

Cardinals chances for state tourney berth slip away

By Anne Morter

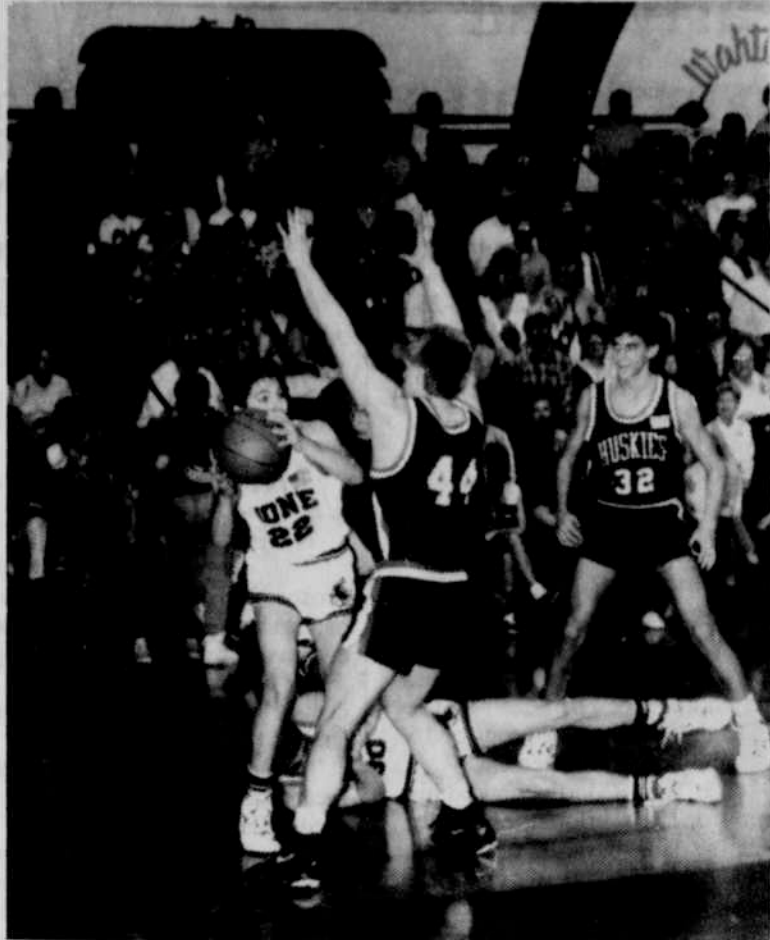
The lone Cardinals saw their chances for a state tournament trip slip away in the final minutes of the second place game of the Big Sky District Tournament held last weekend at Umatilla High School.

The Cards lost in the championship game to Sherman County Huskies on Friday night, Feb. 15, and lost again on Saturday, Feb. 16 to rallying Condon in the final four minutes. The Cards ended their season with a 14-7 record.

On the bright side, three Cardinals were named to the district All-Star team. Mike Garrett was a first team selection, Gabe Garcia was named to the second team and David Wagenblast made the honorable mention list.

On Friday night, the Cards ran up against hot-shooting Joe Justeson and the Sherman County Huskies, falling 72-83. Justeson scored a game-high 40 points including seven three-pointers and was the main reason for the Huskies stretching a five-point halftime lead into a 16-point third quarter lead. "I think that the only way we could have stopped Justeson was to keep him out of the gym," said coach Del LaRue. "It seemed like the farther back we pushed him, the better he got," he added.

Mike Garrett led the Cardinal scorers with 26 points. Gabe Garcia added 15, David Wagenblast had 12 and Ryan Halvorsen chipped in with 11. The Huskies edged the Cards in the rebounding department, 38-37. Ryan Halvorsen led the Cardinal attack with 15 boards followed by Garrett with 12. Deacon Heideman had five blocked shots for lone David Wagenblast had eight assists



David Wagenblast (22) looks for passing room against Huskies. Photo by Wayne Hams

and Garcia added seven more while Garrett paced the Cards with two steals.

