

No clear cut favorites in Columbia Basin Conference

By Ashley Conklin

If there is one thing that is for certain in the Columbia Basin Conference this season, it is that there are certainly no clear-cut favorites in either division for the upcoming boys basketball season.

When asked to name a favorite or favorites for the divisional races Stanfield was the choice that coaches picked most often as the favorite in the Eastern Division, but other coaches frequently mentioned Heppner and Umatilla as threats to the Tigers while all four teams in the Western Division have been tabbed as possible tournament teams.

All of the coaches see their teams as competitive throughout the CBC and there were as many teams picked as darkhorses in the league as there were teams chosen as favorites.

Nearly all of the coaches admit that Stanfield is the team to watch with 6' 6 1/2" junior post Tony Brown.

"I see Stanfield as the favorite of the East because of Tony Brown," said Riverside coach Jeff Dehne.

However Stanfield coach Steve York sees both divisions as "open." Dehne adds Heppner to the list as a favorite in the East as does Vic Kirchhofer of Wahtonka. Umatilla, who was the other representative from the Eastern Division at the district tournament last season besides Heppner, is one of Pilot Rock coach Deacon Perkins' picks.

Meanwhile things in the West appear as confusing as they do in the East.

Heppner coach Mike Royer also sees the West as open while Kirchhofer views the West as a "meat grinder."

Dehne and Umatilla coach Tony Villanueva sees Wahtonka as the favorite in the West while Sherman County coach Ron Townsend likes Riverside and Perkins favors Sherman County along with Wahtonka.

Pilot Rock seems to be the consensus darkhorse of the league because as Royer said, "they have a few good young players."

However Umatilla has also been listed as a darkhorse as has Riverside, Wahtonka, and Wasco County. Talk about confusing.

Heppner was the only team from the CBC to make it to the state tournament last season and Royer, who won a state championship as the Heppner girls coach last season, hopes to again lead the Mustangs into post-season action.

Riverside advanced to the regional tournament last season and will also have a new coach in Dehne.

Umatilla and Wasco County also made it to the district tournament a year ago and the Vikings will have a new coach in Villanueva while the RedSides were hit hard by graduation. The league's other new man is at Weston-McEwen where Greg Fazzari takes the head job.

Several all-league selections return from a year ago led by Heppner's Wayne Wilgers, the only returning first team all-star.

Listed below is a look at each team in the CBC alphabetically starting with the teams in the Eastern Division.

Eastern Division Heppner

Royer, who will continue to coach the Heppner girls this year, has only two returning starters from last season's state tournament team.

Wilgers, (6' 2") finished 9-3 in the CBC and 14-9 overall, finished fourth in the league in scoring last season, will again be counted on to be the trigger man in the Mustangs outside attack.

The other returning starter from a year ago, 6' 1" junior Duane Ball, led the league in assists from his point guard position last season but will play a wing position this year to accommodate 5' 8" sophomore Bryan Padberg.

The Mustangs 3-3 thus far in their pre-season finishing second to Riverside in the Morrow County Invitational Tournament fourth in the Mac-Hi Christmas Tournament.

Heppner short on height this season, will run the fast break whenever possible and also utilize its outside shooting.

"We will run the fast break whenever possible but we have to be disciplined and know when we can and can't run the break," Royer said.

Senior Trent Harrison, 6' 1" will be counted on to be the Mustangs inside threat while 6' 0" sophomore

Dick Devin will be the other starter and play a very instrumental role in the Heppner attack.

"This team compares favorably with the girls teams I've had in the past in the regard that we're not really tall but we're quick and we have some pretty good outside shooters," Royer added.

If the Mustangs can compare favorably with the Heppner girls teams of the past they should again end up in the state tournament.

Pilot Rock

Last year was a season in futility for Perkins as the Rockets suffered through a 1-11 league and 1-18 overall season.

The future looks bright however, with the return of junior Rick Rasmussen (6' 0"), one of the CBC's best players.

Senior Dennis Deno (5' 7") and junior Jamie McCall (6' 0") also return to the starting line-up as Perkins will also be able to count on 5' 10" junior Eric Miller.

"We don't have very much experience or size but the kids have good attitudes and a good work ethic plus they're solid shooters," Perkins said.

With Rasmussen the Rockets will run the break offensively while playing tough aggressive defense.

Under the boards Pilot Rock will have 6' 1" senior Matt Gilliland and Jim Shipp. Pilot Rock will also count on Mark Adair as a key performer this season.

