

Ione Cardinals move into first in Big Sky League East division

By Anne Morter

The Ione Cardinals added to their winning streak and strolled into first place in the East Division of the Big Sky League, defeating Condon on Saturday and downing Arlington on Monday. The Cards league record now stands at 4-0 and their season mark moves to 7-4.

On Saturday, Jan. 12 the Cards traveled to Condon for the second time this season, downing them 80-52. Condon, playing without the services of high-scoring Ryan Johnson who sprained an ankle the night before, was no match for the high-flying Cards. Ione dominated almost every aspect of the game, including shooting a sizzling 47 percent from the field.

Mike Garrett led all scorers with 24 points. Gabe Garcia tacked on another 22 and David Wagenblast added 11. Garcia, Wagenblast and Brent Sheirbon each hit a three-pointer in the game. The Cards outrebounded the Blue Devils, 35-26, led by Mike Garrett with 13 and Deacon Heideman with nine. Heideman also had four blocked shots, giving him a total of 10 in the last two games. "Deacon is getting his timing down and that is really helping us," commented coach Del LaRue. David Wagenblast dished out seven assists while Gabe Garcia nabbed five steals and Ryan Halvorsen added four to lead the Cardinal attack.

The Cards finally got their shots to fall, hitting 32 of 68 from the field for a fine 47 percent. At the free throw line, they were 13 of 21 for 62 percent. Condon was 19 of 59 from the floor for 32 percent and 9-20 for 45 percent from the free throw line.

"Our intensity was excellent. The kids focused on the task at hand and got the job done," said coach LaRue. He noted that Deacon Heideman had an impressive performance on the boards and on defense. "This was by far Deacon's best game," he said. He also commended David Wagenblast and Gabe Garcia for a good effort, saying that they were instrumental in holding the turnovers to an almost unbelievable 11.

"They all played real well," said a pleased LaRue. The JV team avenged an earlier eight-point loss to Condon, squeaking by them 52-51.

Heppner JVs beat Pilot Rock

By Pete Pearson

The Heppner JV boys beat Pilot Rock's JV boys 68-61 Friday night to improve their record to 7-2.

Shane Munkers again led the Mustangs in scoring this time with 18 points. Scott Coe added 12. Travis Driskel led Pilot Rock with 16.

The Mustangs led 41-22 at halftime but the Rockets fought their way back into the game in the second half, shooting 13 of 16 from the free throw line, and outscoring Heppner, 22-12, in the fourth quarter.

Heppner's next games are Jan. 25 in Athena against Weston-McEwen at 4:30 p.m. and at home against Wahtonka, Jan. 26 at 2:30 p.m.

