Shootout ends with 88-82 loss

by Ashley Conklin

There was a shootout at the Heppner Corral last Thursday night and when it was over Heppner's boys basketball team was shot down by the Umatilla Vikings by an 88-82 margin.

The win sends the Vikings, 8-4 in Columbia Basin Conference play and 11-9 overall, into this weekend's district tournament as the Eastern Division's top seed while the Mustangs, 7-5 in CBC play and 10-9, overall, into the district tournament as the East's second seed.

Umatilla though had to hold on for the win after shooting Heppner down, and leaving them for the dead, in the third period and early on in the fourth quarter.

The Vikings grabbed a 69-60 lead after the third period and led by as many as 18 points in the fourth quarter, 80-62, before the Mustangs rallied behind the play of Dick Devin and Gene Garrett in the final quarter.

Devin and Garrett each scored 14 points in the contest for Heppner but scored 10 points apiece in the fourth period.

Wayne Wilgers led the Mustangs with 24 points but was held scoreless after intermission as Duane Ball and Bryan Padberg popped in 14 and 12 more points respectively for Heppner.

However the one-two combination of Umatilla's Mike Blevins and Russell Richards was too much for the Mustangs to handle.

The 6' 3" Blevins, posted up and worked inside to score a career-high 39 points and Richards, slicing through the Heppner defense and shooting from the perimeter, added a career-high 36 points as well.

Both teams made 34 field goals in the contest but the difference in the game came at the free throw line.

The Mustangs made 14 of 21 free throws for 67 percent but lost Padberg, Wilgers, and Trent Harrison, who returned to the line-up after two weeks off due to an ankle injury, on fouls in the decisive final quarter.

Meanwhile the Vikings were 20 of 33 at the stripe for 61 percent as Blevins and Richards were the main beneficiaries of Heppner's foul problems.

Blevins sank 9 of 11 free throws and Richards came through on 10 of 15 attempts.

Umatilla, particularly Richards, came out hot in the early going.

Richards scored the game's first seven points but the Mustangs came back within 13-11 and then took a 23-22 lead after one period.

Wilgers was just as hot in the first period as he scored 15 points. Richards had 11 in the period for the Vikings and Blevins eight more.

Heppner started to open things up in the second frame as they had a 29-24 lead at the 6:33 juncture on a Wilgers lay-in off a Padberg feed.

Umatilla then went on an 11-5 run to lead 35-34. The Mustangs then went ahead 43-37 before settling for a 44-43 halftime advantage.

Wilgers added 9 points in the second frame for 24 first half points. Blevins added 13 points during the frame for 21 first half points and Richards chalked up 13 points during the first two quarters.

The Vikings, after playing a zone defense in the first half, switched to a box-and-one defense on Wilgers in the second half, using 6' 3" Jerry Leicht to guard Wilgers and the ploy worked as Wilgers didn't score in the last two quarters.

"Umatilla started keying on Wayne and it took us awhile for somebody to pick up the slack," Heppner coach Mike Royer said.

Ball and Padberg scored six points in the third period for the Mustangs but the Vikings again came out hot to take the lead.

With Harrison picking up his fourth foul in the third period, Umatilla again went inside to Blevins.

Blevins tallied 12 more points in the period and when he wasn't scoring Richards would find the basket for 10 more points.

Wilgers picked up his fourth foul with 1:02 remaining in the period and the roof started to cave in on Heppner.

Leading 65-60, the Vikings got two free throws from Richards with a second left and then got a shot by Richards to go in at the horn when the Mustangs threw the ball away. Umatilla took a 69-60 lead entering the fourth quarter.

With guards Caesar Flores and Cruz Garcia sparking the Viking fast break with feeds to Richards, Umatilla went on top 75-62 with 6:35 remaining to play.

Richards then sank a three-point play with 5:40 to go to increase the Viking advantage to 80-62 as Wilgers fouled out on the play.

But the Mustangs were down, not out as Devin and Garrett led the rally for Heppner.

Four points from Garrett and a bucket by Ball pulled Heppner within 80-68 before Blevins and Richards responded for Umatilla with a Devin hoop sandwiched in between.

Trailing 84-70 and having lost Harrison on fouls with 4:18 to play, the Mustangs looked to be in even more trouble when Padberg was disqualified at the 2:23 mark with five fouls.

But Devin hit three shots and Garrett scored four more points, including a shot with 1:35 to play that pulled Heppner within 84-80.

Garcia missed two front ins of one-and-one opportunities but the Mustangs were unable to score on two straight possession down the court.

With the Vikings running out the clock, Ball fouled Richards with 12 ticks to go.

Ball was called for an intentional foul and Richards hit both shots. On the subsequent possession as a result of the Intentional foul, Flores found Blevins and Umatilla put the game out of reach at 88-80 before Garrett hit two free throws for the final points.

The Mustangs controlled the boards in the first half but were overpowered by the bigger Vikings in the last two quarters.

Harrison grabbed nine rebounds and Devin seven more to lead Heppner. Padberg added eight assists and seven steals to the Mustang cause.

Heppner, now making its second straight district tournament appearance, will face the Sherman County Huskies on Friday at 3 p.m. in the Pendleton Armory.

The winner of the Heppner-Sherman County game will meet the loser of the Umatilla-Riverside match for the district's second berth in the regional tournament at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, but the loser of the Heppner-Sherman County game will be done for the season.

Heppner, one of the league's shortest teams, will meet an even smaller Sherman County team that the Mustangs will be looking to avenge two earlier losses to.

On Jan. 3 the Mustangs led Sherman County through three quarters before falling 62-55 and then trailed the Huskies 40-18 at halftime on Jan. 31 before coming back to lose 60-57.

Sherman County will be led by 6' 3" junior Bill Martin, one of the CBC's top scorers and rebounders.