"I see us a real darkhorse," Perkins added. "We play a tough, tough pre-season schedule that we hope will make us better."

With last season behind them the Rockets can only get better and could prove to be a thorn in the side of many teams this season.

Stanfield

York, entering his fourth year with the Tigers, may have his best team ever, even better than the regional tournament team he had two years ago. Last year Stanfield just missed the district tournament with a 6-6 league mark and 12-8 overall record.

The foundation starts with Brown but York will have two good building blocks in 6' 1" junior Dusty Grogan and 6' 0" junior Eric MacPherson.

The Tigers, who were the top defensive team in the East last season, hope to do the same this year as York wants his team to limit the opposition to under 45 points a game.

"We have some players who are very difficult to guard," York said when analyzing the team's strong points. "We do need to improve our defensive balance."

Stanfield has loaded up on a good pre-season by losing only to Class "B" powerhouse Helix in its own basketball tournament and then capturing the Echo Tournament.

"We have as strong a pre-season schedule as we've ever had," York said, "and I think that will help us be competitive in our division."

If the foundation of Brown provides a strong base for the Tigers, York could very well have his best team ever.

Umatilla

Coaches have come and coaches have gone over at Umatilla, but Villanueva, who has been junior varsity coach the last five years, hopes to bring some consistency to the Viking program.

Villanueva though will get plenty of consistency from 5' 11" senior Russell Richards, a second team all-star last year, and one of the league's leading scorers and shooters.

Umatilla, which made the district tournament on a 7-4 league record on its way to a 10-10 season, will have 5' 6" junior Cruz Garcia back to run the offense this season.

With Richards and Garcia, Villanueva notes that his team's strong point is quickness.

"We're not very tall and we're inexperienced," he said.

The height will come in a pair of 6' 3" seniors, Mike Blevins and Jerry Leicht. Other key contributors for the Vikings will be 5' 10" seniors Keith Kennedy and Carey Wells, 5' 11" junior Chris Stone, sophomores Mike Nelson (6' 3") and Jesse Benbrook (5' 6") and freshman Caser Flores (5' 8").

The Vikings also played in the Stanfield and Echo Tournaments and will play in the Imbler Tournament the first week of January.

"We could be competitive in our division but we must develop our young players quickly," Villanueva said.

Should consistency come to the young players like it has to Richards the Vikings could be winning consistently for a long time to come.

Weston-McEwen

(Fazzari was unavailable for comment at press time.)

The TigerScots will also try to erase the stigma of losing this season as they hope to improve on last season's records of 2-10 and 3-17 respectively.

It won't be easy for Weston-McEwen though as they lost Trent Eastman, its leading scorer and rebounder from a year ago, to graduation.

In the pre-season Bill Hansell has been leading the TigerScots who should also get big things from Senior Mark Erickson (5' 11") a returning starter from a year ago.

Another key figure for Weston-McEwen should be 5' 6" junior John Shanks, a first team all-star

defensive back in football.

The TigerScots will also hope to cash in on the dividends of a 5-4 football season.

If Weston-McEwen can cash in on its football fortunes and forget losing, it could be a very profitable season in Athena.

Western Division Riverside

The Larry French era is over in Boardman but Dehne hopes to have the same success as French did.

Dehne comes from Fargo, North Dakota, where he was a sophomore and assistant varsity coach the last two seasons.

Last season the Pirates won the Western Division with a 10-1 record but lost the district championship game to Heppner and then bowed out of the regional tournament with an early loss to finish 20-3.

Returning to the starting line-up are senior guards Bingo Ganvoa (5' 10") and Mike Griffin (5' 9") who have been leading Riverside in the pre-season.

Once again the Pirates are blessed with good height in starting seniors John Klennert (6' 2") and Keith Limanen (6' 4") with senior Pat Tolar (6' 3") and junior Robb Rea (6' 5") coming off the bench. The other starting position has been divided between seniors Mike Ammons (5' 10") and Jeff Wenholz (6' 0").

While French rarely had his team run the fast break Dehne "plans to break at every opportunity presented."

"The pre-season is very important to us as we are learning a new system and we have to find out some things about our personnel," Dehne added.

Riverside will play a pressure man-to-man half-court defense and take advantage of its experienced guards and size inside.

Dehn is quick to point out that the Pirates need to start the league season in top form.

