

State tournament win eludes Mustangs

By Ashley Conklin
The hoax of winning a state tournament game continued to hover over the Heppner's boys basketball team as the Mustangs lost two straight games and were eliminated from the OSAA U.S. Bank Class "A" state tournament which took place from Wednesday, March 12 to Saturday, March 15.

Heppner, which hasn't won a state tournament game since 1955 when they placed fifth in the Class "B" state Tournament, finished the season 14-9. The Mustangs were dumped 51-34 in their quarterfinal game by the Sheridan Spartans on Thursday night and then were bumped from further tournament action by the Lost River Raiders in the consolation semifinals Friday morning by a score of 74-61.

Sheridan upset Crow in the Championship semifinals and advanced to the championship game where they were a 75-60 victim of the North Clackamas Christian Saints. Lost River won the consolation trophy and fourth place by taking a 73-68 win from the North Douglas Warriors.

Mustangs drop to Sheridan

The two Cinderella teams of the tournament, Heppner which entered with a 14-7 record, and Sheridan boasting a 14-10 record, met in the last quarterfinal game Thursday night.

The Mustangs were hampered by poor shooting from the field and the Spartans controlled the tempo the entire game.

Heppner could only muster two field goals in the first half as Sheridan had leads of 10-4 after the first quarter and 20-12 at halftime. Wayne Wilgers had 10 of the Mustangs 12 half-time points.

The Mustangs were able to put the Spartans in foul difficulty early as Sheridan's 6'5" post, Jon Linscheid drew his third foul with 7:14 left in the second period. But Heppner was only 6 of 12 from the free throw line in the second period.

Sheridan's other post player, 6'2" Mike Wise sat down with his third foul at the 5:23 mark of the third quarter. Linscheid, sat down with his fourth foul nearly three minutes later.

However, the Mustangs shot only four free throws in the quarter. Heppner appeared to have the momentum heading into the fourth period as Loran Hayes' basket at the quarter buzzer pulled Heppner within 32-20.

The Spartans spread the court with 5:38 left in the game and Heppner was forced to foul.

Jay Cook responded by hitting 12 of 14 free throws over the last 5:38 as Sheridan coasted to a 51-34 win.

The difference in the game was the Spartan defense.

Heppner made only 10 of 41 field goals for 24 percent. Heppner was outrebounded 42-31, one of the few times all season the Mustangs have been beaten on the boards.

Linscheid didn't score in the game but had nine rebounds and along with Wise, who had seven rebounds before fouling out, kept Heppner's posts, Tony Clement and Keith Kenison off the boards. Clement and Kenison managed only three rebounds apiece.

Heppner's Todd Lindsay who had been averaging 25 points in his last four games had only four points on 2 of 9 shooting. Sheridan played a diamond-and-one defense with Kevin Hutchins chasing Lindsay.

"It was frustrating," said Lindsay. "He (Hutchins) did a good job on me. I just couldn't get open."

"We had the shots, but they wouldn't drop," explained Heppner coach Brent Eggers. "If we would have shot like we normally do we could have made a game out of it."

"I was surprised we were so tight," said Eggers, "after we played so cool the past two week-ends."

While the difference in the game was defense, the difference in the Spartans season was Martinez.

Prior to the Heppner game, the Spartans were 8-0 with Martinez, a junior, running the team.

"He's an excellent floor leader," added Eggers. "He's the best point guard we've faced all year."

1 2 3 4 F
4 8 6 14 34
10 10 12 19 51

Heppner	FG	FT	F	Reb	A	TO	TP	Rat
Padberg	0-2	1-2	1	1	1	2	1	-3
Ball	0-2	0-0	0	0	5	1	0	-1
Duncan	1-2	0-0	2	0	1	1	2	-2
Devin	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	-1
Hayes	2-2	0-0	1	0	0	0	4	+3
Harrison	0-1	0-0	1	4	0	0	0	+2
Thongdy	0-1	0-2	0	0	0	1	0	-4
Wilgers	4-14	10-12	5	0	1	18	+5	
Clement	1-4	2-4	1	3	1	2	4	0
Lindsay	2-9	0-1	4	4	0	4	4	-4
Fishburn	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	+2
Kenison	0-1	1-5	3	0	1	1	1	-5
Totals	10-41	14-24	19	23	9	13	34	-10

