

Lady Cards chalk up victorious weekend

By Anne Morter

The Lone Lady Cardinals chalked up another victorious weekend, putting away the highly-ranked Falcons of Wheeler on Friday and disposing of Cascade Locks on Saturday. Both games were played in lone. The wins move the Cards league record to 11-0 and their season record to 16-1.

In a game that is sure to rearrange the state rankings, the number-three-ranked Cardinals knocked off number-two Wheeler of Fossil on Friday night. A fired-up Card squad took the court in front of an enthusiastic home crowd to dispense with the highly touted Falcons, 61-40. The win guaranteed lone the number-one spot from the Big Sky's Eastern Division at the district tournament and makes them only the third girls team to qualify for post-season play. It was also sweet revenge, to beat the team that was responsible for the only blemish on the Cards otherwise perfect season record.

Unlike most of the games lately, this one was close and hard fought, complete with plenty of tense moments for the Cardinal coaches and fans. Lone took a 15-10 lead at the end of the first quarter but watched Wheeler tie the score at 15 early in the second quarter. The Falcons took a one-point lead several times before Lone took the lead for good. By halftime, the Cardinals led by 10 points, 28-18. The Lady Cards didn't relax in the third quarter, stretching their lead to 34-18 before Wheeler managed to score. After leading by as much as 16 points, they ended the quarter on top, 44-29. A frustrated Wheeler team started to unravel in the fourth quarter, putting up long outside shots as the Cards continue to stretch their lead, ending with the final 21-point margin which was easily the Falcons worst loss of the season.

Jo Cupps led a balanced Cardinal scoring attack with 15 points and sophomore Kari Morgan came off the bench to chip in 12 critical points. The Cards out-rebounded the Falcons 37-28 led by Jo Cupps with nine. Amy Wagenblast added eight and Mary Cupps grabbed seven. Linda Morter and Amy Wagenblast each dished out four assists and Wagenblast got away with four steals to lead the Cardinals. The Lady Cards shot a hot 53 percent from the floor, making 26-49, and 62 percent from the free throw line, 8-13. Wheeler was forced into low percentage shots and managed just 25 percent from the floor 15-60. They fared better from the line going 10-16 for 63 percent.

Coach Dana Heideman was very pleased with this important win, important not only for league standing but as a test for the Lady Cards under pressure. "We need a couple games like this before district," he says, referring to the Cardinals easy

winning ways of late. Heideman said the girls put forth an outstanding effort, despite several of them playing while ill with the flu.

On Saturday, the Lady Cards handily defeated the Cascade Locks Pirates, 49-21, in a game notably lacking the enthusiasm and intensity of the previous night. Coach Heideman noted that the first quarter was a rough one for the emotionally drained girls and he noticed that even the crowd was more subdued.

After scoring only eight points in the first quarter to the Pirate's four, the Cardinals found some momentum and got their game going. By halftime, they had stretched their lead to a 25-8 erasing any notion of a close game from the minds of the Pirates. Playing great defense the Cards shut down Pirate scoring ace, Angela Gross, holding her to just six points, well under her 20-plus point per game average. In the second half, Lone outscored Cascade Locks 14-6 in the third quarter and 10-7 in the fourth. Heideman was able to substitute freely and rest his starters while the younger players finished the game.

Jo Cupps led all scorers with 13 followed by Kari Morgan with 11 and Darcee Padberg with 10. Cascade Locks' tall girls under the basket helped the Pirates to a 24-23 rebounding advantage. The leading lone rebounder was Kari Morgan with seven followed by Jo Cupps with six. Nancy Morter and Jo Cupps handed out three steals apiece to pace the Cardinals. Lone had an off night shooting, managing just 33 percent from the field. They were deadly at the line, however shooting 71 percent, 10-14. Heideman summed up the game as a good defensive effort but certainly not the offensive show of the night before. The girls missed a lot of easy shots but, he states, "we probably can't shoot 50 percent from the field forever." The Cardinals have managed a better than 50 percent average for the last six games. He also says that he got good solid play both nights to have outstanding games.

The Lady Cards play their last home game next Friday against Helix and travel to Dufur on Saturday for their last regular season game.

Winter sports dessert set

The Winter sports dessert for the Junior High boys and girls will be held Thursday, February 8, at 7 p.m. in the Junior High Gym. All students that participated in boys and girls basketball are invited to attend along with their friends and families.

Awards will be given out and dessert will be served immediately following in the cafeteria.

This event is sponsored by the Heppner Parents Club.



Brandi Ball looks to make pass against Wheeler.



Jo Cupps puts up shot against Cascade Locks. No. 44 is Mary Cupps.

Fillies beat Tigers

By Scott Johnston

The Heppner Fillies beat the visiting Stanfield Tigers 48-42 Saturday, Feb. 3. The Fillies found themselves trailing throughout the first three quarters, but rallied in the fourth to capture the victory.

The Fillies got off to a very slow start in the first quarter as they managed only three points, but still found themselves trailing by only three points as Stanfield couldn't get its offense on track either. The Fillies cut into the lead as they outscored the Tigers, 14-12, in the second quarter but still trailed at half-time.

