

## Mustangs shoot past Rockets

By Rick Paullus

The sixth-ranked Heppner Mustangs rode the hot shooting of Michael McCabe and David Norton to get past the Pilot Rock Rockets, 82-68, on Tuesday, Feb. 12 in Pilot Rock. The win kept the Mustangs in first place in the Columbia Basin Conference with a 12 and 1 record and improved their overall record to 19 and 2.

McCabe hit eight of nine shots in the first half and Norton hit nine of 10 shots in the second half to keep the Rockets at bay.

The Mustangs had their running game going from the outset as Norton scored off a pass from McCabe and Stefan Matheny scored off the break. Michael McCabe hit a short jumper, but the Rockets came back for an 8-6 lead. Norton and McCabe hit short jumpers but the Rockets scored to tie it at 10-10. Matheny scored off the break and McCabe hit a short jumper to make it 14-10. McCabe got a steal and lay-in and hit a jumper from the free throw line, while Brian Rust made a lay-in on a pass from Matheny to make it 20-12. The Rockets came back to take a 22-21 lead before McCabe had a steal and lay-in and Norton hit a jumper at the buzzer to give the Mustangs a 25-22 lead after one.

McCabe scored off a rebound and Rust drove the baseline for a lay-in to open the second. After four points by the Rockets, Brad Adams made one of two free throws, Matheny hit a three-pointer and McCabe fed Norton for a lay-in to make it 35-26.

The Rockets wouldn't quit though as they scored four straight. Rust hit a lay-in on an assist from McCabe but back came the Rockets as they tied it at 37-37 late in the second quarter. After a Rocket miss as time was running out, McCabe heaved a prayer from about 65 feet that swished through the basket as the buzzer went off to give the Mustangs a 40-37 lead at halftime.

McCabe opened the third with a steal and lay-in and a rebound basket, but the Rockets came back to get within 44-43.

Rust hit a jumper but the Rockets hit a three-pointer for a 46-46 tie. Norton came back to hit a short jumper and a lay-in on a pass from McCabe, who hit a baseline jumper and scored off a drive, but the Rockets kept up, tying the game at 54-54. McCabe scored off a rebound and Rust fed Norton twice for baskets as the Mustangs took a 60-56 lead into the fourth quarter.

Rust hit two free throws to open the fourth and, after a Rocket three-pointer, McCabe hit a long jumper and Matheny hit a short jumper to make it 66-59. Adams scored and Matheny fed Norton on the fast break to make it 70-61, but McCabe went down with an ankle injury. Matheny hit a running jumper and Norton scored on a rebound to make it 74-64 with 3:10 left. The Rockets scored four straight, but that was the end of their scoring. Norton made one of two free throws, then scored off a pass from McCabe, who returned for a short while from his injury. Norton scored off a pass from Matheny to make it 79-68 with 1:00 left, then hit another free throw and scored on a tip-in as time ran out.

McCabe finished with 30 points, on 14 of 15 shooting, had eight rebounds, seven assists and four steals. Norton added 28 points, hitting 13 of 19 shots, and grabbed 11 rebounds and two steals. Matheny added 11 points, four rebounds, four steals and three assists. Rust had 10 points, four rebounds and two assists. Adams had seven rebounds, two assists and two steals.

Statistics  
Heppner: 25 15 20 22 - 82  
Pilot Rock: 22 15 19 12 - 68

Heppner-Michael McCabe 14 1-2 30, David Norton 13 2-4 28, Stefan Matheny 50-0 11, Brian Rust 4 2-3 10, Brad Adams 1 1-2 3, Kevin Drake 0 0-1 0, Josh Winters, Sam VanLiew. 37 6-12 82. Three-pointers: McCabe, Matheny.

Pilot Rock-Harrison 8 5-7 24, Sampson 7 4-5 20, Perry 5 1-2 11, Stelk 3 0-0 7, Christensen 2 0-0 4, Wallis 1 0-0 2, Waite. 26 10-14 68. Three-pointers: Harrison (3), Sampson (2), Stelk.

## JV boys end season with loss

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustang JV boys ended their season with a loss to the Wahtonka Eagles, 53-51, on Friday, Feb. 15, in Heppner. The Mustangs, coached by Ken Eckman, ended their season with a 14 and 4 record.

