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Fillies out to earn tournament

Heppner High School will be hosting the fourth annual Morrow County Invitational Basketball Tournament this Friday and Saturday with the three county high school, Riverside, Ione and Heppner, and a Portland school, Catlin-Gabel participating.

Action begins Friday afternoon at 3 p.m. with the Riverside girls

meeting the Ione girls at about 5 p.m. and the Riverside boys will play the Catlin-Gabel boys. Evening play will begin at approximately 7 p.m. with the Heppner girls meeting the Catlin-Gabel girls and the nightcap will match the Heppner boys against the Ione boys.

Saturday action will begin at 2 p.m. with the girls' losers playing for consolation honors and boys' losers from Friday meeting at about 4 p.m. The championship girls' game will start at about 6 p.m. and the championship boys' contest slated for approximately 8 p.m.

Admission prices for this tournament will be different than normal with a \$2.50 charge for adults and \$1.25 charge for students. This will allow a person to see an entire day's slate of four games for one admission charge. The same charge will be in effect for one session. Senior citizen passes and other passes will be honored for this tournament.

The Heppner girls will be out to earn the championship of this tournament, something that has eluded them the past two years. Meeting stiff competition in the first game, the Heppner girls have fallen twice

to Imbler. This year they meet an unknown team in Catlin-Gabel. The Eagles from Portland have outstanding athletes on their team, but have not been known as a basketball powerhouse.

Senior Maren Batchelor was selected first team all-state in soccer this fall and junior Molly Maier was a fourth-place finisher in the state A track and field meet last spring at 1500 meters.

Both Riverside and Ione should have improved ball teams and the tournament should be extremely well-balanced in girls competition.

The Riverside boys are probably the favorites to repeat as tournament champions. The Pirates return several starters from last year's district tournament team. Again, Catlin-Gabel is an unknown team except that the Eagles sport a 6-4 junior, a pair of 6-2 players and three others 6-0 or better. Heppner will be out to improve upon last year's performance in the tournament and will meet a weaker Ione team that always seems to give the Mustangs trouble.

JVs hope to improve with every game

By Ashley Conklin

Hoping to improve with every game the Heppner boys junior varsity basketball team welcomes a new coach this year, Lee Padberg, who takes over for Bob Ployhar who guided the team a year ago. Padberg will also serve as an assistant to varsity coach Brent Eggers.

Padberg lists two reasons he took the job, "I love basketball and I love working with kids."

Twelve players will make up this year's JV team. They are juniors Ashley Conklin, Carl Martin, and David Pedro; sophomores Ty Arbogast, Jeff Devin, Jason Dougherty, Mark Fishburn, Terry Gray, Derek Hoeft and Jim Wornell; and Freshmen Dick Devin and Bryan Padberg. Padberg with be a floater between JV and varsity. Fishburn and Dick Devin could also see varsity action, while Devin will spend limited time on the freshmen team.

"The thing that impresses me the most about this team is that they are very intelligent and do not make many dumb mistakes," stated the coach.

Padberg has three goals for his team this season. "I want us to improve each game, win more games than we lose, and build more character as a team."

Offensively Padberg says his team will run the fast break when the opportunity presents itself and use a full-court press defensively.

"We do not have a lot of height and

size, but we will make up for it with our quickness," replied Padberg. "We must play good defense this season in order to start the fast break and utilize it (the fast break) to its fullest," he added.

"At this point, our biggest weaknesses are our shooting and rebounding skills. However, we should improve as the season goes along," Padberg concluded.

The Mustangs open their 14-game schedule at home Thursday, Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m. against the Spray varsity.

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Dessert honors fall athletes

By Ashley Conklin

Heppner High School held its annual fall sports desert on Tuesday, Nov. 26 in the school cafeteria to honor its football and volleyball teams.

JV football coach, Les Payne, opened the program by giving out JV awards to junior Pradit Thongdy, sophomore Scott Davis, and freshmen Jerry Brosnan, Jim Brosnan, Jesse Jefferies, Brian Kollman, Barney Lindsay, Mike Mahoney, Jess Osmin, and Ted Schwarz. The Mustangs concluded their season with a 3-3 record.

Secondly, varsity football coach Tim Birkby, presented varsity letters. Lettering for the first time were Tony Clement, Jack Estburg, Loran Hayes, and Todd Lindsay; sophomores Duane Ball, Mark Fishburn, Terry Gray and Gene Lancaster; and freshmen Dick Devin and Bryan Padberg. Receiving their second letter were juniors Scott Buchke, Kevin Curnutt, Scott Dougherty, Gene Harris, Troy Hyatt, Jason Palmer, David Pedro, and Joe Taylor; and sophomore Ryan Duncan and Scott Jones. Getting their third letter were senior Chris McLaughlin and junior Bob Riehl. Alex Lindsay, a senior, was the lone recipient of a fourth letter.

Birkby acknowledged Ball for being named an all-conference second team defensive back and Palmer for being named as an honorable mention pick as an offensive guard and defensive linebacker. The most improved player was Fishburn, while Alex Lindsay was voted as the team's best back. Riehl garnered the most valuable player award, the

most inspirational player award and the best linemen award.

"We finished with an overall record of 3-5 and I feel we had a successful season," stated Birkby. He added, "We returned a lot of players next season and we should be in the thick of things as far as a playoff birth is concerned."

First year "C" team volleyball cited junior Tabitha Block; sophomore Beth Heatherly, Lori Patterson, Kerri Thompson, and Marci Stookey; and freshmen Michelle Beck, Tracey Bond, Lori Cecil, Tami Lindsay, Susan Plocharksky, Dina Ruiz, and Christy Stroeber for their efforts this season.

Those receiving special accolades were: best server Lindsay; most inspirational Block and Stroeber; most improved Plocharksky, and most valuable Bond. The "C" squad ended their season with an impressive 7-3 mark.

Receiving awards for their participation on the JV volleyball team from Coach Gentry were juniors Tina Davidson, Tareena Nash, and Cindy Stroeber; sophomores Val Hager, Cathy Martin, and Shannon McLaughlin; and freshmen Jill Conklin, Sandi Turner, Michelle Wallis and Nance Wright.

Stroeber was granted the team's most valuable player award. Hager was named most improved, McLaughlin grabbed most inspirational, and Davidson collected best server.

Varsity first year volleyball coach Julie Reynolds concluded the program honoring her players. Senior Missy Gates received her first volleyball letter along with Missy Eubanks, a junior. Second year letter winners were seniors Andrea Ball and Penny Conner. Those earning their third letter were seniors Shelly Biddle, Dana Reid, Lana Reid, and Missy Turner.

The Fillies were led on the all-conference first team by Eubanks, Lana Reid, and Turner. Dana Reid placed on the second team, while Ball, Conner, and Gates received honorable mention.

Ball and Gates were the club's most improved players, while Ball was also named most supportive for both on and off the court. Biddle was the best server and Turner walked away with most valuable player honors.

"We had an excellent season this year," replied Reynolds. "We won the Columbia Basin Conference East Division with a perfect 8-0 record. We won our first district championship and played in our first state tournament, finishing fifth. We had an overall record of 16-3. We just had a fantastic season," she concluded.

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