

Fillies win big over Umatilla Vikings

By Jeremy Maddern

The Heppner Fillies came off an emotional loss to the Sherman Union Huskies and beat the Umatilla Vikings 44-38 last Thursday night, Feb. 18.

The Fillies had beaten the Vikings in their first league game by 10 points but it was a much closer game this time than anyone expected. The Vikings came out hot, as they made their first 10 shots while the Fillies were struggling to get their offense intact. The Vikings jumped out to a 20-10 point first quarter lead with Kristin Charlo scoring 10 of their 20 points.

The Vikings went three of 11 from the field while the Fillies doubled their score to cut the Vikings' lead to just four points heading into the half.

The third quarter was a seesaw battle as both teams were struggling offensively. Holly Eckman scored six of her 10 points in the third quarter to keep the Fillies within reaching distance of the lead.

The Vikings leading 36-30 going into the fourth and final quarter of play self destructed after the Fillies turned up the defense. With solid defense and 12 Viking turnovers, the Fillies gave up only two points the whole

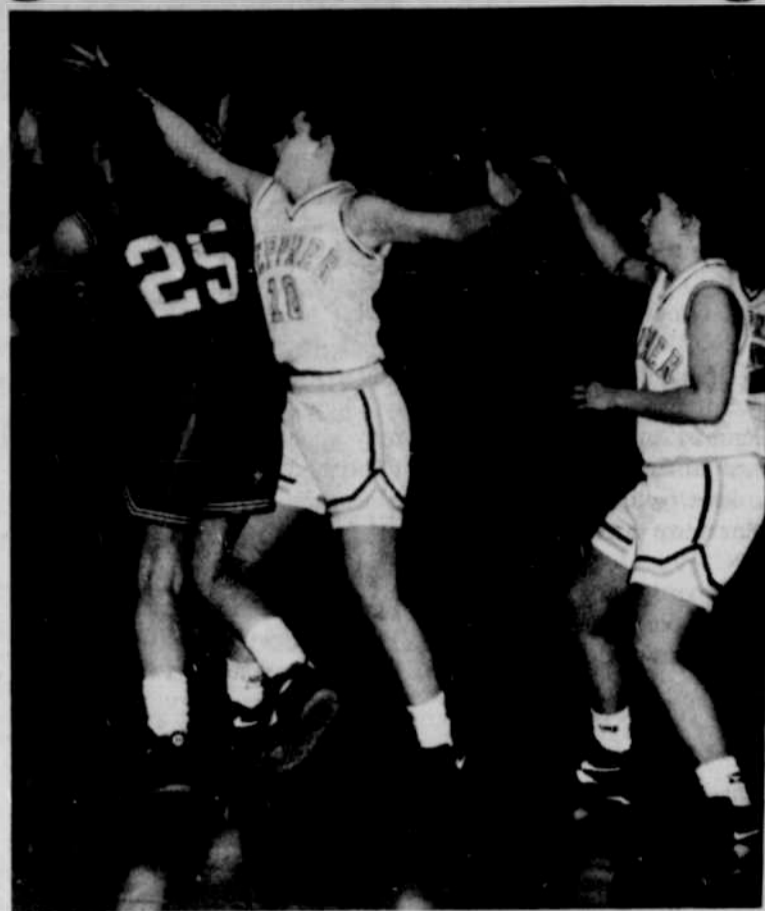


Photo by Joyce Hughes

Kelsie Evans (10) guards Viking player, Jodi Johnston helps

quarter. Char Coe and Rondi Robinson came off the bench to provide 10 points in the fourth quarter and lead the Fillies to a well earned 44-38 win.

Robinson and Eckman each had 10 points followed by Char Coe who chipped in eight. Charlo led all scorers with 12 points in their losing effort.

Mustangs suffer first league loss

By Jeremy Maddern

The Heppner Mustangs suffered their first league loss of the year by dropping a close game at Weston-McEwen 49-47 last Friday, Feb. 19 in Athena. With the loss, the Mustangs are now tied with the TigerScots for first place in the Columbia Basin Conference. A playoff game was held Tuesday night in Hermiston. The Mustangs had handed the TigerScots their only league loss in an earlier game at Heppner.

The TigerScots were not intimidated as they stayed neck and neck with the Mustangs and eventually pulled out the win. The first quarter saw both teams come out in a fast break pace, as the Mustangs got ahead early but the scrappy TigerScots came back and trailed by only two points at the end of the first quarter.

The second quarter saw both teams turn up the defensive pressure and struggle offensively. The TigerScots were shutting down the inside game as Heppner's big men Len Brittner and Tony Burt combined for only 10 points but that opened things up for Rick Koffler who had a game high 28 points. The Mustangs still held a four point lead going into the half.

Weston-McEwen then turned the momentum back their way as Heppner struggled for any type



Photo by Joyce Hughes

Tony Burt protects the ball against TigerScots

of offense. The Mustangs were plagued by turnovers and poor shooting in the third quarter as they trailed 36-35 going into the final quarter. The TigerScots and Mustangs battled back and fourth throughout the entire quarter but the TigerScots pulled ahead by

excellent free throw shooting as they connected 15 of 17 free throws. The Mustangs had one final shot for the win as Koffler got a shot off with four seconds left in the game and the Mustangs trailing by two, but it rimmed out and the TigerScots pulled out a squeaker.

Lady Cards outscore Wasco 53-29

By Anne Morter

With both teams showing some tournament jitters, the score was close between the lone lady Cardinals and Wasco County for the first few minutes in the girls' championship game held at Umatilla Friday, Feb. 19. The Cards came out victorious with a 53-29 win and a chance for the state title to be played in Baker

City March 3-6.

