

## Mustang girls fall to Rockets

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustang varsity girls never could get going as they fell to the visiting Pilot Rock Rockets 66-36 on Friday, Jan. 23 in Columbia Basin Conference play. The Mustangs dropped to 3 and 4 in the CBC and 5 and 10 overall. There will be CBC games at Weston-McEwen on Friday, Jan. 30 and at home against Stanfield on Saturday.

The Rockets jumped out to a 21-10 lead after one and led 39-17 at the half and outscored the Mustangs 27-19 in the second half to secure the win.

Madison Bailey had eight points and two steals with Brooke Rust adding nine rebounds and five steals. Stefanie Hanson and Chelsea Britt each had five rebounds and Shanna Rietmann had three assists.

Heppner 10 7 10 9-36

Pilot Rock 21 18 15 12-66

Heppner- Madison Bailey 2 2-2 8, Linsey Mitchell 3 0-1 6, Shanna Rietmann 2 0-0 5, Chelsea Britt 2 1-2 5, Brooke Rust 2 0-2 4, Terra Wilson 2 0-0 4, Stefanie Hanson 1 0-0 2, Katie Britt 1 0-0 2, Blair Keithley and Laurie Murray. Team 15 3-7 36. 3-pts: Bailey 2 and Rietmann.

Pilot Rock- Kylie Bronson 7 4-6 21, Ally Robles 9 0-1 18, Hannah Kirk 2 4-5 8, Jenn Ulrich 3 0-1 6, Ashley Simpson 2 1-2 5, Haley Kannard 0 4-4 4, Jessie Westberg 1 0-0 2, Stefka Waite 0 1-2 1, Kelsey Walker 0 1-3 1, Christina Barkley and Andrea Pedro. Team: 24 15-24 66.

## Mustang girls blow out Bulldogs in second half

By Rick Paullus

After trailing 15-11 late in the first quarter, the Heppner Mustang girls varsity outscored the Culver Bulldogs 53-17, including 31-9 in the second half, the rest of the way to take a 64-32 win in Culver on Saturday, Jan. 24 in Columbia Basin Conference play. The Mustangs improved to 4 and 4 in the CBC and 6 and 10 overall with games at Weston-McEwen on Friday, Jan. 30 before playing at home on Saturday, Jan. 31 against Stanfield.

The Bulldogs went up 5-0 before Shanna Rietmann got the Mustangs on the board by hitting a long jumper. Stefanie Hanson scored inside then fed Rietmann for a lay-in then hit a 3-pointer, but the Bulldogs still led 13-9. Terra Wilson scored off a pass from Brooke Rust and with the Bulldogs leading 15-11. Rust scored off a rebound, Katie Britt hit two free throws and Rietmann scored off a rebound to give the Mustangs their first lead at 17-15 after one.

Rietmann scored twice, Hanson hit a running jumper and Chelsea Britt and Rust scored off drives to make it 27-16. Rust scored off a rebound to make it 29-18 and Madison Bailey hit two lay-ins to end the first half with the Mustangs leading 33-23.

Linsey Mitchell scored twice, Rietmann scored off a missed shot and Laurie Murray hit two free throws to make it 41-25 midway through the third. Blair Keithley got a rebound basket, Murray scored inside and Bailey hit a 3-pointer to end the third with the Mustangs leading 48-27.

Bailey hit a short jumper, Hanson scored off a drive and Rust scored twice inside to make it 56-29. Keithley hit a rebound basket and fed Rietmann for a lay-in, who then returned the favor and Katie Britt hit two free throws to close out the scoring.

Rietmann had 12 points, 12 rebounds, four assists and two steals. Hanson had 11 points, 13 rebounds and two assists. Rust had 10 points and two assists. Bailey had nine points, six rebounds, five assists and two steal. Keithley had seven rebounds and Wilson had two steals.