The Mustangs had things going for them in the first quarter, building a big lead behind four points each from Luke Murray and Josh Winters, and three points each from Justin Botefuhr and Brian Smith, to eventually lead 18-11 after one. Winters had four points in the second, but the Eagles came back to tie the game at 28-28 going into halftime.

Smith scored six points in the third and Conor Kilkenny, four, but the Eagles took a 42-20 lead after three. Smith had four points and Donald Adams hit three of four free throws in the fourth, but the

Mustangs were unable to regain the lead, losing 53-51.

Smith led the Mustangs with 13 points, with Winters adding 10 points and Murray, eight. Adams and Botefuhr each had five points.

Statistics  
Wahtonka: 11 17 14 11 - 53  
Heppner: 18 10 12 11 - 51

Wahtonka-Alvarez 6 1-4 14, Darate 3 2-4 8, Despain 2 0-0 4, Jones 3 0-0 7, Kroi 2 0-0 4, Young 2 0-0 4, O'Halloran 2 0-0 4, Farris 2 0-0 4, Alvaredo 1 0-0 2, Brooke 1 0-0 2. 24 3-8 53. Three-pointers: Alvarez, Jones.

Heppner-Brian Smith 5 3-4 13, Josh Winters 5 0-0 10, Luke Murray 4 0-1 8, Donald Adams 1 3-4 5, Justin Botefuhr 2 1-2 5, Conor Kilkenny 1 2-2 4, Tanner Britt 1 0-0 2, Doug Orwick 1 0-0 2, Brandon Seitz 1 0-0 2, Tyler Lovgren, Brian Haguewood. 21 9-13 51. Three-pointers: none.

## 'C' team boys win final games

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustang 'C' team boys won their final game of the year, 50-42, over the Riverside Pirates on Thursday, Feb. 14, in Heppner. The Mustangs, coached by Jay Papineau, finished the year with a record of 10 and 7.

The Mustangs jumped out to a big lead in the first quarter, getting six points from Zack Skaggs and three points from Aaron Griffith, while Josh Gutierrez hit five of six free throws, as the team settled for a 16-11 lead.

Skaggs scored six more in the second as the Mustangs built their lead to 31-20 at halftime. The Pirates rallied in the third, getting to within 35-34 going into the fourth, but the Mustangs came back, getting three points each from Griffith, Gutierrez and Judd Lemmon and rebounding from Matt Young to pull away for the win.

Skaggs led the Mustangs with

14 points, with Griffith adding nine points and Gutierrez, eight. Lemmon and Adam Wight each added five points.

Statistics  
Riverside: 11 9 14 8 - 42  
Heppner: 16 15 4 15 - 50

Riverside-Griffin 5 1-5 11, Pritchard 3 4-9 10, Parker 3 0-1 7, Carranza 3 1-3 7, Wedding 1 0-0 3, Imus 1 0-0 2, Orozco 1 0-0 2, Johnson, Krick. 17 6-18 42. Three-pointers: Parker, Wedding.

Heppner-Zack Skaggs 5 4-8 14, Aaron Griffith 3 3-6 9, Josh Gutierrez 1 6-9 8, Adam Wight 2 1-2 5, Judd Lemmon 2 1-2 5, Darin Skaggs 1 2-6 4, Kyle Huddleston 1 1-2 3, Matt Young 0 1-4 1, Kiel Naims 0 1-2 1, Robert McElligott. 15 20-41 50. Three-pointers: none.

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## Mustang girls down Eagles

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustang varsity girls ended their Columbia Basin Conference season with a 45-39 win over the visiting Wahtonka Eagles on Friday, Feb. 15. The Mustangs finished the season in fourth place with an 8 and 6 record and improved their overall record to 12 and 10 heading into the 2-A District Tournament this weekend.

The Mustangs started out hot as Jodie Carlson made a lay-in and Brett Barber hit a jumper. After a three-point play by the Eagles, Meghan Bailey and Barber each hit running jumpers to make it 8-3. The Eagles came back with four straight points before Tylynn Smith hit one of two free throws. After an Eagle free throw, Kelsey Greenup scored off a rebound. The Eagles scored at the buzzer to get within 11-10 after one.

