

Mustang boys hold on to beat Rockets

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustang varsity boys fell behind early to the visiting Pilot Rock Rockets, but came back to lead by as many as 10 points in the fourth quarter then hold on for the 54-49 win in Columbia Basin Conference play. The Mustangs are tied for second in the CBC at 10-3 (17-6 overall), one game out of first. The game marked the final regular season home game for seniors Josh Winters, Donald Adams, Doug Orwick, Brad Adams and Conor Kilkenny.

The Rockets jumped out to a 7-0 lead before Orwick hit two free throws then the teams traded buckets as Winters hit a jumper, Brandon Seitz scored off a rebound, Brad Adams scored off a drive, then Chuy Elguezabal scored off passes from Adams and Luke Murray to make it 15-12. The Rockets scored five straight but Seitz and Adams scored inside to close out the fast-paced first quarter with the Rockets ahead 20-16.

Seitz scored off a rebound to open the second quarter and after the Rockets hit a 3-pointer, Seitz scored off passes from Murray and Elguezabal and Adams hit a short jumper to give the Mustangs their first lead with a little over three minutes left. The Rockets came back with another 3-pointer, but Justin Botefuhr hit two free throws to tie it a 26-26 at the half.

The Mustangs came out hot in the third as Adams scored off a rebound, then fed Murray for a lay-in and Elguezabal scored off a drive to make it 32-26. After a Rocket 3-pointer, Seitz scored off a pass from Elguezabal, Adams scored off a rebound and Tanner Britt hit a running jumper to give the Mustangs a 38-29 lead going into the fourth.

The Rockets came back hitting six of seven free throws to get within 38-35, but Brian Smith scored off a pass from Adams then fed Seitz for a lay-in, the Rockets hit a free throw then Adams scored off a pass from Elguezabal then fed Seitz for another lay-in to make it 46-36 with 2:45 left. The Rockets went on a 7-1 run to get within 47-43, Elguezabal hit two of four free throws, but a Rocket 3-pointer made it 49-46 with 1:15 left. Seitz hit two free throws, but the Rockets got to within 51-49, then Adams grabbed a huge offensive rebound after a missed free throw with 23 seconds left. Luke Murray hit two free throws with 16.1 seconds left, then Britt blocked a shot with five seconds left and Seitz hit one of two free throws to end the scoring to give the Mustangs a hard fought win.

Seitz hit eight of 15 shots for 19 points, grabbed 11 rebounds and blocked three shots. Adams scored 13 points, grabbed 22 rebounds and had five assists. Elguezabal had eight points and four assists, Murray had two assists and Britt had two steals.

Heppner 16 10 12 16-54
Pilot Rock 20 6 3 20-49

Heppner: Brandon Seitz 8 3-4 19, Brad Adams 6 1-5 13, Chuy Elguezabal 3 2-7 8, Luke Murray 1 2-0 4, Josh Winters 1 0-0 2, Tanner Britt 1 0-2 2, Doug Orwick 0 2-2 2, Brian Smith 1 0-0 2, Justin Botefuhr 0 2-2 2, Donald Adams and Conor Kilkenny. Team: 21 12-24 54 3-pt.: none

Pilot Rock: Eric Stelk 9 4-5 29, Bobby Christensen 4 2-3 10, Jimmy Doherty 1 4-4 6, Michael Krosting 1 0-0 2, Phil Perrine 0 2-4 2 and Josh Wallis 0 0-2 0. Team: 15 12-18 49 3-pt.: Stelk 7.

Mustang girls hang on to beat Eagles

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustang varsity girls almost let a big lead slip away, but held on the bet the Wahtonka Eagles 33-30 on Friday, Feb. 21 in The Dalles in Columbia Basin Conference play. The Mustangs finished the regular season with a 9-5 record in the CBC and 14-10 overall heading into district play.

The Mustangs held an early 7-2 lead, getting five points from Stefanie Hanson and two free throws from Lacey Matteson, but the Eagles rallied to take an 8-7 lead after one.

Chelsea Britt scored inside to give the Mustangs back the lead, then Matteson got hot hitting a jumper, scoring off a rebound, getting a steal and a lay-in, scoring inside, then hitting a 3-pointer to make it 20-8 and after an Eagle bucket, Matteson hit a running jumper to make it 22-10. The Eagles came back with six straight points to get within 22-16 at halftime.

