

Ione girls head to district tournament undefeated

By Anne Morter

The Ione girls varsity remained solidly on the winning track, finishing their league season undefeated by demolishing Helix on Friday night and Dufur on Saturday. The Lady Cardinals head into the District 3B Tournament this weekend in Umatilla as the undisputed number-one team from the Big Sky's East Division, a spot they sewed up two weeks ago. Their first tournament game will be Friday at 6 p.m. against Wheeler, the number-one team from the West Division.

Friday night marked the last home game of the season and the senior's last home game. After honoring the seniors and their parents the Lady Cards got down to the business of disposing of the number two team from the East Division, Helix. The Cards used their trademark tenacious defense and powerful offense to send the Grizzlies packing 65-15.

Ione came out sizzling in the first quarter, outscoring the bewildered Grizzlies, 17-5. They continued to overpower Helix in the second quarter, scoring 18 points to their eight for a halftime margin of 35-13. Midway through the first quarter, coach Dana Heideman was substituting freely. The Cardinals continued to light up the score board in the third quarter as Helix came unwound, lobbing up poor shots and refusing to play defense. The frustrated Grizzlies made just one field goal in the second half with 2:03 to go in the third quarter. The younger Cardinals finished the last quarter and a half of the game to reach the final 50-point margin.

Amy Wagenblast led all scorers with 16 points followed by Jo Cupps with 11 and Darcee Padberg with 10. The Cards held Helix scoring ace, Julie Newton, to just four points, well under her 20-plus season average. Jo Cupps pulled down 10 rebounds and Kari Morgan grabbed six to lead Ione to a 31-19 rebounding advantage. The Lady Cards had a season high 23 assists led by Jo Cupps with six and Amy Wagenblast with five. Jo Cupps snagged four steals and Nancy Morter grabbed three to pace the Cardinals. Ione shot 55 percent from the floor 28-51, and 55 percent from the line 6-11. The five seniors and three sophomores combined for a remarkable 63 percent shooting average from the floor in their two and a half quarters. Helix shot a meager 12 percent from the floor, 4-33 and a respectable 64 percent from the free throw line, 7-11.

Heideman and his red-hot Cardinals play their first district contest at 6 p.m. Friday. If they beat Wheeler, they advance to the state tournament as the number one team from the Big Sky League. If they don't win, they will face the winner of the Helix/Sherman County game on Saturday. That game will determine the number-two team from the league.

The Cards have played their first round foe, Wheeler, three times this season. The first game was a 24-point win, the second was a three-point overtime loss, and the third was a 21-point win two weeks ago.

Heideman credited his team for "doing everything right," and putting on an impressive show. The game was expected to be closer since Ione beat Helix by just three points in their last game right after Christmas, but Heideman says the Cardinals took the Grizzlies completely out of their game.

Saturday the Cards traveled to Dufur to make easy work of the Pirates, 59-20. The intensity of the previous night was missing, but the Lady Cards did a lot of running to make it a solid good effort on their part.

In their usual style, Ione jumped out to an 11-4 first quarter lead. That lead was stretched to 27-11 by halftime. The Cards scored 17 points in the third quarter while holding the Rangers to just two, and then finished the game by outscoring Dufur, 15-7, in the fourth quarter.

Jo Cupps was the high scorer with 23 points, followed by Amy Wagenblast with 12. The Cardinals dominated the boards, totaling 31 rebounds to the Rangers' fifteen. Jo Cupps grabbed 11, Wagenblast had eight and Kari Morgan added six. Linda Morter and Jo Cupps handed out four assists each and Darcee Padberg paced the Cards with five steals. The Cardinals had a season low turnover total of 10. The team kept a hot hand at the basket, shooting 50 percent from the floor, 24-29, and 73 percent from the line 11-15. Dufur shot 19 percent from the floor and 80 percent from the free throw line.

Heideman said that the girls played good tough defense but didn't execute offensively as well as they had the previous night. He admitted that Friday's game was a hard act to follow in that respect though. Overall he was happy with the game and feels good about the Card's district chances.

