

Mustang boys' rally falls short

By Rick Paullus

A 20-point third quarter deficit proved to be too much to overcome as the Heppner Mustang boys had their season come to an end at the hands of the Pilot Rock Rockets in a loser-out game at the Columbia Basin Conference district tournament at the Convention Center in Pendleton on Friday, Feb. 17. The Mustangs finished the season with a 10 and 9 record.

It also ended the basketball careers in a Mustang uniform for seniors Rory Kilkenny, Matt Kenny, Matt Van Cleave and Mikel Britt.

Sophomore Matt McCabe hit a 3-pointer to open the game and Van Cleave scored off a drive but the Rockets came back to take a 14-5 lead after one. Van Cleave hit a short jumper and Kilkenny scored off a pass from RJ Farrens to make it 17-9 and Van Cleave and Kilkenny each hit short jumpers but the Rockets stretched their lead to 27-13. Britt scored twice inside but the Rockets took a 31-17 lead at the half.

The Rockets scored six straight to open the third taking a 37-17 lead before the Mustangs woke up as Lane Bailey hit a long jumper. Farrens hit one of two free throws and Kilkenny scored off a rebound. After a three-point play by the Rockets, Van Cleave scored off a pass from Farrens and hit one of two free throws and McCabe hit a 3-pointer to cut the lead to 40-28. After four straight from the Rockets, Farrens hit a 3-pointer to end the third with the Rockets still in front 44-31 going into the fourth.

Ponies stop Knights

On Friday, Feb. 17, the Heppner Ponies faced the Irrigon Knights. It was the first game for the Ponies after a two-week break.

The Ponies began the game slowly on offense, but held the Knights to only one first-quarter point. In the second quarter, the Ponies showed fatigue on defense and let the Knights back into the game.

Over half of the Ponies first-half points came off of free throws. The Ponies got the Knights into foul trouble by driving the lane and pounding the ball into the post. At halftime, the Ponies led 13-7.

Kilkenny scored off a rebound and fed Van Cleave for a lay-in and Bailey hit a running jumper to open the fourth and Kilkenny hit one of two free throws and scored off a rebound to cut the lead to 46-40 with 4:35 left. Farrens scored off a drive and Britt hit one of two free throws to make it 49-43 with 3 minutes left, but the Rockets scored eight straight before Farrens hit a long 3-pointer to cut the lead to 57-46. Farrens hit another 3-pointer, Kilkenny scored inside and Britt scored off a pass from Farrens to close out the scoring with the Mustangs coming up six points short.

Kilkenny led three Mustangs in double figures with 13 points and grabbed eight rebounds with Farrens getting 12 points and six assists and Van Cleave finishing with 11 points, eight rebounds and two assists. Britt had seven points, Bailey had three steals, McCabe had six points and two assists and Matt Kenny had two assists.

Heppner 5 12 14 22-53

Pilot Rock 14 17 13 15-59

Heppner- Rory Kilkenny 6 1-4 13, RJ Farrens 4 1-2 12, Matt Van Cleave 5 1-4 11, Mikel Britt 3 1-2 7, Matt McCabe 2 0-0 6, Lane Bailey 2 0-0 4, Matt Kenny, Quinn Peck and Nacho Elguezabal. Team: 22-49 4-12 53. 3-pts: Farrens 3 and McCabe 2.

Pilot Rock- Doss 7 3-8 17, Byrnes 5 2-5 12, Norquist 4 1-2 9, Humphreys 2 1-2 6, Graham 2 2-4 6, Bronson 1 3-3 5, Murry 1 0-0 2 and Hoover 1 0-0 2. Team: 23-47 12-26 59. 3-pts: Humphreys.

In the second half, the Ponies came out with renewed intensity on defense. Brandi Hong, Taighler Dougherty and Erin Price put pressure on the Knight guards and halted Knight fast-break opportunities. The Ponies took control of the game in the third quarter. A late technical on a Knight player sealed the 30-15 victory for the Ponies.

Kristen Van Cleave scored 13 points to lead the Ponies. Catherine McElligott added five.

Mustang girls rally twice to take third

By Rick Paullus

Clutch free throw shooting helped the Heppner Mustang girls rally twice and take the third seed out of the Columbia Basin Conference district tournament going into the Class 2A state tournament. The Mustangs beat the Stanfield Tigers 34-32 on Friday, Feb. 17 and came back on Saturday to eliminate Umatilla 36-31.

The Mustangs, now 11-2 on the year, played at Nyssa on Tuesday, Feb. 21 in the first round of the OSAA US Bank/Les Schwab Tire Class 2A state tournament.

After falling behind 4-0 to the Tigers, the Mustangs came back with 11 straight as Regi Seitz hit one of two free throws and completed a three-point play and Megan Orr hit three jumpers including a 3-pointer and they eventually led 11-6 after one quarter.

Sherilyn Peck hit two free throws and Aftan Betsinger scored off a rebound to open the second, but the Tigers came back to get within 16-13 at the half.

Orr hit two free throws and a 3-pointer, but that was all the offense the Mustangs could muster as they fell behind 24-21 after three.

After a Tiger basket to open the fourth, Seitz hit a baseline jumper then fed Katie Kilkenny for a lay-in to cut the lead to 26-25. Lyndi Patton hit two free throws to give the Mustangs the lead and after a Tiger basket, Seitz hit two more to make it 29-28 with 4:25 left. After the Tigers hit two of five free throws, Orr hit three of four to make it 32-30 with 2:14 left. The Tigers tied it, but Seitz hit two clutch free throws with 18 seconds left and the Mustangs held on for the win.

