

Mustang girls getting ready for basketball

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustang girls have been busy getting ready for the 2003-04 basketball season. The girls are under the direction of Ron Brisbois, who is moving up from assistant coach to head coach this year. Assistant coach is Chris Rauch.

The Mustangs have three starters returning in seniors Brooke Rust and Stefanie Hanson and junior Madison Bailey. Junior Shanna Rietmann returns after missing all of last year with a knee injury. Also on the team are senior Tiffany Piper, juniors Chelsey Britt, Lindsey Mitchell, Terra Wilson, Susan

Southworth and Blair Keithley and sophomore Katie Britt.

The Mustangs get started at the Santiam Christian Tournament in Santiam this weekend and will be at home on Tuesday, Dec. 9 against DeSales. They get the Columbia Basin Conference season under way with a home game against Weston-McEwen on Friday, Dec. 19 and will be at Stanfield on Saturday, Dec. 20. They will be looking to get back to the District Tournament on Feb. 20 and 21 in Pendleton and advance to the state tournament the next week.

Mustangs look forward to basketball

By Rick Paullus

A new coach takes over on experienced Heppner Mustangs as they look forward to the 2003-04 basketball season. Forrest McKinnis is taking over the head coaching duties and will be assisted by Chuck Matteson. Dieter Waite will coach the "C" team this year.

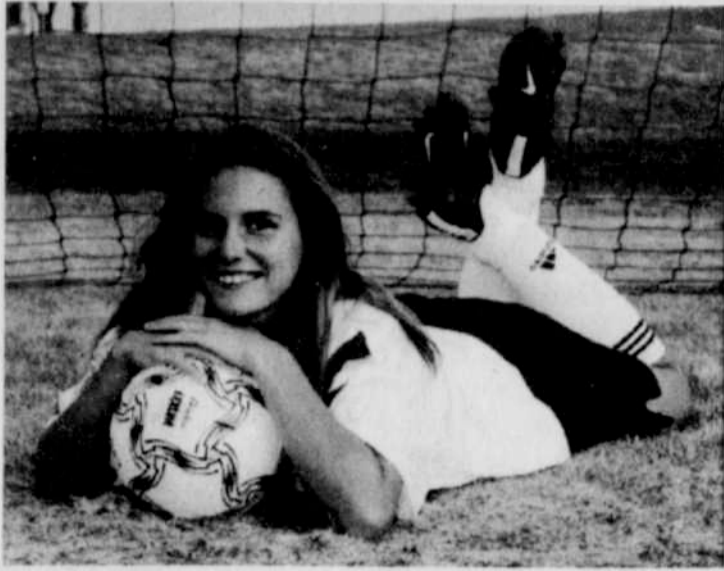
The Mustangs will not be lacking in experience, having nine seniors and two juniors on the varsity. Returning starters include seniors Chuy Elguezabal,

Luke Murray, Justin Botefuhr and junior Brandon Seitz. Also on the team are seniors Brian Haguwood, Kyler Lovgren, Brian Smith, Aaron Griffith, Zack Skaggs and Cody Walton. Junior Gus Torres is also on team with sophomore Matthew VanCleave and junior Kory Paullus floating.

The Mustangs get started this weekend in Santiam at the Santiam Christian Tournament. The other teams consist of Cascade Christian and the always tough Regis. The Mustangs will be at home on Tuesday, Dec. 9 against DeSales High School of Walla Walla and will begin the Columbia Basin Conference on Friday, Dec. 19 against Weston-McEwen at home, then at Stanfield on Saturday, Dec. 20.

The Mustangs are looking to get back to the district tournament in Pendleton on Feb. 20 and 21 to qualify for the state tournament the next week.

Local student named to all-star team for soccer



Susan Southworth

Susan Southworth, a junior at Heppner High School, was named to the Special District 7 girls all-league first-team squad as a field player. Southworth plays soccer with the Riverside High School team. During the regular season, Southworth played as both a forward and a goalkeeper.

Holly Rebekah Lodge to hold Christmas party

The Holly Rebekah Lodge will meet Thursday night, Dec. 4, for their annual Christmas party and gift exchange. Members are asked to bring a "white elephant" gift wrapped for themselves and their partner.

The dinner will be potluck. Turkey, stuffing and gravy will be furnished. Others

are asked to bring salads, desserts, etc. Members are also asked to bring an item for the basket to be taken to the assisted living facility.

Saturday night, Dec. 6, the month card party will be held, along with a cake walk at \$1 per ticket. If everything goes well this week, as planned, a pleasant, warm surprise awaits the attendees.