The Cardinals had a good shooting night, hitting 27 of 45 for 60 percent from the floor. From the line, they shot 11 of 20 for 50 percent. The Huskies didn't do so badly in that department either, shooting 29 of 59 for 49 percent from the floor and 16 of 26 for 62 percent from the line.

The Cardinals had seven three-point buckets with Gabe Garcia hitting four and Wagenblast adding three.

"I wasn't displeased with the game," said coach LaRue. "I thought we played well." He noted that Sherman County "out-quickened" his team and that Sherman's tourney experience proved to be too much for the Cardinals.

Cards lose to Blue Devils in last quarter

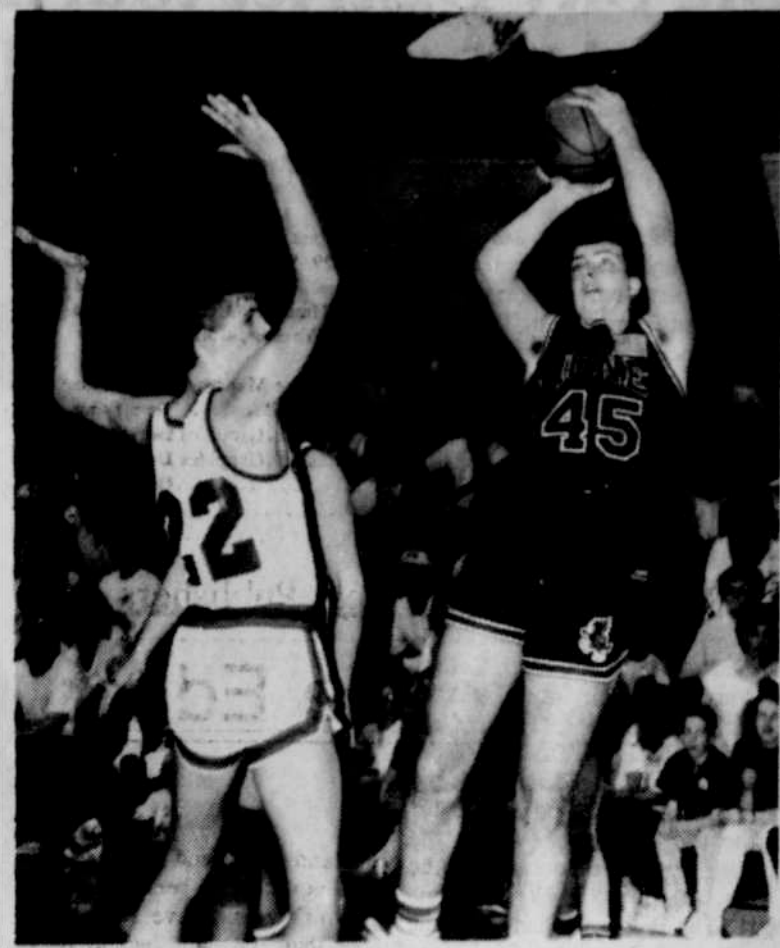
By Anne Morter

On Saturday, Feb. 16, the Cardinals were up against the Condon Blue Devils for the fourth time this season and led the entire game before suffering an untimely lapse in the last four minutes, allowing the Condon Blue Devils to take the lead and win, 58-54. The Cards held an eight-point lead going into the fourth quarter but Condon outscored them, 19-7, in that quarter and outscored them, 14-2 in the final four minutes.

Mike Garrett led all scorers in the game with 26 points. Ryan Halvorsen was the only other Cardinal in double figures with 10 points. The Cards held a 38-31 rebounding advantage with Garrett leading the way with 13 boards. Deacon Heideman and Halvorsen each added another 10. David Wagenblast dished out six assists and Gabe Garcia contributed four while Halvorsen and Heideman each had three steals. Heideman also had six blocked shots. In the shooting department, Ione shot 34 percent from the floor, making 19 of 55 while Condon hit 25 of 49 for 51 percent. The Cards could only capitalize on 14 of their 26 free throw attempts for 53 percent, a factor "that killed us" especially in the closing minutes of the game, according to coach Del LaRue. Condon had only four free throw tries but made three for 75 percent.

