

Mustangs get big win at Sherman County

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustangs boys' varsity basketball team traveled to Moro on Saturday, Feb. 6 and picked up a big win over the Sherman County Huskies, 73-65. The victory gives the Mustangs a 6-3 record and a solid third place in the Columbia Basin conference and 12-7 overall.

"It was a very good effort by everyone to get our second straight road win. Especially without Jared Eckman and Blas Elguezabal, both sick, and Blake Knowles, pulled hamstring," coach Chuck Matteson said after the game. "We made our free throws and played good enough offense to get the win."

Ryan Matteson hit two three-pointers to open the game, but the Mustangs found themselves trailing 13-8. Craig Scott made a basket followed by a Tim Dickenson hoop to cut the lead to one. Then Scott hit another to give the Mustangs a 14-13 lead after one quarter.

Matteson hit another three and Casey Evans made two free throws but the Huskies came back to tie the score at 19-19. The two teams then traded baskets until Dickenson hit a basket and a free throw, Shane Matheny got a steal and a lay-in and Scott hit a free throw to give the Mustangs a 30-24 lead. The Huskies came right back to tie the game at 30-30 before a basket by Joe Papineau and a free throw by Evans gave the Mustangs a 33-31 lead at halftime.

The Huskies tied the score to begin the third quarter, but the Mustangs went on a 13-2 run to take a 46-35 lead with 3:35 remaining. The Huskies rallied to close and were within 48-45, but a three-point play by Derek Gunderson and a free throw by Dickenson gave the Mustangs a 52-45 lead going into the fourth quarter. Matteson hit for nine points in the third.

The fourth quarter began as a free throw contest as the Mustangs hit five of six to take a 57-47 lead. The Huskies closed to within 58-53, but Matheny hit two free throws and a jump shot to make it a 62-53 lead. Evans scored on a nice pass from Matteson, but the Huskies came back to make it 65-61. The Mustangs then hit on eight for eight free throws to close out the Huskies and win, 73-65. The Mustangs hit on 17 of 20 free throws in the fourth quarter and 27 of 39 for the game.

Matteson hit four three-pointers on his way to a game-high 21 points for the Mustangs. Dickenson hit for 12 points, 11 rebounds and five steals. Matheny had 12 points and Evans had a good all-around game with 11 points, six rebounds, four steals and three blocked shots. Gunderson had five assists and five steals.

The Mustangs' next game is at home on Saturday, Feb. 13, against Culver in an important CBC game.

EOU sports news

Luke Swanson, an Eastern Oregon University sophomore from Ione, is 11th in three point percentage at 36.8 percent in the Cascade Collegiate Conference, according to an EOU news release.

Swanson, who plays for the EOU Mountaineers basketball team, made 21-57 shots in 19 games.

Swanson made three assists in the Mountaineers' game against Albertson last Friday.

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12 noon Tuesday

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Statistics:
Heppner: 14-19-19-21 73
Sherman County: 13-18-14-20 65
Heppner: Ryan Matteson 6 5-6 21, Tim Dickenson 2 8-12 12, Shane Matheny 4 4-4 12, Casey Evans 3 5-6 11, Craig Scott 3 2-8 8, Derek Gunderson 1 3-3 5, Joe Papineau 2 0-0 4.

Riley Tingue, Blas Elguezabal. 21 27-39 73.
Three-pointers: Matteson (4).
Sherman County: Gardner 9 0-0 18, Richelderfer 6 5-9 17, Macnab 3 5-7 11, Miller 4 0-0 8, Thomas 2 0-0 5, Fritts 1 0-0 2, Langston 1 0-0 2, Hale 1 0-0 2, Eggers. 27 10-16 65.
Three-pointers: Thomas.

Mustangs rally past Rockets



Heppner's Derek Gunderson in action against Pilot Rock

By Rick Paullus

Using great second half defense and a more patient offense, the Heppner Mustangs boys' varsity basketball team rallied past the Pilot Rock Rockets, 65-59, on Friday, Feb. 5, at Pilot Rock.

The Rockets came fast, building leads of 6-1 and 11-5 before baskets by Tim Dickenson and Shane Matheny closed the score to 11-9. But Jarod Labrousse hit his second three-pointers for the Rockets to make it 14-9 after one quarter.

