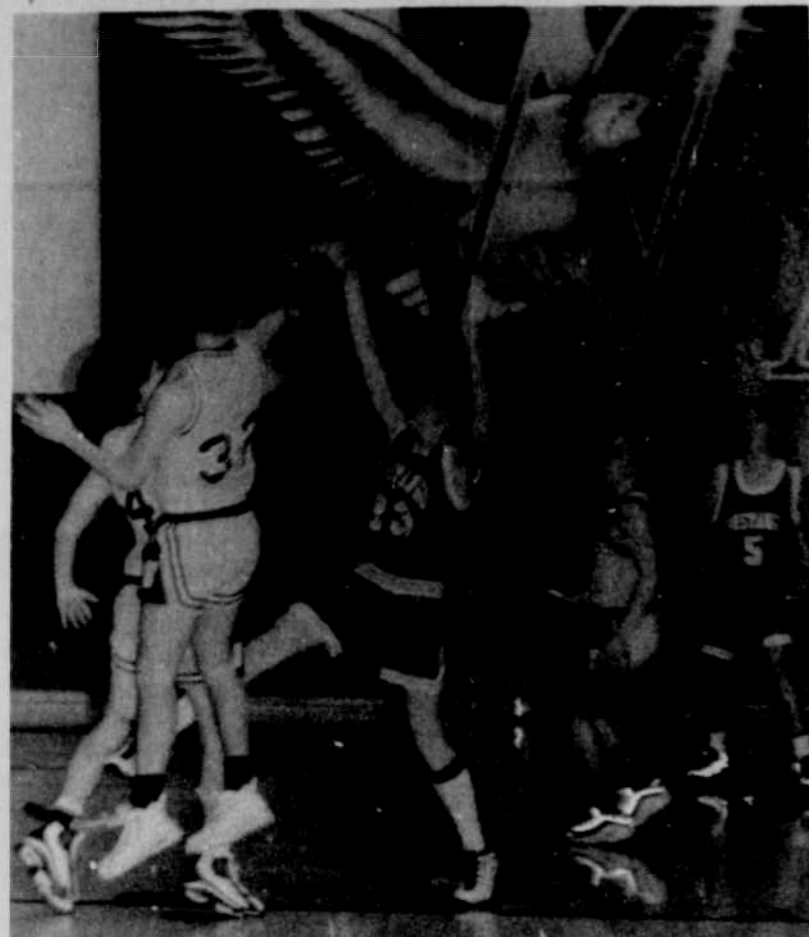


Mustangs down Eagles 58-44 Mustang boys rally to beat Rockets



Joe Papineau (23) plays defense against the Eagles. No. 5 is Shane Matheny

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustangs traveled to The Dalles on Saturday, Jan. 9 and beat the Wahtonka Eagles, 58-44, in Columbia Basin Conference play. The win moved the Mustangs to 2-0 and in first place in the CBC and 7-4 overall.

Ryan Matteson scored nine of the Mustangs' 13 first quarter points.

Heppner led 13-9 after one and another basket by Matteson plus a nice pass to Tim Dickenson gave Heppner a 17-9 lead. If it were not for the Eagles' Seth Nicholson coming off the bench to hit three three-pointers and score 12 points, the Mustangs may have blown the game open in the first half. Heppner did outscore Wahtonka 18-13 to take a 31-22 lead at halftime.

The Eagles came out red-hot in the third quarter, outscoring the Mustangs 12-2 to take their only lead of the game at 34-33. But a basket by Dickenson and a steal

Mustang JVs split over weekend

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner JV boys' basketball team moved to 6-0 by running away from Pilot Rock, 64-39, on Friday, Jan. 8. However, the next night, at Wahtonka, the Mustangs let a big first-half lead slip away and lost their first game of the year, 56-54, to the Eagles.

Against the Rockets, the Mustangs raced out to a 16-4 lead after one, and 35-16 at halftime. Heppner led 49-20 after three quarters before settling for the 25 point win.

Stefan Matheny scored 12 points to lead a balanced scoring attack as all the Mustangs scored at least two points. Joe Papineau scored 11 points, Michael McCabe nine and Chris Bowman finished with eight points.

At The Dalles, the Mustangs led 19-14 after one and 33-23 at halftime. But Wahtonka fought back within one after three. The game was tied with time running out and the Eagles hit a basket with three seconds left. A long three-point attempt by Matheny at the buzzer just missed the mark.

Blake Knowles and Papineau led the Mustangs with 16 points each. Matheny and McCabe each had 10 points.

Statistics:
Heppner: 16-19-14-15 64
Pilot Rock: 4-12-4-19 39
Heppner: Stefan Matheny 5 2-3 12, Joe Papineau 5 1-2 11, Michael McCabe 3 3-5 9, Chris Bowman 4 0-0 8, Blake Knowles 2 2-6 6, Mitch Matthews 1 3-4 5, Cody Bellamy 1 2-6 4, Chip Piper 2 0-0 4, Clint Bellamy 0 3-4 3, Darin Ployhar 1 0-2 2, 24 16-32 64. Three-pointers: none.
Heppner: 19-14-8-13 54
Wahtonka: 14-9-17-16 56
Heppner: Knowles 7 2-8 16, Papineau 7 2-4 16, Matheny 4 2-2 10, McCabe 2 5-9 10, Clint Bellamy 1 0-0 2, Cody Bellamy, Piper, Matthews, Ployhar, Bowman, 21 11-23 54. Three-pointers: Matheny, McCabe.