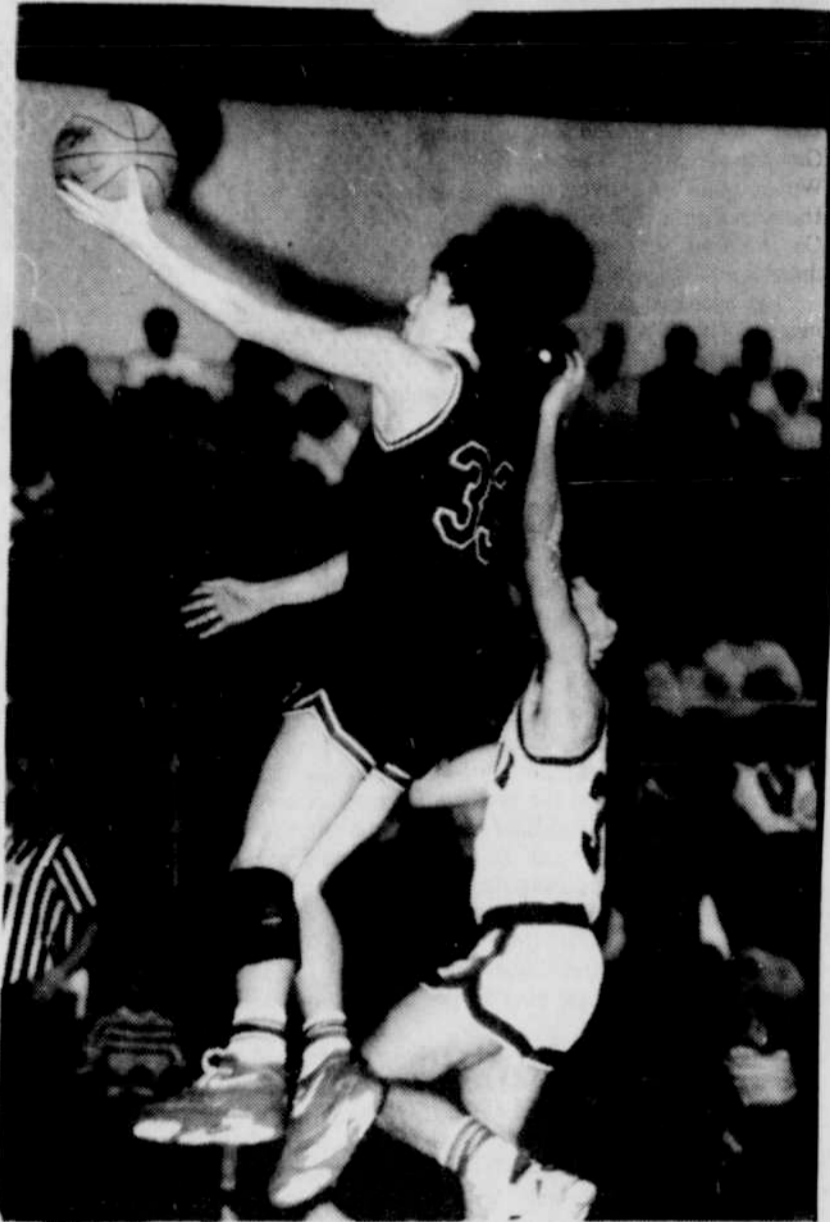


Photo by Pam Minster

Ryan Halvorsen goes up for shot against Condon

The Heppner Mustangs traveled to Pilot Rock to face a Rocket team with one of the worst pre-season win-loss marks in the league. On paper it looked like an easy win for the Mustangs. The Rockets turned the tables on the over confident and stone cold Mustangs and won the game 66-47.

The first two quarters ended in a dead heat with a 26-26 tie. Doug Devin kept the Mustangs in the game with 13 of his team high 19 points before halftime.

The third quarter proved to be the turning point of the game. The Rockets outscored Heppner 11-1 in the first 4:30 of the quarter to take a 37-27 lead that they never relinquished.

The Mustangs were able to get within five points at 41-35 but Pilot Rock pulled away in the last quarter for the win.

Coach Padberg said he, "thought the kids played hard. I can't fault their desire. We got outrebounded

badly and that hurt us."

So did cold shooting. The Mustangs were 17-76 from the field, 22 percent. They are averaging 36 percent for the year.

Doug Devin led Heppner with 19 points and nine rebounds. Brandon Pedro had 10 points, 10 rebounds and seven steals.

Jereme Rasico, a transfer student, had 26 points to top the Rockets. Rob Quempt added 13 points. They, along with Tyler Tresham and Bill Murphy, controlled the boards for Pilot Rock.

The loss brought Heppner's record to 2-1 in league and ties them with the Rockets for second place.

Heppner	13	13	10	11	47
Pilot Rock	15	11	17	23	66

Heppner: Pettyjohn 13, Krein 10-4-2, Britt 12, Osmin 2-4, Pedro 3-4-7-10, Grabel 1-2, Rathbun 0-2-0, Devin 6-7-11-19, Bond, Currin 2-1-2-5, Koffler 0-1-0, Totals 17-12-27-47

Pilot Rock: Hemphill 12, Thacker 12, Miller 12-2-4, Rasico 10-5-8-26, Murphy 2-5-6-8, Erickson 2-2-2-6, Quempt 6-1-3-13, Tresham 1-2-5, Totals 24-17-26-66

Heppner JV boys win two, record now 6-1

By Pete Pearson

The Heppner JV boys won two games last weekend against Wahtonka's and Umatilla's JV boys teams. The Mustangs routed Wahtonka, 60-38, and held off a Umatilla rally to win, 45-40.

In the Wahtonka game Heppner started off slow. But in the second half the Mustangs started rolling and cruised to an easy victory over the Eagles. Kevin Payne made three

pointers and led Heppner with 15 points.

Against Umatilla, Scott Coe got the Mustangs off and running with two 3-pointers to start the game. Heppner jumped out to an early lead, and led 25-10 at halftime.

In the second half Umatilla came roaring back with a full court press and got some quick points. But the young Mustangs held off the rally to win. Scott Coe led Heppner with 15 points.

The JV boys next game is Friday, Jan. 11 in Pilot Rock at 4:30 p.m.

JV Fillies lose two back to back

By Lisa Willman

The JV Fillies started the new year off on the wrong foot, losing two games back to back.

On January 4 they traveled to The Dalles to play Wahtonka losing 19-35. It was an off day for Heppner as they had trouble making their shots count and were unable to ever get ahead.