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Linda Morter takes jump shot against Helix. Photo by Wayne Hams



Darcee Padberg goes for layup in Dufur. Photo by Wayne Hams

Ione boys clinch district spot

By Anne Morter

The Ione boys varsity clinched up a spot in the District 3B Tournament with a hard-fought win over Helix on Friday. They ended up with a split weekend as they lost to Dufur on Saturday in another squeaker. Despite the loss, they advance to the district tournament in Umatilla this weekend as the number-two team from the Big Sky's East Division. They meet Culver in their first game at 3:30 p.m. on Friday.

On Friday night, Ione won the game they needed to win to get into the district tournament. The Cards defeated the Helix Grizzlies, 50-47, in a game that had the fans on the edge of their seats for the last quarter. Ione and Helix were tied for second in the East Division and the Friday game determined who owned the second place spot outright.

The game was close all the way with Ione leading 13-12, at the end of the first quarter. The teams traded the lead three times in the second quarter before the Cards pulled to a 26-21 halftime advantage. In the third quarter, Jim Davison was relegated to the bench with four fouls as the Cards out-scored the Grizzlies 13-11, to lead 39-32. It appeared that the game was safely in Ione's pocket when they grabbed a five-point lead with 1½ minutes to go. Fouls and turnovers let Helix back within striking range, but the Cards came through with 9-15 free throw shooting to eek out the win.

Mike Garrett was the game's high scorer with 22, ten of those coming from the free throw line. Gabe Garcia added 13. The team shot just 26 percent from the floor and 56 percent from the line. Fortunately Helix was cold too, shooting 29 percent from the floor and 50 percent from the line. Garrett pulled down 19 rebounds to lead the Cardinals to a 39-30 advantage. Jim Davison added seven. Gabe Garcia and David Wagenblast handed out three assists each and Shawn Hams got away with three steals.

"I thought we were going to give it away at the end," said coach Del LaRue, "but we did what we had to do." He said the game was "spotty" and that the Cards got a little disorganized at the end but free throws saved them.

Saturday the Cards played Dufur on the Ranger's home floor. The contest was played almost even until the end when the Cardinals just couldn't seem to get ahead, ending with a score of 66-63.

Ione grabbed an early lead, ending the first quarter ahead, 14-10. The Rangers overcame that lead to hold a 28-25 halftime advantage. In the third quarter, Dufur extended their lead to six points, 48-42. The Cards put on a full-court press in the fourth quarter to pull within two points before falling by three.

Mike Garrett and Jim Davison led the scoring with 24 and 22 points respectively. Garrett had an outstanding 21 rebounds to lead Ione to a 45-31 rebounding advantage. Davison chipped in 10. Garrett also led in assists with eight, followed by Gabe Garcia with five. The Cards had a season low turnover total of 13. Ione shot 30-69 for 43 percent from the floor while Dufur shot 42 percent. The difference in the game came at the free throw line where the Cards shot 2-9 for just 22 percent while Dufur made 12-18 for 67 percent.

"We played very well," said coach Del LaRue, noting that the Cards played much better than they had on Friday. Mike Garrett had an excellent game, contributing 24 points, 21 rebounds and eight assists.

LaRue feels that the Cards have a good shot against their first round district foe, Culver. They lost to the Bulldogs earlier in the season but LaRue says the team is playing better and it should be a close game.



Mike Garrett goes for shot against Helix. Photo by Wayne Hams



Shawn Hams passes off in Dufur game. Photo by Wayne Hams

Day Care to raffle lamb

The Heppner Day Care is raffling off a fat lamb for the St. Patrick's Day Celebration.

Tickets are selling for \$1 each and are available from any board member or employee of the Day Care or at the Day Care Center.

Wade West donated the lamb to be raffled. The winner of the lamb will have the choice of taking the lamb alive or having it cut and wrapped. Anyone interested in buying tickets should call 676-5429. "We would appreciate your support," said director Kathy Tellechea, "Help the Day Care and you are helping your children's future."

Cans for raffle tickets will be set out at local businesses at a later date. The drawing will be Saturday, March 17. Those who purchase tickets need not be present to win.

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