Ryan Matteson started the second quarter with a basket and a three-pointer of his own to tie it at 14-14. The Rockets came right back with a run to make it 21-15, but two free throws by Casey Evans and baskets by Riley Tingue and Matheny cut the lead to 23-21.

The Rockets jumped their lead back to 29-23 before Matteson hit another three-pointer to cut it to a three point game. But Labrousse hit two more three-pointers to give the Rockets a 35-27 lead. Two free throws by Dickenson and a basket by Matteson closed the gap to 35-31 at halftime. Matteson finished the quarter with 11 points for the Mustangs.

Labrousse ended up with five three-pointers in the first half for the Rockets. However, the Mustangs came out in the second half with a box-and-one defense with Derek Gunderson and Craig Scott shadowing Labrousse all over the court and holding him scoreless the rest of the game.

Matheny hit two baskets to begin the second half to tie the game at 35-35, but the Rockets scored twice to give them a four point lead again. A three-pointer by Matteson and a lay-in by Dickenson on a nice pass from Evans gave the Mustangs their first lead of the game with 4:25 left in the third. Scott scored on a lay-in and Matheny scored on a twisting lay-in to give the Mustangs a 44-39 lead. After a Rocket basket, the Mustangs played defense as back-to-back blocked shots by Evans and Tingue led to a basket by Scott. The third quarter ended with the Mustangs holding a 48-44 lead.

The Rockets hit a three-pointer early in the fourth to close within 51-49. Dickenson then scored on a nice pass from Evans, then returned the favor with a pass to Evans, which made it a 55-49 game. Matteson scored on a twisting lay-in and Dickenson hit a lay-in with 2:00 left to give the

Mustangs a 59-49 lead. The Mustangs hung on from there with baskets down the stretch from Tingue and Dickenson to get the win at 65-59.

The win gives the Mustangs a 5-3 record and third place in the Columbia Basin Conference and 11-7 overall.

Matteson had a game-high 21 points, including three three-pointers; Dickenson had 18 points and 15 rebounds; and Matheny added 10 points for the Mustangs. Evans had six rebounds and three steals. Gunderson had three assists and two steals.

Statistics:
Heppner: 9-22-17-17 65
Pilot Rock: 14-21-9-15 59
Heppner: Ryan Matteson 7 4-6 21, Tim Dickenson 7 4-6 18, Shane Matheny 5 0-2 10, Craig Scott 3 0-0 6, Casey Evans 1 2-2 4, Riley Tingue 2 0-1 4, Derek Gunderson 1 0-1 2, Joe Papineau, Blas Elguezabal, Michael McCabe, Stefan Matheny. 26 10-18 65. Three-pointers: Matteson (3).
Pilot Rock: Van Pelt 9 0-0 18, Labrousse 5 0-0 15, Humphreys 4 2-3 10, Hinkle 1 0-0 3, Steik 2 0-0 4, Benseil 0 3-6 3, D. Erickson 2 0-0 4, Nash 1 0-0 2, Alderman, B. Erickson. 24 5-9 59. Three-pointers: Labrousse (5), Hinkle (1).

Huskies down Mustang JVs

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustangs JV boys' basketball team suffered just their second loss of the season, falling to the Sherman County Huskies, 63-52, at Moro, on Saturday, Feb. 6. The loss drops their season record to 12-2 with their next game at home on Saturday, Feb. 13, against the Culver Bulldogs.

The Huskies came out hot, taking a 22-12 lead at the end of the first quarter. The Mustangs came back to trail 29-22 at halftime and 40-34 at the end of three. They couldn't complete the comeback though, and fell by a 63-52 score.

Joe Papineau led the Mustangs with 15 points. Stefan Matheny hit two three-pointers and finished with 13 points. Michael McCabe hit a three-pointer and finished with 11 points. David Norton finished with nine points, including five for five from the free throw line.

