

Cold Mustangs lose to Umatilla

By Rick Paullus

A cold shooting Heppner Mustang boys' varsity basketball team lost to the Umatilla Vikings, 64-42 on Saturday, Jan. 3, at Umatilla.

The Mustangs shot just 22 percent from the field for the game and couldn't keep up with the Vikings. The Mustangs trailed 14-10 at the end of the first quarter. Heppner trailed by just two late in the second quarter, but a late run by the Vikings pushed their lead to 32-22 at halftime.

The Mustangs' Jared Eckman scored 10 of his team-high 12 points in the first half.

The Vikings outscored Heppner 15-12 in the third quarter, and 17-8 in the fourth quarter to make the final score 64-42.

"The boys played a good game and had a lot of good shots, but we just couldn't get them to drop," coach Chuck Matteson said after the game. "We rebounded well and Casey Evans played great defense on C.J. Savage."

Eckman grabbed seven rebounds to go with his 12 points. Evans had nine points and five rebounds. Tim Dickenson had eight rebounds, four steals and six points. Derek Gunderson and Ryan Matteson each handed out two assists.

Ben Rohde led Umatilla with a game-high 17 points.

Pilot Rock nips Lady Cardinals

In girls' varsity action, Pilot Rock overcame the Ione Lady Cardinals 49-46 in a nip and tuck game that resulted in overtime.

Brandi Brantley was the first to score for the Cardinals, two minutes into the game. Both teams bottled each point as the score was tied 8-8 at the end of the first quarter.

The Lady Cardinals were behind 20-21 with eight seconds left in the first half but Senior Niki Sullivan was fouled and made the free throw that tied the game at 21 points by halftime.

Pilot Rock gained a few points over the Cardinals, leading 31-27 at the end of the third quarter, but the Lady Cardinals pulled in more baskets than the Rockets the fourth quarter and again tied the score at 41.

Charissa Gates took possession of the tip off in overtime, ran the ball down the court and scored two for Ione. Pilot Rock's Debbie Thompson sank three buckets and one free throw in overtime. Tiffany Copeland and Rachel Green each made one basket at the free throw line, ending the game with the Rockets three points over the Lady Cardinals.

Nikki McElligott was the leading scorer for the Cardinals with 18 points, followed by Brandi Brantley with nine points. Nikki McElligott played tough, leading Ione in rebounds, assists and steals. Niki Sullivan, refused four of the shots the Rockets attempted to launch.

Cardinal JV boys lose

The Cardinal JV boys lost their contest against Pilot Rock on Saturday, 41-70.

The Cardinal men struggled with passing at the very beginning of the first quarter but seemed to smooth out within two minutes of the game. Zak Fabian in-bounded a pass and launched a successful bucket with one minute and 27 seconds remaining in the first quarter.

The score at the end of the first half left the Cardinal men lagging 25-34.

Steve Crum, Dylan Pettyjohn and Jacob Neiffer led the Cardinal men in scoring with eight points each. Pettyjohn also had the most rebounds for the Cardinals while Jacob Neiffer managed three steals from the Rockets. Adam McCabe shot 67 percent from the free throw line, canning two free throws with less than one minute left in the game.

The Rockets lead scorer was Junior Dustin Erickson with 24 points in the first three quarters.

Mustangs beat Cardinals

By Rick Paullus

The Ione Cardinals traveled to Heppner on Tuesday, Dec. 8 and were beaten again by the Mustangs, 62-27.

Jared Eckman got the Mustangs going with an early steal and lay-in and the Mustangs never looked back, running out to an 11-0 lead after one quarter.

Patrick Davidson scored four

straight points for the Cardinals to cut the lead to 11-4, but Tim Dickenson and Derek Gunderson matched to push the lead back to 15-4. Another Davidson field goal was followed by baskets by Casey Evans, Dickenson and Eckman to give the Mustangs a 21-6 lead. Both teams traded baskets and the Mustangs led 26-10 at halftime.

Heppner came out in the third

quarter on fire, outscoring the Cardinals 11-1 with Ryan Matteson hitting a three-pointer and Gunderson scoring two straight field goals. Davidson scored another basket to cut the lead to 37-13 before a Craig Scott three-pointer fueled a 9-0 run to give the Mustangs a 46-13 lead. Ione's Allan Gribskov scored two straight baskets before Eckman closed out the scoring, giving Heppner a 48-17 lead after three quarters.

The fourth quarter was back and forth as the Mustangs outscored Ione 14-10 to make the final score 62-29.

The Mustangs had four play-

ers in double figures, led by Dickenson with 16 points. Gunderson, Eckman and Matteson each scored 10 points. Eckman was the leading rebounder with seven, followed by Dickenson with six. Riley Tingue came off the bench to grab five rebounds. Scott had three assists and tied Gunderson with four steals.

Statistics:

Ione: 0-10-7-10-27

Heppner: 11-15-22-14-62

Ione: Davidson 4 0-2 8; Gribskov 4 0-0 8; Burright 2 0-0 4; Ferguson 1 1-3 3; Morgan 1 0-2 2; Haguewood 1 0-0 2. 13 1-7 27.

Heppner: Dickenson 5 6-11 16; Gunderson 5 0-1 10; Eckman 5 0-0 10; Matteson 3 2-4 10; Scott 3 0-1 7; Evans 3 0-0 6; Tingue 1 1-2 3. 25 9-19 62. Three-pointers: Matteson 2, Scott.

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