Mustangs sneak past Eagles

By Ashley Conklin

The Mustangs walked a tight rope in the first tournament game last weekend before sneaking by the Eagles to advance to the trophy game.

Both teams traded baskets to start the first period before the Eagles put together a string of points to close out the period with a 16-7 lead. Mike Boie scored seven points in the period for Catlin Gabel while Phil Buchanan had five.

Things went from bad to worse at the beginning of the second quarter for Heppner.

The Eagles ran off eight straight points in the second quarter to take a commanding 24-7 lead with 6:26 to go before halftime.

"Their press bothered us and we just couldn't buy a basket," explained Heppner coach Mike Royer," and they just came out hot."

"Our man-to-man defense wasn't bad but we switched to a 1-3-1 zone so that they couldn't get the ball inside," Royer said, "and we just relaxed and hit our shots. That's when things started to turn around for us."

The Mustangs turned around to close out the half on a 16-4 run to pull within 28-23.

Wayne Wilgers was the trigger man during the run as his outside artillery and inside play accounted for eight points.

Heppner also got into foul trouble in the second quarter as starters Duane Ball and Trent Harrison both had to sit down with three fouls apiece.

The lead switched hands several times during the third period but with each team scoring a dozen points the Eagles were still on top 40-35.

Ball and Harrison went to the bench with their fourth foul in the period but sophomores Dick Devin and Bryan Padberg kept the Mustangs close.

In the fourth quarter Ball and Harrison both fouled out but Catlin Gabel couldn't take advantage as they connected on 4 of 10 free throw attempts.

Meanwhile Heppner continued to fight back behind Devin, Padberg, and Wilgers. The 2-2-1 Mustang full-court press that was thrown on the Eagles to get back into the game was now turned up to full tilt. Down 52-48, Heppner scored with just over 10 seconds remaining.

Catlin Gabel was able to get the ball over half-court but Devin stole the ball with four seconds left and hit a streaking Padberg who made a lay-in as time expired.

On the play the Eagles were whistled for a technical foul but Padberg's free shot just missed, sending the game into overtime.

In the extra session Padberg hit a basket, Wilgers connected two free throws, and Catlin Gabel 0-3 from the line as the Mustangs were in the championship game.

"It's encouraging to know we could come back on a good big team like that," Royer said. "A game like this is a confidence builder for everyone."

Wilgers led all scorers with 19 points, grabbed 7 rebounds, and had 6 steals.

Padberg had a career-high 16 points and, like last year, was at his best when the game was on the line.

Devin, who played the best game of his young varsity career, had career-highs in points (10), rebounds (6), assists (5), and steals (3).

Harrison had nine rebounds before fouling out but was backed up nicely by David Pedro. Ball was also backed up nicely by Mark Fishburn and Gene Garrett.

Boie and Buchanan led the Eagles with 18 and 13 points respectively but were virtually shut down after the first period.

Heppner hit 23 of 55 field goals for 42 percent. The difference in the game came at the free throw line where the Mustangs made 10 of 20 attempts for 50 percent while the Eagles were 12 of 32 for 38 percent.

Statistics

	1	2	3	4	OT	F
Heppner	7	16	12	17	4	56
Catlin Gabel	18	10	12	12	0	52

Heppner	FG	FT	TP	PF	R	A	ST	TO
Wilgers	7-21	5-7	19	3	7	2	6	4
Harrison	2-4	0-1	4	5	9	0	0	2
Padberg	7-16	2-4	16	3	4	2	3	7
Ball	2-3	1-3	5	5	4	0	1	10
Devin	5-11	0-0	10	4	6	5	3	7
Fishburn	0-0	2-3	2	0	1	0	1	2
Garrett	0-0	0-0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Pedro	0-0	0-2	0	1	2	1	1	0
Totals	23-55	10-20	56	21	34	11	15	32

Catlin Gabel-Gantz 4, 0-0, 8; Rittenour 0, 1-2, 1; Runey 1, 0-2, 2; Kohontanon 3, 0-0, 6; Boie 5, 8-16, 18; Buchanan 6, 1-8, 13; Waltenbaugh 1, 2-4, 4. Totals 20, 12-32, 52.

Fouled out-Ball, Harrison, Buchanan. Technical fouls-Gantz 2. Total fouls-Heppner 21, Catlin Gabel 19.

Tough defense, Eubanks, Lindsay keys to Filly victory

By Ashley Conklin

As with the first game of the Morrow County Invitational Tournament, tough defense and Missy Eubanks and Tami Lindsay were the keys to the Filly victory over the Riverside Pirates.

Eubanks, Lindsay, and the rest of the Fillies virtually slowed the Pirates inside game to a standstill, allowing posts Lisa Mark and Trina Hellberg only nine and six points respectively.

On the offensive end of the floor Eubanks and Lindsay had 21 and 7 points respectively.

Mark did have five points in the opening period but Heppner took a slim 8-7 lead.

Eubanks pulled up for 11 points during the second quarter as the Fillies used a 16-6 advantage to lead 24-13 at intermission.

Bonnie Guthrie, who led Riverside with 12 points, scored all 6 of the Pirates points in the quarter.

Heppner continued to halt Riverside's inside game in the second half on its way to the win.

"We didn't play that great a game," coach Mike Royer said, "but we played well enough to win."

"Our defense played a good game and shut off Riverside's inside game," he added. "The girls worked really hard on defense and if they continue to play good defense we'll win a lot of games."

After turning the ball over 40 times Friday, the Fillies committed 24 Saturday.