The Fillies fell further behind in the third quarter as the Tigers outscored them, 15-12. Stanfield went into the fourth quarter with a 33-29 lead. Jennifer Currin scored eight fourth quarter points to lead the come back as the Fillies outscored the Tigers 19-9, and got the victory.

Jennifer Currin led the Fillies in scoring with 18 points, while Nikki Brisbois added 15. Kim Stookey had

10 points and dished out four assists for the Fillies.

Heppner, now 9-1 in CBC play, will face the CBC leading Weston-McEwen Tiger-Scots who are 10-0 in league games. Heppner's only loss in CBC play was a heartbreaker to the Tiger-Scots earlier in the season. The game Friday in Athena will start at 6 p.m. On Saturday the Fillies will host the Wasco Co. Red-sides. The game will start at 4 p.m.

Heppner	3	14	12	19	48
Stanfield	6	12	15	9	42
Heppner (48):	Brisbois	6	3-4	15;	Stookey
4-2-5	10;	Palmer	1-2-2	4;	A. Currin
0-1-2	1;	J. Currin	6-6-8	18;	Brownfield,
Greenup,	Totals	17	14-21	48	
Stanfield (42):	Griffin	1-2-2-4;	Cooper	1	
2-4-4;	Svetich	4-3-4	11;	Winborne	11-1-3
23;	Chavez;	Holcomb;	Hummell,	Totals	17
8-13	42;				

	League			Season
	W	L	T	
Weston-McEwen	10	0	15	1
Heppner	9	1	10	6
Stanfield	6	4	10	6
Riverside	5	5	8	8
Wasco County	4	6	7	9
Wahatnoka	4	6	6	10
Pilot Rock	2	8	2	14
Umatilla	0	10	3	13

Lone boys varsity loses two



Jim Davison (34) goes inside Wheeler defender for shot.

By Anne Morter

The Lone boys varsity lost two games at home last weekend, putting them into a tie for second with Helix in the Big Sky League's East Division. The Cards dug themselves into a hole they couldn't get out of in the early going of both games, leading to a loss to Wheeler and Cascade Locks.

Friday night, the Wheeler Falcons of Fossil visited lone for the late game. The Cards never recovered from an ice-cold second quarter and ended up on the short end of the score, 54-65.

The first quarter was close with the Cardinals going bucket for bucket with the Falcons, ending with Wheeler up by one, 14-13. In the second quarter, Wheeler scored 18 points to the Cards four to gain a 32-17 halftime advantage. The second half saw the Cardinals outscore the Falcons in both quarters, 15-13 in the third and 22-20 in the fourth, but it wasn't enough to do away with their second quarter deficit.

Mike Garrett led all scorers with 28 points, followed by Jim Davison with thirteen. Dan Reyes of Wheeler led the Falcons with 24 points, nine of those points coming from the three-point range. Lone's Gabe Garcia hit two three-pointers for the Cards. Lone out-rebounded Wheeler, 37-33, led by Garrett with 16 and Davison with 11. David Wagenblast dished out five assists and Garcia added four. Garrett led the team with six steals and Garcia chipped in another five. A key statistic for the Cardinals was their shooting, where they managed just 30 percent from the floor, compared to Wheeler's 54 percent. They shot a more accurate 63 percent from the line compared to Wheeler's 53 percent.

Coach Del LaRue says that the Cards are playing decent basketball but, "we are experiencing periods of drought that are hurting us." In this game he noted that the Cardinals really had a good second half but the cold second quarter did them in.

On Saturday night, lone hosted the Cascade Locks Pirates. This game

played much the same as the Wheeler game with the Cardinals not getting their shots to fall for the first half. A strong second half put them back in the game and even into the lead in the fourth quarter before Cascade Locks prevailed, 45-43.

The Cards struggled with their shooting in the first quarter going 3-17 from the floor and missing many shots from inside the key. The quarter ended with the Pirates ahead, 13-7. The second quarter looked much the same as Cascade Locks pulled to a 22-13 halftime advantage. A rejuvenated Cardinal squad returned in the third quarter to pull within four points at the end of the quarter, 25-29. Continuing with what may have been one of their best halves of basketball this season, they erased the deficit to lead the game 43-42 near the end of the fourth quarter. Cascade Locks made a basket to put them up 44-43. Lone had the ball but turned it over and was forced to foul in an attempt to get it back. The Pirates made one last free throw for the final margin.

Jim Davison led the Cardinal scoring with 14 points. Dustin Curtis of Cascade Locks was the game's high scorer with 23. Lone out-rebounded the Pirates, 36-33, led by Mike Garrett with 13. Garrett also led in assists with four and Gabe Garcia led in steals with four. Lone shot just 26 percent from the floor and 39 percent from the line. Cascade Locks didn't fare much better, shooting 37 percent from the floor and 44 percent from the line.

It was a tough game to lose for coach LaRue and his players. LaRue said the boys played very strong in the second half and handled the Pirate's press better than they have handled a press so far this season. Their shooting did them in. As LaRue says, "we had our opportunities but just blew it."

The Cards face two games critical to their district tournament chances this weekend. Friday they host Helix in what could be a "must win" game for them and Saturday they travel to Dufur.



Brent Sheirbon drives against Cascade Locks.

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