The teams traded baskets through the third as Britt drove the lane for a score, Jesse Kempas hit one of two free throws and Matteson hit a baseline jumper to make it 27-

22. Britt hit two free throws and Tylynn Smith had a tip-in to end the third with the Mustangs clinging to a 31-26 lead. The Eagles closed to within 31-30 with 46 seconds left, but Kempas hit a running jumper from the key with 18 seconds left to make it 33-30 and the Mustangs hung on from there to get the win.

Matteson led the way with 17 points, seven rebounds, three steals and two assists. Britt had six points, Smith had five rebounds and Kempas and Nikki Sisk each had two steals.

Heppner 7 15 9 2-33
Wahtonka 8 8 10 4-30

Heppner: Lacey Matteson 7 2-2 17, Chelsea Britt 2 2-2 6, Stefanie Hanson 2 1-2 5, Jesse Kempas 1 1-4 3, Tylynn Smith 1 0-2 2, Nikki Sisk, Madison Bailey, Brooke Rust, Linsey Mitchell and Susan Southworth. Team: 13 6-12 33 3-pt.: Matteson.

Wahtonka: Lacy Lick 11, Alena Lacey 8, Yolanda Gonzales 5, Lindsey Lick 4, Lupita Campos 2, Lucy Aguirra, Sheena Turrell, Sarah Harmon, Maira Padilla and Amanda Lewis. Team: 13 3-12 30 3-pt.: Gonzales.

Mustang boys run past Eagles

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustang varsity boys outscored the Wahtonka Eagles 44-28 in the middle quarters and used it to beat them 74-58 on Friday, Feb. 21 in The Dalles to close out the Columbia Basin Conference season. The Mustangs finished tied for second at 11-3 in the CBC, with Umatilla, while improving their overall record to 18-6, heading into the district tournament.

Tanner Britt got the Mustangs going hitting a baseline jumper, then Luke Murray hit one of two free throws and Brandon Seitz hit a short jumper to make it 5-2. Chuy Elguezabal and Murray hit short jumpers to make it 9-4. Britt and Brad Adams each scored inside to make it 13-9 and after Adams hit a jumper the Eagles hit a 3-pointer to tie it at 15-15. Elguezabal hit a 3-pointer, but the Eagles came back with four straight to take a 19-18 lead, but Adams scored off a drive to end the first with the Mustangs clinging to a 20-19 lead.

The Eagles regained the lead, then Seitz scored inside and after the Eagles scored to again take the lead, the Mustangs went on a run as Adams fed Britt for a lay-in and hit a free throw. Brian Smith scored off a rebound, Adams scored off a rebound and a lay-in from Murray and Justin Botefuhr scored off a drive to make it 33-23. Adams fed Botefuhr for a lay-in and hit two free throws to make it 37-25 and Smith hit a short jumper to end the second with the Mustangs taking a 39-28 lead at the half.

The two teams traded baskets early in the third as Murray scored off a pass from Elguezabal, Adams scored off a rebound, Britt hit a jumper, Murray hit a long jumper and one

of two free throws and Elguezabal hit a 3-pointer to make it 51-35. Adams scored off a rebound and hit one of two free throws, then Britt hit consecutive 3-pointers to make it 60-39. Elguezabal hit a running jumper and Murray hit a short jumper to end the third with the Mustangs ahead 64-47.

After an Eagle 3-pointer, Seitz scored off a pass from Elguezabal and Adams scored inside, Botefuhr hit a jumper to make it 70-53. Elguezabal scored off a drive and Brian Haguewood closed out the scoring with a lay-in.

Adams led four Mustangs in double figures with 20 points, hitting eight of 12 from the field, pulled down five rebounds and had five assists and three steals. Britt had 14 points, Elguezabal had 12 points, five assists and three steals and Murray had 10 points, on four of seven shooting and six rebounds. Seitz had five rebounds and Botefuhr had four rebounds.

Heppner 20 19 25 10-74
Wahtonka 19 9 19 11-58

Heppner: Brad Adams 8 4-6 20, Tanner Britt 6 0-0 14, Chuy Elguezabal 5 0-0 12, Luke Murray 4 2-4 10, Justin Botefuhr 3 0-0 6, Brandon Seitz 3 0-0 6, Brian Smith 2 0-1 4, Brian Haguewood 1 0-0 2, Donald Adams, Doug Orwick, Aaron Griffith and Conor Kilkenny. Team: 32 6-11 74 3-pt.: Britt 2 and Elguezabal 2.

