

MC basketball tournament this weekend

The Morrow County Basketball Tournament will be held Dec. 19-20 at the Heppner High School gymnasium. The tournament is sponsored by the Heppner Booster Club. Varsity boys and girls teams from Heppner, Riverside, Ione and Imbler will participate in the tournament.

Friday, the action kicks off at 3 p.m., starting with the Riverside Lady Pirates vs. the Ione Lady Cardinals. Following will be the Riverside Pirates vs. Ione Cardinals. Around 6 p.m., the Heppner girls will play the Imbler girls, then the Heppner boys will play the Imbler boys.

Saturday's games will start at

1 p.m. A taco dinner will be available with pies and desserts; cost is \$4 each, or \$15 per family. Concessions will be available both Friday and Saturday.

Admission to the games is \$4 for adults, \$2 for students (student body cards will not be accepted), \$2 senior citizens, and preschool children will be admitted free.

Mustangs take first season win over Cards

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustangs got their first win of the season, beating the Ione Cardinals, 57-52, at Ione on Tuesday, Dec. 9.

The Mustangs jumped out to an 8-0 lead before the Cardinals got going and closed the gap to 11-10 at the end of the first quarter. Heppner led 29-26 at halftime and 41-36 after three, as Blas Elgu-

ezabal hit a jump shot at the buzzer.

A three-pointer by Shane Matheny and two free throws by Casey Evans gave Heppner a 50-40 lead with 5:06 left. The Cardinals wouldn't quit easily though, and after Mark McElligott hit a three-point field goal and Jake McElligott hit a jump shot, Heppner led 52-50, with 1:35 left. Derek Gunderson made two free throws and Casey Evans made one to make it 55-50, with 21 seconds left. Mark McElligott made a lay-in to cut the lead to 55-52, but Jared Eckman iced the win by making two free throws with eight seconds left to make the final score 57-52, Heppner.

Chris Anthony and Jared Eckman led a balanced scoring attack with 10 points each. Matheny ended up with nine points, while Evans and Tim Dickenson each

had eight points. Gunderson finished with seven points and two assists. Rebound leaders were Evans with six and Eckman with five. Anthony had six steals.

Jake McElligott led Ione with 20 points and five steals. Mark Orem had 10 points and Nathan Rietmann added nine.

The Mustangs are now 1-3 on the year, with Ione 1-1.

Statistics:
Heppner: 11-18-12-16-57
Ione: 10-16-10-16-52
Heppner-Anthony 4 0-0-10, Eckman 4 2-2-10, Matheny 4 0-0-9, Evans 2 3-6-8, Dickenson 4 0-2-8, Gunderson 2 3-4-7, Elguezabal 2 1-4-5, Knowles 0 0-1-0, David Bates, Kris Paulus. 22-61 9-19-57. Three-point field goals-Anthony 2, Matheny, Evans.

Ione-J. McElligott 10 0-2-20, Orem 4 2-2-10, Rietmann 4 0-0-9, M. McElligott 2 2-4-7, Grabenhorst 2 0-0-4, Gribskov 1 0-0-2, Morgan. 23-56 4-8-52. Three-point field goals-M. McElligott, Rietmann.

IMS "A" team defeats Echo Cougars

By Colin McElligott and Adam McCabe

The Ione Cardinal Middle School "A" team beat the Echo Cougar team on Saturday, Dec. 13, 40-28.

The Cards were off to an early lead with eight points and Echo accumulated only four points. From then on, Ione had the lead of the game. Adam Neiffer got into foul trouble early on into the game, but did not foul out.

The Cards were in trouble when they got seven fouls in the first quarter alone. At halftime, the Cards still had the lead.

After coming out of the locker room, Ione played like they had been playing the first half of the

game. It looked dismal when Neiffer and Adam McCabe got into foul trouble with seven fouls between the two of them. Near the end of the game, coach Holland took out Neiffer, McCabe and Brad Burright, the leading scorers, but the rest of the team held together for the last minute of the game.

"We played very well, but still we need to learn how to use the backboard more," said Holland.

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Anyone interested may call Lois Allyn, 989-8419, or Betty Crampton, assistant state coordinator, Hermiston, 541-567-6535.

Mustangs edge by Cardinals

By Adam Neiffer

The Heppner Mustangs used a strong defensive performance to edge by Ione in non-league boys' basketball action Friday, Dec. 5.

"Their quickness kept us from getting anything going offensively," Ione coach Dennis Stefani said of Heppner. Heppner led from the start, jumping out to an 8-0 lead. The Mustangs led by as much as 11 in the second quarter.

However, Ione came out of the locker room after halftime with a spark. Things began to come together and for a brief moment in the third quarter, the Cards stole the lead, 35-34. But Heppner showed no mercy and reacted quickly. The Mustangs regained the lead and hung on to the end.

Coach Stefani said, "We played pretty much on the lackadaisical side. We didn't come out with a lot of intensity. Heppner came out and put a good man-to-man press on us and were able to frustrate us. This took us out of the game."

Ione's Jake McElligott led all scorers with 20 points, while Heppner had a more balanced scoring attack. Chris Anthony and Jared Eckman both had 10 points for Heppner and Shane Matheny contributed nine.

Heppner: 11 18 12 16-57
Ione: 10 16 10 16-52

Births

Aimee Noelle Marks-a daughter Aimee Noelle was born to Laurie and Gary Marks of Heppner on November 19, 1997 at St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton. The baby weighed 8 lbs. 2 oz.

She joins brothers Benson, 7, and Adam, 5, at home.

