fifth-year head coach cited the fact that any of his starters has potential to score in double figures as the key to his team's success.

Royer, Heppner's second-year coach, feels that rebounding will play a key role against Amity. "They're very aggressive on the offensive boards - we'll need to keep them off there." Royer also described Amity as a "very smart team that doesn't make many turnovers."

Royer doesn't feel that there are any heavy favorites to win the State Title. "I think we have a good chance," said Royer, "as good as anybody."

Heppner's first-round game will be at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, at the Pendleton Armory. (see related story for schedule).

On to State

