

Mustang strong defense beat Rockets



Heppner's Trent Hughes looks to pass against Rockets

By Jeremy Maddern

The Heppner Mustangs strong defense proved to be the difference as they blasted the Pilot Rock Rockets 66-39 in a league game last Friday, Jan. 22.

The Mustangs jumped all over the Rockets as they built an early 17-9 lead after the first quarter

of play. The defense kept Pilot Rock's best player Casey Perkins, who was leading the league in scoring, to just five points. The Mustangs doubled their lead to 18 points heading into the half. The Rockets never got close as they couldn't muster any type of offense. Heppner slowed



Leonard Brittner gives a crowd pleasing dunk

the pace down as they kept increasing their lead. The Mustangs enjoyed a 21 point lead after three quarters of play. The Mustangs emptied their bench as they cruised to a win.

Leonard Brittner led the Mustangs with 19 followed by Rick Koffler who had 16 points.

Cards struggle, lose to Condon

By Anne Morter

The Condon game Saturday, Jan. 16, was another story for the Ione Lady Cards. As the Cards struggled offensively in the first quarter, everything the Blue Devils threw towards the basket went in. At the end of one, Condon held a commanding 25-9 lead, and it proved to be an insurmountable obstacle for the lady Cards. The score at the half was 38-23, Condon, and even with a good comeback in the fourth quarter, the Blue Devils took the win 67-53.

Jamie Lovett led the Ione scorers with 20 points. Melissa McElligott and Crystal Minster added 12 each. Tawna Shannon of Condon was the game's high scorer with 25. The lady Cards held the rebounding edge, 37-25, led by Lovett with nine. McElligott paced the team with five assists and five steals.

The Cards shot 23 of 56 for 41 percent from the floor but hit just six of 22 for 27 percent from the line. Condon sizzled in the shooting department making 24 of 51 from the floor for 47 percent and 15 of 19 for 79 percent from the line. That same team shot 16 percent from the floor in a Tuesday loss to Wheeler.

"They played a perfect game," said coach Dana Heideman. He noted that the Cards seemed to be mentally unprepared in the first quarter and took the floor with no



Lady Cards battle Condon

intensity. He also commented that the free throw line continued to be a problem. "When one team shoots that well and we miss that many free throws, well..." The lady Cards still hold a one

game lead over Condon on their side of the league. This weekend they take on Wheeler in Fossil on Friday and host Echo on Saturday in Ione.

Mustangs increase record with Wahtonka victory

By Jeremy Maddern

The Mustangs increased their league record to 3-0 after a pair of wins over the Wahtonka Eagles 70-43, and Stanfield Tigers last Friday and Saturday, Jan. 15 and 16 at home.

The Mustangs came out strong to start the game with 30 points in the first quarter. Rick Koffler scored all of his 17 points in the first quarter mainly off of Wahtonka turnovers. The Mustang press was causing Wahtonka problems as they were unable to produce any type of of-

fense or defense. The Mustangs slowed the pace down, as they held a 19 point lead after the first quarter. The Eagles survived the Mustang press to stay with them in the second quarter but still trailed by 21 points at the half. Heppner ran their half court offense the entire second half to save the Eagles from an embarrassing loss. The Eagles were unable to catch up though as the Mustangs defense was awesome.

Len Brittner added 15 points as the Mustangs had a number of people in the scoring column.

Fillies suffer first loss of season to Sherman in OT

By Jeremy Maddern

The Heppner Fillies suffered their first loss of the season last Saturday, Jan. 23 in a league game with the Sherman Union Huskies. The Huskies beat Heppner in overtime, 53-51.

The Fillies got behind early as they were outscored 15-12 after the first quarter of play. The Fillies were in a position they haven't been in all season, and never seemed to get back on track as they tied the score going into the half. The Huskies, led by Ilene Townsend who had 13 points including three treys, were not intimidated by the Fillies.

Cards cruise to an 80-38 win over Echo

By Anne Morter

The Cards picked up where they left off Saturday night, Jan. 23, at home against Echo, cruising to an 80-38 win.

Aaron Heideman was the game's high scorer with 22 points. Deacon Heideman added 12 and Jared Ashbeck had 10.

