

HHS girls varsity has Tigers by the tail

by Molly Rhea
It was plain to see that the Heppner girls' varsity had the Tigers by the tail. The Mustangs loped to a 65-24 victory over the Tigers at Stanfield for their final regular season game on Saturday, February 15.

The Mustangs controlled the game from the tip. Annie Hisler canned a three-point goal to start off the scoring and appeared to be on fire for the remainder of the half. Heppner led 18-6 after one and 35-11 at the half.

Although coach John Boyer had the Mustangs in a low profile defense, it made no difference as the Mustangs continued to increase the margin, leading 48-17 after three and winning, 65-24.

Lori Moeller had a great game as she muscled down 12 rebounds, grabbed two steals and dished an assist. Moeller led all scorers with 14 points, including a three-point goal and hitting five of six from behind the freethrow line.

Hisler ended up with 13 points and three steals. Nine of Jill Barber's 11 points came from three-point goals; she also hustled in four steals. Brooke Boyer scored eight points, along with a rebound, a steal and an assist.

Casey Ingraham scored six points while pulling in three boards and a steal and dishing an assist. Mindy Binschus had four points to go with her four rebounds and four steals. Jaci Hughes had a trey and two rebounds, along with an assist and a steal.

Janelle Healy had two points, five boards, two steals and passed out three assists. Lexi Matteson converted a freethrow and grabbed three boards and a steal while dishing out an assist. Kathleen Greenup scored three points and snatched a steal.

With a near-perfect 11-1 league record, the Heppner girls occupy first place in the CBC and will play the fourth place Umatilla Vikings on Friday, February 21, at 1:30 p.m. at the Pendleton Convention Center.

The winner of this Friday afternoon's matchup will play the winner of Friday evening's battle of the second and third place teams, Sherman County and Weston McEwen, on Saturday afternoon to earn the title of CBC district champs. If, by some quirk of the basketball gods, Heppner loses to Umatilla on Friday, the Mustangs would be scheduled for a play-back with the loser of the Saturday game.

Team	League	Season
Heppner	11	18
Sherman Co	9	14
Weston-McEwen	8	15
Umatilla	6	11
Wahatona	4	5
Pilot Rock	4	9
Stanfield	0	1

Lady Cards down Culver

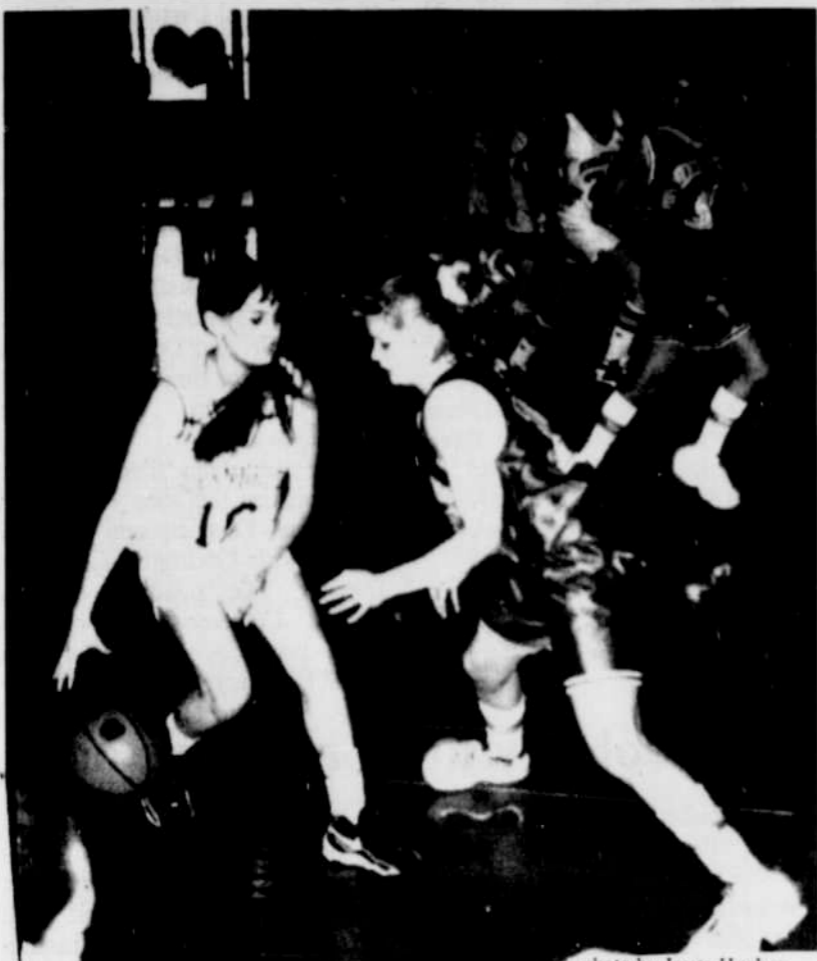
By Kara Miller
Day one, Big Sky District 3 1A Tournament action, Hermiston. In a loser-out first match of the District tournament, Friday, Feb. 14, the lone Lady Cardinals held off the Culver Lady Bulldogs to gain the win, 46-29. The victory gave Culver a trip back home and gave the Cardinals one more chance to go on to the state championship tourney in Baker City.

The Cardinal offense started out slow, letting the Culver girls lead through the first quarter. Culver freshman Turquoise Towne led the Bulldogs with seven, while lone's Brenda Burright had the game-high 14 points. Her sister, Camie Burright, added 10 for the Cards.

