

# The Heppner Gazette-Times

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Weather

by the City of Heppner

February 22 - March 3

	High	Low	Precip
Tues	66	43	
Wed	62	36	T
Thurs	59	34	
Fri	58	39	
Sat	62	36	
Sun	61	34	
Mon	57	57	

## It's an all Heppner show at District playoffs

By Ashley Conklin

With chants of "On to State!" echoing in the background, the Heppner Mustangs held off a furious rally from the Riverside Pirates, to capture their first-ever District 7-A championship. Going into the game Riverside was the second-ranked team in the state.

The two-day tournament (Thursday and Friday, Feb. 27 and 28) pitted the top two teams in each division of the Columbia Basin Conference in the championship game on Thursday night with Heppner winning 70-61.

The third time proved to be the charm for the Mustangs Thursday night as they avenged two earlier season losses to the Pirates. Heppner had held big leads early on Riverside in the earlier games only to lose them. But that was not the case this time around.

The Mustangs jumped out quickly in the first period and led 10-2 when Wayne Wilgers hit a basket with 5:24 remaining in the period. Riverside called timeout and it worked for awhile as they pulled within 14-11.

But Heppner closed out the period with an 8-2 culminating with Tod Lindsay's bank shot with two seconds left giving Heppner a 22-13 lead.

The Mustangs kept up the heat in the second quarter leading by as many as 19 points and settling for a 38-21 halftime advantage.

Heppner hit a scorching 69 percent from the field in the first half, making 18 of 26 attempts. Leading the Mustangs in the first half were Lindsay with 12 points and Keith Kenison with 10 points.

The Pirates had two of the league's top five rebounders in 6 ft. 4 in. Twin Towers Brian Byrd and Brian Sheadel. Kenison and Tony Clement put the clamps on the big men as Riverside could only pull down four first rebounds.

Twenty-five seconds into the second half, Riverside's Chris Stevens hit a jumper and it looked as if the Pirates were back on the track.

But Heppner would not fall by the wayside and led by as much as 22 points twice.

Riverside jumped all over Heppner's spread offense in the fourth period and outscored the Mustangs 16-4 and came within 59-51 on a rebound basket by Will McClintock.

Byrd worked his way inside to make the score 59-53 with 2:38 showing on the clock. Kenison added a bucket and Lindsay a free throw to put Heppner up 62-53 with 1:29 to go. Byrd then sank two free throws but Lindsay added one more free throw to make the score 63-55 with 69 seconds on the clock.

Sheadel turned the ball over on the next play, but Lindsay gave it back to the Pirates. Clement was fouled and dropped in one of two with 35 ticks to go.

Bingo Ganvoa missed a free shot, but Lindsay fouled Byrd who made both and the score read 64-57. Byrd immediately fouled Duane Ball who was able to sink one of two. Byrd came back through and was fouled driving the lane with 25 seconds remaining. He nailed both tries putting the score at 65-59.

Enter Heppner freshman Bryan Padberg, who is very quickly drawing a "Mr. Clutch" label. He dropped home five free throws in the last 25 seconds to seal the 70-61 victory.

"I don't know why," said Riverside coach Larry French, "but our guards decided not to go inside to Byrd and Sheadel."

"We're getting better at holding a lead," said Heppner coach Brent Eggers. "We wanted to come out in the third quarter and extend our lead. Our goal was to win the second half."

"This is the first time a team has been prepared for our delay game," added Eggers. "It's hard to lose a big lead."

Lindsay pumped in 24 points, grabbed 5 rebounds, passed out 4 assists, and on Friday was named KUMA radio station's most valuable player for the tournament.

Kenison added a career-high 15 points, making all seven of his field goal attempts. Padberg, in his young varsity career put in 3 of 3 field goals and 5 of 5 free throws for a career-high 11 points.

"Keith picked a good time to have the best offensive game of his career," said Eggers. "Bryan played his best game of the year and is a very confident freshman. He just has great confidence at the end of a game. There was nothing wrong with Riverside's strategy of fouling, they just fouled the wrong guy."