Sheridan	FG	FT	F	R	A	TO	TP
Martinez	4-13	2-2	1	3	2	2	14
Hutchins	1-2	0-1	1	2	5	2	2
Murray	0-2	0-0	1	1	0	1	0
Cook	3-8	12-14	7	0	5	18	
Briscoe	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	2
Wilson	0-0	0-0	1	1	1	1	0
Yoder	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Byers	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Schmidt	2-7	1-3	2	7	1	3	5
Linscheid	0-3	0-0	4	9	1	0	0
Sisk	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Wise	4-8	2-3	5	7	0	1	10
Totals	17-44	17-23	27	31	17	37	51

Fouled out - Wise, Total fouls - Heppner 19, Sheridan 18. Team rebounds - Heppner 8, Sheridan 5.



Wayne Wilgers(33) corraling a rebound

Mustang comeback not good enough

The Raiders, who suffered an 80-68 loss to the top-ranked Crow Cougars on Thursday afternoon, came back Friday morning to oust the Heppner Mustangs 74-61.

The resurgence of Todd Lindsay and Heppner's play on the boards helped the Mustangs turn away the previous night's performance.

Lindsay exploded for a career high 33 points, the top individual scoring performance of the tournament after scoring just 4 the night before. Lindsay also snatched 14 rebounds and handed out three assists.

He led the Mustangs' 42-41 board advantage.

The lightning quick Idrago brothers, Chuco, a 5'9" senior and Luis, a 5'6" sophomore, keyed Lost River early. With steals from Chuco and dazzling passes from Luis the Raiders led 12-8 after Chuco hit a free throw at the 2:26 mark.

Lindsay brought the Mustangs back and hit one of two free throws with a second left in the first period to tie the game at 14-14.

The teams went back and forth in the second quarter. Heppner led early, but a steal by Chuco Idrago and a pass to Luis gave the Raiders a 30-26 lead. Chuco had all of his game-high four assists in the second quarter.

The Mustangs scored 6 of the next 10 points and came within 34-32 by the break. Lindsay tallied 12 points in the second quarter to have 20 at the break.

The double play combination of Lindsay and Duane Ball struck three times in a row in the third period and gave the Mustangs a 44-39 lead with 4:33 left. Ball had all of his three assists in that stretch.

Keith Kenison went to the bench with his fourth foul at the 2:26 mark. The Raiders responded and with Chris Kolesar putting in an offensive rebound the Raiders were within 50-49 and 49 seconds left in the period.

But the 10-6 tear ended there. Ball drove the lane for a lay-up with 17 seconds to go as Heppner was back up to 54-49 and led 54-51 entering the fourth quarter.

Lost River came out with a full-court press and the Mustangs couldn't respond, committing four straight turnovers, three as a result of the press.

The press shouldn't have both-

Elected to student office at OSU

Michelle LaRue, lone, has been elected secretary of the Office Education Association at Oregon State University where she is a senior.



It's standing room only as Heppner turns out to see their fillies take state

ered us," said Heppner coach Brent Eggers. "It's the same thing we go against everyday in practice."

The Idragos, with their quickness and the rugged inside play of Gavin Bajnus and Jim Carleton, allowed the Raiders to jump out to a 64-36 lead.

Heppner came back with a mini-rally to come within 64-60. But the Raiders spread the court over the last 4:22, forcing the Mustangs to foul and Heppner lost Kenison, Tony Clement, and Bryan Padberg to fouls in the last two minutes.

Bajnus had nine points in the quarter and Carleton hit 6 of 8 free throws powering the Raiders to the win.

"We played loose and it showed," said Eggers. "We played the type of basketball we're capable of playing."

That Heppner's two post players, Clement and Kenison, scored just 8 and 3 points respectively in the tournament was puzzling to Eggers. "It's hard to understand," said the coach of his team's inability to get the ball inside. "There are better teams in the state tournament, and the defense is better; maybe that's why we couldn't go inside."

"I'm glad we bounced back," he said. "The players felt good about their performance against Lost River. It helped erase the bad feelings about the night before."

The Mustangs made the state tournament for the first time since 1971 and with their 14-9 record had their best season since 1981-82.

