Mustang girls take tourney championship

By Rick Paullus

After knocking off the third-ranked Nyssa Bulldogs 46-44 on Friday, Dec. 17, the Heppner Mustang girls' varsity built a big lead and held off the Mac-Hi Pioneers 40-35 on Saturday, Dec. 18 to take the championship of the South Morrow County Basketball Tournament.

The Mustangs improved to 5 and 1 and continue their non-league schedule against Grant Union at home on Thursday, Dec. 23, at John Day on Monday, Dec. 27 and at Imbler on Tuesday, Dec. 28.

Against the Bulldogs, the Mustangs jumped out to a 12-5 lead after one, getting four points each from Linsey Mitchell and Megan Orr and still led 26-22 at the half, getting six second quarter points from Orr and four points from Blair Keithley.

The Bulldogs came out in the third with five straight to grab the lead, but Shanna Rietmann scored twice and Susan Southworth scored off a rebound to make it 32-29. Rietmann scored twice then fed Sarah Price for a lay-in to make it 38-33 and Price hit one of two free throws to give the Mustangs a 39-35 lead after three.

Price hit one of two free throws and Rietmann scored off a rebound to open the fourth, but the Bulldogs came back to get within 42-40. Orr scored off a drive and Southworth scored off a rebound to make it 46-42 with 1:14 left. The Bulldogs scored with 35 seconds left to get within two, but the Mustangs held on for the win as the last second shot bounced out and Orr grabbed the rebound.

Rietmann scored 12 points and had four assists. Orr had 12 points and four steals. Southworth had six points and eight rebounds.

On Saturday, the Mustangs raced out to a 13-4 lead after one, getting nine points, including a 3-pointer, from Or and four points from Southworth. They increased their lead to 26-15 at the half, getting six points from Terra Wilson and three from Keithley.

Wilson opened the third with a running jumper, but the Pioneers came back with six straight before Southworth scored off a rebound and Rietmann hit a long jumper to give the Mustangs a 32-24 lead after three.

Keithley hit one of two free throws and Rietmann hit a jumper to open the fourth, but the Pioneers wouldn't quit, closing the game to 35-32 midway through the fourth. Orr hit a short jumper and Southworth scored off a drive to make it 39-32 and the Mustangs held on for the win.

Orr led the Mustangs with 11 points, seven steals and five rebounds, with Southworth adding eight points and four rebounds. Wilson had eight points, Rietmann had seven points and five assists, Price had five rebounds and Regi Seitz had three steals.

Heppner 46, Nyssa 44

Heppner 12 14 13 7-46

Nyssa 5 17 13 9-44

Heppner- Shanna Rietmann 6 0-1 12, Megan Orr 6 0-0 12, Susan Southworth 3 0-1 6, Sarah Price 1 2-5 4, Linsey Mitchell 2 0-0 4, Blair Keithley 2 0-0 4, Terra Wilson 0 2-4 2, Lyndi Patton 1 0-0 2 and Heather Yocom 0 0-2 0. Team: 21 4-13 46. 3-pts: none.

Nyssa- Ramos 7 0-1 15, Spears 3 1-1 7, Escobedo 3 0-0 6, Anderson 2 1-4 5, Jasper 2 0-0 4, Zittercob 1 0-0 2, Kurtz 1 0-0 2, Mitchell 1 0-0 2, Leo 0 1-2 1 and Froerer. Team: 20 3-8 44. 3-pts: Ramos.

Heppner 40, Mac-Hi 35

Heppner 13 13 6 8-40

Mac-Hi 4 11 9 11-35

Heppner- Orr 5 0-0 11, Southworth 4 0-0 8, Wilson 2 4-4 8, Rietmann 3 1-4 7, Keithley 1 2-4 4, Regi Seitz 1 0-0 2, Patton 0 0-2 0, Price 0 0-1 0, Yocom and Lynan Bingham. Team: 16 7-15 40. 3-pts: Orr.

