

Ponies take third in seventh grade tourney

By Larry Palmer

The seventh grade Ponies traveled to Pilot Rock for the seventh grade basketball tournament on Saturday, Dec. 13.

In the opening game for Heppner, they took on the Athena-Weston Panthers. Both teams came out sluggish and they were tied at the half, 6-6.

In the second half, the Ponies found their range and opened up a lead that they never relinquished. When the buzzer sounded, the Ponies had taken their opening game 19-10 and found themselves in the championship bracket.

The Ponies were lead by Spencer Palmer with 13 points and Joe Pranger, Josh Shank and Matt Holland each with two.

Heppner 6 13-19
Weston 6 4-10

In the second game, the Ponies found themselves going up against a more physical Umatilla Vikings team.

The Vikings jumped out to an early lead and kept the pressure on and the Ponies were not able to handle it. By halftime they were down 3-15.

After the break, the Ponies were able to regroup and played at a more even keel with the Vikings. However,

when the horn sounded, the Ponies were headed for the third place game, being outscored 10-24.

The scoring leaders were Joe Pranger with two points, Dalton Wellman with two, Spencer Palmer with three, Matt Holland with one and Taylor Hodges with two points.

Heppner 3 7-10
Umatilla 15 9-24

The Ponies went up against the home team, the Pilot Rock Rockets, for third place.

The Rockets had beaten the Ponies in their two previous meetings during the regular season and were set to blast off again, but the Ponies weren't about to let them complete their mission.

The first half was all defense and three free throws as the Rockets held onto a 1-2 lead.

In the second half, the Ponies were not about to be denied and outscored the Rockets 9 to 7 and captured third place winning, 10-9.

The Ponies consisted of Joe Pranger with two points, Spencer Palmer was six points, Josh Shank with two points, Grant Smith, Dalton Wellman, Matt Holland, Braden Britt, Taylor Hodges and injured Luke Young and Brock Herbison.

Heppner 1 9-10
Pilot Rock 2 7-9

Ponies take second in eighth grade tourney

By Larry Palmer

The eighth grade Ponies travel to Weston for their basketball tournament on Saturday, Dec. 13.

The Ponies met Columbia in the championship bracket and jumped out to take a commanding 13-2 lead. They weren't able to hold their intensity throughout the game and allowed the Raiders to row back into the game. The Ponies circled the wagons and held them off to win 17-13.

The Ponies scoring leaders were Nacho Elguezabal with five points, Andre Rauch with two points,

Nathan VanCleave with two points, Matt McCabe with six points and Michael Wellman with two points.

Heppner 13 4-17
Columbia 2 11-13

The Ponies then found themselves in the championship game taking on the Stanfield Tigers. The Tigers pounced out to a 6-11 lead at the half.

The Ponies could never cut into their lead as the Tigers matched them point-for-point in the second half. The Tigers claimed the championship as the Ponies finished in second. The final score being Ponies 20, Tigers 25.

The player on the team were Nacho Elguezabal with 10 points, Andre Rauch with four, Nathan VanCleave with six, Lane Bailey, Matt McCabe, Jason Houweling, Michael Wellman, Sean Murray and injured Luke Basile.

Heppner 6 14-20
Stanfield 11 14-25

Mustang JV girls drop two

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustang JV girls dropped their first two games of the season 29-27 at Mac-Hi on Friday, Dec. 12 and 46-31 at Riverside on Saturday, Dec. 13. The Mustangs will go for their first wins of the season with a home game against Weston-McEwen on Friday, Dec. 19 and at Stanfield on Saturday, Dec. 20.

On Friday at Mac-Hi, the Mustangs trailed 8-5 after one, but came back in the second. The had five points from Katie Britt, four from Lyndi Patton and three from Sarah Price to get within 20-18 at the half. They took a 25-24 lead after three, getting a 3-pointer from Regi Seitz, but went cold in the fourth as the Pioneers took the win.

Patton led the Mustangs with six points, with Price and Britt adding five points each.

The Mustangs took an 11-10 lead after one at Riverside. Sandra Krotzek and Price each added four points, but the Pirates came back to take a 25-19 lead at the half. The Pirates outscored the Mustangs 21-12 in the second half to win going away.

Price led the Mustangs with 12 points, five rebounds and two assists. Krotzek had four points and four assists. Laurie Murray had four points and five rebounds. Seitz had four rebounds and two steals and

Patton had six rebounds and three steals.