Wahtonka: Brenden O'Halloran 16, Jesse Ruggles 15, Austin Krol 16, Jason Vink 8, Jason Connelley 2 and Zac Smith 1. Team: 23 6-12 58 3-pt.: O'Halloran 4 and Krol 2.

Mustang JV boys fly past Eagles

By Rick Paullus

In their last game of the season, the Heppner Mustang JV boys flew past the Wahtonka Eagles, 69-43, on Friday, Feb. 21 in The Dalles, to end the season with a 19-3 record.

The Mustangs, coached by Ken Eckman and assisted by Shane Matheny, consisted of juniors, Brian Haguewood, Kyler Lovgren, Zach Skaggs, Matt Young, Cody Walton, Aaron Griffith and Judd Lemmon; sophomores, Josh Gutierrez, Jode Coil, Tyler Boyer and Gus Torres; and freshman, Matthew VanCleave. Haguewood and Griffith also saw time of the varsity team.

The Mustangs jumped out to a 21-6 lead after one, getting eight points from VanCleave, six from Coil and three points from Torres. They led 37-24 at the half, getting seven points, including a 3-pointer, from Gutierrez and three points from Skaggs in the second quarter.

Coil had five points and VanCleave four as the Mustangs led 50-36 after three and VanCleave added six more with Torres and Gutierrez adding four points and Coil three in the fourth as they coasted to the win.

VanCleave led the way with 18 points, Coil had 14 points, Gutierrez 11 and Torres nine.

Heppner 21 16 13 19-69

Wahtonka: 6 18 12 7-43
Heppner: Matthew VanCleave 8 2-4 18, Jode Coil 6 2-4 14, Josh Gutierrez 4 1-2 11, Gus Torres 4 1-5 9, Cody Walton 2 1-2 5, Matt Young 2 0-0 4, Judd Lemmon 2 0-1 4, Zach Skaggs 1 1-3 3 and Tyler Boyer 0 1-4 1. Team: 29 9-24 69 3-pt.: Gutierrez 2.

Wahtonka: O'Halloran 4 2-2 13, Smith 4 5-9 13, Connelley 2 3-4 7, Torres 1 0-0 3, Perez 1 0-1 2, J.J. Despain 1 0-0 2, Krol 1 0-0 2, Turner 0 1-3 1, T. Despain and Dahlberg. Team: 14 11-18 43 3-pt.: O'Halloran 3 and Torres.

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Mustang JV girls end season with win over Eagles

By Rick Paullus

A 34-13 run through the second and third quarters carried the Heppner Mustang JV girls to a 44-26 win over the Wahtonka Eagles on Friday, Feb. 21 in The Dalles. The Mustangs finished their season with a 15-7 record winning 11 of their last 13 games.

The Mustangs, coached again by Ron Brisbois, consisted of junior, Tiffany Piper; sophomores, Terra Wilson, Susan Southworth, Linsey Mitchell and Blair Keithley; and freshmen, Katie Britt, Laurie Murray, Krystal Nairns, Krista Hendricks, Heather Yocom, Lynan Bingham, Chelsey Betsinger and Amy Jepsen. Mitchell, Southworth and Piper also saw time on the varsity team.

After a slow first quarter, Wilson had seven points and Keithley three to help the Mustangs to a 21-13 halftime lead. Southworth had eight points and Keithley added three more in the decisive third quarter as

they took a 38-16 lead after three and coasted through the fourth.

Southworth had eight points, Wilson seven and Keithley had six points. Piper, Britt, Hendricks and Bingham each added four points.

Heppner 4 17 17 6-44
Wahtonka 3 10 3 10-26

Heppner: Susan Southworth 4 0-2 8, Terra Wilson 2 3-4 7, Blair Keithley 1 4-6 6, Tiffany Piper 2 0-1 4, Katie Britt 2 0-4 4, Krista Hendricks 2 0-0 4, Lynan Bingham 2 0-1 4, Heather Yocom 1 1-4 3, Linsey Mitchell 0 2-4 2, Laurie Murray 0 2-4 2, Chelsey Betsinger 0 0-4 0, Krystal Nairns and Amy Jepsen. Team: 16 12-34 44 3-pt.: none

Wahtonka: Grayson 3 2-2 8, Harmons 2 1-2 5, Padilla 0 4-6 4, Fernandez 1 1-3 3, Zabel 1 1-1 3, Hilburts 1 0-2 2, Rocha 0 1-1 1, Green, J. Holland and K. Holland. Team: 8 10-17 26 3-pt.: none

Mustang girls nipped by Rockets

By Rick Paullus

The Pilot Rock Rockets hit a basket with 10 seconds left to nip the Heppner Mustang varsity girls 40-38 in Heppner in Columbia Basin Conference action on Saturday, Feb. 18. The Mustangs remained in fourth place in the CBC at 8-5 with their overall record 13-10. It was the final regular season home game for seniors, Lacey Matteson, Nikki Sisk, Jesse Kempas and Tylynn Smith.