Mac-Hi- Holden 5 2-4 12, Carlson 2 3-4 7, Garton 2 0-0 6, Contreras 2 0-0 4, Brown 2 0-0 4, Croghan 1 0-0 2, Riley and Timmons. Team: 14 5-8 35. 3-pts: Garton 2.

photo by Sandy Matthews

Susan Southworth (#32) puts up a shot

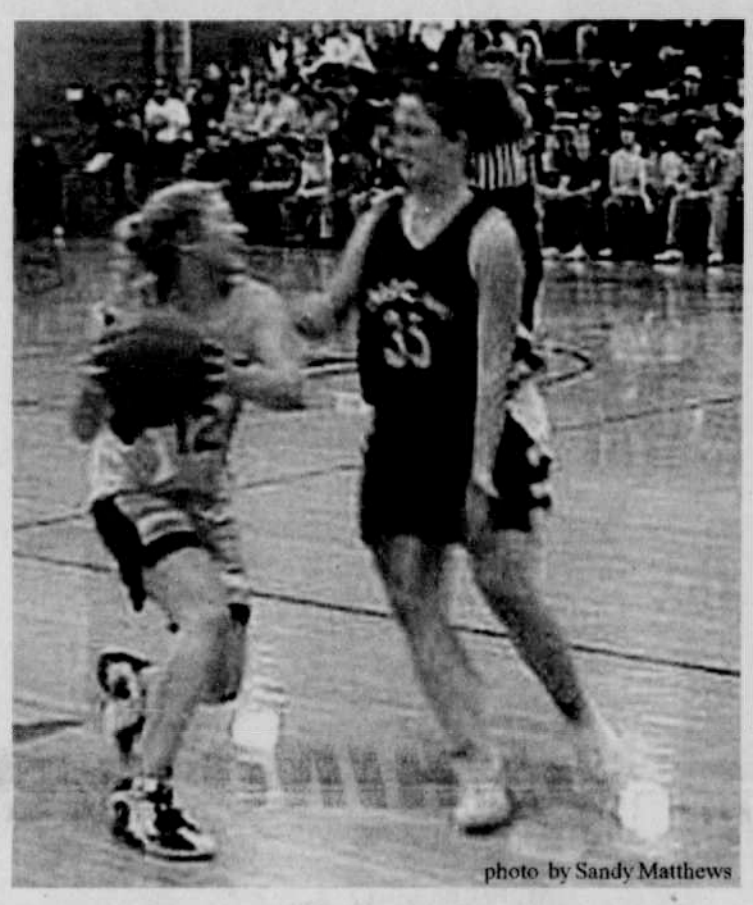


photo by Sandy Matthews

Shanna Rietmann (#12) looks for room around defender

DA's report

Don Cory Pearson was convicted of Possession of a Controlled Substance-2, a Class-C felony. Pearson's driver's license was suspended for six months. Pearson was sentenced to 18 months supervised probation, 30 days in jail, 80 hours of community service and payment of $916 in fines and fees.

David Wayne Eldridge admitted to violation of probation allegations for Felon in Possession of a Firearm. Eldridge's probation was revoked and reinstated with the conditional discharge removed. Eldridge was also convicted of Attempt C/Felony, Felon in Possession of Firearm, a Class-A misdemeanor. Eldridge was sentenced to 180 suspended days in jail, two years bench probation, 80 hours of community service and payment of $376 in fines and fees.

Robert Martin Leinweber was convicted of Attempt A/Felony Murder, a Class B felony, Assault-1, a Class A felony and Unlawful Use of a Weapon Against Another, a Class-C felony. Leinweber was sentenced to 90 months in jail, 36 months probation and payment of $14,595.25 to State of Oregon Department of Justice Crime Victims Compensation Fund.

Jose Daniel Albrada Padilla was convicted of Attempt A/Felony, Kidnapping-1, a Class-B felony. Padilla was sentenced to 19 months in jail and 36 months probation.

Maria Elena Montez pled guilty to Possession of a Controlled Substance, a Class-C felony. Montez was sentenced to 80 hours community service, 18 months formal probation, completion of a drug treatment package, driving privileges suspended for six months-only if conviction enters and payment of $916 in fines and fees.

Armato shares story of nativity set

Joe Armato with a lamb from the nativity set.

Joe Armato gave a presentation to the Heppner Elementary School sixth grade class and the Heppner Chamber of Commerce on the origins and resting place of a popular Heppner nativity set. Following is his presentation:

Christmas decorations can become a holiday tradition. Nearly 50 years ago, Amanda Duvall had a nativity scene made. It is a ¾-scale multi-piece nativity scene (meaning that the pieces at ¾ the size of the actual item). Each of the nativity scene figures were cut from plywood and painted by Lois and Ernie Winchester. Many pieces of the figures are signed and dated, with the oldest piece dated 1954 and the most recent figure dated 1965.

