

WCCC members Heppner splits with Umatilla hold first barbecue

By Ben Ewing

Twenty-nine Willow Creek Country Club golfers participated in the first barbecue of the season. The weather and course conditions were perfect, said a spokesperson.

Gross: first 27-Bob and Suzy Jepsen, Brad Bullington, Earl Fishburn and Dan Struthers; second 28-Mike and Cindy Doherty, and Howard and Helen Gilliam; third 29-Gene and Luvilla Sonstegard, and Les and Jan Paustjan.

Net: first Jim and Cam Wishart, and Jim and Francie Morris; second John and Pat Edmundson, and Louis and Alene Rucker; third Ray and Norma French, and Hal and Joyce Dinkins; fourth Earl and Carol Norris, and Bob and Lorene Montgomery.

Special Events: KP, second shot #1 Paustian/Sonstegard; long putt #8 Wishart/Morris; K.P., men #4 Jim Wishart; K.P. women #4 Helen Gilliam.

Committee: Edmundson, Wishart, French and Rucker.

The next event for the club is a Jack and Jill scheduled for Friday, May 3, starting at 6 p.m.

Friday School plans program

Friday School children will return to Hope Lutheran Church this Friday, May 10, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

A special program will be held from noon-1 p.m. for parents and members of the staff and various volunteers who have given of time and talents in the course of the year. The children will sing several songs, share the highlights of the year and prepare a special lunch for all. Additionally, the Morrow County Fair and OPRP Queen and her Court will be at Friday School to talk about the rodeo and will help with the program.

The fourth inning was key in the doubleheader with the Umatilla Vikings on Sunday, May 5. In the first game, the Heppner Mustangs had a huge fourth inning, and won the game, 11-6. The second game ended unfavorably for Heppner, mainly due to Kyle Fredrickson's three-run home run in the fourth inning. The final score of that game was 6-3.

In game one, Heppner got on the board in the third inning when Keith Scott smoked a line drive off the "monster" in right field, scoring Eric Schonbachler and Shane Matheny.

The first four innings were shaky for the Mustangs in the field. They committed seven errors to give the Vikings a 4-2 lead going into the bottom of the fourth inning.

Coach Rick Johnson substituted in Ryan Nevela to give the lineup a shot in the arm and the Mustangs got rowdy. Nevela torched a solo home run, bringing the Mustangs within one.

When all was said and done, the Mustangs had scored nine runs in the fourth inning, giving them an 11-4 lead, and an eventual 11-6 win. Nevela was 2-2 in that inning alone, with three runs batted in. The Mustangs batted through their order and forced four errors on the Umatilla defense.

Pitcher Schonbachler finished the game strong, striking out three in the final inning; he fanned seven Viking batters and gave up no walks.

Heppner used alert running to move themselves into scoring position. Schonbachler wreaked havoc on the base path, stealing two bases and scoring three times. Tim Sumner also collected two stolen bases, and Matheny had one.

A controversial call in the bottom of the sixth inning halted a late Mustang rally in game two, Umatilla's Fredrickson did most of the damage with a three-run home run in the fourth inning. However, the Mustang defense was solid,

making good plays at every opportunity.

The Mustangs engineered a double-steal in the opening inning to score Matheny. Nevela knocked in Matheny in the second inning to give Heppner a 2-0 lead going into the fourth inning.

Heppner pitcher Donnie Pointer dominated in the early innings, facing the minimum of nine batters in the first three innings, striking out six of them. Scott made two outstanding plays at first base in the third inning to give Pointer some defensive assistance.

The wheels fell off in the fourth inning when Fredrickson's home run made the score 3-2 in favor of Umatilla. The Vikings tacked on one more run in that inning; another solo home run in the fifth inning, and an additional run in the sixth made the score 6-2 Umatilla.

The Mustangs mounted a comeback in the sixth inning. With Josh Coiner on third and Sumner at second, Lonnie Rill stepped to the plate and smacked a solid shot down the left field line. The ball appeared to land on the line and kick up chalk, but the umpire thought it looked foul. Rill went down swinging to end the inning.

Matheny tagged a solo home run in the seventh inning. That accounted for the final score of the game, 6-3. Matheny scored all three of Heppner's runs. He went two for three at the plate, had a double, a home run and an RBI.

At the end of the day, the Mustangs were 3-8 in league play and 7-14 overall. League competition continues for the Mustangs on Saturday, May 11, at Athena-Weston. The Stanfield Tiger come to town on Tuesday, May 14.

Rockets sweep the Mustangs

By Ben Ewing

The Pilot Rock Rockets completed a season sweep of the Heppner Mustangs Tuesday, April 30. The potent Rocket pitching staff and their dominant batting order had too much firepower for the short-handed Mustangs. The final score was 14-1 in five innings.

The Mustangs jumped on top first, scoring in the opening frame. Shane Matheny picked up Heppner's only hit of the day, then was brought home by Tim Sumner.

Pilot Rock countered firmly with five runs in the first and four runs in the second inning. The Rockets' solid lineup put constant pressure on the suspicious Heppner defense.

