

photos by Teresa Hughes

## Mustangs use 2nd quarter to down Eagles

By Rick Paullus

A 15-6 run in the second quarter helped the Heppner Mustangs come back to beat the Joseph Eagles 57-44 on Thursday, Feb. 26 in Heppner in the first round of the OSAA-US Bank-Les Schwab Tires 2004 Class 2A basketball state playoffs. The Mustangs improved to 21 and 3 on the year and advanced to the second-round to play at Regis on Saturday, Feb. 28 for the right to advance to the state championships in Pendleton. The Mustangs beat the defending champion and top-ranked Regis 51-50 in the first game of the season for both teams on Dec. 5 at the Santiam Christian Tournament.

Brian Smith got the Mustangs on the board first with a rebound basket as the teams traded baskets most of the first quarter. The Mustangs took two-point leads as Brandon Seitz hit a short jumper, Chuy Elguezabal scored off a rebound and Smith scored off a pass from Justin Botefuhr and hit a short jumper. Seitz scored off a drive to tie the game at 12-12, but the Eagles scored to end the first with a 14-12 lead.

Elguezabal tied the game to open the second, the Eagles scored to go back ahead, then Seitz hit a long jumper and Elguezabal scored off a pass from Gus Torres to give the Mustangs an 18-16 lead. After the Eagles tied it again, Aaron Griffith scored off a pass from Elguezabal, Torres scored off a steal, Elguezabal hit a running jumper and Botefuhr scored off a pass from Torres to make it 26-18. After an Eagle basket, Elguezabal hit one of two free throws to give the Mustangs a 27-20 lead at the half.

The Eagles scored twice to open the third, but Seitz scored four straight to push them back to 31-24. After four straight from the Eagles, Elguezabal hit a running jumper, Torres fed Murray and Seitz for lay-ins and Murray scored off a drive to make it 39-28. The Eagles scored to end the third with the Mustangs leading 39-30.

The Eagles scored to open the fourth, but Murray and Elguezabal scored off drives to make it 43-32. After a Joseph score, Seitz hit a running jumper, then the Eagles scored again; Murray scored off a pass from Torres and hit one of two free throws, Seitz hit three of four free throws and Elguezabal completed a three-point play to make it 54-36 with 2:32 left. Murray scored off a drive to make it 56-38 with 1:12 left and Zach Skaggs hit one of two free throws and the Eagles hit two 3-pointers late to make the final 57-44.

Seitz led the Mustangs with 17 points, six rebounds and two blocked shots. Elguezabal added 16 points and two assists. Murray added 11 points and four rebounds, Torres had five assists and four steals, Smith had six rebounds and three blocked shots and Botefuhr had three assists and two steals.

Heppner 12 15 12 18-57

Joseph 14 6 10 14-44

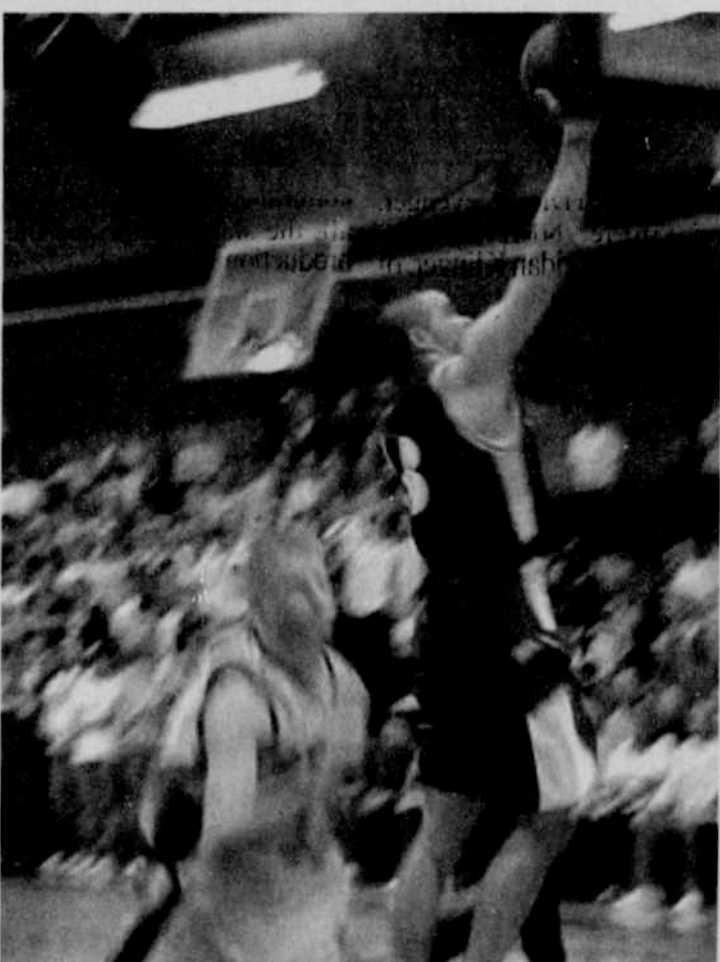
Heppner- Brandon Seitz 7 3-4 17, Chuy Elguezabal 7 2-3 16, Luke