Martin has scored 35 points in the two games between the two teams this year as the Huskies also look to the senior backcourt of Gary Eaton and Tracy Fields for key performances and leadership.

Prices for the two-day tournament run at $2.00 for students and $3.00 for adults.

STATISTICS

	1	2	3	4	F
Umatilla		22	21	26	19	88
Heppner		23	21	16	22	82

Heppner	FG	FT	TP	R	A	ST	TO
Wilgers	9-14	6-8	24	5	3	1	4
Harrison	2-5	0-1	4	9	0	0	0
Padberg	6-18	0-0	12	5	8	7	4
Ball	0-9	2-6	14	5	5	1	1
Devin	7-18	0-0	14	7	1	1	2
Fiddners	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	1
Garrett	4-14	6-6	14	5	3	3	1
Pedro	0-0	0-0	0	4	0	0	1
Britt	0-0	0-0	0	1	2	0	0
TOTALS	34-78	14-21	82	41	22	15	14

Umatilla-Garcia 2, 0-2, 4; Richards 13, 10-15, 36; Wells 2, 1-2, 5; Blevins 15, 9-11, 39; Leicht 1, 0-1, 2; Flores 1, 0-0, 2. Totals 34, 20-33, 88.

Total fouls: Umatilla 18, Heppner 20. Fouled out: Harrison, Padberg, Wilgers.

Extension meeting

An Extension meeting will be held at the home of Beverly Wright, March 4 at 10 a.m. Gwen Healy will give lessons on lap quilting.

Firemen learn as old house burns

Firemen practice burning this old house on South Chase St. in Heppner Sunday.

The burning was part of the burn to learn class sponsored by the local fire department.

Fire departments from throughout the area participated in the class, which also included classroom time in the morning.

Before the house was allowed to burn completely down, firemen experienced actual firefighting situations, and observed "fire behavior" in a real setting.

Fourth CRP sign-up ends Friday

The fourth sign-up for CRP ends Friday, February 27. All bids must be into the ASCS office by 5 p.m. on that day. There are close to 34,000 acres yet to be accepted into the program.

The SCS CRP Technician, Jerry Anderson would like to remind all who are getting ready to seed their grass that a sample of the seed needs to be brought into the SCS office with a seed tag off of a full bag of seed. The seed should be as recommended by SCS specifications and should be weed free and not coated.

When the seed bed has been prepared and the farmer is ready to seed, we will go out and calibrate his drills. At this time we also check for seeding depth. After seeding we check the fields to see that they are completed and calculate the amount of seed used so that the farmer can receive his payment from ASCS. If there are any questions about requirements, please call SCS at 676-5021 or 676-5452.

Balanced scoring means victory for Heppner

By Ashley Conklin

With a balanced scoring attack and a good overall team effort, Heppner's junior varsity girls basketball team closed out its season with a 33-19 victory over the Umatilla Vikings last Thursday afternoon. With the win, the Fillies finished the season with a 6-6 record.

Seven of the eight Fillies scored in the contest with Angie Currin scoring seven points to lead the way and Libby Britt added six more.

Heppner outscored the Vikings in every quarter but the fourth and led from start to finish to end its season in fine fashion. The 19 points given up by the Fillies was the least amount of points a team had scored on them all season.

Heppner grabbed an 8-2 advantage after the first period and then increased that lead to 14-4 by the break.

Currin scored five of her points in the first half as did Nance Wright to pace the Fillies to the halftime lead.

Britt tossed in six points during the third quarter as Heppner continued to pad its lead and led 26-11 after the third quarter as they controlled that quarter by a 12-7 advantage.

Umatilla did take the fourth period 8-7 but it was too little too late as the Fillies were already in control of the game.

Both squads suffered from the free throw line as each team made only 33 percent of their shots. Heppner was 5 of 15 from the stripe and the Vikings were 7 for 21.

On the season, freshman Jennifer Currin led the Fillies in scoring as she tallied 10.3 points per game while Britt, a sophomore and varsity floater along with Currin, chipped in 8.7 points per outing.

Two other sophomore varsity floaters, Jill Conklin and Nance Wright, also made important contributions to the junior varsity team.

Conklin, the team's starting point guard, ran the offense for Heppner and added 4.2 points per game. Wright, who played in only seven games for the Fillies, tallied 4.9 points per contest.

Statistics

	1	2	3	4	F
Umatilla		2	2	7	8	19
Heppner		8	6	12	7	33

Umatilla-Tracey 0, 2-4, 2; Christensen 1, 3-7, 5; Mueller 1, 0-1, 2; Robbins 3, 2-4, 8; Thomas 0, 0-3, 0; True 1, 0-2, 2. Totals 6, 7-21, 19.

Heppner-Beck, Plocharsky 2, 0-1, 5; Britt 3, 0-3, 6; Conklin 2, 1-2, 5; A. Currin 2, 3-7, 7; Brownfield 2, 0-0, 4; Wright 2, 1-2, 5; J. Currin 1, 0-0, 2. Totals 14, 5-15, 33.

Fouled out-Robbins, Thomas, Plocharsky. Total fouls-Umatilla 17, Heppner 20.

Curtis qualifies for Phi Eta Sigma

Sixty eight Oregon State University students have qualified for membership in Phi Eta Sigma, national honor society for freshmen.

Among those 68 students is Ken Curtis, son of Richard and Elizabeth Curtis from Heppner, who is majoring in business.

To qualify, students must either make the university honor roll during their first term or have a B plus grade average or better for the entire freshmen year.

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Any new levy approved by the people becomes part of the automatic levy the following year.

YES NO
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☐ ☐ Should tax bases be allowed to grow at 6% per year.

Mail: Rep. French, H382 State Capitol, Salem, OR 97310