

Heppner beats Umatilla to clinch District 7 2A championship

Heppner 79 Umatilla 64

The Mustangs faced the Umatilla Vikings for the District 7 2A championship and the important number-one seed into the Regional Tournament this weekend. Heppner had defeated the Vikings twice this year, once by a single point.

The Mustangs broke on top and led 19-15 after one quarter. Umatilla came back and took the lead 33-31 at the half. The Mustangs were having trouble defending 6'6" Justin Noble and 6'3" Matt Iveson.

The second half was all Heppner as Iveson got into big foul trouble and fouled out early. The Mustangs' press wore down the ball-handling short Vikings and Heppner scored repeatedly on the steal or the break.

Heppner had a decided advantage at the free throw line, canning 24-37 while Umatilla shot 3-11 from the charity stripe.

Rick Koffler led the Mustangs in scoring with 19 points on 7-11 from the field and 4-5 from the line. Three other Mustangs were in double figures in the balanced scoring attack. Bob Krein had 15 counters despite limited playing minutes because of foul trouble and Jason Britt and Doug Devin each had 14.

Devin, a 5'10" senior, also led Heppner with 11 rebounds, seven steals and six assists for a good all-around performance. Brandon Pedro also hit the boards for 10 rebounds.

Iveson was tops for the Vikings with 18 points. Rusty Green, who was harassed by Jason Britt the en-



Photo by Joyce Hughes
Doug Devin (43) and Rick Koffler play defense against Umatilla.

tire afternoon scored 12 and Nobles added 10.

Heppner 19 12 27 21 79
Umatilla 15 18 20 11 64

Heppner: Currin 0-4 1-4 1; Maben 0-1 0; Krein 4-6 7-9 15; Britt 5-16 4-7 14; Osmin 2-9 4; Pedro 2-12 5-6 9; Johnston; Grabee; Rathbun 1-5 2; Devin 6-12 2-4 14; Bond 1-2

1; Koffler 6-11 4-5 19. Totals 27-76 24-37 79.

Umatilla: Beitel, Sunday 3-10 2-5 9; Pur-sifull 2-9 1-3 5; Green 5-13 2-2 12; Iveson 9-13 0-2 18; Thomas, Nobles 5-5 0-1 10; Pells 1-1 2. Totals 29-60 3-11 64.

Total fouls Heppner 15 Umatilla 24. Three point goals: Heppner-Koffler; Umatilla-Green 2, Sunday.

Mustangs defeat Rockets at district

The Heppner Mustangs rode balanced scoring and a pressure defense to the District 7 2A championship Friday and Saturday, Feb. 22 and 23 at the Pendleton Convention Center. The Mustangs advance to the Regional Tournament in LaGrande this Friday and Saturday, March 1 and 2, seeking a trip to the Class 2A State Tournament in Pendleton the first week of March. **Heppner 66 Pilot Rock 56**

The Mustangs were challenged by the Pilot Rock Rockets on Friday night for a spot in the District Championship game the following day.

Heppner started quickly and led 16-8 at the quarter. The Mustangs increased their lead to 30-20 at halftime against the only CBC team to defeat the Mustangs this year. The defensive effort for Heppner was excellent in the first half with the combination of pressure in the back court and solid half court defense shutting the Rockets down.

Heppner increased their lead to 47-33 after three quarters and led by as much as 15 points with six minutes to play. The Rockets made a determined run, cutting the Mustang lead to three points late in the quarter as Heppner couldn't hit free throws down the stretch. Heppner shot only 13-27 for the game.

The Mustangs sprinted away in the last two minutes of the game, making the final score 66-56. Jason Britt and Brandon Pedro topped the Mustangs with 14 points each. Five other Mustangs had from six to nine points, spreading the scoring around evenly.

Rob Quaempts led the Rockets with 25 points and Jeremy Rasico added 19 points but Pilot Rock got only 12 points from the rest of the



Photo by Joyce Hughes
Jason Britt (22), Bob Krein and Brandon Pedro (30) watch Pilot Rock player go for score.

team. Pedro led Heppner with seven rebounds and seven steals.
Heppner 16 14 17 19 66
Pilot Rock 8 12 13 23 56

Heppner: Currin 3-4 0-3 6; Krein 2-6 5-6 9; Britt 6-16 1-3 14; Osmin 3-7 6; Pedro 7-13 0-2 14; Grabee; Rathbun 1-2 1-2 3; Devin 3-11 2-7 8; Bond; Koffler 1-2 4-4 6. Totals 27-62 13-27 66.

Pilot Rock: Hemphill 0-2 0-0 0; Thacker 0-8 3-4 3; Miller 0-3 0-1 0; Nelson 1-2 0-0 2; Rasico 7-16 5-6 19; Erickson 1-3 1-2 3; Quaempts 11-22 3-4 25; Tresham 1-1 2-2

4. Totals 21-57 14-19 56.
Total fouls Heppner 18 Pilot Rock 24.
Three point goals Heppner-Britt.

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Cancer society seeks storage

The American Cancer Society is looking for a ground floor location in Heppner for storing and dispensing of its loan items to cancer patients.

"These comfort items and medical equipment have been purchased by local donations and are for use, free, to cancer patients. However, the present upper-floor location, generously donated by Dick Sargent, is difficult

for families and volunteers to load and unload heavy items," said a spokesperson.

Anyone aware of a ground-level storage facility or empty building that would be suitable for this use and that could be donated to the American Cancer Society, should contact Bonna Rae Miller at 676-9613 or Molly Rhea at 676-9133.

Rent-a-duck for O'Ducky race

Get your ducks in a row. It's time to rent your ducks for the second annual O'Ducky Race during the St. Patrick's celebration. Race time is Saturday, March 16 at 4 p.m. The plastic ducks will travel down Willow Creek from Court St. bridge to the finish line at the Heppner City Park.