Murray 5 1-3 11, Brian Smith 3 0-0 6, Aaron Griffith 1 0-0 2, Justin Botefuhr 1 0-0 2, Gus Torres 1 0-0 2, Zach Skaggs 0 1-2 1, Tyler Lovgren, Matt VanCleave, Brian Haguewood and Cody Walton. Team: 25 7-12 57. 3-pts: none.

Joseph- Cole Lathrop 8 0-4 16, Corey Otten 3 2-2 8, Derek Layton 2 2-3 7, Tristan Patton 3 0-0 6, Malte Siever 2 0-0 4, Kyle Hook 1 0-0 3, Andy Hayes, Lane Bailey, Chad Dotson, Justin Bird, Joe Dawson and Tristan Gorsline. Team: 144-9 44. 3-pts: Hook and Layton.



Mustang head coach Forrest McKinnis paces the sidelines



Chuy Elguezabal goes up for a layin against Regis

### EWU announces Dean's List

Ashley Carmack, of Ione, was listed on Eastern Washington University's Fall Quarter 2003 Dean's List. To be listed, a student must carry at least 12 credits and achieve a grade point average of 3.5 (4.0 scale) or above, which is equivalent to the letter grade "A."

## Mustangs end season at Regis

By Rick Paullus

A very successful season came to a disappointing end in the fourth quarter, at Regis, for the Heppner Mustangs as they lost 66-52 on Saturday, Feb. 28 in the OSAA-US Bank/Les Schwab Tires State 2A basketball playoffs. The Mustangs, 21 and 4 on the year, battled the Rams for three plus quarters, but went cold in the fourth, were forced to foul and the Rams made 12 of 13 free throws in the fourth to pull away for the win.

The game marked the final game in a Mustang uniform for seniors Luke Murray, Chuy Elguezabal, Brian Smith, Brian Haguewood, Tyler Lovgren, Aaron Griffith, Justin Botefuhr, Zach Skaggs and Cody Walton. The rest of the team were juniors Brandon Seitz and Gus Torres and sophomore Matt VanCleave and were coached by Forrest McKinnis and Chuck Matteson.

Seitz opened the game by hitting a short jumper but the Rams went on a 6-1 run to take a 6-3 lead. Seitz scored off a pass from Elguezabal and Botefuhr hit a long jumper to give the Mustangs a 7-6 lead and after

the Rams came back with five straight, Botefuhr hit another long jumper and Smith scored off a drive to tie it at 11-11. Regis scored eight straight until Seitz scored off a pass from Elguezabal to end the first quarter trailing 19-13.

After a Ram basket to open the second, Torres hit a 3-pointer, but Regis pushed their lead to 24-16, but back came the Mustangs with Murray hitting a jumper and Torres feeding Seitz for a lay-in. A Ram 3-pointer made it 27-20, but Skaggs scored three straight lay-ins on passes from Elguezabal, Lovgren and Murray, then Murray scored off a rebound and Torres got a steal and a lay-in to make it 30-27. Regis tied it at the half at 30-30 on a late 3-pointer after a scramble for a loose ball.