The Mustangs got four points from Stefanie Hanson and three from Smith but trailed the Rockets 10-9 after one and got three more from Hanson but trailed 20-16 at halftime.

The Mustangs came out on fire in the third getting five points, including a 3-pointer, from Lacey Matteson and four points from Chelsea Britt, to take a 29-27 lead going into the fourth. The Mustangs fell behind, but rallied to tie, getting five points from Matteson and four more from Hanson and had their chances, but couldn't get their shots to fall.

Hanson had 13 points and 10 rebounds. Matteson had 12 points, four rebounds and four assists. Smith had five points and five rebounds, Linsey Mitchell had five rebounds, Madison Bailey had four rebounds and Susan Southworth had two steals.

Pilot Rock 10 10 7 13-40

Heppner 9 7 13 9-38

Pilot Rock: Kylie Bronson 6 3-6 16, Allison Robles 3 2-4 8, Becca Perrine 1 4-6 6, Sorrel Ward 2 0-1 4, Amanda Doherty 1 1-2 3, Christina Kinney 1 1-2 3, Jennifer Ulrich, Hannah Kirk and Rachel Howard. Team: 14 11-21 40 3-pt.: Bronson.

Heppner: Stefanie Hanson 5 3-8 13, Lacey Matteson 4 3-5 12, Tylynn Smith 2 1-2 5, Chelsea Britt 1 2-2 4, Nikki Sisk 1 0-0 2, Brooke Rust 1 0-0 2, Madison Bailey, Linsey Mitchell, Jesse Kempas and Susan Southworth. Team: 14 9-17 38 3-pt.: Matteson.

Mustang JV boys run past Rockets in second half

By Rick Paullus

After falling behind, 27-12, after one, the Heppner Mustang JV boys outscored the visiting Pilot Rock Rockets 42-6 in the second half to easily take a 69-38 win on Tuesday, Feb. 18. The win improves the Mustangs record to 18-3 on the year.

Zach Skaggs had four points and Tyler Boyer hit a 3-pointer in the first quarter and Aaron Griffith had eight points and Gus Torres had five, including a 3-pointer, in the second as the Mustangs battled back to get within 32-27 at the half.

The Mustangs outscored the Rockets 21-4 in the third to take a 48-36 lead getting eight points from Skaggs, six from Jode Coil and five points, including a 3-pointer, from Josh Gutierrez. Judd Lemmon had six points, Gutierrez had five and Skaggs and Griffith each had four points,

as the Mustangs cruised through the fourth for the win.

Skaggs finished with 16 points. Griffith and Gutierrez each added 14 points and Coil added eight points.

Heppner 12 15 21 21-69

Pilot Rock 27 5 4 2-38

Heppner: Zach Skaggs 7 2-3 16, Aaron Griffith 7 0-2 14, Josh Gutierrez 6 1-2 14, Jode Coil 4 0-0 8, Judd Lemmon 3 0-0 6, Gus Torres 2 0-0 5, Kyler Lovgren 1 1-1 3, Tyler Boyer 1 0-0 3, Cody Walton 0 0-5 0, Eric Torres, Brian Haguewood and Matt Young. Team: 31 4-13 69 3-pt.: G. Torres, Gutierrez and Boyer.

Pilot Rock: Anderson 4 0-0 10, Mills 3 1-2 8, Perrine 2 1-3 5, Ellis 2 0-2 4, Gillespie 1 0-2 2, Norquist 1 0-1 2, Doherty 1 0-1 2, Hill 1 0-0 2, Hall 0 2-3 2, Gips 0 0-4 0, Hoeft and Skinner. Team: 15 4-18 38 3-pt.: Anderson 2 and Mills.



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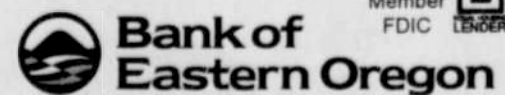
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