Mac-Hi 29, Heppner 27

Heppner 5 13 7 2-27
Mac-Hi 8 12 4 5-29
Heppner-Lyndi Patton 2 2-2 6, Katie Britt 1 3-5 5, Sarah Price 2 1-7 5, Regi Seitz 1 1-5 4, Heather Yocom 1 1-2 3, Lynan Bingham 1 1-2 3, Laurie Murray 0 1-4 1, Sandra Krotzek, Ashley Zimmerman, Chelsea Betsinger, Brittney Herbison and Jessica Brandt-Drury. Team: 8 10-28 27. 3-pts: Seitz

Mac-Hi- Vandeurs 3 2-4 8, Riley 0 4-7 4, Pursell 1 2-4 4, Garton 2 0-0 4, Miller 2 0-0 4, Holden 1 0-2 2, Rhodes 1 0-1 2, Rodighiero 0 1-4 1, Wright 0 0-4 0, Fetter, Dixon, Landa, Carlson and Caraghan. Team: 10 9-26 29. 3-pts: none
Riverside 46, Heppner 31
Heppner 11 8 6 6-31
Riverside 10 15 12 9-46

Heppner- Price 6 0-0 12, Krotzek 2 0-0 4, Murray 2 0-0 4, Seitz 1 1-2 3, Patton 1 0-0 2, Bingham 1 0-0 2, Zimmerman 1 0-0 2, Betsinger 0 2-2 2, Yocom, Herbison, Brandt-Drury. Team: 14 3-4 31. 3-pts: none

Riverside- Lomen 9 0-0 19, Close 4 1-2 9, Colin 3 0-0 6, Barrera 2 0-0 4, Hayzlett 1 0-0 2, D. Garciloza 1 0-0 2, A. Garciloza 0 2-2 2, Sands 1 0-0 2, Kegler 0 0-2 0, Wiser and Kroske. Team: 21 2-6 46. 3-pts: Lomen.

Mustang JV boys split

By Rick Paullus

After dropping their first game of the season, the Heppner Mustang JV boys rebounded with an over-time win at Riverside on Saturday, Dec. 13. The Mustangs will be at home on Friday, Dec. 19 and will be at Stanfield on Saturday, Dec. 20. The DeSales game was rescheduled for Monday, Dec. 22 in Heppner.

On Friday, Dec. 12 the Mustangs traveled to Mac-Hi and dropped a 57-37 decision to the Pioneers. The Pioneers jumped out to an 18-8 lead after one despite four points from Mikel Britt and Heppner trailed 33-14 at the half. The Mustangs got four points from Kory Paullus and three from Josh Gutierrez in the third, but the Pioneers increased their lead to 51-25 and coasted through the fourth for the win.

Britt led the Mustangs with 10 points with Matt VanCleave and Paullus each scoring six and Gutierrez adding five points.

Against Riverside, the Mustangs pulled away from a first quarter tie getting four points from Rory Kilkenny in the second to take an 18-17 halftime lead. They increased their lead to 33-27 after three, getting six points from Gutierrez, four from Kilkenny and three each from Matt Kenny and Paullus, but the Pirates came back to tie the game at 38-38 at the end of regulation.

The Pirates took an early lead in the overtime, but the Mustangs came back getting four points each from Gutierrez and Paullus to take a 51-48 win.

Gutierrez led the Mustangs with 13 points with Kilkenny and Paullus each adding 10 points, Kenny added seven points and Britt finished with six.

Mac-Hi 57, Heppner 37

Heppner 8 6 11 12-37
Mac-Hi 18 15 18 6-57

Heppner- Mikel Britt 5 0-0 10, Matt VanCleave 3 0-0 6, Kory Paullus 3 0-0 6, Josh Gutierrez 2 1-2 5, Kyle Huddleston 2 0-0 4, Roy Proctor 1 0-1 2, Kyle Carlson 1 0-0 2, Matt Kenny 1 0-0 2, Robert McElligott 0 0-1 0, Dan Basile and Rory Kilkenny. Team: 18 1-4 37. 3-pts: none

Mac-Hi- Middleton 5 0-0 10, S. Gonzales 4 2-2 10, J. Gonzales 4 0-0 10, Tiscareno 3 0-0 7, Caballero 2 0-0 6, Corona 3 0-0 6, Betancourt 2 0-0 4, Miller 2 0-0 4, Raine 0 0-2 0 and Conlee. Team: 25 2-4 57. 3-pts: Caballero 2, S. Gonzales 2 and Tiscareno.

Heppner 51, Riverside 48
Heppner 6 12 15 5 13-51
Riverside 6 11 10 11 10-48

Heppner- Gutierrez 4 5-8 13, Kilkenny 4 2-4 10, Paullus 4 2-4 10, Kenny 2 3-3 7, Britt 3 0-1 6, VanCleave 1 1-2 3, Proctor 0 1-3 1, Basile 0 1-2 1, Carlson 0 0-2 0, Huddleston 0 0-1 0 and McElligott. Team: 18 15-30 51. 3-pts: none

Riverside- Kegler 6 2-2 15, Turner 4 1-3 9, Johnson 3 0-0 7, Hinz 3 0-0 6, Jones 2 1-3 5, McKenney 2 0-0 4, Krick 1 0-0 2, Wright 0 0-2 0, Martin and Sallisbury. Team: 21 4-10 48. 3-pt: Kegler and Johnson.

Mustangs start fast to beat Pirates

By Rick Paullus

A 20-4 first quarter run helped the Heppner Mustang boys' varsity get back on the winning track at Riverside as they beat the Pirates 49-30 on Saturday, Dec. 13. The Mustangs, now 3 and 1, will be at home on Friday, Dec. 19 against Weston-McEwen and will be at Stanfield on Saturday, Dec. 20 as they begin Columbia Basin Conference play. They will also be at home against the DeSales Irish on Monday, Dec. 22 in a non-league game to make up an earlier postponement.