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustangs boys' basketball team rallied to beat the Pilot Rock Rockets, 45-39, in the Columbia Basin Conference opener for both teams on Friday, Jan. 8.

The Mustangs led 12-10 after one, but fell behind 23-20 at halftime. Heppner rallied in the second half, outscoring the Rockets 25-16, to pull away for the win.

Heppner was led by Jared Eckman with 13 points and 10 rebounds. Ryan Matteson hit for nine points and Casey Evans and Tim Dickenson each scored eight

points. Evans also had four steals and two blocked shots. Craig Scott dished out six assists.

The Mustangs moved to 6-4 overall and 1-0 in the CBC.

Statistics:
Heppner 12-8-14-11 45
Pilot Rock: 10-13-10-6 39
Heppner: Jared Eckman 5 3-6 13, Ryan Matteson 4 0-2 9, Tim Dickenson 4 0-0 8, Casey Evans 4 0-0 8, Craig Scott 1 3-5 5, Derek Gunderson 1 0-2 2, Blas Elguezabal, Riley Tingue, Blake Knowles, Joe Papineau. 19 6-15 45. Three-pointers: Matteson.
Pilot Rock: Labrousse 5 1-2 15, Steik 2 2-4 6, Alderman 2 0-0 5, Humphreys 1 2-2 4, Galle 3 0-0 6, Bensel 1 0-0 2, Van Pelt 0 1-2 1, Nash, Hinkie, McLaughlin, Zamudio. 14 6-10 39. Three-pointers: Labrousse (4), Alderman.

Ione Cardinals host Australian team

The Ione Cardinal boys basketball teams hosted an Australian Touring Team, the Wildcats, at IHS on Jan. 7.

The Wildcat team is made up of 18 boys aged 15 through 18 who live within a 200-mile radius of Sydney, Australia. The Wildcats have been traveling in the Northwestern United States since Dec. 26. The Aussies played Condon and Hermiston prior to arriving in Ione and left on January 8 to play Arlington.

Tough defense and flawless passing prevented the Cardinal Varsity team from gaining on

the Australian team. The Australian Wildcats defeated the Cardinals 57-25.

Cardinal scoring was led by Mark McElligott and Corey Morgan with six points each. McElligott was also the leading rebounder for Ione. Allan Gribkov scored the only four points in the first quarter in what seemed to be the start of a low scoring game.

Australia led the Cardinals 9-4 at the end of the first quarter.

The Wildcats began to warm up during the second quarter, leading the Cardinals, 23-10, by halftime.

Dufur defeats Ione in double overtime

Ione traveled to Dufur on Saturday, Jan. 9, taking on the Rangers in four games. The girls' JV team played only two quarters as Dufur did not have the number of girls needed to field a full team. Dufur topped the Lady Cardinals at the end of double overtime, 11-10.

Both teams were evenly matched, ending the first quarter with two points. Following suit, both teams scored three points each in the second quarter.

Dufur out scores Ione boys' varsity

In boys' varsity action, Dufur outscored Ione, 54-33. Dufur took control of the ball at tip off and continued to control the game until the bitter end.

Mark McElligott scored the first Ione basket from the top of the key with only three minutes left in the first quarter and followed it up with another bucket. Brad Burright grabbed a misguided offensive shot and went back up for two, ending the first quarter 6-15.

Mark McElligott wouldn't give up without a fight and retaliated with a shot at the beginning of the second quarter from the three-point line. Ione allowed Dufur to score only five points the second quarter, ending the first half, 11-20.

Brad Burright led Ione scoring with 14 points, followed by Mark McElligott with 10 points. Alan Gribkov struggled most of

the game, getting several shots up but the ball just wouldn't fall in. Just a few minutes before the game ended, the cloud that seemed to keep Gribkov from sinking the ball seemed to lift and Gribkov was able to sink two at the very end and was able to score seven points before the game ended.

Burright hit the boards, leading the Cardinals in rebounds and also led the team in steals. Although Ione made a praiseworthy attempt to shut down the Rangers, Dufur was quick offensively, tough defensively and was able to shoot from most anywhere on the court.



Casey Evans (22) goes up for the shot against Pilot Rock. No. 31 is Jared Eckman

Lady Cardinals varsity shuts down Rangers

The Lady Cardinal Varsity team shut down the Dufur Rangers, 31-20, despite injuries and illness.

The injury-plagued team was shy Camie Burright and Sybil Krebs due to injuries. Nikki Sullivan was not able to play on Saturday because of illness while Brandi Brantley, with an injured knee, was limited to play.

Nikki McElligott made a strong showing at Dufur with six points in the first three minutes of the first quarter. Ione played a tough defensive game the first quarter, allowing the Rangers to score only one point.

Dufur come out the second quarter and canned a basket 15 seconds into the second quarter

to announce that they were not going to go down without a fight. At halftime the score was 5-14 with Ione ahead by nine.

It seemed as though the

Cardinals couldn't buy a bucket the first three minutes into the third quarter, but Allison Halvorsen was able to get a shot in and the Ione team seemed to relax the remainder of the game.

Nikki McElligott led the team with 16 points, eight rebounds and three blocked shots. Amelia Peck had four steals, followed by Allison Halvorsen with three steals.

Joni Anderson led scoring for the Rangers with 11 points, shooting 75 percent from the free throw line.

Strategies meeting set

A North Central Oregon Regional Strategies meeting will be held Thursday, January 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Columbia Gorge Community College at The Dalles.

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