

Ponies lose to Sunridge

By Larry Palmer

The seventh and eighth grade Ponies took on the Sunridge Broncos of Pendleton in a Monday night game.

The seventh grade Ponies found themselves down by only two at the end of the first quarter, but in the second the Broncos started to buck and gallop away from the Ponies who trailed 21-32 at the half. Then a low scoring third pretty much spelled the game for the Ponies, as the final scored showed 33-50.

The Ponies were led by Joe Pranger with two points, Dalton Wellman with six, Spencer Palmer with 17, Josh Shank with two and Jason Houweling with six.

Heppner 12 9 2 10-33
Sunridge 14 18 10 8-50

The eighth grade Ponies challenged the Broncos of Sunridge, but it was the Broncos who rose to the occasion and netted a 22-29 win.

The Bronco's came out of the chutes bucking and didn't let up until the fourth. They held a 4-5 edge at the first. They increased it to 8-13 at the half and by the third it was 14-23. In the fourth, the Ponies chipped a couple of the lead with the final score being 22-29.

Those who canned a bucket for the Ponies were Lane Bailey with three points, Nacho Elguezabal with five, Matt McCabe with four, Michael Wellman with two, Sean Murray with three and Nathan VanCleave with five.

Heppner 4 4 6 8-22
Sunridge 5 8 10 6-29

Seventh grade Ponies lose two at tournament

By Larry Palmer

The seventh grade Ponies took to the road and made a trip to Canyon City for the Mt. Vernon Basketball Tournament.

In the second round of the tournament, the Ponies were going up against the host, the Mt. Vernon Mustangs.

They were a horse of a different color as the Ponies spotted them 11 players to six and in size, 6 foot 2 inches to 5 foot 6 inches. However, in heart the Ponies were unmatched as they opened up a 10-2 lead in the first. By the second, it was 15 to 7, even into the third the Ponies were still on top at 22-14. In the fourth, the Ponies ran out of oats and managed only three points to the Mustangs 16. The final score was 25-30.

The Ponies scoring leaders were Joe Pranger with three points, Dalton Wellman with six, Spencer Palmer with 12, Josh Shank with two, Braden Britt with two and Grant Smith.

Heppner 10 5 7 3-25
Mt. Vernon 2 5 7 16-

In the second game of the round-robin tournament, the Ponies found themselves pitted against the Burns Lincolns.

Once again, the Ponies came out on the short side of the stick as the Burns team had an "Honest Abe" at 6 foot 4 inches. However, no challenge is too great for the Ponies as they pretty much matched the Lincolns bucket for bucket. They were 6-8 in the first and at the half it was 14-16. In the third, a one-man wrecking crew canned 13 points and fouled out their big man and put them on top 27-26. In the fourth, 42 minutes of basketball and fatigue set in and the gallop turned to a trot and the Ponies were outscored 3-6, with the final score being 30-32.

The scorers for the Ponies were Joe Pranger with two points, Dalton Wellman with six, Spencer Palmer with 20, Josh Shank with two points and Braden Britt and Grant Smith contributed just as much as a basket.

Heppner 6 8 13 3-30
Burns 8 8 10 6-32

Pioneer Memorial Clinic closed for the holidays

Pioneer Memorial Clinic office will be closing at 12 noon on Dec. 24, Christmas Eve. The clinic will also be closed on Dec. 25 and 26 for the holiday.

Office hours will remain the same Monday, Dec. 29 and Tuesday, Dec. 30 and the clinic will be closing at 12 noon on Dec. 31.

The clinic staff wishes you all a happy and safe holiday season.

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Mustangs roll past Tigerscots

By Rick Paullus

Big first and third quarters propelled the Heppner Mustang boys' varsity past the visiting Weston-McEwen Tigerscots 61-44 on Friday, Dec. 19 in Columbia Basin Conference play. The Mustangs, 1 and 0 and 4 and 1, play at home against Imbler on Saturday, Dec. 27 and at home against Grant Union on Monday, Dec. 29 in non-league games.

The Tigerscots opened the scoring, but it was all Heppner the rest of the quarter. Justin Botefuhr hit a long jumper, Chuy Elguezabal got a steal and lay-in and Brandon Seitz scored off a drive. Luke Murray then scored off a pass from Elguezabal, Botefuhr hit another baseline jumper and Seitz scored off a rebound to make it 12-2. Elguezabal fed Seitz for a lay-in and Murray hit a jumper to make it 16-4. Then Seitz scored four more to end the first with the Mustangs leading 20-8.

Kyler Lovgren made one of two free throws and Brian Smith hit two, but the Tigerscots fought back to get within 23-16. Botefuhr fed Zack Skaggs for a lay-in, Elguezabal scored four straight and Seitz hit a short jumper to give the Mustangs a 31-18 lead at the half.

Smith opened the second half by hitting a short jumper and Murray hit a rebound basket. Elguezabal hit one of two free throws then fed Botefuhr for a lay-in to make it 38-22. After that the Mustangs put the game away as Murray hit a long jumper, Botefuhr hit a free throw, Murray scored off a rebound

Mustang JV boys cruise past Tigerscots

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustang JV boys jumped out quick and cruised past the visiting Weston-McEwen Tigerscots on Friday, Dec. 19 to improve to 2 and 1 on the year. The Mustangs will be at home against the Imbler Panthers on Saturday, Dec. 27 and at home against the Grant Union Prospectors on Monday, Dec. 29.

The Mustangs jumped out to a 10-1 lead after one and led 24-17 at the half, getting four second quarter points from Mikel Britt. They increased their lead to 37-23 getting four points from Kory Paullus and coasted to the win getting four points from Matthew VanCleave in the fourth.

