

Mustang boys lose at Stanfield

By Rick Paullus

In a game that featured a total of 66 free throws, the Heppner Mustang boys' varsity never got into a rhythm offensively and ended up losing at Stanfield 53-49 on Saturday, Jan. 22 in Columbia Basin Conference play. The Tigers hit 17 of 34 free throws, including seven of 10 in the final two minutes, to the Mustangs 19 of 32.

The Mustangs, 2-4 in the CBC and 5-8 overall, will be at home against Umatilla on Friday, Jan. 28 and at Sherman County on Saturday, Jan. 29 as they begin the second half of CBC play.

The Tigers jumped out to a 10-3 lead as the Mustangs managed a Matthew VanCleave short jumper and a free throw from Brandon Seitz and they cut the lead to 10-5 after one on a Seitz lay-in.

Matt McCabe hit one of two free throws, Josh Gutierrez hit one of two, Gus Torres scored off a rebound and Seitz scored twice inside off passes from Kory Paullus and Torres to give the Mustangs a 13-10 lead. Rory Kilkenny scored off a pass from Gutierrez and hit two free throws to make it 17-14. McCabe and Seitz hit one of two free throws and McCabe hit two more as the teams ended up tied at 21-21 at the half.

The Tigers came out with 11 straight points to open the third before R.J. Farrens hit Kilkenny and Seitz inside for lay-ins, then hit two free throws to cut the lead to 33-27. Kilkenny hit two free throws and Torres scored off a drive to cut the lead to 35-31 and the Tigers eventually took a 37-31 lead after three.

Torres hit one of two free throws to open the fourth and after a Tiger

basket, VanCleave scored twice inside and Gutierrez hit a jumper to get the Mustangs to within 39-38. Seitz hit one of two free throws, then scored off a drive to give the Mustangs a 41-40 lead with 4:50 left, but the Tigers came back with four straight to regain the lead at 44-41. VanCleave scored off a rebound and after a Tiger basket, Gutierrez scored off a drive to cut the lead to 46-45 with 2 minutes left, but the Tigers hit four of six free throws to make it 50-45, with 1:14 left. Kilkenny and Farrens each hit two free throws to cut it to 50-49 with 49.1 seconds left, but the Tigers hit three of four free throws down the stretch and turnovers by the Mustangs ended the game.

Seitz had 13 points and nine rebounds and Kilkenny had 10 points and six rebounds to lead the Mustangs. VanCleave had eight points and six rebounds, Torres had five rebounds and two assists, Paullus had six rebounds, Kenny had two steals and Gutierrez and Farrens each had two assists.

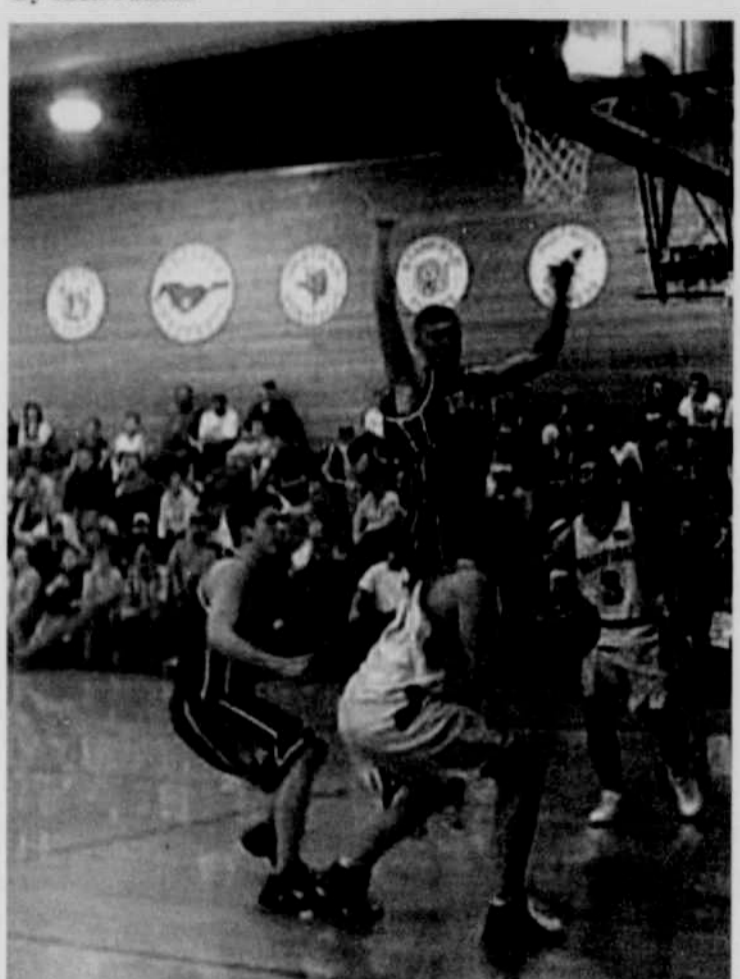
Heppner 5 16 10 18-49
Stanfield 10 11 16 16-53

Heppner- Brandon Seitz 5 3-6 13, Rory Kilkenny 2 6-6 10, Matthew VanCleave 4 0-4 8, Gus Torres 2 1-4 5, Josh Gutierrez 2 1-2 5, Matt McCabe 0 4-6 4, R.J. Farrens 0 4-4 4, Kory Paullus, Mikel Britt, Quinn Peck and Matt Kenny. Team: 15 19-32 49. 3-pts: none.