In the second quarter, the Bulldogs tried to hold on, but the Cards turned up the heat of their defense. The Cards let the Bulldogs gain only six points, while lone slipped in 13. Steals and rebounds were lone's main

objective as they kept their momentum throughout the half, and third and fourth quarters. Culver's junior, Melissa Carlson, got into foul trouble and they were forced to substitute less experienced players. The Lady Cardinals took advantage of their position and took over the ball game.

Kemmerly Burright brought down seven rebounds. C. Burright led the defensive pressure with four steals. The Cardinals' win put them into another loser-out ball game against the South Wasco County Lady Redside to determine the number two team to state in Baker City, the last weekend in February.



Jill Barber gets ready to steal the ball from a Stanfield player

Lone upset in return bid to state

By Kara Miller
Saturday, Feb. 15, was not a good day for the Lady Cardinals against the Wasco County Lady Redside. Their shots were off and their defense just was not in the right place at the right time. They lost their chance to go to Baker City, 32-27.

Lone received the opening tip when senior center, Suzy Heideman, hit to Camie Burright. Burright passed to sister Brenda, who took the baseline and was fouled by Redside's Shelby Woodside. The first quarter continued much the same throughout as the Lady Cardinals had control 12-5 at the buzzer.

Second quarter was a repeat of the first and the Cardinals were up 21-12 at the halftime break.

Third quarter action was slow-motion, as the Cards slowed down both offensively

and defensively, scoring only one basket and allowing Wasco County to add six points, bringing them within five of the Cardinals.

During the fourth quarter, the Redside got their momentum and kept Lone scoreless in the last three minutes of the period as they kept up their side of the offensive pressure.

The Lady Redside beat the Lady Cardinals for the first time in the five years that the two teams have played each other for a state berth.

Leaders of the game were lone's B. Burright with a game-high 10 points and 10 rebounds. Heideman also added 10 boards. Wasco County's Aimee Lindell had 13 points, while junior Jami Demig had their team-high nine points.

The disappointing 32-27 loss for the Lady Cardinals capped an otherwise successful 14-8 season record.

HHS JV cap season with win

by Molly Rhea
The Heppner girls JV team put it all together in Stanfield on Saturday, February 15, and capped off their season with a decisive win, 33-25.

The game didn't start out so great, and Heppner trailed four to nine after the first eight minutes. After that first weak quarter the Mustangs pulled their pony tails up tight and, with Ashley Ropp leading the scoring stampede, raced into a 23-15 lead going into the half.

Playing strong against the varsity laden Stanfield JVs, Heppner led 27-21 after three. Running for the barn, the Mustangs took the win, 33-25.

Making all 10 of her points in the first half, Ropp led all scorers. Her total included one three-point goal, while hitting five for eight from the charity stripe. Ropp also chased down four rebounds and captured two steals. Kathleen Greenup hit for six points, along with three boards and two steals. Amy Papineau proved invaluable

by scooping 10 boards and four steals. Papineau contributed four points while dishing out two assists. Trisha Adams also made six points and grabbed two rebounds.

Kim Pointer powered down six rebounds, made two points and a steal. Stephanie Clough drove the key for her two points and Julie Watkins added a free throw and three rebounds.

While not adding any points the remaining Mustangs all contributed to the win. Macy Rhea pulled down seven rebounds and grabbed four steals; Allison Sykes grabbed two boards, two steals and handed out an assist; Leah Denton had three rebounds; Tracy Rankin snatched two rebounds; and Alecia Strouse pulled in one.

This win completes the JV 1996-97 basketball season as the girls finish with a 10-7 record. Coaching, combined with teamwork and determination resulted in improved skills and a winning season for the JV girls.

Heppner Mustangs stumble at Stanfield

The Heppner Mustangs had a disappointing conclusion to a successful league season as they dropped their final regular season game on the road to the Stanfield Tigers, 56-53, Saturday, Feb. 15. Sophomore Corey Sherman sank a double-pump, backboard-rattling, three-pointer at the buzzer to the delight of the Stanfield crowd.

Like the first meeting between these two teams, Heppner led 14-7 after the first period. Stanfield kept fighting back and trailed 41-38 going into the fourth quarter. The Tigers took the lead inside one minute. The Mustangs threw away their last chance for victory and set up Sherman's last-second shot heroics.

Sherman led the Tigers with 18 points and senior Zane Gibbs chipped in with 12 points, eight in the last quarter.

Justin Matteson paced Heppner with 12 points going 5 for 8 from the field. Tim Dickenson had 10 points for the Mustangs, including 6 for 8 from the free-throw line.

Stanfield was 20 for 40 from the field for 50 percent, while the Mustangs were 20 for 61. "We put up 20 more shots than they did, and



Jeff Watkins shoots for two while Tim Dickenson (43) gets a push from a Stanfield player

11 more free throws. You would think that would be enough to out-score them, but they just wouldn't fall for us," said head coach Bob Plyhar.

The Mustangs finished Columbia Basin League Conference play with a 7-5 record, good enough for third place.

Heppner will meet the Weston-McEwen TigerScots Friday evening, Feb. 21, at the Pendleton Convention Center in a loser-out contest at the 7A District Tournament. The TigerScots beat the Mustangs easily in two previous meetings. Heppner will have to find a way to slow down seniors Michael Peterson and Morgan Dunlap to advance in the tournament.

Energy assistance available locally

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program operated by CAPECO has received additional funds to assist eligible households with their winter heating bills. The

program is designed to provide a one-time payment to help pay for the increase of energy used during the cold months for heat. Payments are issued to an energy vendor who then applies it as a credit to the household's account.

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