Duvall originally displayed it at her house next to the Morrow County Courthouse. The manger and holy family were first, then over the years the other pieces were added-shepherds and their sheep, an angel, the three wise men and their camels, then the final item, the little drummer boy. These animals and their masters trailed down the hillside.

Duvall had spotlights and speakers playing Christmas music. It was a remarkable display in the 1960s before the technology that is common today, it was a holiday tradition for many of Heppner's residence to drive past the large nativity scene, stop, listen to music and admire the artwork. After Duvall's death in the 1970s, the house was sold and the pieces were scattered through the community.

Several churches and even the hospital had a part of the large nativity scene, but it seemed that no one place was quite large enough to handle the titanic display. For over 20 years this display was set up in pieces around Heppner. In the late 1990s, Lois Winchester gathered all the pieces together in order that they again might be displayed as intended. As one large nativity scene and trailing down the hill at the Duvall home.

Unfortunately, the original site had filled in with trees and shrubs during the 20 years and many pieces couldn't be seen. Winchester agreed that it could be displayed at its present location. Below Armato's house on Willow Creek Road.

Every year the Armato's rebuild the wind whipped parts and place it on the hillside. The lights are so bright that you can see them from a mile away. Some pieces are missing, a leg, a lantern and the music, But, from a distance, once again the community can enjoy this true example of great American folk art that was a gift to Heppner from Duvall and the Winchesters.

Visitors can drive down Willow Creek Road and view the nativity from 4:30-8:30 p.m.

WVSC provides holiday gifts

The Willow Valley Service Club issued holiday checks to several organizations in the Willow Valley at its December meeting.

These donations included the following: Chess Mates, Heppner Elementary School, $100; Marcia Sweek Memorial-Friends of the Library, $100; SMART (Start Making a Reader Today), HES, $100; Heppner Day Care, $100; Willow Creek Valley Assisted Living, $100; Neighborhood Center, $100; Lexington Odd Fellows Lodge, $200; Heppner Fire Department, $200; Ione Legion Hall, $200; FARM Museum Mural Project, $500- results of the quilted wall hanging raffle.

Due to the communities' support of the Fair Kitchen and Artifactory projects, as well as dues and other general donations, WVSC is able to make these contributions.

Marriage Licenses

Dec. 13: Maurico Mendoza Sanchez, 21, Boardman and Kelly Maureen Buschke, 18, Boardman.

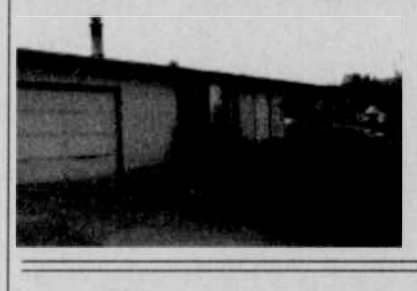
Dec. 14: Homero Gutierrez, 27, Hermiston and Maribel Montoya, 27, Hermiston; Antonio Lopez Gomez, 48, Umatilla and Yesenia Pina-Aispuro, 18, Umatilla.

HOMES & PROPERTIES -- FOR SALE --

3 bedroom near park

3 bedroom home across from park. New driveway and patio. Two bath (one brand new). **$75,000**

3 bedroom 1 bath with extra lot



Home on double lot. Insulated shop with its own drive. Lots of storage. **$99,000**

Former Kingdom Hall

1470 square foot meeting hall that would make good church or meeting place. In Lexington **$49,000**

3 bedroom in Lexington

3 bedroom, 2 bath home on double lot. Garage and shop. **$85,000**

Very nice home by the creek

New Lower Price

This home is in excellent condition. 2 bedroom, one bath with attached double wide garage. Underground sprinkler and much more. **$85,900**

2 bedroom in Lexington

2 bedroom single wide with shop, large yard and foundation already laid for new room. Garden space too. **$50,000**

Two lots above lake

Ready to build on. **One lot $20,900 the other $19,500.** View of the lake.

David Sykes, Agent

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