Ione Topic Club elects new officers

The Ione Topic Club met Nov. 19 at the home of member June Crowell. New officers were elected and they are: president, Kathy Morter; vice-president, Betty Rietmann; and secretary/treasurer, Anne Morter. Kristy Crowell was re-appointed as librarian.

The next meeting will be a salad luncheon at Katherine Lindstrom's house on Wednesday, Dec. 17.

Anyone interested in joining the club is urged to call Kristy Crowell at 422-7564 and plan to come to the meeting.

Regular hours at the library are Monday and Wednesday from 3-5 p.m. The library will also be open during the Ione Christmas Open House and will have books available for sale. New books in the library this month include the "Shopaholic" series by Sophie Kinsella.

MS Self-Help Group has meeting change

The Multiple Sclerosis Self-Help Group of North Central Oregon will now meet on the second Thursday of every month, 10:30 a.m., at the Glover Memorial Hall in Fossil. The meeting will be held in the meeting room, through the side door, which is wheelchair accessible. Please note the change of date and place.

Those with MS and their caregivers have been

meeting for the last year to share ideas and common struggles. They have also had various speakers such as an acupuncturist, naturopath and Norma Schell, author of *Heal from the Heart*.

The group's next meeting will be Thursday, Dec. 11, 10:30 a.m., at the Glover Memorial Hall, located at the main intersection of downtown Fossil. For further information call (541) 763-4042.

Garden Club to hold annual meeting

The annual meeting for the Heppner Garden Club will be held Monday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. As this will also be their Christmas party everyone is

asked to bring goodies to share with the group. Participants are also reminded to bring canned good to be donated to the Neighborhood Center.

Register online with ODOT for emergency work opportunities

If you are a contractor who could help keep traffic moving during an emergency, or help the people who keep that traffic moving, the Oregon Department of Transportation wants to know.

"When storms, landslides, earthquakes, fires or flooding stop traffic on Oregon highways, ODOT uses emergency contract procedures to get traffic moving again quickly," said State Highway Maintenance Engineer Doug Tindall. "We need contractors to register their resources - the equipment and materials they have and what they can do - so we can find the right people in a hurry when we need them."

"We don't just need heavy equipment for road construction," said Duane Cannon, ODOT purchasing agent. "We need all kinds of other things in an emergency, from extra radios to food services, generators, sandbags, pilot cars, pumps

and security help. It's hard to tell what might come in handy depending on the situation we're in."

ODOT has a wide variety of categories open for contractors and suppliers. Public works, police departments, fire departments and emergency operations offices statewide may use the registry to find goods and services in times of crisis.

"The beauty of the Web-based registry is that we can expand it to cover new categories of goods and services," Tindall said.

Companies can register at www.odot.state.or.us/erp/Contractor%20Registry.htm. The site allows contractors to specify where in Oregon they operate and to update their information at any time. ODOT will not share business information provided to the registry with other contractors. (Registering on ODOT's Web site is not a promise or guarantee of a contract.)

Smith urges Postmaster General to keep Pendleton processing center

Last week, Senator Gordon Smith (R-OR) urged Postmaster General and CEO John Potter to keep the mail processing center in Pendleton. The United States Postal Service (USPS) is considering moving northeast Oregon mail processing from Pendleton to Pasco, WA.

"Oregon mail should not have to go to another state only to be sent back to Oregon and delivered late," said Smith. "There are better alternatives out there which would retain jobs and increase the efficiency of mail service without taking the mail out of Oregon."

The Pendleton center is currently using mechanization that was designed in the late 1950s and adapted by the Postal Service in the 1960s and early 1970s. The facility in Pendleton is not large enough to house the latest sorting technology. USPS district manager Dallas Keck indicated that there are two options to remedy the problem: build a new facility

with new equipment in the Pendleton area, or relocate the services to Pasco.

Smith urged Postmaster General Potter to explore all viable options short of moving the processing center from Pendleton. Smith and Potter discussed alternatives, including automating mail service in Pendleton, in order to prevent the loss of jobs, timely mail service, and the elimination of the Pendleton postmark. Smith requested that the USPS follow up with concrete alternatives.

"There are already so few federal services in eastern Oregon," said Smith. "To remove yet another one sends a bad message, and I don't want to see that happen."

The Pendleton City Council, Mayor, Pendleton Chamber of Commerce, Eastern Oregon Rural Alliance, and numerous groups and citizens have expressed concern and opposition to moving processing services to Pasco.

Have a Christmas ball!

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