

Mustangs take revenge over Rockets

The Heppner Mustangs took on the Pilot Rock Rockets Friday, Feb. 7, in a key conference game. The Rockets had stunned the Mustangs earlier this season with a one point last second shot win. Heppner was out to prove that the last game was a fluke and got sweet revenge on Pilot Rock's home court with a 57-49 victory.

Both teams battled back and forth in the first quarter with the Rockets taking a slim one point margin into the second quarter. The Mustangs were managing to shut down Jereme Rasisco, who averages 22 points, but found it hard to control Cody Thacker. The Mustangs kept up with the Rockets and managed a halftime tie.

Pilot Rock would not die and held a two point lead heading in to the final eight minutes of play. The Rockets increased their lead to six with about two minutes of play left in the game. The Mustangs then exploded and went on a 14-0 run. Jason Britt and Rick Koffler hit some key shots at the end and combined with some Rocket turnovers the Mustangs seemed to be frustrating Pilot Rock. Pilot Rock's Jereme Rasisco drew two technical fouls on top of a foul to ice the game for the Mustangs as Britt hit the free throws to bring



Photo by Joyce Hughes

Jason Britt brings down a rebound for the Mustangs

the final score Heppner 57, Pilot Rock 49. Britt had 14 points and Koffler had 12 but the real credit goes to Charlie Rathbun and com-

pany who shut out Jereme Rasisco. Cody Thacker from Pilot Rock led all scorers with 22 points.

Mustangs take victory from Vikings

By Jeremy Maddern

The Heppner Mustangs took on the Umatilla Vikings Saturday, Feb. 8, in hopes of a win to keep them in the playoff hunt. Heppner took the victory 80-69. The Mustangs came out flat and saw themselves even with the Vikings all through the first half. Heppner shot just 38 percent and held a very slim margin of four points going into the half.

The Mustangs ran the Vikings to death in the third quarter though, outscoring the Vikings 27-19 and took a 12 point lead into the fourth quarter. Rusty Green kept the Vikings from being blown out with four three-pointers and 25 points. The Mustangs dominated the Vikings on the boards grabbing 49 rebounds. This led to a 21 percent swing in shooting percentage.

Heppner cruised to an 80-69



Photo by Joyce Hughes

Rick Koffler tries to pass off against Umatilla

win. Rick Koffler, coming back from a hand injury had 17 points for the Mustangs and Charlie Rathbun scored 12. Len Brittner had 10 points but more importantly grabbed 11 boards. The

Mustangs are now 6-3 in league play, good enough for fourth place spot in the Columbia Basin Conference. The Mustangs face a tough game Friday at Athena against Weston-McEwen.

JV Fillies shut out Rockets

By Jeremy Maddern

The JV Fillies held a 10-2 record before this last weekends action losing tough games to Wahtonka and Weston-McEwen.

The Fillies played awesome defense Friday against Pilot Rock and shut them out at halftime 22-0. Heppner kept up the intensity and the Rockets found it hard to even score as they finally got on the score board in the third quarter. The Fillies played well and won by an impressive margin of 44-16. Kelsie Evans had 12 points for the Fillies, second to Char Coe's 16 point performance.

Saturday, Feb. 8 the Fillies

posted another win over Umatilla with the outstanding play of Kelsie Evans who had 22 points and eight steals. The Fillies defense played a major role and helped them to a 50-34 victory. The two wins improve the talented JV team to 12-2 and will end their season with Weston-McEwen Friday, in Athena.

Heppner JV boys beat Pilot Rock and Umatilla

By Jeremy Maddern

The Heppner J.V. boys team held a 10-2 record going into last weekends action. Their only losses on the season were to Riverside two times, by a three and one point margin. The JV boys were coming off an emotional win over Weston-McEwen winning on a last second shot by Ryan Pence, 55-54.

Heppner's first weekend opponent was Pilot Rock, Feb. 7. They had beaten the Rockets earlier in the season by a 24 point margin. The Rockets gave the young Mustangs a tough game but they were too talented and beat Pilot Rock once again 73-61. Austin Coiner led in points with 16 and Trent Hughes followed with 10.

The next game saw an even closer game as the Mustangs took on the Umatilla Vikings Saturday night. The Vikings were out to avenge an earlier loss. The Mustangs were down by 10 after the third quarter but put on an amazing comeback and won 37-34.