Heppner 17 16 15 16-64

Culver 15 7 4 6-32

Heppner- Shanna Rietmann 6 0-0 12, Stefanie Hanson 5 0-4 11, Brooke Rust 5 0-0 10, Madison Bailey 4 0-0 9, Blair Keithley 3 0-0 6, Linsey Mitchell 2 0-0 4, Laurie Murray 1 2-2 4, Katie Britt 0 4-4 4, Chelsea Britt 1 0-2 2 and Terra Wilson 1 0-0 2. Team: 28 6-12 64. 3-pts: Hanson and Bailey.

Culver- McWilliams 7 4-11 18, Alley 1 9-18 11, Thompson 1 0-0 2, Montes 0 1-2 1, Ganstead 0 0-2 0 and Pooke. Team: 9 14-33 32. 3-pts: none

## Mustang girls rout Eagles

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustang varsity girls evened their Columbia Basin Conference record at 3 and 3 by routing the Wahtonka Eagles, 43-17, in The Dalles on Tuesday, Jan. 20. The Mustangs, now 5 and 9 on the year, will play at Weston-McEwen on Friday, Jan. 30, and will be at home on Saturday against Stanfield.

The Mustangs took an 11-4 lead after one, getting five points, including a three-pointer, from Stefanie Hanson, and increased it to 17-5 at the half. Shanna Rietmann hit a three-pointer in the third to help them to a 29-11 lead after three. Chelsea Britt had six points, Brooke Rust, four, and Rietmann, three, in the fourth as the Mustangs cruised to the easy win.

Britt led the Mustangs with nine points and nine rebounds, with Rust adding eight points and four rebounds. Rietmann had eight points and three assists; Hanson had seven points and two steals; Linsey Mitchell had four rebounds; and Madison Bailey had three assists.

Heppner: 11 6 12 14- 43

Wahtonka: 4 1 6 6- 17

Heppner- Chelsea Britt 3 3-4 9, Shanna Rietmann 3 1-2 8, Brooke Rust 4 0-1 8, Stefanie Hanson 3 0-1 7, Blair Keithley 2 0-0 4, Madison Bailey 1 1-2 3, Terra Wilson 1 0-0 2, Katie Britt 1 0-0 2 and Linsey Mitchell. Team: 18 5-10 43. 3-pts: Hanson and Rietmann.

Wahtonka- Lacey Lick 3 1-2 7, Campos 2 0-0 4, Zabel 0 2-4 2, Grayson 1 0-0 2, Lindsey Lick 1 0-0 2, Holland 0 0-1 0, Padilla, Harmon and Hilbun. Team: 7 3-7 17. 3-pts: none

## Coil places at wrestling tournaments

Jode Coil, a student at Heppner High School, is currently wrestling for Riverside High School. At competitions held Jan. 17 and 18, Coil placed fourth in a tournament at Grant Union and seventh at a Bend tournament.

## Mustang boys hold off Rockets

By Rick Paullus

Trailing 8-2 early in the first quarter, the Heppner Mustang varsity boys rallied to take a 15-14 lead after one and went on to hang on for a 49-44 physical win over the visiting Pilot Rock Rockets on Friday, Jan. 23 before a packed gym. The win gives the Mustangs sole possession of first place in the Columbia Basin Conference with a 7 and 0 record and 14 and 1 overall. The Mustangs continue CBC play at Weston-McEwen on Friday, Jan. 30 and return home on Saturday, Jan. 31 to face Stanfield.

The Rocket led 6-0 before Brian Smith hit a rebound basket then converted a three-point play to get the Mustangs within 8-5. Luke Murray hit a running jumper to make it 10-8. Brandon Seitz scored off a missed shot to make it 12-10. Smith scored inside then Seitz hit a lay-in off a pass from Chuy Elguezabal at the buzzer and was fouled. He made the free throw to give the Mustangs the 15-14 lead.

Murray scored twice and Smith once to increase the lead to 21-14, but the Rockets came back to get within one at 21-20 before Justin Botefuhr hit three of four free throws. After a Rocket 3-pointer, Matthew VanCleave scored inside off a pass from Gus Torres to give the Mustangs a 26-24 lead at the half. Seitz scored off a rebound to make it 28-24. Elguezabal hit a running jumper then fed Murray for a lay-in to make it 32-26, but the Rockets came right back to tie it at 32-32. Seitz scored inside and Murray hit a 3-pointer, but the Mustangs led just 37-35 at the end of three.