Orr led the Mustangs with 15 points, five rebounds and two steals, with Seitz adding 11 points, seven rebounds and three assists. Patton had four rebounds, two steals and two assists, Betsinger had eight rebound and Kilkenny had five rebounds.

The next day, both teams got off to slow starts as the Mustangs didn't get on the board until six minutes were gone as Orr hit a 3-pointer to give them a 3-2 lead. Sherilyn Peck hit one of two free throws and Seitz hit two to make it 6-2 after one quarter.

Seitz hit three of four free throws and Kilkenny completed a three-point play to open the second and give the Mustangs a 12-2 lead. After four straight by the Vikings, Patton hit Seitz for a lay-in and gave the Mustangs a 14-6 lead at the half.

Seitz hit two free throws early in the third, but

the Vikings came back to take a 17-16 lead. Taylor Kempas hit three of four free throws, but the Vikings tied it at 19-19 after three quarters of play.

Kilkenny hit two free throws and a short jumper, but the Vikings came to take a 27-23 lead midway through the fourth. Orr completed a three-point play and Peck hit a long jumper as the Mustangs regained the lead, but the Vikings came back to take a 31-29 lead. Patton hit a 3-pointer to give the Mustangs the lead for good with 2.5 minutes left and Kilkenny hit one of two free throws, Patton hit two with 36.6 seconds left and Seitz hit one of two as they held on for the win.

Seitz, who hit 15 of 21 free throws for the tournament, led the Mustangs with 10 points, nine rebounds and two steals with Kilkenny adding nine points, 12 rebounds and two assists. Orr had 10 rebounds and four steals, Peck had five rebounds and two steals, Betsinger had seven rebounds and Patton had two assists.

Heppner 34, Stanfield 32

Heppner 11 5 5 13-34

Stanfield 6 7 11 8-32

Heppner- Megan Orr

4 5-8 15, Regi Seitz 2 7-9 11,

Sherilyn Peck 0 2-4 2, Aftan

Betsinger 1 0-0 2, Lyndi Patton

0 2-2 2, Katie Kilkenny 1 0-2

2, Taylor Kempas and Whitney

Matthews. Team: 8-35 16-25

34. 3-pts: Orr 2.

Stanfield- Walchli 3 4-

8 10, Erwert 3 0-0 6, Surber 2

0-1 4, Madison 2 0-1 4,

Carrillo 2 0-0 4, Rodriguez 1

0-1 2, Caldera 1 0-2 2. Team:

14-55 4-13 32. 3-pts: none.

Heppner 36, Umatilla

31

Heppner 6 8 5 17-36

Umatilla 2 4 13 12-31

Heppner- Seitz 1 8-12

10, Kilkenny 2 5-9 9, Orr 2 1-

1 6, Patton 1 2-2 5, Kempas 0

3-4 3, Peck 1 1-4 3, Betsinger

0 0-2 0 and Matthews. Team:

7-43 20-34 36. 3-pts: Patton

and Orr.

Umatilla- Borden 5 0-

0 11, Campos 2 1-6 5, Bieren

2 0-0 4, Linqvist 2 0-0 4,

Villanueva 2 0-0 4, Vandever

0 3-7 3, Adams, Lougee,

Dahlin and Phillips. Team: 13-

53 4-15 31. 3-pts: Borden.

B team Ponies lose to Irrigon

On Friday, Feb. 17, the Heppner Ponies B team faced the Irrigon Knights. The Ponies started the game strong, putting up six quick points. However, that was all of the points the Ponies could muster in the first half. The Knights led 22-6 at the half.

In the second half, the Ponies set screens to free their guards. This led to

more baskets for the Ponies. The Knights prevailed, 33-15.

Brooke Thompson finished the game with nine points and Lindsay Cutsforth had four.

The Ponies played two quarters of a C game and fell to the Knights, 7-6. Natalie Rauch, Cassi Day and Mayci Garrett each scored a basket for the Ponies.

Thompson and Miller receive Jason Halvorsen award



Kelly Thompson of Ione (left) and Erica Miller of Dufur (right) received the Jason Halvorsen Award at the district tournament in Umatilla. The award is given to players who display the spirit of basketball. Photo by Donna Rietmann

Bennetto takes business full-time



Cory Bennetto

Cory Bennetto, of Ione, has decided to make his business, Bennetto's Bytes, a full-time enterprise. Bennetto's Bytes began about three years ago as a part-time business for Bennetto after he helped a friend with some of his computer problems. Realizing he could take his self-taught knowledge and help others, he created his computer business. Bennetto takes on any computer problems, from "repairs, upgrades, virus and spyware removal, data recovery and removal and cleaning." He also creates custom built computers. To accompany his business, he has created a website at

www.bennettosbytes.com.

Bennetto's business is primarily a mobile repair business, where he will come to your house to fix your computer problems. Occasionally, though, he does take computers back to his home office in Ione.

Bennetto began "tinkering" with his own computers about seven years ago and also has taken a couple college computer courses. In the future, he would like to teach a few classes.

Bennetto works in Morrow, Gilliam and Umatilla counties. To contact Bennetto, call 422-7004 or email cbennetto@bennettosbytes.com.

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