From the field Heppner shot 34 percent on 18 of 53 shooting. At the charity stripe the Fillies connected on 10 of 17 attempts for 59 percent.

Lindsay claimed 17 boards to go along with her 7 points and Eubanks snagged 11 rebounds, 4 assists and 7 steals to add to her 21 points. Cindy Stroeber added 7 points for Heppner.

The Fillies, now 3-0 received a stern challenge last night from the Class "AA" Mac-Hi Pioneers. Game results were unavailable at press time.

Last season the two teams split as the Pioneers handed Heppner its only loss of the season. Mac-Hi finished fourth in the Class "AA" state tournament.

"I guess we'll find out how good we are Tuesday night," Royer said.

STATISTICS

	1	1	2	3	4	F
Heppner	8	18	9	13	48	
Riverside	7	6	6	13	32	

Heppner	FG	FT	TP	F	R	A	ST	TO
Eubanks	10-23	1-2	21	1	11	4	7	5
Stroeber	2-7	3-4	7	3	2	0	0	4
Davidson	2-3	0-0	4	2	0	2	0	7
Turner	2-4	0-1	5	3	4	0	0	3
Theresa Lindsay	0-1	1-2	1	5	1	0	0	2
Tami Lindsay	2-13	3-6	7	3	17	0	0	2
Wright	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Conklin	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Currin	0-0	2-2	2	0	2	1	0	0
Nash	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Britt	0-0	0-0	0	0	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	18-53	10-17	46	19	38	7	7	24

Riverside - Shaw 2.1-2.5; Town 0.0-2.0; Erickson 0.0-3.0; Meade; Tolar; Hellberg 2.2-5.6; Guthrie 5.2-3.12; Mark 4.1-3.9; Pate. Totals 13.6-18.32.

Fouled out - Theresa Lindsay. Technical foul - Nash, wrong number entered in scorebook. Total fouls - Heppner 18, Riverside 11.

Photo by Wayne Hams

Deena Hams shoots for two.

The Cardinals girls got their first win of the young season at the Morrow County Invitational Tournament on December 6. Playing for consolation against Catlin Gabel, the Cardinals came out on top 34 to 28.

The statistics for the game were very much like the night before against Heppner. Basically, the difference in the game was in the rebounding. Ione had 43 compared to 22 the day before. Leading the team in rebounds were Deena Hams with 16 and Jo Cupps with 11.

Now that the team has the first game jitters out of the way, they are hoping to work toward team unity the rest of this month. With three seniors, three sophomores and three freshmen on the varsity team, they are needing the preseason to prepare as a team for the Big Sky Conference games starting in January.

Candi Radloff 4, 1-2, 9; Patty McElligott 2, 0-0, 4; Deena Hams 3, 5-7, 11; Jo Cupps 1, 0-0, 2; Amy Wagenblast 3, 0-2, 6; Linda Morter, Angie Radloff, Jill Nelson, Michelle Papineau 1, 0-0, 2.

Fillies stop Dayville in season opener

By Ashley Conklin

The Heppner Fillies basketball team opened their season last Tuesday night with a strong second half to stop the Dayville Devils 56-40.

The Fillies led 31-29 at halftime but allowed the Devils just 11 points in the second half and completely shut down Dayville star Paula Berry after the first quarter.

Berry netted 10 first period points but scored only four after that.

Meanwhile Heppner's Missy Eubanks started off the season in top form by scoring a career-high 26 points grabbing 11 rebounds, collecting 7 steals, and handing out 3 assists.

The two teams traded baskets early on until the Devils ended the first quarter with an 18-15 lead behind Berry's 10 points. Eubanks and Sandi Turner countered with six points apiece.

The Fillies used 10 second period points from Eubanks to pull in front by two, 31-29 at the break.

In the third quarter Heppner tightened up its defense and took the third quarter 16-6 to up its advantage to 47-35.

The Fillies cruised onto the 56-40 victory by playing fine defense again in the fourth period.

Besides the 26 points of Eubanks, Heppner got a career-high 10 points from Turner while Tina Davidson did her part with a career-high 10 assists.

Leading the Devils along with Berry were Debbie Richardson with 10 points and Bena Schmidt who had 8.

Heppner had a slow night at the free throw line where they were 2 of 4 for 50 percent. From the field the Fillies dumped in 27 of 63 attempts for 43 percent.

Statistics

	1	2	3	4	F
Heppner	15	16	16	9	56
Dayville	18	11	6	5	40

Heppner	FG	FT	TP	F	R	A	ST	TO
Eubanks	13-29	0-0	26	0	11	3	7	1
Stroeber	2-5	0-0	4	4	4	2	1	2
Davidson	2-9	1-2	5	4	3	10	3	9
Turner	5-8	0-0	10	1	4	0	1	3
Theresa Lindsay	3-6	0-0	6	4	2	0	0	1
Tami Lindsay	2-5	1-2	5	1	5	2	2	2
Wright	0-0	0-0	0	0	2	0	1	2
Conklin	0-1	0-0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Totals	27-63	2-4	56	14	32	17	15	23

Dayville-Berry 5, 4-5, 14; Ballard 1, 0-0, 2; Schmidt 3, 2-2, 8; Tracy 0, 0-2, 0; Olsen 2, 0-0, 4; Youngren, Richardson 4, 2-4, 10; Amis 1, 0-0, 2. Totals 16, 8-13, 40.
Fouled out-None. Total fouls-Heppner 14, Dayville 10.

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