

Mustang boys lose to WWVA



Heppner's Gus Torres (front) plays defense

By Rick Paullus

The Walla Walla Valley Academy Knights took a 10-point lead after one and turned it into a 70-41 win over the Heppner Mustangs on Tuesday, Dec. 14 in College Place, WA. The Mustangs, 1 and 1 on the young season, will be at home against Grant Union on Thursday, Dec. 23, before going on the road at John Day on Monday, Dec. 27 and at Imbler on Tuesday, Dec. 28 in non-league games.

The Mustangs Kory Paullus scored the first two points of the game, but the Knights went on a 13-0 run before Matthew VanCleave hit one of two free throws and Gus Torres hit a 3-pointer to cut the lead to 16-6 after one.

Brandon Seitz and Paullus scored on rebound baskets to cut the lead to 18-10. VanCleave hit two free throws to make it 22-12. Rory Kilkenny scored off a rebound and Seitz hit two free throws, but the Knights took a 29-16 lead at the half.

Paullus opened the third with a steal and a lay-in, Torres scored off a steal and VanCleave scored off a drive to cut it to 29-22. Josh Gutierrez scored off a drive and Paullus scored off a pass from Torres to cut the lead

to 33-26. Torres hit a short jumper, VanCleave hit four free throws and scored off a drive, but the Knights still led 48-35 after three.

Torres hit two free throws, Kilkenny hit one of two and Gutierrez hit a jumper to get within 51-40, but the Knights went on a 13-0 run before Kilkenny hit one of two free throws, but that was all the scoring for the Mustangs.

VanCleave led the Mustangs with 11 points, with Torres adding 10 points and Paullus eight.

Heppner 6 10 19 6-41
WWVA 16 13 19 22-70

Heppner- Matthew VanCleave 2 7-10 11, Gus Torres 3 3-6 10, Kory Paullus 4 0-1 8, Brandon Seitz 1 2-2 4, Josh Gutierrez 2 0-0 4, Rory Kilkenny 1 2-4 4, Mikel Britt 0 0-2 0, Kyle Huddleston, Tyler Boyer, Matt Kenny, Quinn Peck and Matt McCabe. Team: 13 14-25 41. 3-pts: Torres.

Walla Walla Valley Academy- Solis 7 5-6 21, Opara 6 0-0 12, Bell 4 1-2 9, Aquil 2 2-2 7, Dyer 3 0-0 6, Loree 2 0-0 5, Balk 2 0-0 4, Johnson 1 0-0 2, Beyer 1 0-0 2, Guth 1 0-1 2 and Bleth. Team: 29 7-11 70. 3-pts: Solis 2, Loree and Aquil.

Mustang boys drop two in tournament

By Rick Paullus

After losing to Nyssa 59-43 on Friday night, Dec. 17, the Heppner Mustang boys' varsity lost a tight game to the Mac-Hi Pioneers, 42-37, on Saturday, Dec. 18 in the South Morrow County Basketball Tournament.

The Mustangs fell to 1 and 3 on the year and have non-league games against Grant Union in Heppner on Thursday, Dec. 23, in John Day on Monday, Dec. 27 and at Imbler on Tuesday, Dec. 28.

Against Nyssa on Friday, the Bulldogs took an early 19-4 lead as the Mustangs got a three-point play from Matthew VanCleave and a free throw from Matt Kenny. Kenny hit a short jumper, VanCleave scored off a rebound and Josh Gutierrez hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer, but the Bulldogs held a 21-11 lead after one.

Gus Torres hit a 3-pointer and Gutierrez hit two free throws as the Bulldogs extended their lead to 30-16, Brandon Seitz hit one of two free throws and scored inside and Gutierrez hit another 3-pointer, but the Mustangs trailed 43-22 at the half.

The Mustangs came out of the locker room a different team as Torres fed Seitz for a lay-in and hit a 3-pointer. Seitz scored off a steal, VanCleave scored off a drive and hit one of two free throws and Seitz scored off a drive as they outscored the Bulldogs 12-1 to get within 44-34 after three.

Torres fed Mikel Britt and Seitz for lay-ins to get the Mustangs to within 47-38, but the Bulldogs went on a 7-0 run before Gutierrez hit a 3-pointer to cut the lead to 54-41. Seitz scored on a pass from Torres, but the Bulldogs coasted to a 59-43 win.

Seitz led the Mustangs with 13 points, 14 rebounds and four blocked shots, with Gutierrez adding 11 points, including three 3-pointers, and three assists. VanCleave scored eight points and had six rebounds,

Torres had eight assists and six steals and Kenny had five rebounds.

On Saturday, the Mustangs took an early lead as Seitz scored twice inside on passes from Torres and VanCleave scored off a drive to lead 6-4, but the Pioneers came back with a 7-0 run before VanCleave scored off a pass from Seitz but they trailed 13-8 after one.

Seitz fed VanCleave for a lay-in, then scored off a pass from Torres, but the Pioneers extended their lead to 23-12. Britt scored off a pass from Torres, Seitz hit one of two free throws and Torres scored off a drive, but the Pioneers led 27-17 at the half.