Britt led the Mustangs with nine points. VanCleave and Paullus each added eight points. Rory Kilkenny had a

strong game on the boards and finished with seven points and Josh Gutierrez had six points.

The Mustangs hit nine of 14 free throws in the fourth. Heppner 10 14 13 13-50
Weston-McEwen 1 16 6 10-33

Heppner- Mikel Britt 3 3-6 9, Kory Paullus 4 0-2 8, Matthew VanCleave 3 2-3 8, Rory Kilkenny 3 1-4 7, Josh Gutierrez 2 2-2 6, Kyle Carlson 2 0-0 4, Matt Kenny 1 1-2 3, Roy Proctor 1 0-0 2, Dan Basile 1 0-0 2, Robert McElligott 0 1-2 1 and Kyle Huddleston. Team: 20 10-21 50. 3-pts: none

Weston-McEwen- Sparks 5 0-0 11, Todd 4 0-0 9, Greenwalt 2 0-0 4, Johnston 1 1-2 3, Tompkins 1 1-2 3, Lindell 1 1-2 3, Baker, McCullough, Schroeder and Guardipee. Team: 14 3-6 33. 3-pts: Todd and Sparks.

Second quarter costs Mustang girls

By Rick Paullus

A second quarter lapse cost the Heppner Mustang varsity girls against the Weston-McEwen Tigerscots on Friday, Dec. 19 in Heppner. After an even first quarter, the Tigerscots went on a 15-2 run and went on to a 45-36 win in Columbia Basin Conference play. The Mustangs, 0-1 and 1-4, will face Imbler on Saturday, Dec. 27 and Grant Union on Monday, Dec. 29, both at home in non-league games. The Mustangs will get back to CBC play on Friday, Jan. 9 at Wahtonka and at home against Culver on Saturday, Jan. 10.

The Mustangs jumped out to an 8-2 lead, getting a lay-in from Shanna Rietmann, a rebound basket from Stefanie Hanson and two inside baskets from Chelsea Britt. The Tigerscots came back to get within 8-7, but a 3-pointer from Madison Bailey made it 11-7. The Tigerscots tied it all 11-11 after one, then went on a 10-0 run before Britt hit a short jumper to make it 21-13.

The Tigerscots led 26-13 at the half and increased it to 37-15 late in the third before the Mustangs got going as Bailey hit one of two free throws, Rietmann scored off a drive and Susan Southworth completed a three-point play to end the third, trailing 39-21.

Rietmann hit a free throw, Britt completed a

three-point play, Brooke Rust made one of two free throws and Britt made a lay-in on a pass from Bailey to get the Mustangs to within 41-28 with 5:00 left. Blair Keithley made a lay-in on a pass from Linsey Mitchell and Southworth scored off a rebound to make it 44-34. Katie Britt fed Mitchell for a lay-in to make the final score 45-36 as the rally fell short.

Britt led the Mustangs with 11 points and nine rebounds. Rietmann added eight points and 15 rebounds. Southworth had a good game grabbing six rebounds.

Heppner 11 2 8 15-36
Weston-McEwen 11 15 13 6-45

Heppner- Chelsea Britt 5 1-1 11, Shanna Rietmann 2 4-10 8, Madison Bailey 1 2-4 5, Susan Southworth 2 1-1 5, Stefanie Hanson 1 0-0 2, Linsey Mitchell 1 0-0 2, Blair Keithley 1 0-1 2, Brooke Rust 0 1-2 1, Tiffany Piper and Katie Britt. Team: 13 9-19 36. 3-pts: Bailey.

Weston-McEwen- Kayla Paredes 6 3-7 15, Katie Todd 4 3-7 11, Darcy Thompson 1 4-4 6, Susanna Bonifer 2 0-0 5, Kayla Johnson 1 0-0 3, Katie Bennett 1 0-1 2, Molly Tucker 1 0-0 2, Wendy Baker 0 1-3 1, Tessa Froese, Hannah Miller and Stephanie Zeller. Team: 16 11-22 45. 3-pts: Johnson and Bonifer.

Eight grade Ponies take wins at tournament

By Larry Palmer

The eighth grade Ponies traveled to Mt. Vernon for their basketball tournament.

In the opening game against the Mt. Vernon Mustangs, the Ponies put on a clinic and tallied a 52-26 win.

The Ponies showed no bus lag as they cantered to a 12-5 first quarter lead. The canter turned into a trot and the Ponies held a 22-10 half-time lead. In the third, the Ponies almost no-showed and allowed the Mustangs back into the game 37-24. Yet in the fourth, they were back to full gallop taking the final score to 52-26.

The Ponies scorers were Nacho Elguezabal with 12 points, Andre Rauch with eight, Matt McCabe with 10, Michael Wellman with four, Sean Murray with three, Nathan VanCleave with 10, Jason Houweling with four and Taylor Hodges with one.

Heppner 12 10 15 15-52
Mt. Vernon 5 5 14 2-26

In the second game of the tournament, the Ponies went up against the Burns Lincolns and reined in a 40-32 win.

There wasn't a Gettysburg address, but the Ponies jumped out to a 10-2 lead. By the half, it was 18-10. Once again the Ponies were found grazing instead of hazing and allowed the Lincolns back into the game, 29-26. But in the home stretch and heading for the wire, the Ponies raced to a 40-32 win.

The Ponies had pretty good balance in scoring with four players having eight or more points. Scorers were Lane Bailey with eight points, Nacho Elguezabal with four, Andre Rauch with nine, Matt McCabe with eight, Sean Murray with two and Nathan VanCleave with nine. Michael Wellman, Jason Houweling and Taylor Hodges made their contributions as well.

Heppner 10 8 11 11-40
Burns 2 8 16 6-32

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