"It was a good game until the last four minutes," said coach LaRue. "I don't know what happened to us—it was like we went into some kind of trance," he added.

Of course, there's always next year which "looks good for us," said LaRue. Since the Cards won't graduate anyone off this year's team, they have high hopes for next year.



Mike Garrett (45) shoots over Condon player. Photo by Wayne Hams

Ione JV girls end season with two wins

By Anne Morter

The lone JV girls team wrapped up their season with two wins over the weekend of February 8 and 9. Finishing their season with a 9-2 record, the young lady Cards downed Condon for the fourth time this season on Friday and defeated Cascade Locks on the road Saturday.

The lady Cardinals had some trouble mustering the motivation to do much high scoring against Condon, a team they had beaten four times previously, but they ended up prevailing easily, 32-19. Amy Pointer was the high scorer for the game with eight points. The Cards outrebounded Condon, 36-34, with

Kristine Bedortha leading the way with 10 boards. The team nabbed a total of 17 steals with Crystal Minster accounting for six.

The Cards shot 13 of 50 from the floor for 26 percent while Condon was just nine of 42 for 21 percent. At the line, Ione capitalized on six of their 13 free throws for 46 percent while Condon only got two tries and made one for 50 percent.

"I was really pleased," said coach Tom Bedortha. "It was good teamwork—everyone scored," he added. Bedortha commented that Amy Pointer had a good offensive game and Kristine Bedortha had a good defensive game.

Mustangs cap successful season with 92-71 victory over Redsidies

The Heppner Mustangs traveled to Wasco County and capped a very successful league campaign with a 92-71 victory over the Wasco County Redsidies. The win brought the Mustangs' record to 11-1 in league play and 17-3 for the regular season.

The Redsidies, who finished league play in second place and are always tough at home, started quickly behind Scott Lacey's nine points to lead 23-19 at the first break.

Heppner's press started taking its toll in the second quarter and the Mustangs outscored Wasco County, 27-12, in the second stanza to lead by 11 at the half. Jason Britt scored 15 points in the quarter and 22 in the first half, on his way to a 33-point night, the highest point total of his season and career.

Heppner rotated nine players for most of the game and Wasco Coun-

ty played six players for the majority of the game. That difference, along with the constant full court pressure, wore down the Redsidies. The Mustangs outscored Wasco County by four points in the third quarter and six points in the fourth quarter for the 21-point victory. The loss for Wasco County was their first at home this year.

Britt was red-hot from the field, making 11-18, including five three-pointers enroute to his total of 33 points. Bob Krein, continuing his late season surge, scored 17 points. Rick Osmin added 13 points and six rebounds and Doug Devin had 23 for Heppner.

Brandon Pedro, showing good anticipation as the deep man on the press, had seven steals to go with his seven rebounds and eight points on the evening.

Kawika Wilcox, easily a league allstar, scored 20 points for Wasco County. Scott Lacey had 18 and Scott Gardner contributed 14 for the Redsidies.

The Mustangs head into district play Friday and Saturday, February 22 and 23, in Pendleton. Details of the tournament can be found on page one of this week's paper.

Heppner 19 27 25 21 92
Wasco County 23 12 21 15 71
Heppner: Currin, Mahen, Krein 8-0-2 17; Britt 11 6-9 33; Osmin 5 2-3 13; Pedro 3 2-2 8; Johnston, Grabeel 1 1-3 3; Rathbun 2 0-2 4; Devin 5 1-3 12, Bond, Koffler 1 2. Totals 36 12-23 92.

Wasco County: Lacey 7 3-4 18; Mahoney, Cox 0 3-4 3; Dodge 3 1-4 7; Gardner 5 2-3 14; Ellis 2 4; Coburn 2 1-2 5; Wilson 9 2-3 20; Wilson, Lockwood. Totals 28 12-20 71. Team fouls Heppner 19 Wasco County 22.