Smith scored off an assist from Barber, Stefanie Hanson hit one of two free throws, Shanna Rietmann scored on a rebound basket, Brooke Rust scored off an assist from Barber and Greenup hit a free throw to make it 19-10. The Eagles scored four straight points before Bailey scored off a pass from Rietmann while another basket by the Eagles made it 21-16 at halftime.

The Mustangs came out running to start the third as Barber got a steal and lay-in, Rietmann had a lay-in and Barber hit a three-pointer. After an Eagle basket, Greenup scored off an assist from Bailey to make it 30-

18. Barber hit another three-pointer and fed Rietmann for a lay-in to make it 35-22. The Eagles came back with six straight points before Barber hit a jumper to make it 37-28. The Eagles scored to end the third and to open the fourth to get within 37-32.

Barber fed Rietmann and Rust for lay-ins to make it 41-33, but back came the Eagles to get within 41-37. Carlson put the game away with a lay-in from Barber and a steal and lay-in to make it 45-37 and, after the Eagles hit two free throws late, the game ended with the Mustangs on top, 45-39.

Barber led the way with 14 points, six assists, three steals and four rebounds. Rietmann scored eight points, grabbed 12 rebounds and had two assists. Carlson had six points, four rebounds and two steals. Smith had five rebounds and Greenup, four.

Statistics  
Wahtonka: 10 6 14 9 - 39  
Heppner: 11 10 16 8 - 45

Wahtonka-Eagy 6 3-7 15, West 4 0-0 8, La. Lick 1 4-4 6, Lewis 2 1-1 5, Li. Lick 1 2-4 4, Gonzales 0 1-3 1. 14 11-19 39. Three-pointers: none.

Heppner-Brett Barber 6 0-0 14, Shanna Rietmann 40-1 8, Jodie Carlson 3 0-0 6, Kelsey Greenup 2 1-2 5, Meghan Bailey 2 0-2 4, Brooke Rust 2 0-0 4, Tylynn Smith 1 1-6 3, Stefanie Hanson 0 1-2 1, Jesse Kempas, Madison Bailey. 20 3-13 45. Three-pointers: Barber (2).

## Mustang girls down Tigerscots in seeding game

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustang varsity girls beat the Weston-McEwen Tigerscots, 41-37, on Saturday, Feb. 16, in Hermiston to get the number-four seed going into the 2A District Tournament in Pendleton on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 22-23. Both teams ended the CBC season with 8 and 6 records and had defeated each other once. With the loss, the Tigerscots will play second place Sherman County at 1:30 on Friday, Feb. 22, while the Mustangs will play the third place Umatilla Vikings on Friday at 7 p.m. The Mustangs improved their overall record to 13 and 10.

In the game on Saturday, the Mustangs fell behind early, but came back as Jodie Carlson made two free throws, Shanna Rietmann scored off an assist from Jesse Kempas and Brett Barber made a lay-in to make it 6-2. The Tigerscots came back to take a 7-6 lead, but Barber made a lay-in and Kelsey Greenup hit a jumper to give the Mustangs back the lead. After two free throws by the Tigerscots, Stefanie Hanson hit a jumper at the buzzer to make it 12-9.

The Tigerscots scored to open the second, but Carlson made a free throw, Tylynn Smith rebounded the missed second free throw and put it back in, Barber made two of four free throws and Smith hit a short jumper to make it 19-11. Barber hit a three-pointer to make it 22-12, but the Tigerscots scored eight straight points before Meghan Bailey hit a three-pointer at the buzzer to make it 25-20 at halftime.

The Tigerscots opened the third with four straight points before Carlson came back with a jumper and a lay-in off an assist from Rietmann to make it 29-24. Bailey hit a turn-around jumper and Barber fed Kempas for a lay-in to make it 33-26. The Tigerscots hit a three-pointer at the buzzer to get within 33-29 going into the fourth.

The teams traded baskets in the fourth as Smith hit two free throws, Bailey hit a jumper from the baseline then hit a three-pointer to make it 40-33, but the Tigerscots came back to get within 40-37 late in the game. Madison Bailey made one of two free throws with :09 left and Barber stole a long pass and ran out the clock, giving the Mustangs the win.