"We play our first games on the road," he said. "It could make it tough to get off to a good start."

But if the Pirates get off to a good start they could be as tough as ever.

Sherman County

Two years ago the Huskies won only one game but last year Townsend came in and improved Sherman County to 3-8 in the CBC and 9-11 overall.

This season the Huskies are looking for a district tournament berth behind returning starters Gary Eaton, Tracy Fields, and Bill Martin.

Eaton is a 5' 9" senior while Fields (5' 11" senior) and Martin (6' 3" junior) were second team and honorable mention CBC all-stars respectively. Martin finished fifth in the league in scoring and tenth in rebounding while Fields was one of the league's top point guards.

Despite the presence of Martin, Townsend said, "our weak points are rebounding, size, and experience."

Offensively Sherman County will run the fast break to utilize its quickness.

"Good attitudes and good shooting," are also strong points of the ball club according to Townsend.

The Huskies will also look this season to 5' 10" senior Bryan Peters, 5' 8" junior Todd Danielson, and 5' 8" freshman Doug Martin.

"We play a tough pre-season, which, if we can learn from it, will really help us," Townsend added.

"If we can overcome our size disadvantage and get some valuable pre-season experience we will be ready to compete with the other teams in our division."

Irrigon man arrested

Oregon State Police arrested and charged an Irrigon man with 163 counts of Theft 1, a Class C felony Wednesday Dec. 10 after a month-long investigation according to Lt. Davidson, of the OSP office in Hermiston.

Denis B. Buffham, 40, Route 2, Box 189, Irrigon, was arrested December 10 and charged with 163 counts of first-degree theft in connection with an on-going criminal enterprise in which he allegedly collected more than \$100,000 from Western Alfalfa Inc. for hay that was never delivered.

Buffham has been under contract with Western Alfalfa since May 1983 to deliver hay to the Irrigon plant. The company uses the honor system for payment of contractors who weigh their loads.

Buffham was lodged in the Umatilla City Jail on \$815,000 bail and later released on his own recognizance.

A bail hearing set for last Thursday at the Irrigon Justice Court was

Townsend, who has brought Sherman County respectability in only one year, might be able to lead them all the way to the top this season.

Wahtonka

Kirchhofer, the CBC's veteran coach of 12 head-coaching seasons, will have to lead the Eagles this season with no returning starters; all five of them graduated last spring.

Wahtonka finished 6-6 in the CBC last season and 10-10 overall and Kirchhofer will have several players back who were on the varsity roster last season.

The Eagles will have good height

in 6' 3" junior Jeff Kienlen and quickness in 5' 8" senior Stan Getz. Junior Larry Shannon (5' 11") is back and Jason McAllister, Bob Begay, and Tim Grant will be important in the success of Wahtonka game plan this season.

"Our experience is nil," points out Kirchhofer.

The Eagles faced a murderous pre-season slate with four Class "AA" games on the schedule.

"We will see good basketball teams," Kirchhofer said in early December. "If we can learn from them and keep our heads up, who knows?"

Fair board will seek lottery funds

Morrow County Fair Board members, Charlie Daly, Pete Richards, and Merlyn Robinson, recently attended the Oregon Fair Convention in Portland. Charlie Daly is the Area IV director, and will serve in this capacity for another year. Pete Richards was appointed to the legislative for the coming year.

A record attendance by representatives of all counties received the news that the amount of racing revenues, which is legislated for funding county fairs, is less than last year, and each county can expect a three or four thousand dollar drop in funding. The exact dollar amount of merit rating points has not been announced.

Blue Mt. lists honor students

Forty-one Blue Mountain Community College students received a perfect 4.0 grade point average during fall term which reflects a straight A report in all courses taken by the student.

In addition to the straight A students, another 92 are listed on the dean's list numbered 147. Students receiving a 3.5 or better are eligible for the college honor roll and those with a 3.0 to 3.5 earn a place on the dean's list.

To earn a spot on either list, a student must be carrying a full-time load of classes which translates to 12 graded credit hours. Students may not have received an F in any class to be so honored nor does a pass grade count in the 12 graded hours necessary to be included on either list.

The following local students earned spots on the lists:

Honor Roll
Boardman: Rhonda Hilliker, Mary Peck 4.00, Leann Rea 4.00 and Jackson Sheadel 4.00

Heppner: Michael Bergstrom 4.00, Joe Gossman, William Hughes, Trina Palmer 4.00, Dana Reid, and Patrick Struthers 4.00

Irrigon: Kurt Hellberg, Rise Lane, Jim Putman, and Tony Schiller.