Jeremy Maddern led the

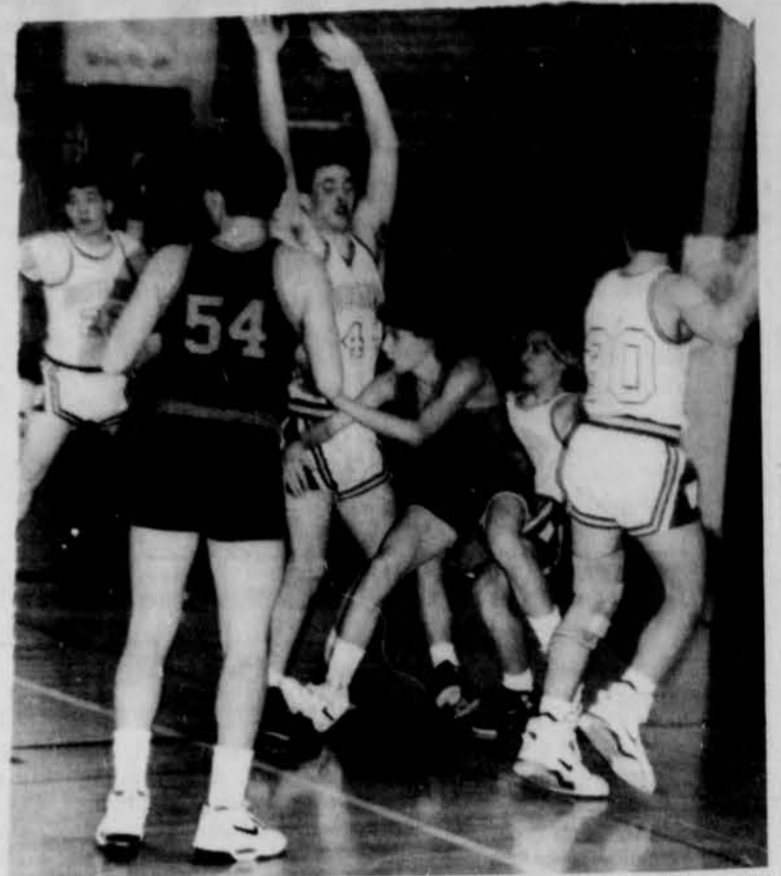


Photo by Joyce Hughes

Duane Dunaway (hands in air) defends against Umatilla. Trent Hughes is about to hit the deck. No. 30 is Jake Bacon and Jeremy Maddern is in the background.

Mustangs with eight points team is now 12-2 and will followed by Austin Coiner and challenge Weston-McEwen on Chris Dickinson with six. The JV their home court Friday.

Fillies take second win over Umatilla

By Jeremy Maddern

The Fillies played at home Saturday, Feb. 8 against the Umatilla Vikings beating them for the second time this season, 59-33.

The Vikings hung tough with the Fillies in the first quarter down by just four points but Heppner out ran and out gunned the Vikings even without the services of Heather Eckman who had an early first quarter injury. Holly Eckman picked up the slack putting on an offense show with great shooting and unbelievable passing. The Fillies held an 11 point lead at halftime and never looked back.

The Fillies kept up the blistering pace outscoring the Vikings 12-6 in the third quarter to take a 17 point lead into the fourth quarter. Head coach Mark Dowdy put in the reserves but the Fillies still beat up on Umatilla and won 59-33. Holly Eckman led all scorers with 22 points and Jenny Krein had 15 points for the Fillies. The win improves the Fillies record to 8-1 and sets up a rematch with Weston-McEwen Friday, Feb. 14.



Photo by Joyce Hughes

Jodi Johnston closely guards Umatilla player

Fillies beat Rockets for number two spot

By Jeremy Maddern

The Fillies held a 6-1 conference play record and were out to prove they are the second best team behind Weston-McEwen's number one spot, as they opened last weekend's action Friday, Feb. 7 against Pilot Rock. The Fillies proved their point beating the Rockets 40-28.

Heppner saw a very close game early as they were tied with an enthusiastic Rocket team 10-10 after eight minutes of play. The Fillies defense was outstanding as they held the Rockets to just four second quarter points but they could not take advantage of this opportunity as they just scored eight points themselves. The Fillies came out to win the game in the



Photo by Joyce Hughes

Heather Eckman controls the ball

third quarter as they exploded for 18 points and made the Rockets struggle as they only scored four points in the third quarter.

Down 36-18 the Rockets fought hard and long to pull off an upset victory but could not overcome the mighty Fillies as they cruised to a 40-28 victory. Rocket turnovers were the key to the Fillies win as they turned the ball over 31 times and shot just 4-15 from the line. Nina Tucker led the Fillies with 12 points

followed closely by Holly Eckman who poured in 11.

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