"Tony (Clement) and Keith (Kenison) really worked hard on defense," said Eggers. "Byrd had a



Tony Clement(35) celebrates Mustang victory with High School Principal Jim Bier.

great offensive game, but we made him work to do it." French was puzzled at his team's performance especially on defense. "Early on we played a triangle-and-two on Lindsay and Wilgers," he said. "We wanted to give them a step, and then cut them off, but we didn't do that."

Both teams shot 48 percent from the field, but that was the key according to Eggers. "They (Riverside) shot the same (percentage) as us, but when you hold Stevens to 4 of 15 shooting you're doing a good job on defense."

"These kids have come a long way," added Eggers. "Two years ago our junior varsity team with Clement, Lindsay, and Wilgers finished 1-13. Last year (with Lindsay, Kenison and Wilgers) our varsity record was 4-15."

### Fair Board applies for grant

The Morrow County Fair Board received support of Morrow County Court Tuesday, February 25, for its application to the state Intergovernmental Relations Division for lottery fund grant money.

At the public hearing before County Court, Charley Daly told the court that relocating the proposed senior center on the fairgrounds would make the project available for grant money and ultimately benefit both the senior citizens and the fair board.

The same building plans would be followed, only the location would change. The issue is not if a senior center will be built, that decision has already been arrived at, senior citizen representative told the court.

The location on the fairgrounds would make the building available

### Westerling goes to trial March 18

Larry Royce Westerling, 25, is scheduled to go on trial in Circuit Court March 18 before Judge Jack Olsen, says Morrow County District Attorney Richard McNeerney. Westerling has been charged with the November 30 murder of Son Vinh, 29, who owned the Chevron station in Heppner.

Arraigned in District Court December 3, Westerling entered a plea of Not Guilty by reason of Mental Disorder at a December 17 Circuit Court arraignment.

	1	2	3	4	F
Heppner	22	14	17	15	70
Riverside	12	8	14	24	58

  

	FG	FT	F	R	A	TO	TP	R
Heppner	3.3	5.5	1	1	3	11	+9	
Padberg	1.2	1.2	3	1	2	3	-1	
Ball	0.1	0.0	0	0	1	0	-3	
Hayes	1.1	0.0	1	0	0	2	+2	
Harrison	3.7	0.2	0	5	0	2	+2	
Wilgers	4.10	1.2	2	7	1	2	+4	
Clement	9.17	4.10	2	5	4	2	+17	
Byrd	3.7	1.2	3	4	1	0	+18	
Sheadel	3.7	1.2	4	5	0	3	7	
Totals	38.58	14.22	12	24	8	13	+50	

  

	FG	FT	F	R	A	TO	TP
Riverside	3.4	0.0	3	2	1	3	4
McClintock	4.15	0.0	0	0	1	2	6
Stevens	5.7	0.1	4	2	1	4	10
Ganvoa	3.5	1.1	2	1	1	1	5
Griffin	8.12	0.11	4	8	2	1	25
Byrd	3.7	1.2	4	5	0	3	7
Sheadel	3.7	1.2	4	5	0	3	7
Totals	35.92	1.15	17	18	4	14	41

Fouled out - None. Total fouls - Heppner 12, Riverside 17.

By DANA REID

The Heppner Fillies held on to the Columbia Basin conference District 7A crown by knocking down the Sherman County Huskies for the third time this season at the Pendleton Armory on Thursday, Feb. 27.

The championship game started in a fast pace and the score was tight throughout the first quarter and most of the second.

With only a few minutes remaining in the first half Heppner rallied to gain a 34-26 intermission advantage.

The third quarter, Heppner continued their rally outscoring the Huskies 19-13.

Heppner played their normal intense defense starting with a full-court press. At half-time the Fillies took off the press and dropped back to their hassling 13 defense.

The fourth quarter opened with Heppner holding a 14 point lead. As the buzzer sounded in the final period Sherman County gained only one point decreasing the lead to 13 finishing 66-53.

The Fillies showed their confidence and their determination throughout the game to keep the 7A District title. "It was one of our best all around games of the year," said coach Mike Royer. "We ran our offense better than we have all season, our shot selection was good and we played tough defense."