Melissa McElligott dumped in eight points in the last two minutes of the first quarter and added six more in the second quarter to get things rolling for the lady Cardinals.

At halftime, the Cardinals led 25-14 and then came a big third quarter where they outscored the

Redsides, 16-5, to take a 41-19 lead. "That pretty well finished them off," said coach Dana Heideman. With one quarter left, the lady Cards didn't let up, going on to win 53-29.

McElligott led all scorers with 19 points. Jamie Lovett was the only other Cardinal in double figures with 10. McElligott also had 15 rebounds. She and Crystal Minster paced the team in the assist department.

The lady Cardinals shot 43 percent from the floor, making 23 of 53. At the line, they connected on five of 10 for 50 percent. Wasco County shot 11 of 39 for 28 percent from the field and seven of 15 from the line for 47 percent.

"We played some tremendously good defense," commented coach Heideman. He said that KQFM of Hermiston gave the "Player of the Game" honor to the entire lone defense. "We had great intensity. The kids really wanted it bad and played hard," he added. He also noted that the lady Cardinals allowed the Redsides just 39 shots in the game. "It was probably one of the best games we played," he said. "They just keep surprising me," said Heideman on his young team. "We just need to go up and make a run in Baker. I think we can place and bring home some hardware."

Fillies end season with TigerScot win

By Jeremy Maddern

The Heppner Fillies ended the regular season in spectacular fashion as they beat the Weston-McEwen TigerScots 52-45 in the season finale Friday, Feb 19 in Athena. The Fillies handed the TigerScots their first loss in league play earlier in the season and tied with the TigerScots for second place.

The TigerScots were out to avenge their earlier loss and it showed as they hit their first seven shots of the game. They eventually cooled off but enjoyed a 14-10 lead heading into the second quarter. The TigerScots then turned ice cold as they couldn't buy a bucket throughout the second quarter. The Fillies on the other hand were running and gunning to an eventual lead. The TigerScots shot a dismal one for 15 from the field and saw themselves behind by four points after two quarters of play were in the books.

The third quarter saw both teams battle back and fourth throughout the third quarter. The TigerScots stayed with the fast break offense of the Fillies as they outscored the Fillies machine 15-13, but still trailed by a slim two points.

The fourth quarter was a battle for both teams. The Fillies' defense was intense as the TigerScots could not muster any type of offense. Elizabeth Hansell scored six of her 17 points in the third quarter for Weston-McEwen, but she couldn't help her team to victory as the Fillies ran away with a 52-45 victory and assured themselves of a second-place CBC league finish.

Jodi Johnston led all scorers with 19 points while Holly Eckman led all rebounders with seven boards.

The Fillies finished the league season with a 10-2 record and tied with Sherman Union. Sherman Union won the league championship because they beat the Fillies twice earlier in the season. Both of these teams will meet in the opening round of the District 7 2A tournament this weekend in Pendleton.

The Fillies will play Weston-McEwen at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, February 26 with the loser out. Winner will advance to Saturday's game at 1 p.m. to play the winner of Friday evening's game. Saturday's game will determine the seating at the Regional Tournament.



Photo by Wayne Hams

Wasco player plays tight defense on Lady Card

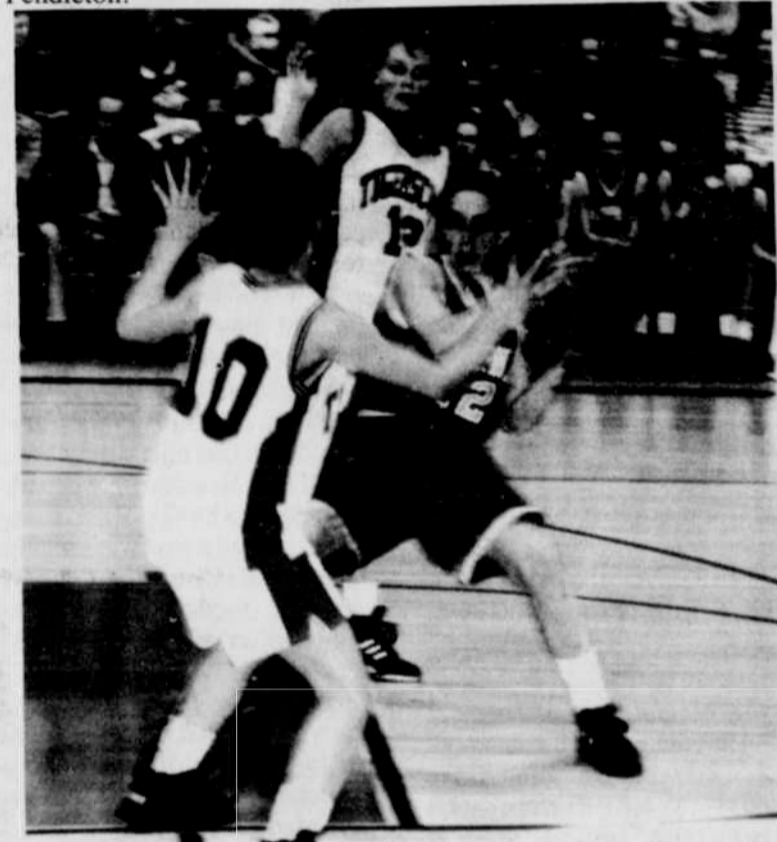


Photo by Joyce Hughes

Jenny Krein looks for passing room against TigerScots

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