Grandparents are Ed and Marlene Nelson, Crooked River Ranch, and Marv and Marcia Marks, Portland. Great-grandmother is Evelyn Stiles, Hunters, WA.

Kimberly Tatiana Ortega-a daughter Kimberly Tatiana was born to Josefina and Ranulfo Ortega of Boardman on December 2, 1997 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 8 lbs. 10 oz.

Sergio Navarro-a son Sergio was born to Agapita Ramirez of Boardman on December 4, 1997 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 0 oz.

Riverside Pirates beat Mustangs

By Rick Paullus

The Riverside Pirates beat the Heppner Mustangs on Friday, Dec. 12, at Heppner by a 63-49 score. The Pirates dominated the fourth quarter, outscoring the Mustangs 32-10 and making 19-21 free throws, as the Mustangs fell behind and were forced to foul.

The game started well for the Mustangs as Chris Anthony hit a three-pointer. Riverside made the next 12 points however, and a Tim Dickenson basket at the buzzer made it 16-12 Riverside, after one.

Shane Matheny got a nice pass from Derek Gunderson on a fast break lay-in to tie the game at 17-17. Casey Evans hit a three-pointer with 1:20 left to tie the score at 23, but Riverside scored to take a 25-23 lead at halftime.

The Mustangs came out fired up after the break, outscoring the Pirates, 12-4, to take a 35-29 lead and eventually a 39-31 lead at the end of three quarters.

The Pirates came out in the fourth quarter by firing in consecutive three-pointers and eventually taking a 42-41 lead with 4:00 minutes left. A Dickenson three-point play closed it to 52-

48 Riverside, with 1:18 left, and a Jared Eckman free throw cut it to 52-49. The Pirates then scored the last 11 points, most from the free throw line to pull away for the 63-49 final score.

The Mustangs were led by Tim Dickenson with 17 points and nine rebounds. Shane Matheny had 10 points, including a three-pointer and three steals. Jared Eckman had seven points and Derek Gunderson had five assists to go with his four points. Casey Evans had five points, including a three-pointer.

Riverside was led by Cody Gordanier with 21 points, including three three-pointers.

The Mustangs fell to 1-4 on the year, while the Pirates remained unbeaten at 4-0.

Statistics:
Riverside: 16-9-6-32-63
Heppner: 12-11-16-10-49
Heppner-Dickenson 7 3-6-17, Matheny 3 3-4-10, Eckman 2 3-4-7, Evans 2 0-3-5, Anthony 1 1-3-4, Gunderson 1 2-6-4, Blas Elguezabal 1 0-3-2, David Bates 0 0-0-0, Kris Paulus 0 0-0-0. 17 12-29-49. Three-point field goals-Anthony, Matheny, Evans.
Riverside- Gordanier 5 8-8-21, Purcell 2 8-10-12, Marston 3 3-4-10, Philippi 3 3-4-10, Baker 2 1-2-5, Turner 1 0-0-2, Schilling 1 0-0-2, Killingbeck 0 1-3-1, Winkler 0 0-0-0, Carmine 0 0-0-0. 17 24-31-63. Three-point field goals-Gordanier three, Marston, Philippi.

Mustangs lose two at Crow Tournament



Derek Gunderson scrambles for ball against Crow

photo by Joyce Hughes

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustangs made the long trip to the Crow Tournament Dec. 5-6, and came up empty-handed, losing to Yoncalla on Friday night, 56-53, and to Crow, 71-59, on Saturday.

The Mustangs fell behind 18-9 after one quarter in the game against Yoncalla, but battled back to take a 42-40 lead going into the fourth. The Eagles got the lead and made their free throws when it counted to take the win. The Eagles hit 16-30 free throws to the Mustangs' 7-16.

The Mustangs were lead by Chris Anthony with 20 points, including three three-pointers. Shane Matheny scored 10 and Derek Gunderson scored eight points. Casey Evans came off the bench and grabbed seven rebounds.

On Saturday, the Mustangs lost a rough and physical game to Crow that saw Derek Gunderson end up with stitches near his eye.

Heppner led 37-32 at halftime, but Crow outscored the Mus-

tangs, 39-22 in the second half. The Mustangs shot better from the free throw line, making 14-19, but Crow made 21-34.

Tim Dickenson was in foul trouble most of the night, but still managed to score 15 points to lead Heppner. Chris Anthony scored 11 and Shane Matheny and Jared Eckman scored eight apiece. Gunderson had eight steals and five assists. Casey Evans led the team with nine rebounds and Dickenson and Matheny each grabbed seven boards.

Statistics:
Heppner: 9-14-19-11-53
Yoncalla: 18-12-10-16-56
Heppner-Chris Anthony 7 3-5-20, Shane Matheny 4 2-3-10, Derek Gunderson 3 1-4-8, Casey Evans 3 0-0-6, Tim Dickenson 2 1-2-5, Jared Eckman 1 0-0-3, Brian Burnside 1 0-0-2, Blas Elguezabal, Brian Knowles. 21 7-16-53. Three-point field goals: Anthony 3, Gunderson 1.
Crow: 12-20-9-30-71
Heppner: 15-22-6-16-59
Heppner: Dickenson 6 3-5-15, Anthony 4 3-4-11, Matheny 2 4-6-8, Eckman 3 2-2-8, Evans 3 0-0-6, Gunderson 2 0-0-5, Burnside 2 0-0-4, Elguezabal 1 0-0-2, David Bates 0 2-2-2, Knowles. 22-71 14-19 59. Three-point field goals: Gunderson 1.

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