Dean's List

Boardman: Robert Peck, Gordon Reeves, and Marsha Richmond.

Heppner: Marvin Brannon, Dyan Brosnan, Steve Currin, and Lana Reid.

Irrigon: Gary Johnson and Cary McCaslin.

Classes offered alcohol servers

As a new alcohol server certification rules come into effect January 1, 1987, Blue Mountain Community College will be offering the required instruction.

Class will be held Jan. 11 at the Elks Club in Heppner.

For registration and other information contact the Heppner Elks at 676-9181.

The Everlasting Night



In the Christmas Spirit of peace on earth, good will to all, may we wish one and all an especially Joyous Noel.
Barnett, Dennis & Moro Certified Public Accountants

At the end of the season everybody will know just how good Wahtonka is. If they can just keep their heads up.

Wasco County

(Reside coach Jim Howey could not be reached at press time.)

After advancing to the regional tournament two years ago and the district tournament last season, the RedSides will probably be down this season as all five starters graduated and eight of their top 12 players graduated.

However the Wasco County junior varsity team went undefeated last season so there is hope in Maupin.

Back will be 5' 11" senior Cole Walker and 5' 10" senior Randy Iverson, both of whom have seen considerable action in the last two seasons. The other returners to the Redside roster are 5' 9" senior Gary Tolentino and 5' 8" senior Lance Morissette.

Despite all of the losses in personnel at Wasco County don't be too surprised if the RedSides continue winning.

BAKED POTATOES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Hearing
Proposed Use Hearing for
Fiscal Year 1987-88

A public hearing will be held wherein citizens comments may be received on the proposed use of Federal and /State Revenue Sharing funds, so that they may be considered in relation to the entire budget. The hearing will be Monday, January 5th, 1987 at 8:00 p.m. at 188 W. Willow Street, City Hall, Heppner, Oregon.
Marshall Lovgren, Administrator
City of Heppner, Oregon
Published: December 24, 1986

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF MORROW
No. 86-CV-82
STATE OF OREGON, Acting by and through the Director of Veterans' Affairs,
Plaintiff,

vs.
HARRY DUANE STEERS;
CHERYAL LYNN STEERS; aka
CHERYAL LYN STEERS; and
TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL SERVICES; and SANDY LAFOUNTAIN,
Defendants.
NOTICE OF SALE

By virtue of an Execution issued out of the above-entitled court in the above-entitled cause to me directed and dated December 2, 1986, based upon a Judgment rendered and entered in said court on November 7, 1986, in favor of the State of Oregon, Acting by and through the Director of Veterans' Affairs, commanding me to make sale of the following described real property, to-wit:

Beginning at a point 30' South of the Northeast corner of Section 27, Township 5 North, Range 26, E.W.M., thence South parallel with the Morrow County Road, right of way along the East line of Section 27, a distance of 150'; thence West a distance of 290.4'; thence North a distance of 150'; thence East a distance of 290.4' to the point of beginning of this description, in the County of Morrow, State of Oregon. Excepting all roads.

TOGETHER WITH THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED MOBILE HOME WHICH IS FIRMLY AFFIXED TO THE PROPERTY. 1973 NASHUA, 14 x 65 MOBILE HOME, SERIAL #3691.

to satisfy a Judgment against defendants Harry Duane Steers and Cheryal Lynn Steers, aka Cheryal Lyn Steers for the sum of \$16,344.54, together with interest at 9.0 percent per annum from date of Judgment until paid.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of said Execution and Judgment and in compliance with the command of said Writ, I will on the 20th day of January, 1987, at 10:00 A.M., at Rt. 2, Box 180, Irrigon, Morrow County, Oregon, sell at public auction and subject to redemption to the highest bidder for cash in hand all of the right, title and interest which Harry Duane Steers and Cheryal Lynn Steers, aka Cheryal Lyn Steers had on October 5, 1977, the date of plaintiff's mortgage, and thereafter had in and to the above-described real property or any part or portion thereof, to satisfy said Execution and Judgment and interest, costs and accruing costs.

DATED at Heppner, Oregon, on December 3, 1986.

Roy Drago, Sheriff
By: (s) Pauline Winter
Chief Civil Deputy

Published: Dec. 10, 17, 24, 31, 1986