"We've got great news, too. When our ducks went south for the winter they brought back 300 more of their friends, so there will be more ducks in the race and bigger prizes," said a race organizer. The first three ducks across the finish line will win \$100 for first prize, \$75 for second and \$50 for third.

Ducks may be rented for \$3 at Cheri's Hair and Nails and the Heppner Gazette-Times from March 1 until March 15. The day of the race the ducks may be rented at a booth on Main St. in front of Bud's Pub from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Fillies squeak past Stanfield in overtime to win spot at Regionals

By Lisa Willman

A good sized crowd of Heppner fans was on hand for the first game of the District 7 tournament Friday, Feb. 22 at the Pendleton Convention Center. The Fillies squeaked by the Stanfield Tigers in overtime, 40-37.

The first quarter was slow for the Fillies as they had problems shutting out Stanfield's 6'2" senior Michelle Marcum. Marcum scored the first three baskets before the Fillies could slow her down. Meanwhile the Fillies offense wasn't going well as Stanfield ran a 2-2 zone and had their fifth player guard Nikki Brisbois. With 4:22 left in the first quarter the score was 3-12 in favor of Stanfield. The Fillies came back and caused the Tigers to turn the ball over three different times and scored twice. At the end of the first quarter Stanfield led by seven.

The Fillies controlled the second quarter scoring 50 percent from the field and working together to catch up and pull ahead. The Fillies scored seven times before Stanfield got worried and called a time out, which slowed the game down tremendously. At halftime the Fillies were ahead 24-21.

In the third quarter Stanfield started playing a full court press and the Fillies made some bad passes. With 5 minutes left the Tigers tied the score at 27. A minute and a half later Stanfield took the lead. With 2:30 left Holly Eckman stole the ball and went the length of the court for a layup. The score was tied for the second time at 29. The Fillies got through the Stanfield press twice but missed on layups. With eight seconds left in the quarter Nikki Brisbois sank two baskets at the charity line to put the Fillies ahead 31-29.

In the final quarter Stanfield came out right away to score and tie the game at 31. The Fillies, however, came back with two baskets of their own Amy Greenup squeezed through the Tiger's press on a layup. The Fillies had a six point lead when a worried Stanfield coach called a time out. Stanfield connected on their next two trips down the court and with 1:56 left in the game Stanfield scored again to tie the game for the fourth time at 37. Stanfield ran a stall in the last 48 seconds of the game hoping to make a last second shot. The shot failed sending the game into overtime.

The Fillies came out with a 3-2 zone while Stanfield continued their press, but neither team's shots were sinking. Amy Greenup got fouled with 1:29 left and connected on one out of two to put the Fillies in the lead by one. With 30 seconds left in overtime the Fillies ran a stall and Greenup got fouled again, sinking one out of two. Nikki Brisbois then got fouled on a rebound giving her a shot at the line with a one and one. Brisbois connected on the first one. The Tigers were unable to get the ball back down the floor giving Heppner the win, 40-37.

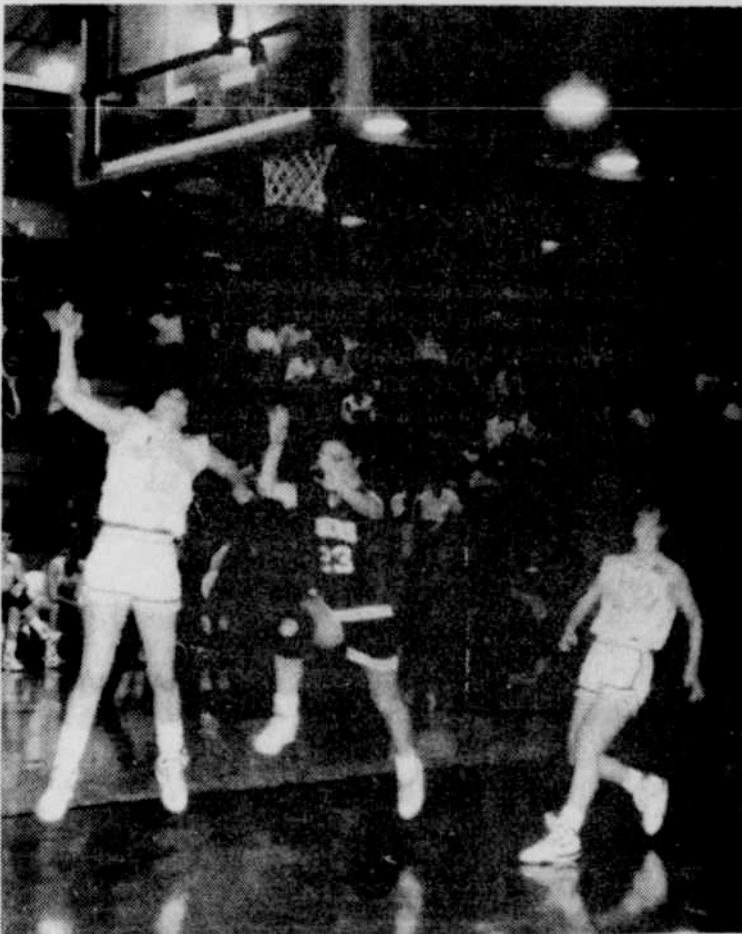




Photo by Joyce Hughes
Holly Eckman (30) shoots layup against Stanfield. The Fillies were eight for 20 from the foul line while Stanfield was one and nine. Michelle Marcum led the Tigers with 14 points and Terissa Griffin added 13. Nikki Brisbois scored 13 points for the Fillies while Holly Eckman and Amy Greenup added 10 and nine respectively.

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