The Rams opened the third with a basket to take the lead, but Elguezabal hit a 3-pointer and Seitz made one of two free throws to make it 34-32. After the Rams tied it again, Elguezabal hit a long 3-pointer only to see the Rams come back to take a 39-37 lead. Torres tied it with a drive and lay-in, the Rams went ahead and Seitz scored off a pass from Murray to tie it

again, but the Rams scored to end the third with a 43-41 lead.

Regis scored first to open the fourth, Smith hit a short jumper, the Rams scored four straight and after Seitz hit two free throws, they pushed their lead to 54-45. Elguezabal got a steal and lay-in, the Rams hit two free throws and Torres scored off a drive to make it 56-49. After two more free throws, Torres hit one of two with 2:20 left to make it 58-50 but the Rams hit six of six in the next minute to put the game away. Haguewood scored inside off a pass from Torres for the Mustangs last points of the year with about a minute left.

Seitz had 13 points and two blocked shots with Torres adding 10 points, two assists and two steals. Elguezabal had a good all-around game with eight points, seven assists and seven rebounds. Smith had nine rebounds, Murray had four rebounds and two assists and Botefuhr had four rebounds.

Heppner 13 17 11 11-52

Regis 19 11 13 23-66

Heppner- Brandon Seitz 5 3-4 13, Gus Torres 4 1-2 10, Chuy Elguezabal 3 0-0 8, Zach Skaggs 3 0-0 6, Justin Botefuhr 2 1-2 5, Luke Murray 2 0-0 4, Brian Smith 2 0-0 4, Brian Haguewood 1 0-0 2, Tyler Lovgren, Aaron Griffith and Cody Walton. Team: 22 5-8 52. 3-pts: Elguezabal 2 and Torres.

Regis: Blake Musscardin 9 4-6 24, Tyler Lulay 5 6-8 18, Drew Church 2 8-8 13, Nathan Keudell 4 0-0 8, Ricky Brentano 2 1-2 5, Brian Keohnke, Austin Moothart, Russell Lulay, Lawrence Silbernagel and Ryan Butler. Team: 22 18-24 66. 3-pts: T. Lulay, Musscardin 2 and Church.



Heppner fans cheer on the team



Gus Torres guards a Regis player

## Ione Lady Cardinals fall in first round

By Marie Key

The Ione Lady Cardinals lost to the Crane Mustangs, 35-40, in the first round of state playoffs on Feb. 28 at Ione.

The Lady Cardinals' offense struggled from the beginning of the game, but their defense kept Crane from the basket until the final few minutes of the fourth quarter.

The first quarter ended with Ione behind one point, 7-8. In the second quarter, Ione scored eight points to Crane's seven points. The third quarter ended with Ione in the lead, 25-23. In the fourth quarter the Lady Cards had 10 points, and Crane had 18 points.

Natalie McElligott led the Lady Cardinals with 23 points, including four three-point field goals. Others contributing were Sara Peck with four points; Barbara Holland with three; Amber Patton and Eva Chitty with two points each; and Emily Key with one point.

## HHS announces March schedule

Heppner Junior/Senior High will be holding Spring Break March 22 through March 26.

The Morrow County School Board will meet at 7 p.m., Monday, March 8, at A.C. Houghton in Boardman.

The HHS Winter Sports Dessert will be Tuesday, March 9 at 7 p.m.

The HHS Site Council will meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 10 and the HHS Booster Club will meet at 7 p.m.

On Friday, March 12 the OSEA Fiddlers will be at the Heppner Elementary School gym at 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. There will also be a Lads and Lassies Dance from 7 p.m. until 1 a.m.

The Community Education Committee will meet on Monday, March 15 at 7 p.m. at HES.

Also remember, wear green on St. Pat's Day, Wednesday, March 17.

There will also be numerous baseball and track events beginning this month.

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 Friday, March 12 at the Elks Club starting at 7 p.m.