

Girls make history with District win

By Anne Morter

For the first time in lone High School history, the girls basketball team won the District 3B Tournament to advance to the state tournament as the Big Sky's number-one team. The Lady Cards traveled the path of least resistance, defeating their first round foe, Wheeler of Fossil, 67-40, to sew up the district championship and the trip to Baker City with just one game. Defending state champion Wheeler, advances to the state tournament as the Big Sky League's number-two team after defeating Helix on Saturday night.

No one said it would be easy and the Lady Cards found Wheeler in a cantankerous mood, wanting very much to avenge the two losses lone inflicted on them this season. In the first quarter, the jittery Cards built a 12-5 lead before Wheeler responded. The period ended with the Cardinals holding a slim 12-11 lead. In that same quarter, Wheeler ace, Stacie Geer picked up three fouls and lone's Joe Cupps was tagged with two.

Wheeler quickly nabbed the lead in the second quarter but Nancy Morter drove the key to make a lay-in to recapture the lead. The Falcons responded with a bucket from the



Jo Cupps (41) goes for layin against Falcons. Photo by Wayne Hams



The 'cute' dance team entertained the crowd at halftime. Photo by Wayne Hams

baseline but sophomore Kari Morgan knocked in two free throws to give lone the lead for good. Senior point guard Linda Morter was red hot from the top of the key, scoring 11 points in the first half, including one three-pointer. Her younger sister, sophomore Nancy Morter, came off the bench to rack up several key steals and nine points in the second quarter. The quarter ended with the Lady Cards up by 14 points, 34-20.

In many games, a fourteen-point halftime lead would make a team feel safe, but not against Wheeler. In the third quarter, the Cards offense temporarily stalled as fouls continued to take their toll. Both teams felt the fouls as Wheeler's Stacie Geer picked up her last two fouls within ten seconds to retire to the bench. Jo Cupps and Darcee Padberg each picked up their fourth personal late in the quarter. The Falcons capitalized on the Cardinal lull to pull within six points in the late going before lone got back on track, scoring six unanswered points to lead 46-34 at the quarter's end.

To the delight of the large lone delegation and the enthusiastic community band, Lady Cards exploded in the fourth quarter, scoring 21 points to Wheeler's six. Jo Cupps came to life, scoring 13 of her game-high 19 points and it was lights out for the tired Wheeler squad.

Jo Cupps was assisted in the scoring department by Linda Morter with 13 points and Nancy Morter with 11. The Cards pulled down a season-high rebound total of 49 boards, compared to 23 for Wheeler. Jo Cupps grabbed 11 followed by Amy Wagenblast with 10, Kari Morgan with nine and Mary Cupps with eight. Jo Cupps handed out seven assists and nabbed five steals to pace the Cardinals. Lone shot 41 percent for 45 percent from the field and a sizzling 24-28 from the line for 86 percent. The Falcons shot poorly, making just 23 percent from the floor and 41 percent from the line.

Coch Dana Heideman was happy with the history-making win. While he admitted a few shaky moments, he said the girls played tough and did an especially good job rebounding. He credited Nancy Morter for outstanding play off the bench and Linda Morter for taking control of the game. "She made everything go," says Heideman.

Next stop for the Cardinals is the State B Basketball Tournament in Baker, March 1-3. Throughout the eighties, the Big Sky League's representatives have dominated the state tournament play. The Lady Cards enter the state meet with a season record of 19-1 and ranked number one in the final Class B poll.

Cards end season with split weekend

By Anne Morter

The lone boys wrapped up their season last weekend by upsetting the Culver Bulldogs on Friday and losing a hard fought battle to defending state champion, Sherman County on Saturday in district tournament play. The Cards end their season with an overall record of 9-14.

On Friday afternoon, lone came from behind to upset the favored Bulldogs in the second half. Culver, sporting a season record of 14-6, failed to respond to the Cardinals fourth quarter charge, ending up on the short end of the score 37-43.

In the first quarter, the Cards had trouble negotiating the Culver full court press, but the Bulldogs were unable to capitalize, shooting coldly from the outside. Lone ended the quarter down, 8-11. In the second quarter, tough defense by Culver and cold shooting by lone kept the Cardinals in the hole. The Bulldogs took a 23-18 lead to the locker room at the half. The Cardinals pulled within two points at the end of the third period, 27-29, and finally within one point just into the fourth quarter with 5:15 to go in the game. Gabe Garcia hit a three-pointer to give lone its first lead of the game and a lead they never relinquished. They built their lead to eight points, 39-31, before Culver aced a three-pointer to get within five points, 34-39. The Cards responded with a full-court pass from Garcia to Garrett for a lay-in. Culver hit another three-pointer but Garrett nailed two free throws to ice the Cardinal victory.

Mike Garrett led all scorers with 20 points followed by Jim Davison and Gabe Garcia with nine each. The Cards out-rebounded the Bulldogs 44-24 with Garrett grabbing 17 and Davison pulling down 13. Culver managed just six offensive rebounds the entire game, compared to 16 for lone, a key to the win, says coach Del LaRue. Garcia dished out five assists and David Wagenblast handed out four. Garcia had three steals to pace the Cards.

According to LaRue, the key to win was the rebounds and "super defense in the second half." He said the Cards decided at halftime, when they were down by just five points, they could play with Culver. He was also pleased that the team was able to hold Culver's main scoring threats, Tony Ybarra and Ryan Simmons to 13 points each.



Shawn Hams (25) shoots over Culver Defender. Photo by Wayne Hams

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