Torres hit a long jumper and a 3-pointer and Seitz scored off a drive to open the third to get within 27-24, but the Pioneers came back with a 9-0 run before VanCleave made two free throws and Torres hit a long jumper to get the Mustangs within 36-28 at the end of the third quarter.

Seitz hit a short jumper then fed VanCleave twice inside to open the fourth and get the Mustangs within two at 36-34. The Pioneers went on a 4-1 run before Kory Paullus hit two free throws with 18.4 seconds left to cut the lead to 40-37. Paullus came up with a steal to give the Mustangs a chance but a missed 3-pointer forced them to foul and the Pioneers made the free throws to ice the win.

Seitz finished with 12 points, four rebounds, four assists and three blocked shots, with VanCleave also adding 12 points and four rebounds. Torres had nine points, eight rebounds, four assists and four steals and Paullus had four rebounds and two steals.

Nyssa 59, Heppner 43
Nyssa 21 22 1 15-59
Heppner 11 11 12 9-



Brandon Seitz goes for a blocked shot. #51 is Matt McCabe



Josh Gutierrez looks for an opening

Torres 2.
Mac-Hi 42, Heppner 37
Mac-Hi 13 14 9 6-42
Heppner 8 9 11 9-37
Mac-Hi- Carlson 7 5-6 21, S. Gonzalez 3 0-0 6, J. Gonzalez 2 0-1 5, Middleton 2 0-0 4, Paine 1 0-0 2, Millar 1 0-0 2 and Weaver 1 0-0 2. Team: 17 5-7 42. 3-pts: Carlson 2 and J. Gonzalez.
Heppner- Seitz 5 2-4 12, VanCleave 5 2-3 12, Torres 4 0-2 9, Britt 1 0-0 2, Paullus 0 2-2 2, Gutierrez, Kenny, Kilkenny and McCabe. Team: 15 6-11 37. 3-pts: Torres.

"A" team Ponies fall to Mt. Vernon

By Larry Palmer

It was David versus Goliath as the "A" Ponies took on the Mt. Vernon Mustangs in Mt. Vernon. In the first quarter, it was all Mustangs as the imposing Mustangs took a 12-4 lead. The tallest of the Goliath's stood about 6 foot 3 inches, but the mighty Ponies came galloping back in the second outscoring their opponent 15-6, as the Ponies held a one-point lead, 19-18.

The Mustangs came flying out of the chutes in the second half as they

outscored the Ponies 19-6 in the third. The fourth wasn't any easier on the Ponies as the size advantage took its toll and the Ponies were outscored 14-8. The final score saw the Ponies fall 51-33.

There was some good match-ups throughout the game, but size and numbers took its toll on the Ponies. The Ponies received scoring from Dalton Wellman who sank two points, Sam King crowned in 13, Spencer Palmer muscled

in six, Josh Shank ripped in two, Jared Huddleston weighed in four, Matt Holland took four and Braden Britt weaved in two points. Joe Pranger and Brent Eckman helped the team effort as well.

Heppner 4 15 6 8-33
Mt. Vernon 12 6 19 14-51

Holiday Lighting contest winners announced

The Heppner Chamber 2004 Holiday Lighting Contest was held Dec. 17-20. The event was sponsored by Columbia Basin Electric Co-Op, who provided a \$25 gift certificate for electricity to each of the six winners.

"Best Use of Lighting:" Business-Nazarene Church and Residential- Russ Brannon.
"Most Original Set:" Business- Peterson's Jewelers and Residential-Nelson Conner.

"Judge's Favorite:" Business- Heppner T.V. and Residential- Dave Winters.

Honorable mentions went to: business- Looking down Main Street, Heppner Chamber and residential- Mark Dowdy.

Chase Street was chosen as Heppner's Holiday Lane.

"B" team Ponies take win from Mt. Vernon

By Larry Palmer

The "B" Ponies took a long road trip to Mt. Vernon to take on the Mustangs, a horse of a different color. It was a rugged game from the start for the Ponies as the Mustangs stomped out to a 15-4 first quarter lead. The Ponies fought back in the second and were down only 23-17 at the half.

The Ponies went to a full court press in the second half and four success, as they kicked away at the lead and they were only down 35-30 at the end of the third. In the fourth, the Ponies came out "blazin' saddles" as they shut down the Mustangs and outscored

them 17-8. The final score was 47-45 as the Ponies lassoed the Mustangs and sent them looking for green pastures.

The Ponies used balanced scoring in this contest as Justin Key locked in two points, Chris Wellington dug out eight, Grant Smith canned two, Brian Holland windmilled in 11, Jared Huddleston connected on eight, Brent Eckman made seven, Luke Young blasted in two and Drew Johnson penciled in four. Other contributors were Tomas Elguezabal, Lane Wright and Zach McCarl.

Heppner 4 13 13 17-47
Mt. Vernon 15 8 12 8-45

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