The Mustangs committed seven errors on the day, four in the fifth and final inning. Pilot Rock put up five runs in the last inning, putting the final tally at 14-1.

The Mustangs drop to 2-7 in league play and 6-13 overall.

Health Dept.

The Morrow County Health Dept. lists the following monthly schedule for blood pressures and immunizations:

Thursday, May 9-blood pressures and immunizations, Heppner office, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.;

Monday, May 13-blood pressures and immunizations, Irrigon annex, 1-4 p.m.;

Tuesday, May 14-blood pressures and immunizations, Boardman, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.;

Thursday, May 16-blood pressures and immunizations, Heppner office, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.;

Monday, May 20-blood pressures and immunizations, lone, noon-2 p.m.;

Thursday, May 23-blood pressures and immunizations, Heppner office, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.;

Tuesday, May 28-blood pressures and immunizations, Boardman, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.;

Thursday, May 30-blood pressures and immunizations, Heppner office, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Chamber Manager

Calls and requests through the Chamber office indicate that people are beginning to plan their vacations and would like to put Heppner on their agenda. This means if we've been a bit grey in the hospitality area, it's time to dust away the clouds and strut our stuff. We'll have the opportunity to do this in June when the Emerald Velo Bicycle Race begins and ends in Heppner (more about this later).

In addition, area Chamber execs have been hosting Fam Tours in their communities so that when visitors drop in requesting information about surrounding towns, they can enthusiastically promote them.

The first such event was in Pendleton. May's will be in Wallowa County, and down the road, Heppner will be on the itinerary. These will eventually lead to potential road tours and positive results for our small off-the-beaten-path towns.

For locals wanting to travel, a reminder that if the information for your vacation isn't in the brochure display rack at First Interstate (Wells Fargo) Bank, it's a phone call away with an 800 number available in the Chamber office.

The new "Where to Stay in Oregon," "Eastern Oregon, Wide Open for Adventure," "The Official Oregon Travel Guide," and Washington's "Guide to the San Juan Islands" are hot off the presses and are free. Stop by to visit your Chamber.

Next week's Chamber program will be on the Clean Water Initiative and how it will impact ranchers and Eastern Oregon communities.

Thought for the week: "Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today; tomorrow there may be a law against it."

Track and field athletes in contention at district and state

Several Heppner High School (HSS) track and field athletes are in contention to earn berths in the 2A state meet, May 17-18, at this weekend's District 2A meet in Hermiston.

The district meet will be held at Hermiston High School Friday, May 10, beginning at 3 p.m., and Saturday, May 11, at 12 noon. Preliminary races, as needed, will be Friday, along with the finals of the 3,000 meters. All other running finals will be Saturday. Field event finals will be split between the two days.

Heppner's thinclads will be led by a pair of seniors who are leading district competitors in several events. Jossie Evans has the district best times in both the 100 and 200 meter dashes. Last Friday, May 4, at the Goldendale Invitational, she turned in times of :12.9 and :26.4. Evans is now tied for the fourth best ever 100 meter time at HHS and tied for third in the 200 meters.

Also at the Invitational, Chris Sykes threw the fourth best javelin effort at HHS, 165'2". Sykes has been leading the league all season in that event. He also has the league's second best efforts with 42'0" in the shot put and 121'11" in the discus.

Junior David Michael leads the district in three events. Michael ran :15.9 in the 110 meter high hurdles, :44.1 for 300 meter hurdles, and triple jumped 41'2 1/2". All marks came at the CBC/Big Sky combined meet. Michael is also tied with the fourth long jump at 19'6". He now ranks fifth in the HHS high hurdle and longer hurdles lists, and seventh in the triple jump.

Nicole Van Etta is currently fourth in bests turned in by CBC runners in both the 1,500 meters and 3,000 meters with times of 5:46.8 and 12:53.8 respectively.

Another junior jumper, Damien Wilhelm, is ranked fourth among district triple jumpers, at 40'4", and sixth in the long jump at 19'4". He is also sixth in the 100 meters with :11.9.

Jennifer Rankin has earned a school record as she became the first girl at HHS over the bar in the pole vault in competition. The girl's pole vault was added as a track and field event last year. Her mark of 6'3" is tied for fifth best. Freshman Kristi Worden is sixth with a 5'6" mark.

Another freshman, Matt Berretta, is in the CBC's top six at 1,500 and 3,000 meters. He has times of 4:49.4 and 10:48.6 respectively.

Ranked fifth in the girl's 100 meter dash is Amber Peck. Early in the season, she ran :13.4, ninth on the HHS all-time list, but has been troubled with a sore leg. Peck ran :29.5 for 200 meters.

Melissa Cutsforth has the league's third best discus throw at 88'6", and fourth best shot put at 29'0". Both stats rank on the HHS all-time list. She is fourth in the discus and eighth for shot put.

Also scheduled to compete for the Mustangs in Hermiston this weekend, along with the above listed athletes, are Randy Van Etta, throws, and Rick Worden and Jamie Perez, both distance.

The top two place finishers, plus anyone meeting qualifying standards earn berths in the state meet to be held at Western Oregon State College in Monmouth.

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