Murray and Botefuhr hit jumpers to open the fourth quarter. VanCleave hit a jumper from the key and Elguezabal hit a lay-in to make it 45-39. After four missed free throws by the Rockets, Murray hit two to make it 47-39. The Mustangs missed four straight free throws down the stretch and after a Rocket 3-pointer made it 47-44 with seven seconds left, Murray sealed the win by hitting two free throws with four and a half seconds left.

Murray had 17 points, three steals and two assists. Smith scored nine points, grabbed 13 rebounds, blocked three shots and had three steals. Seitz had nine points, 10 rebounds and four steals. Zach Skaggs had five steals, Botefuhr had four rebounds and two assists and Elguezabal had three assists.

Heppner 15 11 11 12-49

Pilot Rock 14 10 11 9-44

Heppner- Luke Murray 6 4-4 17, Brian Smith 4 1-2 9, Brandon Seitz 4 1-3 9, Chuy Elguezabal 2 1-6 5, Justin Botefuhr 1 3-4 5, Matt VanCleave 2 0-0 4, Tyler Lovgren, Zach Skaggs and Gus Torres. Team: 19 10-19 49. 3-pts: Murray.

Pilot Rock- Frank Hoogesteger 6 0-3 12, T.J. Parrish 4 0-0 9, Josh Wallis 2 4-10 8, Michael Krosting 2 0-0 5, Phil Perrine 0 4-5 4, Mitch Byrnes 2 0-1 4, Jimmy Doherty 1 0-0 2, Bobby Parrish and Nolan Mills. Team: 17 8-19 44. 3-pts: Krosting and T.J. Parrish.

## Mustangs fall short at Culver

By Rick Paullus

A combination of a hard-fought game against Pilot Rock the night before, the long bus ride, a hot Nate Lewis and too many fouls laid the foundation for a 71-68 loss by the Heppner Mustang varsity boys to the Culver Bulldogs on Saturday, Jan. 24 in Columbia Basin Conference play. The Mustangs fell to 7 and 1 in the CBC and 14 and 2 overall on the season and will be at Weston-McEwen on Friday, Jan. 30 and back home on Saturday, Jan. 31 against Stanfield.

The Mustangs started out alright as Justin Botefuhr hit a jumper and Luke Murray scored off a pass from Chuy Elguezabal to give them a 5-3 lead and Brandon Seitz converted a three-point play to make it 8-7. Murray hit a jumper then fed Zach Skaggs inside to make it 12-9 but two 3-pointers by Lewis gave the Bulldogs a 15-12 lead. Seitz hit three of four free throws to tie it up then scored off a pass from Elguezabal to tie it again at 17-17, but the Bulldogs took a 19-17 lead after one.

Gus Torres scored off a drive, Seitz hit two free throws, then scored off a drive, but the Bulldogs still led 27-23, but a three-point play from Tyler Lovgren got the Mustangs to within one. Seitz scored off a rebound, but the Bulldogs took a 34-28 lead at the half.

Murray and Botefuhr scored to open the third, but eight straight points from Lewis made it 42-32 until Murray scored off a drive and Torres fed Botefuhr for a lay-in. Smith scored inside then Skaggs scored off a steal, but the official scorer didn't catch it so it wasn't counted and it would hurt the Mustangs later. Lewis hit two more 3-pointers to close out the third with the Bulldogs leading 54-40.

Smith scored inside and Elguezabal hit a running jumper then a 3-pointer to make it 57-47. Smith then scored off a rebound, Skaggs scored off a rebound, Elguezabal hit two free throws and Botefuhr scored off a rebound to make it 60-55. Smith scored off a rebound, Elguezabal scored off a steal, Smith scored off a pass from Lovgren to make it 65-61. Seitz then scored off a rebound and Botefuhr scored off a pass from Torres to make it 67-65 with 1:30 left. Lovgren hit a 3-pointer with just over a minute left to get the Mustangs within one at 69-68, but that was as close as they would get as the Bulldogs held on for the win.