Three-point goals: Britt 5, Krein, Osmin, Devin, Lacey, Gardner 2.

JV Fillies end season with a loss to Weston-McEwen

By Lisa Willman

The Heppner JV Fillies ended their season on a sad note, playing Weston-McEwen Friday afternoon in Heppner. The Fillies lost, 42-51.

The first quarter started out well for the Fillies as Donita Sharp stole the ball and went down court for a layup. The Fillies pulled together as a team to score a few more points and lead the game. With 3:38 left, Weston-McEwen scored and tied the game up at 8 points. With 2:50 on the clock they pulled ahead to lead at the end of the first quarter 9-7.

In the second quarter there were a lot of lane violations during foul shots for both teams. Weston-McEwen played a full court press that the Fillies couldn't overcome. They also had trouble hanging on to the ball and allowed Weston-McEwen to keep the lead at halftime 20-29.

Coming back from the half the Fillies made it obvious that they weren't quitting, but still had problems with Weston-McEwen's full court press. A few times in the second half the Fillies were able to steal the ball to score but just couldn't pull it off and lost 42-51.

The JV Fillies ended their season with 10 wins and eight losses, which wasn't bad for the young Fillies consisting of five sophomores and seven freshmen.

Jennie Ashbeck and Jodi Johnston each rallied for nine points to lead the scorers. Sophomores Chrissy Schultz and Donita Sharp tossed in five points apiece. Sharp had nine rebounds with Schultz pulling down six. Johnston, with her quick hands, stole the ball eight times and had four assists.

Cards lose championship game

By Anne Morter

On Saturday, Feb. 16 the lady Cards matched up with the tall Sherman County Huskies with the district's second state berth on the line. The Cardinals held a five-point lead in the second quarter and it was still anybody's ball game with a minute to go but Ione couldn't get around 5'11" Michelle Sather and her team mates, falling 39-47 in the closing seconds.

Kari Morgan was the Cards' leading scorer with 14 points. Brandi Ball added eight. Sherman's Michelle Sather was the game's high scorer with 22 points. Morgan was also the leading rebounder with nine boards but the Cards were outrebounded by the Huskies. Brandi Ball and Danielle Štefani each had three steals to pace the team. Ione had a tough shooting night, making just 12 of 45 from the floor for 27 percent and 14 of 28 from the line for 50 percent. The Huskies hit 18 of 45 for 40 percent from the floor and 11 of 22 from the line for 50 percent.

"The kids hustled and worked hard but every shot was like shooting into Christmas trees," said coach Dana Heideman. He noted that Kari Morgan played hard, shooting four of eight from the field and six of 12 from the line, even while being double-teamed the whole game. He also noted that Crystal Minster and April Taylor played aggressively in the second quarter and caused a lot of Sherman turnovers, but the Cards were not able to capitalize.

Heideman is already looking forward to next year since he will lose just one player, senior Wendy Anderson. He predicts a three-way race between Ione, Sherman County and Condon and he expects to be right back in the heat of the race again. "No one expected us to even get as far as we did this year with five new players," said Heideman.



Ione girls fight for rebound. He also noted that a lot of the girls improved dramatically during the season, giving him high hopes for next season. Photo by Wayne Hams

NEEDED: Scorekeepers and hostesses for Hermiston Women's Bowling Assoc. City Tournament at Heppner Bowl, February 23 & 24 and March 2 & 3. Please sign sheet posted in bowling alley or just come enjoy the fun.

4-H horse training sessions Feb. 24

All 4-H horse members are invited to attend horse training sessions at the fairgrounds indoor arena, February 24, March 3 and 10 from 2 to 5 p.m.

English tack is preferred. Lessons will be for beginners and advanced students. Dad Potter movements will be taught in consecutive lessons. For more information call 676-9761 or 989-8132 evenings.

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