Stanfield- Grogan 5 3-4 16, Sobotta 4 4-6 13, Blackburn 3 5-8 11, Flemmer 3 3-7 9, Gehrke 1 2-6 4, Zielke 0 0-2 0, Ramos 0 0-1 0 and Baros. Team: 16 17-34 53. 3-pts: Grogan 3 and Sobotta.

Mustang boys hang on to beat Tigerscots 64-57

By Rick Paullus



Matthew VanCleave waits for the block against a Weston-McEwen player before putting it in for two. Photo by Sandy Matthews.

The Heppner Mustang varsity boys outscored the visiting Weston-McEwen Tigerscots 11-5 in the final two minutes to hang on to a 64-57 win on Friday, Jan. 21 in Columbia Basin Conference action. The Mustangs, 2-3 in the CBC and 5-7 overall, will be at home against Umatilla on Friday, Jan. 28 before going on the road to Sherman County on Saturday, Jan. 29.

Brandon Seitz hit a jumper to tie it at 2-2 early and Matthew VanCleave hit a short turnaround jumper to tie it at 4-4. Rory Kilkenny scored on a pass from Matt Kenny and after the Tigerscots came back for a 10-6 lead, Kilkenny scored twice inside and Gus Torres hit a long jumper to give the Mustangs a 12-10 lead after one.

The Tigerscots took a 17-13 lead early in the second, but the Mustangs came back to tie it on a 3-pointer by Josh Gutierrez and a free throws from Torres. Torres hit two free throws then scored off a drive to make it 21-19 and Seitz hit a baseline jumper at the buzzer to give them a 23-21 lead at the half.

Kenny scored on a pass from Gutierrez to open the third. Torres hit a 3-pointer and Kenny hit a short jumper to make it 30-23, but the Tigerscots came back with five straight. Kilkenny scored on a pass from Torres, then Torres and Kilkenny scored of drives to make it 36-30, but the Tigerscots came back to get within 36-34 at the end of the third quarter.

After the Tigerscots scored to open the fourth to tie it, Seitz hit a short jumper and VanCleave converted a three-point play to make it 41-36. VanCleave scored off passes from Gutierrez and Torres to make it 45-38, then scored off another pass from

Torres, but the Tigerscots came back with four straight to make it 47-45. Gutierrez scored off a drive, fed Kenny for a lay-in and Torres hit two free throws, but again the Tigerscots came back to get within one at 53-52. VanCleave hit two free throws, Seitz hot one of two and a short jumper and Matt McCabe hit one of two to make it 59-52 with 42.7 seconds left. After two free throws by the Tigerscots, Gutierrez hit one of two and Seitz hit two with 27.8 seconds left to make it 62-54 and after a 3-pointer by the Tigerscots, McCabe and Torres each hit one of two free throws to seal the win.

Torres led four Mustangs in double figures with 16 points and had eight assists. VanCleave added 13 points, Seitz added 11 points and five rebounds and Kilkenny had 10 points, 10 rebounds and two steals. Kenny had seven rebounds and Gutierrez had four assists and two steals.

Heppner 12 11 13 28-64

Weston-McEwen 10 11 13 23-57

Heppner- Gus Torres 4 7-10 16, Matthew VanCleave 5 3-3 13, Brandon Seitz 4 3-4 11, Rory Kilkenny 5 0-4 10, Josh Gutierrez 2 1-2 6, Matt Kenny 3 0-2 6, Matt McCabe 0 2-4 2, Kyle Huddleston, Mikel Britt, Quinn Peck and R.J. Farrens. Team: 23 15-29 64. 3-pts: Torres and Gutierrez.

Weston-McEwen- Ch. Watts 7 1-1 15, Sheard 6 5-5 14, King 5 0-0 11, Duke 2 0-0 5, Hassenbank 1 3-6 5, Ca. Watts 2 0-0 5, Robertson 1 0-0 2, Peterson and Johnston. Team: 22 9-12 57. 3-pts: Sheard, Duke, King and Ca. Watts.

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Lady Cardinals take win against Horizon Christian JVs

Horizon Christian of Hood River brought a JV girls' team to Ione last Saturday, providing the younger Cardinals a chance for some court time. Taking every advantage of that, the Lady Cards dominated from the start, rolling out to a 10-2 lead after one and a 20-2 advantage at the half. Horizon Christian continued to struggle in the second half as Ione moved on to a 48-16 win.