The Cards doubled Echo's rebounding total, 52-26, with Aaron Heideman leading the way with 13. Ryan Halvorsen, Deacon Heideman and Jared Ashbeck added eight each. Wagenblast moved the ball well in the game and racked up 12 assists. Tony Bjerke and Ryan Halvorsen each had three steals to lead that category.

Ione frustrated the Cougars with 10 blocked shots. Deacon Heideman led with six and Wagenblast and Jason Halvorsen each had two.

The Cards shot well, making 34 of 73 for 47 percent from the floor. They hit 10 of 13 from the line for 77 percent. Echo shot 17 of 51 from the field for 33 percent and four of 12 for 33 percent from the line.



David Wagenblast (22) goes up for jumper

Photo by Wayne Hams

Cards take easy 66-40 win over Falcons

By Anne Morter

The Ione Cardinals continued their winning ways last weekend with easy wins over Wheeler on Friday, Jan. 22 and Echo on Saturday, Jan. 23. The Cards' league record is a perfect 6-0 and their season record now stands at 9-4.

Ione took it to their hosts early in the Friday game played at Wheeler, beating the Falcons 66-40. The Cards led 20-2 at the end of the first quarter, due to

strong Ione defense and poor shooting on the part of the Falcons. The Cards led 31-16 at halftime and continued to lengthen the lead for the final 66-40 margin.

Aaron Heideman was the game's high scorer with 16 points. David Wagenblast and Jim Logan also made it into double figures with 10 points each. The Cards controlled the boards, 41-32. Jared Ashbeck was the leader with six rebounds. Wagenblast, Deacon Heideman

and Jason Halvorsen each added five. Wagenblast dished out nine assists and Logan led in the steal department with three. Deacon Heideman had a good night battling down shots with nine blocked shots.

The Cards shot 27 of 71 from the floor for 38 percent and hit nine of 16 for 56 percent from the line. The Falcons connected on just 18 of 75 for 24 percent from the floor and hit four of 10 for 40 percent from the line.

Cards take 71-59 win over Condon

On Saturday, Jan. 16, Condon proved to be a much tougher matchup but the Cards still pulled away with the win 71-59.

The score at the end of one period was 17-16 Ione and the Cards continued to lead at halftime, 33-25. The Blue Devils took advantage of the Heideman cousins on the bench in foul trouble in the third quarter to make a run, pulling to within four points. The Heidemans returned to the floor in the fourth and Ione pulled away for the 71-59 win.

Jim Logan scored 19 points to lead all scorers. Aaron Heideman had 17 and David Wagenblast added 16. Ione had a one board advantage in the rebounding department, 36-35, led by Aaron Heideman with 11. Wagenblast paced the team with seven assists and Logan had five steals. Deacon Heideman had four blocked shots.

The Cards shot 23 of 57 for 40 percent from the floor and 22 of 30 for 70 percent from the line. The Blue Devils hit 22 of 50 for 44 percent from the floor and 12 of 24 for 50 percent from the line.

"We're starting to shoot well at the line and that's helping us. The last three games, we've shot over 70 percent," noted coach Del LaRue. He also commented that Condon is the toughest team on this side of the league and the Cards will face them again February 12 at home.



Ryan Halvorsen (32) grabs rebound against Condon

Photo by Wayne Hams

Lady Cards improve league record to 5-1

By Anne Morter

The Ione lady Cardinals improved their league record to 5-1 with two wins over the weekend. On Friday, Jan. 22, they downed Wheeler in Fossil for the first time under coach Dana Heideman's reign, 54-34, and on Saturday they blew out Echo at home, 68-29. Their season record now stands at 8-5.

The Wheeler game was tied at halftime, 22-22, but the lady Cards played one of their best quarters of the year in the third period to pull away. They hit the court after the half and scored the first seven points. With that momentum, they went on to outscore the Falcons, 24-6 in that period and roll on to a 54-34 victory.

Irrigon center plans dinner, game night

A clam chowder and potato soup dinner will be held at Stokes Landing Senior Center in Irrigon on Friday, Jan. 29 from 5 to 7 p.m. This is a fund raising dinner open to the public. Everyone is welcome. The \$2.50 price includes hot rolls, vegetable tray,

dessert, coffee or juice.

Game night at \$1 each will follow the dinner at 7:30 p.m. Pinochle, card games, Scrabble and other table games will be available. There will be refreshments and prizes to the winners.