

Mustangs pull win out of fourth overtime

By Ashley Conklin

If Heppner's boys basketball team were to make a motion picture on the 1986-87 season, "The Return of the Living Dead" would be a most appropriate title.

Nowhere was this more evident than last Saturday night when the Mustangs rallied from a 37-22 halftime deficit to outlast the Weston-McEwen TigerScots 66-65 in four overtimes.

After trailing by 15 at the half, Heppner came back to tie the game at 58-58 at the end of regulation play and then staved off the TigerScots in the extra sessions.

With the win, Heppner stayed atop the Eastern Division standings of the Columbia Basin Conference with a 7-4 league record and an overall mark of 10-8.

The Mustangs had entered the game tied with Pilot Rock and Umatilla for the East's top spot and remained with Umatilla in first place after Pilot Rock lost to Sherman County and Umatilla beat Wahtonka on Saturday.

On Thursday, the Mustangs will host Umatilla at approximately 8 p.m. The Mustangs have clinched a district tournament spot even if they lose to Umatilla. They are currently tied with Pilot Rock for second place, but the district tie breaking system would give Heppner the edge.

In Saturday night's game, Heppner led early in the first period before the TigerScots pulled out a 16-15 lead after the first period.



Steve Cassell and the rest of the TigerScots continued to have the hot hand in the second quarter and led by as many as 17 points before taking a 37-22 lead into the lockerroom at intermission.

Dick Devin and Wayne Wilgers tried to keep the Mustangs in the game in the first half with nine points apiece but cold Heppner shooting opened the door for Weston-McEwen.

The Mustangs made only 10 of 38 field goal attempts in the first two quarters for a frigid 26 percent and could never get untracked.

"Weston-McEwen played really good basketball in the first half," Heppner coach Mike Royer said. "I don't think we were overlooking them. They just came out hot."

But Heppner, which has made a habit of coming back in the second half only to lose close games, finally pulled one out of the hat.

The Mustangs employed a full-court press in the second half and used tough, tenacious defense to get back into the game.

With Wilgers and Gene Garrett reaping the benefits of the Heppner press, scoring 10 and 7 points respectively in the third quarter, the Mustangs outscored the TigerScots in the quarter to pull within 45-41 entering the fourth period.

"We had a good second half and our press really got us going," Royer said.

Duane Ball, who had eight points for Heppner before fouling out, scored six in the fourth period as the Mustangs took a 55-54 lead with 3:30 to play.

However Weston-McEwen came back to tie the game at 58-58 with only 52 seconds to play to force the game into its first extra session.

John Shanks scored on a lay-in in the first overtime to put the TigerScots ahead until Wilgers popped in a shot to force the second overtime at 60-60.

In the second overtime it was Bill

Hansell that hit a lay-in with just under 1:30 to go. Devin scored inside for Heppner with 31 ticks to go and caused the third extra period at a 62-62 deadlock.

Neither team was able to score during the third extra period of play and the game went to the fourth overtime still tied 62-62.

In the fourth overtime Garrett hit a shot from about 15 feet to put Heppner ahead by two. Shanks then hit one of two free throws and Mark Erickson hit a shot from the left baseline to give Weston-McEwen a 65-64 lead.

But Wilgers, the Mustangs money man, hit a tough shot from the right baseline with a TigerScot defender in his face and 13 seconds to play to end the marathon at 66-65.

Wilgers had another outstanding game for Heppner with 27 points, 19 rebounds, and 11 steals for the first "triple double" of his career. The 19 rebounds and 11 steals were career-highs for Wilgers.

The Mustangs will try to avenge an earlier 81-79 loss to Umatilla on

Britt leads JVs to victory

By Ashley Conklin

Russell Britt was a one-man wrecking crew last Saturday night as he led Heppner's junior varsity boys basketball team to a 45-39 victory over the Weston-McEwen TigerScots. Heppner improved to 3-8 on the season.

Britt, limited to 23 points including making 11 of 14 free throws and also handed out a team-high 4 assists.

The Mustangs started slowly and trailed the TigerScots 14-9 after the first period despite 7 points from Britt.

Britt, limited to three quarters of action, didn't play in the second quarter and Weston-McEwen took advantage to increase its lead to 26-17 at halftime.

Britt hit for eight points in the third

Thursday and win the CBC Eastern Division at the same time.

Heppner must control the Vikings' Russell Richards and Mike Blevins if they are to win this time out.

Richards scored 28 points and Blevins 19 in the first game against the Mustangs. Richards is second in the league in scoring and Blevins first in rebounding.

Wilgers meanwhile is leading the league in scoring and he and Devin have been carrying the Mustangs in their last six games.

Wilgers has averaged 25 points per game in Heppner's last six contests and Devin 13.8 points a game.

	1	2	3	4	OT	OT	OT	OT	F
Heppner	15	19	17	15	16	11	12	12	84
Weston-McEwen	16	14	14	13	14	11	12	12	86
WILGERS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
DEVIN	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
SHANKS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Garrett	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Ball	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Carroll	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Edwards	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Miller	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
WILGERS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
DEVIN	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
SHANKS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Garrett	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Ball	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Carroll	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Edwards	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Miller	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
WILGERS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
DEVIN	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
SHANKS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Garrett	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Ball	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Carroll	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Edwards	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Miller	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
WILGERS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
DEVIN	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
SHANKS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Garrett	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Ball	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Carroll	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Edwards	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Miller	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
WILGERS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
DEVIN	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
SHANKS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Garrett	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Ball	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Carroll	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Edwards	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Miller	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
WILGERS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
DEVIN	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
SHANKS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Garrett	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Ball	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Carroll	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Edwards	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Miller	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
WILGERS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
DEVIN	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
SHANKS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Garrett	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Ball	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Carroll	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Edwards	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Miller	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
WILGERS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
DEVIN	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
SHANKS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Garrett	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Ball	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Carroll	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Edwards	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Miller	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
WILGERS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
DEVIN	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
SHANKS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Garrett	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Ball	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Carroll	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Edwards	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Miller	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
WILGERS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
DEVIN	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
SHANKS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Garrett	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Ball	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Carroll	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Edwards	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Miller	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
WILGERS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
DEVIN	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
SHANKS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Garrett	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Ball	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Carroll	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Edwards	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Miller	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
WILGERS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
DEVIN	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
SHANKS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Garrett	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Ball	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Carroll	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Edwards	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Miller	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
WILGERS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
DEVIN	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
SHANKS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Garrett	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Ball	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Carroll	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Edwards	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Miller	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
WILGERS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
DEVIN	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
SHANKS	10	10	10						