Amber Patton led all scorers with 13 points, followed by a strong effort from Kayla LaRue with 10 points. Other scorers were Sara Peck with eight, Kylee Svetich with six, Jenny Griffith with five, Kaylee Palmateer with four and Emily Rietmann with two. Julie VandenBrink didn't score, but played a strong game for Ione.

Coach Ryan Rudolf was pleased with the effort. "This was a good opportunity for some of my younger players to get some playing time. In the long run, the more the younger girls play, the better we will become district time," said Rudolf.

Cardinals split over weekend

The Ione Cardinals split their games this past weekend, losing a tough contest to the South Wasco County Redsidies on the road, before coming home to defeat a tenacious Horizon Christian team on Saturday, Jan. 22.

Trouble at the free throw line cost the Cards the game against the third-ranked Wasco team. Ione had 33 chances at the line and only managed to convert on 13. The Cardinals trailed 13-9 after one quarter and were still within striking distance at halftime, 23-28. It was a letdown in the third quarter that let the Redsidies get away, with South Wasco outscoring the Cards 18-11 to lead 46-34 after three. The last quarter was played evenly, but Ione just couldn't seem to close in on their hosts. The final score was 65-36 Redsidies.

Tyler Brown had a strong inside game for the Cardinals scoring 23 points. Tyler Raible also had one of his best games of the year with 13 points. Rounding out the scoring was Tony Bolin with seven, Kelly Thompson with six, Nick Christman with two and Arthur Ekstrom with two. Thompson led the team with seven assists, while Bolin and Ekstrom led with five rebounds each.

"This is a game we could have won," said head coach Dennis Stefani. "We played with them all night but couldn't convert our free throws. Shooting 13 of 33 from the line was the difference in the game."

Horizon Christian came to town Saturday night, hoping to take advantage of a team that might have been tired from the long trip to Maupin. They did find the Cards a little weary after arriving home at midnight the night before; however, the Cardinals gutted it out and held off the visitors, finally stretching out the margin of victory in the final period, winning 60-49.

Brown again led the Cards, brining in 18 points, as well as grabbing a team-leading 11 rebounds. Christman had a strong performance, tallying 12 points, hitting three big shots midway through the fourth quarter to put the game away for good. Bolin scored 11 points and against led the team in assists with six. Also scoring for the Cards were Raible with nine, Ekstrom with six and Thompson with four.

"We played tired from the hard contest with Wasco," said Coach Stefani. "But we did what we had to do to get the win."

IMS "B" team boys lose to Condon

By Beth Morter

The Ione Middle School boys' "B" team was defeated by the Condon Demons on Saturday, Jan. 15.

In the first quarter, Ione scored five points, but Condon scored 11. In the second quarter, Ione scored seven points and held Condon to seven, leaving the score at halftime, 18-12 with Condon leading.

In the third quarter, Ione couldn't pick up any points and left the Demons to score six points to bring the score to 24-12. In the last quarter, the Cardinals brought in two points, but it wasn't enough to catch the Demons who outscored them again with six points, leaving the final score with the Demons winning 30-14.

The top scorers for the Cardinals were Alex Rietmann and Kevin LaRue with five points each. Tanner Rietmann and Gunner Jessen also scored two points each.

"The kids played good and are improving every week. Our offense is getting better and we are having a lot of shots that are just missing," said Coach Mike Garrett. "We have real good team speed, but have a hard time slowing down when we are attempting our shots."

Cardinals "B" team girls defeat Goslings

By Beth Morter

The Ione Middle School "B" team girls defeated the Arlington Goslings on Saturday, Jan. 22.

There were only two 15-minute halves instead of four six-minute quarters. In the first half, Ione had a demanding lead of 14-2 and they didn't lighten up from there.

In the second half, the Cardinals scored 13 points and the Goslings only scored four, leaving the final score 27-6. Ione played tough defense and executed a strong offense to work the ball closer to the basket.

The top scorer for the game was Kara Clay with 10 points. Mariah Bradfield

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IMS "A" team boys win against Condon

By Beth Morter

The Ione Middle School boys' "A" team won against the Condon Demons on Saturday, Jan. 15.

The Cardinals started out strong and by the end of the first quarter, Ione had a six-point lead, 11-5. Ione scored eight in the second quarter and Condon only scored four, leaving the score at halftime, 19-9.

In the second half, Condon started the scoring with seven points, but Ione scored nine to lead at the end of the third quarter, 28-16. In the last quarter, Condon scored eight points, but Ione scored nine and finished the game strong, 37-24.

The leading scorers

for the Cardinals were Clay Morter and Stormy Kendrick with 10 points each. Matt Hams followed with seven, Cory Peterson made five, Luke Bradfield scored three and Aidan Burt brought in two.

"We have turned up the defensive pressure the last couple of weeks in practice and it has shown in the games," said Coach Mike Garrett. "Scoring was evenly distributed and the kids moved the ball well against Condon. Condon is a very good defensive team and I was glad to see the perimeter players handle the ball so well."

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