Meghan Bailey led the Mustangs with 10 points and three rebounds, with Barber adding nine points, seven rebounds, three assists and two steals. Carlson had seven points and Smith, six points and seven rebounds.

Greenup and Hanson had three rebounds each.

Statistics  
Heppner: 12 13 8 8 - 41  
Weston-McEwen: 9 11 9 8 - 37

Heppner-Meghan Bailey 4 0-0 10, Brett Barber 3 2-5 9, Jodie Carlson 2 3-4 7, Tylynn Smith 2 2-2 6, Kelsey Greenup 1 0-0 2, Jesse Kempas 1 0-0 2, Stefanie Hanson 1 0-0 2, Shanna Rietmann 1 0-0 2, Madison Bailey 0 1-2 1, Brooke Rust. 15 8-3 41. Three-pointers: Meghan Bailey (2), Barber.

Weston-McEwen-Winn 4 1-5 9, Bennett 3 0-2 8, Johnson 2 2-4 7, Parades 2 1-2 5, Darlene Thompson 2 0-0 4, Kyles 1 0-0 2, Schoonover 1 0-0 2, Darcy Thompson 0 0-2 0, Todd, Peterson. 15 4-15 37. Three-pointers: Bennett (2), Johnson.

## JV boys fall to Pilot Rock

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustang JV boys came up short at Pilot Rock on Tuesday, Feb. 12, losing to the Rockets, 55-47. The Mustangs' record dropped to 14 and 3 on the year with the loss.

The Mustangs fell behind early but three points from Doug Orwick and a long jumper from Tyler Lovgren at the buzzer got them to within 13-11 after one. Brian Smith scored six points in the second, but the Rockets took a 26-22 lead at halftime.

The Rockets extended their lead to 40-31 after three, despite five points from Brandon Seitz. The Mustangs rallied behind six points each from Smith and Josh Winters to get within 49-45 with 1:45 left, but that was as close as they would get as the Rockets would hit enough free throws to get the win.

Smith led the Mustangs in scoring with 14 points, with Winters and Luke Murray each adding eight points.

Statistics  
Heppner: 11 11 9 16 - 47  
Pilot Rock: 13 13 14 15 - 55

Heppner-Brian Smith 7 0-0 14, Josh Winters 4 0-0 8, Luke Murray 4 0-3 8, Brandon Seitz 2 1-2 5, Justin Botefuhr 1 2-2 4, Tyler Lovgren 1 1-2 3, Doug Orwick 0 3-4 3, Brian Haguewood 1 0-0 2, Donald Adams, Tanner Britt. 20 7-13 47. Three-pointers: none.

Pilot Rock-Anderson 5 6-7 20, Perrine 3 2-5 8, Krosting 3 0-2 6, Doherty 2 2-2 6, Golden 1 2-4 5, Mills 2 0-0 4, Ellis 1 0-0 2, Christensen 1 0-0 2, Gillespie 1 0-0 2. 19 12-20 55. Three-pointers: Anderson (4), Golden.

## Mustangs end season with blowout

By Rick Paullus

A 41-15 halftime lead carried the Heppner Mustang varsity boys to a 74-37 win over the Wahtonka Eagles on Friday, Feb. 15, in the final regular season game. The sixth-ranked Mustangs ended the Columbia Basin Conference season in first place with a 13 and 1 record and improved their overall record to 20 and 2.

By winning the conference championship, the Mustangs advance straight to the OSAA State 2A Tournament Feb. 26 through March 2. The Mustangs will play the West Valley League's number-two team at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 26, at the Pendleton Convention Center.

The game marked the final home game for seniors Stefan Matheny, Brian Rust, Michael McCabe, Sam VanLiew, Kevin Drake and David Norton.

The game started out well as Stefan Matheny and Michael McCabe scored on drives to the basket and Sam VanLiew hit a free throw, but the Eagles came back to take a 7-5 lead. It was short-lived though, as Brian Rust hit a rebound basket, McCabe scored off a pass from David Norton, then Matheny hit a three-pointer, a running jumper and another three-pointer to make it 17-7. Norton hit a jumper from the free throw line at the buzzer to make it 20-11 after one.