Statistics:
Heppner: 12-10-12-18 52
Sherman County: 22-7-11-23 63
Heppner: Joe Papineau 6 3-4 15, Stefan Matheny 4 3-5 13, Michael McCabe 3 4-6 11, David Norton 2 5-5 9, Chip Piper 1 0-0 2, Blake Knowles 0 1-2 1, Darin Ployhar 0 1-2 1, Chris Bowman, Mitch Matthews. 16 17-24 52. Three-pointers: Matheny (2), McCabe.

Rockets drop Mustang girls

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustang girls' varsity basketball team dropped into a second place tie with the Pilot Rock Rockets by losing 49-36 to the Rockets on Friday, Feb. 5.

The ailing Mustangs jumped out to a 10-6 lead after one, but couldn't keep up with the Rockets as they were outscored 24-8 in the second and third quarters. The Mustangs tried to come back in the fourth, but couldn't get over the hump and ended up losing by 13.

Ailing Mustangs lose to Sherman County

By Rick Paullus

A combination of the flu bug and a hot-handed Sherman County Husky team spelled the downfall of the Heppner Mustang girls' varsity basketball team as they lost, 53-28, in Moro, on Saturday, Feb. 6.

The loss dropped the Mustangs into fourth place in the Columbia Basin Conference, with a 5-4 record and 8-11 overall.

The Mustangs got behind quickly as Sherman County jumped out to a 14-0 lead and went onto a 23-7 lead after the first quarter.

The Mustangs played the Huskies almost even in the second, but still trailed 35-17 at the half. Jaci Hughes and Ashley Ropp each hit a three-pointer in the sec-

Mustang JVs dominate Rockets

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustang JV boys' basketball team moved to 12-1 on the year by dominating hosts Pilot Rock Rockets, 68-53, on Friday, Feb. 5.

Michael McCabe scored 11 first quarter points as the Mustangs jumped out to a 21-11 lead. The Rockets came back in the second to cut the lead to 36-32 at halftime.

Heppner rebounded in the second half, outscoring Pilot Rock, 32-21, as Joe Papineau scored eight points in the fourth quarter

Casey Ingraham led the Mustangs with 10 points. Kathleen Greenup had a strong game and ended up with eight points. Brooke Boyer scored six points before fouling out.

Statistics:
Heppner: 10-6-2-18 36
Pilot Rock: 6-11-13-19 49
Heppner: Casey Ingraham 3 4-8 10, Kathleen Greenup 2 4-8 8, Brooke Boyer 2 2-2 6, Jaci Hughes 2 1-1 5, Trisha Adams 2 0-0 4, Kim Pointer 1 1-2 3, Jill Barber, Amy Papineau, Marissa McCabe, Ashley Ropp. 12 12-21 36.
Pilot Rock: Copeland 3 9-10 18, Greene 6 0-0 12, Harris 2 2-2 6, Doherty 1 3-6 5, Bracher 1 1-2 4, Harrison 1 0-0 2, D. Thompson 1 0-0 2, G. Thompson 0 1-4 1, Cribbs 0 1-2 1, 15 17-25 49.
Three-pointers: Copeland, Bracher.

Condon overtakes Cardinals

The JV lone Lady Cardinals hosted the Condon Blue Devils on Friday, February 5. Condon overtook the Cardinals 40-12.

The Lady Cardinals struggled offensively the first quarter, scoring only one point, a free throw made by Kristen Davidson, to the Blue Devils' nine points. Freshman Salli McElligott had a notable game, seizing six steals from the Blue Devils, grabbing five rebounds and blocking a Blue Devil attempt at a basket. Jennifer Thompson led lone with a total of nine rebounds, two steals and one blocked shot. Kristina Powell also was a commanding force under the basket, capturing several rebounds. Allison Halvorsen was lead scorer for lone with four points scored in third quarter, the only quarter she made a showing. The Lady Cardinals had a hard time keeping Mandy Anderson of Condon from producing nine points for the Blue Devils.

Adverse weather cancels shoot

The weekly shoot at the Morrow County Gun Club (MCGC) was not held on Saturday because of the adverse weather.

Instead the members were able to finish installing the automatic thrower for next week's shoot.

MCGC will also host a meat shoot on Saturday, March 6 and a money shoot on Saturday, April 10.

The next shoot will be held Saturday, Feb. 13 at noon.

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