The Mustangs jumped out to a 6-0 lead getting a rebound basket from Brian Smith and two lay-ins from Brandon Seitz. After a Riverside basket, Seitz completed a three-points play and Chuy Elguezabal hit a running jumper to make it 11-2. After a Pirate basket, Smith hit a short jumper, Justin Botefuhr scored inside, Elguezabal made a lay-in and Gus Torres completed a three-point play to end the first quarter with a 20-4 lead.

Seitz and Botefuhr scored off rebounds to open the second, Botefuhr hit a running jumper and Seitz scored off a rebound as the Mustangs took a 28-12 lead at the half.

Elguezabal hit a jumper then fed Botefuhr twice

and Seitz for lay-ins to start the third as they increased their lead to 36-12 and Kyler Lovgren scored off a drive to end the third with the Mustangs leading 38-14.

The Pirates began the fourth with six straight, Seitz completed a three-point play and the Pirates scored four more to get within 41-24. Elguezabal hit a running jumper, but the Pirates got to within 43-29 before Luke Murray scored off a drive. Zack Skaggs hit two free throws then fed Seitz for a lay-in to put the game out of reach.

Seitz led the Mustangs with 18 points. Botefuhr finished with 10 points and Elguezabal added eight points and five assists.

Heppner 20 8 10 11-49

Riverside 4 8 2 16-30
Heppner- Brandon Seitz 8 2-4 18, Justin Botefuhr 5 0-0 10, Chuy Elguezabal 4 0-1 8, Brian Smith 2 0-0 4, Gus Torres 1 1-1 3, Kyler Lovgren 1 0-0 2, Luke Murray 1 0-0 2, Zack Skaggs 0 2-2 2, Aaron Griffith, Brian Haguewood, Cody Walton and Matthew VanCleave. Team: 22 5-8 49. 3-pts: none

Riverside- Kegler 5 2-4 12, Gill 3 1-1 7, Parker 2 1-3 5, Pritchard 2 0-0 4, Young 1 0-0 2, Wedding, Nailor, Johnson and Sorensen. Team: 13 4-8 30. 3-pts: none

Mustang boys lose to Pioneers in second half

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustang boys varsity let a big first quarter lead slip away and were outscored 37-21 in the second half in losing to the Mac-Hi Pioneers, 65-52, in Milton-Freewater on Friday, Dec. 12.

The Mustangs led 17-8 after one and 31-28 at the half, but couldn't hold on as the Pioneers got the lead midway through the third quarter and kept it the rest of the game.

The Mustangs were led by Luke Murray with 16 points. Brian Smith added nine points and Zack Skaggs finished with eight points.

Heppner 17 14 10 11-52

Mac-Hi 8 20 20 17-65

Heppner- Luke Murray 8 0-0 16, Brian Smith 4 1-1 9, Zack Skaggs 4 0-1 8, Brandon Seitz 2 1-3 5, Chuy Elguezabal 2 1-2 5, Kyler Lovgren 1 3-7 5, Gus Torres 1 0-1 2, Aaron Griffith, Justin Botefuhr and Brian Haguewood. Team: 22 8-17 52. 3-pts: none

Mac-Hi- Carlson 6 5-6 20, Worsech 5 4-6 17, Millar 3 5-6 12, Flemming 1 5-6 8, Hatterley 1 3-6 5, Brown 1 0-0 2 and Farley 0 1-2 1. Team: 17 23-32 65. 3-pts: Carlson 3, Worsech 3, Flemming and Millar.

Mustang girls get first win at Mac-Hi

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustang girls' varsity got their first win of the season at Mac-Hi by a score of 34-29 on Friday, Dec. 12 building a first half lead and hanging on through the second half.

The Mustangs took a 5-4 lead after the first and increased it to 17-9 at the half getting seven points from Shanna Rietmann. The Pioneers got to within 25-20 after three, but Rietmann had eight points in the fourth as the Mustangs hung on for the win.

Rietmann led the Mustangs with 19 points, five rebounds and five steals. Brooke Rust added six points and four rebounds. Madison

Bailey had four steals and three assists, Chelsea Britt had five steals, Linsey Mitchell had three steals and Susan Southworth had two steals.

Heppner 5 12 8 9-34

Mac-Hi 4 5 11 9-29

Heppner- Shanna Rietmann 6 7-10 19, Brooke Rust 2 2-2 6, Chelsea Britt 2 0-0 4, Katie Britt 1 0-0 2, Stefanie Hanson 0 1-2 1, Terra Wilson 0 1-3 1, Blair Keithley 0 1-5 1, Madison Bailey and Linsey Mitchell. Team: 11 12-23 34. 3-pts: none

Mac-Hi- B. Garton 1 8-12 10, Brown 3 0-0 6, Sears 1 1-2 3, Carlson 1 1-2 3, Contreras 1 0-0 2, York 1 2-2 4, M. Garton 0 1-2 1, Timmons and Holden. Team: 8 13-20 29. 3-pts: none

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