"We have nothing to be ashamed

	1	2	3	4	F
Lost River	14	20	17	23	74
Heppner	14	18	22	7	61

Lost River	FG	FT	F	Reb	A	TO	TP
Kolesar	4-9	0-0	1	3	2	3	8
Harris	2-4	1-3	2	3	1	1	5
Campbell	2-4	2-3	3	1	1	0	4
Moore	1-1	0-0	1	1	0	0	2
Bajnus	7-11	4-8	3	15	0	4	18
C. Idrago	4-10	4-4	0	2	4	10	12
Carleton	3-8	7-10	2	9	1	2	13
Gallagher	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0	0
L. Idrago	3-10	4-4	3	1	2	1	10
Totals	24-59	22-34	14	34	11	23	74

Heppner	FG	FT	F	Reb	A	TO	TP	Rat
Padberg	0-4	0-0	5	0	3	4	0	-10
Ball	3-5	0-0	2	0	3	4	4	-1
Duncan	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hayes	0-1	2-3	0	2	1	1	2	+2
Harrison	1-1	0-0	1	0	2	0	2	+3
Thongdy	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilgers	4-9	4-4	3	1	2	3	12	+4
Clement	2-9	0-0	5	9	0	4	4	-5
Lindsay	12-25	12-12	14	3	8	33	+18	
Kenison	1-3	0-1	5	10	2	1	2	+5
Totals	24-57	13-23	33	34	14	29	41	+14

Fouled out - Kenison, Clement, Padberg. Total fouls - Lost River 14, Heppner 23. Team Rebounds - Lost River 5, Heppner 8.

Mustangs improved during season

Heppner's boys basketball team capped a memorable season at the OSAA U.S. Bank Class "A" state tournament which ran from Wednesday, March 12 to Saturday, March 15.

The Mustangs captured their first-ever District 7A championship with a 70-61 decision over the Riverside Pirates on Thursday, Feb. 27.

Heppner advanced to the state tournament for the first time since 1971 on Friday, March 7 by upending the Grant Union Prospectors 55-54.

History repeated itself at the state tournament where the Mustangs bowed out after losing a quarterfinal game to the Sheridan Spartans (51-34) and a consolation semifinal game to the Lost River Raiders (74-61). The Mustangs haven't won a state tournament game since 1955.

Fourth-year coach Brent Eggers piloted Heppner to a 14-9 record, its best record since the 1981-82 team went 18-3, which was the last Heppner squad to advance to the district tournament.

The Mustangs will lose four seniors from this year's team. They include starters Tony Clement, Keith Kenison, and Todd Lindsay, plus reserve Loran Hayes.

Other starters on this year's team were junior Wayne Wilgers and sophomore Duane Ball.

Key players off the bench for Heppner were junior Trent Harrison, and freshman Bryan Padberg. Also returning next year will be junior Pradit Thongdy, sophomores Ryan Duncan and Mark Fishburn, and freshman Dick Devin.

The Mustangs had a rough start, going 3-4 in pre-season action. The Mustangs did finish second in both the Morrow county Invitational Tournament (hosted by Heppner) and the second annual Mac Hi "I'll Be Home for Christmas" Tournament though.

Heppner then won the Eastern Division Columbia Basin Conference crown with a 9-3 league mark. The Mustangs only losses came to district tournament bound Umatilla, Riverside, and Wasco County.

Lindsay and Wilgers were selected as first-team CBC all stars and were in the league's top five in scoring.

Lindsay averaged 18 points per game to lead the team in scoring and Wilgers was second with a 14.5 average. Lindsay also finished second in assists with 62 and in rebounding with a 9.2 average. Wilgers hit 61 of 81 free throws, a 75 percent clip, the top marksman on the team.

Kenison led the team in rebounding with a 9.3 average and was second in the league in rebounding averaging over 11 per contest.

Clement led the team in field goal percentage, making 83 of 173 shots for 48 percent. Clement also averaged 7.4 rebounds a game and along with Lindsay was in the league's top 10 in rebounding.

Ball had 123 assists on the season, a 5.6 average. Ball led the league in assists all season and broke Eric Thompson's school record of 95 assists during the 1983-84 season.

Harrison and Padberg provided clutch performances off the bench.

Harrison averaged 3.2 rebounds in league play and made 47 percent of his field goals on the season while backing up Clement and Kenison.

Padberg made 71 percent of his free throw attempts. But Padberg was his best when his team needed him the most.

In the district championship game the freshman made 3 of 3 field goals and 5 of 5 free throws for a career-high 11 points.

"It was my most enjoyable year of coaching yet," said Eggers. "We came a long way and improved so much over the season."

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