VanLiew hit a lay-in on McCabe's assist and, after an Eagle basket, the Mustangs went on a big run. McCabe fed Norton for a lay-in, then scored off a drive, Norton hit a long jumper, Rust hit a three-pointer, Matheny hit a running jumper, then fed McCabe and Rust for lay-ins. McCabe fed Matheny for a lay-in, then a long jumper and the Mustangs led 41-13. A basket by the Eagles to end the second made it 41-15 at halftime.

Norton hit a long jumper to open the third and a running

jumper by Matheny made it 45-16, but the Eagles came back with six straight points. Norton completed a three-point play, while Brad Adams hit Kevin Drake for a lay-in and a jumper to make it 52-22. Rust scored off an assist from McCabe and VanLiew hit a jumper to end the third with the Mustangs leading 57-28.

McCabe fed VanLiew for a lay-in then hit a running jumper and Adams hit two free throws to open the fourth. Adams scored off a drive along the baseline and hit a rebound basket to make it 67-30. VanLiew hit a free throw and Josh Winters hit a lay-in while Adams made a reverse lay-in off a drive and another rebound basket to make the final 74-37.

Matheny led the Mustangs with 18 points on nine of 14 shooting before fouling out early in the third quarter. He also had three assists and two steals. McCabe had 12 points, five assists, five rebounds and two steals. Adams scored 12 points on five of 10 shooting and grabbed 11 rebounds. Norton hit six of nine shots for 11 points and grabbed 11 rebounds. Rust hit four of five for nine points and had two steals. VanLiew had eight points and two steals. Drake had five rebounds.

Statistics  
Wahtonka: 11 4 13 9 - 37  
Heppner: 20 21 16 17 - 74

Wahtonka-Velador 3 3-5 11, Ruggles 3 2-2 8, Foster 2 1-2 6, Campos 1 2-4 4, Evans 2 0-0 4, Leibrandt 0 2-2 2, Gray 1 0-0 2. 12 10-15 37. Three-pointers: Velador (2), Foster.

Heppner-Stefan Matheny 8 0-0 18, Michael McCabe 5 2-6 12, Brad Adams 5 2-2 12, David Norton 5 1-1 11, Brian Rust 4 0-0 9, Sam VanLiew 3 2-6 8, Kevin Drake 1 0-4 2, Josh Winters 1 0-0 2, Donald Adams, Luke Murray. 32 7-19 74. Three-pointers: Matheny (2), Rust.

## JV girls blow out Eagles to end season

By Rick Paullus

A big first half helped the Heppner Mustang JV girls to a 65-24 win over the visiting Wahtonka Eagles on Friday, Feb. 15. The Mustangs, coached by Ron Brisbois, ended their season with a 14 and 5 record.

The Mustangs got eight points from Chelsea Britt, three from Linsey Mitchell and a three-pointer Nikki Sisk as they took a 20-3 lead after one. Brooke Rust scored eight points, Britt, four, and Sisk hit another three-pointer as they built their lead to 37-5 at halftime.

Sisk hit another three-pointer in the third as the Mustangs extended their lead to 56-11 after three and Marcy Miller and Mitchell each added four points as the Mustangs coasted to the 65-24 win.

Britt finished with 14 points, four rebounds and four steals. Rust scored 12 points, had four rebounds and three steals. Miller

had 10 points and four rebounds, while Sisk hit all three of three-point attempts and finished with nine points. Mitchell had eight points, four rebounds, four steals and four assists. Madison Bailey had four rebounds, four assists and four steals. Stefanie Hanson had four assists and two steals. Blair Keithley had five rebounds.

Statistics  
Wahtonka: 3 2 6 13 - 24  
Heppner: 20 17 19 9 - 65

Wahtonka-Campos 4 2-4 10, Harmon 3 0-2 7, Aguire 2 0-0 4, Washington 1 0-0 2, Terrell 0 1-2 1, Zabel, Rocha. 10 3-8 24. Three-pointers: Harmon.

Heppner-Chelsea Britt 7 0-0 14, Brooke Rust 6 0-0 12, Marcy Miller 5 0-0 10, Nikki Sisk 3 0-0 9, Linsey Mitchell 3 2-4 8, Madison Bailey 1 2-2 4, Blair Keithley 2 0-0 4, Stefanie Hanson 1 0-2 2, Chantea Macaulay 0 2-2 2. 28 6-10 65. Three-pointers: Sisk (3).

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