On Jan. 5 the Fillies played at home against Umatilla in a much better played game, however they still lost 36 to 41.

The first quarter went by with neither team able to score many points. Heppner got into foul trouble with 33 seconds left but managed to lag by only one point at the end of the quarter.

In the second quarter defense got really tough on both teams. There were quite a few steals and turnovers before Umatilla started to sink their shots. At halftime the scoreboard read Fillies, 13, Umatilla, 19.

In the third quarter both teams played man to man but Umatilla got open for shots to outscore the Fillies once again. With two minutes left, Heppner was in foul trouble and Umatilla was ahead by 11 points.

Heppner started to make a comeback in the fourth quarter. They picked up the tempo to run some fast breaks and forced Umatilla to turn over the ball several times. With four minutes left, two of Heppner's players had fouled out and several others had four fouls each. The Fillies continued to battle back, only to lose by five points with an ending score of Heppner, 36, Umatilla, 41.

Jenni Ashbeck led the Fillies with 14 points and eight rebounds. Chrissy Schultz tossed in eight points and pulled down six rebounds. Lori Adams was high scorer for Umatilla with 16 points.

Heppner coach Lana Orr was pleased with her girls. "This was the best defensive game we have played all year. Getting into foul trouble did hurt us, but overall the whole team pulled together to play very well."

Cards down Dufur 6-47

By Anne Morter

On Saturday, January 5, the Cards took an early 14-3 lead and never let Dufur get much closer, going on to win 66-47. Both teams had trouble hitting the basket, both shooting in the neighborhood of 30 percent but the Card's fast-paced game eventually was the undoing of the Rangers.

High scorer for the Cardinals was Ryan Halvorsen with 19 points. Mike Garrett added 18 and Deacon Heideman had 13. The rebounds were plentiful for both teams with the Cards holding a 51-47 edge. Garrett and Halvorsen each had 15 and Heideman added 10. In the assist department, David Wagenblast had eight and Gabe Garcia added seven while Ryan Halvorsen had five steals to pace the Cardinals.

Ione was 23 of 74 from the floor for 31 percent and managed just 18 of 42 free throw attempts for 43 percent. Dufur was 19 of 64 from the field for 30 percent and eight of 17 from the line for 47 percent.

"Neither one of us shot very well," said coach LaRue, especially noting the sub-par performance from the free throw line. He was pleased with other aspects of the game, namely that everyone played and almost everyone made it into the scoring column.

This weekend, the Cards face Arlington at home on Friday and travel to Condon on Saturday.

The boys' JV team won two games last week also, defeating Helix, 67-42, and slipping by Dufur, 53-48. Justin Miller hit three three-point shots against Helix and led the scoring with 22 points. Jake Deputy added 10. Miller shared scoring honors with Aaron Heideman against Dufur with each scoring 18 points. The JV team now boasts a 3-1 season record.