The Bulldogs hit 14 of 22 free throws in the fourth quarter and 30 of 49 for the game compared to the Mustangs 12 of 18.

Seitz led the Mustangs with 17 points, 11 rebounds and two blocked shots. Botefuhr added 11 points, eight rebounds and two assists. Smith had 10 points, 10 rebounds and two blocks. Elguezabal had nine points, two assists and two steals. Murray had nine points and two assists. Torres had two assists and two steals and Lovgren had three assists.

Heppner 17 11 14 28-68

Culver 19 15 20 17-71

Heppner- Brandon Seitz 5 7-9 17, Justin Botefuhr 5 1-2 11, Brian Smith 5 0-2 10, Luke Murray 4 1-2 9, Chuy Elguezabal 3 2-2 9, Tyler Lovgren 2 1-2 6, Zach Skaggs 2 0-0 4, Gus Torres 1 0-0 2 and Matt VanCleave. Team: 27 12-18 68. 3-pts: Elguezabal and Lovgren.

Culver- Nate Lewis 10 16-21 43, O'Gorman 4 6-12 15, Kyle Blood 2 4-10 9, Rheaun 0 2-2 2, Boyd 0 2-4 2, Roen and Towell. Team: 16 30-49 71. 3-pts: Lewis 7, O'Gorman and Blood.

## Mustangs hold off Huskies

By Rick Paullus

After trailing by two after one, the Heppner Mustang varsity boys outscored Sherman County 34-16 in the second and third quarters and held off the Huskies, taking a 62-50 win on Saturday, Jan. 17 in Moro in Columbia Basin Conference play. The Mustangs improved to 5 and 0 in the CBC and 12 and 1 overall, with games at Weston-McEwen on Friday, Jan. 30 and at home against Stanfield on Saturday, Jan. 31.

The Huskies led 14-12 after one, despite seven points from Luke Murray, but the Mustangs rallied in the second behind nine points from Murray and six from Brandon Seitz to take a 29-20 lead at the half.

The Mustangs continued their strong play in the third, increasing their lead to 46-30 after three behind eight points from Chuy Elguezabal, four each from Murray and Brian Smith, and a three-pointer from Aaron Griffith. Murray had six more points and Seitz added four as they held off the Huskies to take the win.

Murray had 26 points to lead the Mustangs, with Elguezabal adding 12 points, Seitz 10 and Smith had eight point.

Heppner: 12 17 17 16- 62

Sherman County: 14 6 10 20- 50

Heppner- Luke Murray 12 0-0 26, Chuy Elguezabal 6 0-1 12, Brandon Seitz 5 0-2 10, Brian Smith, 4 0-0 8, Aaron Griffith 1 0-0 3, Justin Botefuhr 1 0-0 2, Zack Skaggs 0 1-2 1, Tyler Lovgren 0 0-1 0, Cody Walton, Brian Haguewood and Gus Torres. Team: 29 1-6 62. 3-pts: Murray 2 and Griffith.

Sherman County- Clint Moore 8 8-12 24, Evan Kaseberg 3 2-2 8, Eliot Kaseberg 3 0-0 7, Chad King 2 1-3 6, Matt Kaseberg 1 1-2 3, Brett Brown 1 0-0 2 and Preston Wallace. Team 18 12-19 50. 3-pts: King, El. Kaseberg.

## Mustangs boys blow out Eagles

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustang varsity boys blew past the Wahtonka Eagles, 83-23, on Tuesday, Jan. 20, in a make-up of a Columbia Conference game originally scheduled for Friday, Jan. 9. The game was postponed due to bad weather. The Mustangs improved to 6 and 0 in the CBC and 13 and 1 overall.

The Mustangs took a 17-10 lead after one, getting six points from Brian Smith, five from Brandon Seitz, and four from Matthew Van Cleave. They outscored the Eagles 28-5 in the second, getting seven points from Smith and four each from Van Cleave, Luke Murray and Josh Gutierrez, and took a 45-15 lead at the half.

Van Cleave had six points and Seitz four, as they increased their lead to 61-20 after three. They got 14 points from Brian Haguewood and four from Aaron Griffith to finish the rout.