The Fillies shot 53 percent from the field. The coach was proud of this percentage. "When we shoot 53 percent from the field we're very tough to beat," commented Royer. "We were 8 for 11 from the field. We shot the ball very well."

The Huskies were without the play of senior center Leslie Martin who averages 12 points and 9 rebounds per contest. This loss was due to academic ineligibility.

This forced Sherman's other big gun inside, senior Patti Sharp, to do twice as much work for the Huskies. Sharp led all scorers with 18 points and 6 rebounds.

The Fillies faced the Huskies for the first time in pre-season action at Sherman County in December. Heppner seemed to have no problem on defense but struggled on offense.

Despite this fault Heppner ran away in the fourth quarter to take their second win in six years from the Huskies finishing 53-39. Lana Reid and Missy Eubanks led Heppner with the victory scoring 21 and 12 points respectively.

Later in February the Fillies wrapped up the East Division of the Columbia Basin Conference by defeating Sherman County for the second time this season on Heppner's home court. Four Fillies scored in double figures leading Heppner to a 54-45 win over the Huskies.

In Thursday's afternoon action, the Riverside Pirates put out the Pilot Rock Rockets 53-50 to move on to Friday evening's game against Sherman County (loser of Heppner-Sherman County game) for a fight to take the second place to advance to the regional tournament on Friday and Saturday, March 7 and 8, once again at the Pendleton Armory.

Riverside dominated the second quarter to take a 52-48 victory over the Huskies.

Heppner will enter the regional tournament in first position taking on the Wapiti League District 8A champion, Pine Eagle. Riverside will play Wapiti runnerup, Grant Union.

Pine Eagle and Grant Union played on Saturday February 28, to determine their position for regional birth.

Pine Eagle's leading scorer and rebounder is 5'10" senior Elizabeth Gulick. Gulick scored over 20 points against Grant Union to earn herself honors on the District 8A all-star team.

Starting at guard position for the Spartans is a 5'5" junior, Cheryl Huff who also proved herself by being named as an all-star selection.

Pine Eagle should be interesting according to coach Royer. "They're a team similar to Sherman County but quicker at the guard position," said Royer. "They like to press and they like to run so it could be an interesting game."

	FG	FT	RB	P	TP
Heppner	5.1	5.1	1	1	9
Strober	4.7	4.7	2	2	14
M. Turner	5.0	0.0	0	0	0
Martin	3.4	1.1	2	1	5
Ball	5.10	0.2	1	1	10
Eubanks	0.0	1.3	0	0	1
Davidson	8.14	1.3	1	3	17
L. Reid	0.0	0.0	2	2	0
Lindsay	5.10	3.4	3	4	13
D. Reid	3.5	0.2	1	4	4
Connor	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
S. Turner	26.53	10.22	24	18	44
Totals	21.44	11.21	21	22	53

Heppner 14 18 19 13-44  
Sherman 14 11 13 14-53



Victorious Fillies hold bracket board high.

### Heppner teams head for regional tourney

The Mustangs now will play in the regional tournament Friday in Pendleton against Grant County. Riverside had another chance to make it to the regional tournament and did so by coming from behind to defeat the Wasco County Redsides 61-53 Friday night. Wasco County had earned the right to play the Pirates by defeating the Umatilla Vikings 49-42 Thursday afternoon.

The regional tournament will also be held in Pendleton Armory and will take place on Friday, March 7 and Saturday March 8. Heppner will

meet the Grant Union Prospectors at 8:30 p.m. on Friday night with the winner advancing to the state tournament.

Grant Union defeated the Enterprise Savages 66-63 on Saturday to capture the Wapiti league championship. The Prospectors are anchored by a front line that includes 6 ft. 4 in. Mark Mosley and 6 ft. 4 in. Larry Nelson and the outside shooting and quickness of 5 ft. 10 in. Terry Balcome.

The regional tournament will be held in the same manner as the district tournament at the Pendleton Armory Friday and Saturday, March 7 and 8.

The number two teams will open the tournament on Friday afternoon while the first place teams will battle for the regional championship Friday evening beginning at 7 p.m. The Fillies will play to Wapiti League District 8A champion Pine Eagle.