Lady Cards upended in see-saw battle, 37-41

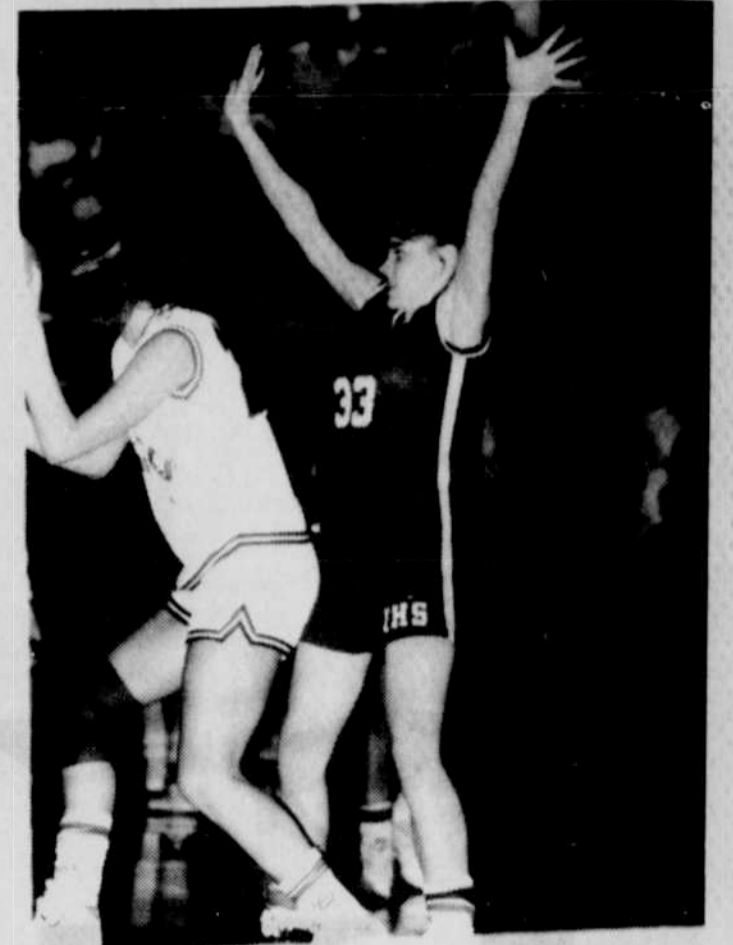


Photo by Pam Minster

Nancy Morter plays tight defense against Condon

By Anne Morter

The Condon girls squelched the idea of an Ione sweep, upending the Lady Cardinals, 37-41, in a game played in Condon last Saturday. As most Ione-Condon games are, it was an emotional and sometimes controversial, touch-and-go battle until the end. The Lady Cards' league mark now stands at 2-1 and their season record moved to 8-4.

Condon prevailed early in the game, leading until the third quarter. At the end of the third period, the Cards held a 30-29 lead. From there, the game see-sawed back and forth. With a minute to go, the score was tied. Condon then scored and Ione was unable to capitalize on any scoring opportunities. Condon ended up getting the ball back and the Lady Cards were forced to foul, giving the Blue Devils the final four-point margin.

Nancy Morter was the Cardinal's high scorer with nine points. Kari Morgan and Danielle Stefani each added eight. Tana Shannon of Condon was the high scorer for the game with 14 points. Condon's tall backcourt, led by 6' Mardie Duffie and 5'11" Shanna Wilkins, controlled the boards, coming up with a lopsided 42-24 rebounding edge. Nancy Morter led the Cardinal rebounding attack with seven boards and Janie Cupps grabbed five. Brandi Ball had two assists and Janie Cupps had three steals to pace the Cardinals.

The Lady Cards had a cold shooting night, hitting just 16 of 61 from the floor for 26 percent. The story was worse from the free throw line where they hit just 25 percent of their shots, making just three of 12. Condon hit 14 of 47 from the field for 30 percent and 13 of 22 from the free throw line for 59 percent.

Despite the poor performance at the free throw line, coach Dana Heideman was happy with the Lady Cards' performance. "It was anybody's game until the last 15 seconds," commented Heideman. "The team played very aggressive ball—they played their hearts out," he added.

Next up for the Ione team is a tough game with Wheeler in Fossil. Wheeler started the season ranked number-one in the class 1A coaches' poll but has dropped to number two in the latest release of that poll. In any event, the Lady Cards expect a tough match from the perennial powerhouse Falcons, especially when the game is on their home court. Game time is 6 p.m.

Mustangs run past Columbia Burbank 88-73

The Heppner Mustangs ran past the visiting Columbia-Burbank Coyotes 88-73 in a non league basketball contest Tuesday, January 8. The game was a makeup from the Christmas Tournament game at Mac-Hi that was cancelled in December.

Heppner exploded for 28 points in the second quarter with Bob Krein and Doug Devin each getting eight in the quarter. The Mustangs led 44-33 at the half in a pressing, turnover filled half.

The lead shrank to as little as four points in the third quarter but the Mustangs' relentless pressure wore down the visitors from Washington. Heppner scored 27 points in the last quarter to win.

All five of the Mustang starters scored in double figures. Bob Krein

scored a season high 16 points along with five assists while Jason Britt also had 16 counters. Doug Devin, 12, and Brandon Pedro had 12 points and a season high 12 rebounds. Rick Osmin tallied 10 points.

Andony Amorebieta scored a game high 19 points for the Coyotes, a 3A team in Washington hoops. Aaron Rowe had 18 and Benji Debord had 14.

Heppner 16 28 17 27 88
Columbia-Burbank 12 21 24 16 73

Heppner: Koffler 2-2-2, Currin 1-2-1, Pettyjohn 2-1-2-6, Maben, Krein 7-2-5-16, Britt 4-6-6-16, Osmin 5-0-1-10, Pedro 6-12, Johnston 0-2-0, Graybeel 1-2, Rathbun 3-2-2-8, Devin 6-0-1-12, Bond 1-1-3-3. Totals 34-15-26-88.

Columbia-Burbank: Debord 6-2-2-14, Nye 1-3, Ensunsa 1-2-2-5, Wirtzberger 1-1-3-3, Rowe 9-0-2-18, Amorebieta 7-5-7-19, Hoogendorn 3-3-4-9, Asher 1-0-1-2 Totals 23-13-21-73

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