Van Cleave led the Mustangs with 16 points, with Haguewood adding 14 point, Smith 13, and Seitz 12 point.

Heppner: 17 28 16 22- 83

Wahtonka: 10 5 5 3- 23

Heppner - Matthew Van Cleave 8 0-0 16, Brian Haguewood 7 0-0 14, Brian Smith 6 1-1 13, Brandon Seitz 5 2-3 12, Luke Murray 4 0-0 8, Aaron Griffith 3 0-0 6, Josh Gutierrez 3 0-2 6, Chuy Elguezabal 1 2-2 4, Tyler Lovgren 1 0-0 2, Cody Walton 1 0-2 2 and Justin Botefuhr. Team: 39 5 10 83. 3-pts: none

Wahtonka: Seaver Runarsson 3 2-2 10, Frankie Alvarez 2 1-2 5, Brendon O'Halloran 0 4-5 4, Brandon Kuehn 1 0-0 2, J.J. Despain 1 0-0 2 and Andrew Johnson 0 0-1 0. Team: 7 7-10 23. 3-pts: Runarsson 2.

## Mustang JV boys win two

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustang JV boys won two games over the weekend, beating the visiting Pilot Rock Rockets, 56-41, on Friday, Jan. 23, before beating Culver, 60-35, in Culver on Saturday, Jan. 24. The Mustangs improved to 12 and 1 on the year. The team will be at Weston-McEwen on Friday, Jan. 30, before coming home to play Stanfield on Saturday, Jan. 31.

The Mustangs took a 14-11 lead over the Rockets in the first, getting eight points from Josh Gutierrez and six from Rory Kilkenny, and led 20-19 at the half. Kilkenny had 10 points and Matt Kenny, four, in the third as the Mustangs increased their lead to 38-26. They got eight points from Gutierrez and five more from Kilkenny as they held off the Rockets in the fourth to get the win.

Kilkenny had 23 points, with Gutierrez adding 22 points, to lead the way.

Gutierrez had six points in the first, but the Mustangs and Bulldogs were tied at 10-10 after one in Culver. Kenny had eight points and Kilkenny, three, in the second as they pulled away to a 27-23 lead at the half. Dan Basile had six points and Kory Paullus, five, as the Mustangs increased their lead to 46-31 after three. Gutierrez had six points, Kilkenny, four, and Kyle Carlson hit a three-pointer as they coasted through the fourth to the win.

Gutierrez had 18 points, Kilkenny 10, Basile and Kenny eight each and Carlson and Paullus had seven points each.

Heppner 56, Pilot Rock 41

Heppner 14 6 18 20- 56

Pilot Rock 11 8 7 15- 41

Heppner- Rory Kilkenny, 10 3-5 23, Josh Gutierrez 9 4-5 22, Matt Kenny 2 1-2 5, Dan Basile 1 0-0 2, Kyle Huddleston 1 0-0 2, Kory Paullus 0 0-2 0, Robert McElligott, Kyle Carlson and Roy Proctor. Team: 24 8-14 56. 3-pts: none

Pilot Rock- Norquist 9 2-4 22, Mills 3 1-2 7, Van Pelt 2 2-2 6, Howard 2 0-3 4, Christensen 1 0-0 2, Doherty, Hill and King. Team: 17 5-11 41. 3-pts: Norquist 2.

Heppner 60, Culver 35

Heppner 10 17 19 14- 60

Culver 10 13 8 4- 35

Heppner- Gutierrez 8 2-4 18, Kilkenny 4 2-5 10, Basile 4 0-0 8, Kenny 3 2-4 8, Paullus 3 1-2 7, Carlson 2 2-3 7, Huddleston 1 0-0 2, McElligott and Proctor. Team: 25 8-18 60. 3-pts: Carlson.

Culver- Hanson 2 8-14 12, Mann 2 3-4 7, W. Rhoan 3 1-2 7, M. Rhoan 2 0-1 4, Symons 1 1-2 3, Cooper 1 0-0 2, Torell, Pokoney, Chavez, Smith, Steadiman and Evans. Team: 11 13-23 35. 3-pts: none