

## Scramblers finish fourth in AAU Tourney



The Scramblers back l-r: Jessie Fisher, Melissa McElligott, Anne Lundell, Ginny Udy, Suzie Heideman, Dana Heideman, Kelly Browning; front-Tiffany Turner and Becky Wagenblast

By Anne Morter

Coach Dana Heideman and the Big Sky Scramblers returned home from last weekend's Oregon 15 and under AAU Basketball tournament in Hermiston with a surprising fourth place finish.

Battling against bigger schools from all over the state, the Scramblers won three of their four games to claim fourth in the tournament. The Scramblers consisted of some of the best 14 and 15 year old players from around the Big Sky League, including Ginny Udy an Ameer Lindell from Wasco County; Tiffany Turner from Dufur; Jessie Fisher and Kelly Browning from Echo and Melissa McElligott, Becky Wagenblast and Suzie Heideman from Ione.

After a total of three hours practice, the Scramblers won their opener against Crook County, 59-38. Seven of their 10 first quarter points came from the line but they got their teamwork going in the second quarter to score 19 points and take control of the

game. Hot free throw shooting kept them going as they hit 17 of 21 for 81 percent. Ginny Udy was the top scorer with 13 followed by Jessie Fisher and Kelly Browning with 12 each.

With a night very short on sleep behind them, the Scramblers watched their next game get away in the first quarter. The Cascade Blues, an all-star team from the Portland area raced out to an 18-4 lead before the Scramblers woke up. The late wake-up cost them the game, 39-53. According to coach Heideman, his team played right along with the Blues after the first quarter but had given up too much ground in the early going. In a game where all the girls scored, Jessie Fisher paced the team with 10 points.

Taking the court later that day, the Scramblers faced a stiff challenge from the Sheldon Irish but came away with the 48-43 win. Tough defense and good free throw shooting made the difference for the team as they forcing fouls in the fourth quarter and made 11 of 16 free throws in the

quarter, 14 of 21 for the game. Melissa McElligott led with 18 points, Udy added 12 and Browning had 11.

The final game gave the winner fourth and the loser seventh place for the tournament. The Orix Clippers, an all-star team from Washington County provided tall competition, with two girls in the six foot range. According to Heideman, it was really a half-court defense, duke 'em battle for the win. Suzie Heideman had a tremendous defensive effort, pulling down rebounds but more importantly, denying the ball to their big girls inside. Kelly Browning led all the Scramblers into the scoring column with 10 points, highlighted by six of six free throw shooting. Heideman said all the girls played a good game, making it a fun contest to watch.

"The team jelled together. Each game got better and better," said Heideman. He also noted that the girls had a lot of fun, playing with the other girls instead of against them.

## Heppner woman rescued from snow

84-year-old Theta Lowe, Heppner, got an unexpected snowmobile ride Easter Sunday. Lowe was traveling with her daughter, Sue Scott, and David Beutler, both Spokane, WA, when their vehicle got stuck in the snow on Western Route around 9:30 a.m.

When Beutler and Scott could not free the vehicle by 11 a.m., they walked out, leaving Lowe in the vehicle because she was not able to make the two-mile walk through as much as 18 inches of

snow. Beutler and Scott eventually caught a ride with a passing motorist and called for help around 1:15 p.m.

The Morrow County Sheriff's Department, the U.S. Forest Service and the South Morrow County Ambulance arrived on the scene around 3:55 p.m. and brought Lowe out by snowmobile. According to a sheriff's report, Lowe was in good health and commented to the officers that she was sorry that the snowmobile ride could not have been longer.

## Baseball field playable but still needs work



Photo by Joyce Hughes

Heppner Mustangs play on new baseball field

The new Heppner High School baseball field has already weathered around three games, but there is still work to be done to finish the facility, according to organizer George Koffler. Koffler said that the field committee

is still trying to get the scoreboard hooked up and work is needed to finish the dugouts and the backstop.

Koffler said that the committee will continue to have work days every weekend until completion

and encourages everyone to come out to help.

Koffler said that Morrow County Grain Growers, Columbia Basin Electric and Kinzua have donated equipment, materials or equipment to help.

## Jonas Healy qualifies for Oregon Geography Bee

Jonas Healy, an eighth grader at Heppner Junior High School, has qualified for participation in the Oregon Geography Bee. Healy won the local contest in January for the second year in a row. He was required to take a lengthy written test to determine qualification for the state-level contest.

The State Geography Bee will be held Friday, April 8, at Sherwood High School. Students will begin the preliminary rounds at 12:45 p.m., with the finals starting at 3 p.m. John Erickson of K103's news department will be the moderator of the final round.

The top finisher will receive \$100, a book and an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. Second and third places also receive

cash awards and books. All participants receive special T-shirts and certificates acknowledging their ability in geography. Top prize at the national level is a \$25,000 college scholarship. Sponsors of the Geography Bee are the National Geographic Society and Amtrack.

Healy will be accompanied to the contest by his parents Jerry and Carmen Healy and Bill Karwacki, principal of Heppner Elementary and Middle School.



Jonas Healy

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Steve Rhea of Heppner Ducks Unlimited holds Marlin .22 rifle that will be raffled off at the Ducks Unlimited banquet Friday night.

Oregon Ducks Unlimited will hold its Heppner banquet this Friday, April 8 at the Heppner Elks Lodge.

The activities get underway with a social hour from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., followed by a prime rib dinner, auction, raffles and games.

Cost of the banquet is \$15 per person, and there will be early bird sales where a dinner ticket and five raffle tickets (for the price of four) for only \$35.

There will be many raffle prizes, including guns and sporting goods.

Early ticket purchases are available from Steve Rhea or Russ Morgan. Membership dues are \$20 for adults and \$5 for greenwings. Checks can be made out to Ducks Unlimited, P.O. Box 1034, Heppner, OR 97836.



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