

Mustang softball team splits against Echo/Stanfield



Whitney Matthews pitches during the first Echo/Stanfield game on Saturday, May 6. The Mustangs split the doubleheader, with Matthews taking the loss in the first game and Aftan Betsinger pitching the second.

Bad inning costs Mustang JVs

By Rick Paullus

A seven-run third inning for the visiting Umatilla Vikings was too much for the Heppner Mustang JV baseball team as they took an 8-3 loss on Thursday, May 4. The Mustangs, now 5-5 on the year, will finish the season at Pendleton on Thursday, May 11 for a doubleheader beginning at 4 p.m. against the Buck freshmen.

The Mustangs trailed 8-0 before they finally got on the board in the fifth when Sean Murray got hit by a pitch, stole second, went to third on a Quinn Chick groundout and scored as Ricky Martin grounded out.

They added two more in the sixth when

Dalton Wellman reached on an error, Justin Archer singled and Murray came through with a two-out single to score both.

Murray went one for two with two RBI, Cody Hollis went one for two and Josh Shank went one for three as the Mustangs could muster just four hits on the day.

Shank pitched well in relief going four innings not allowing a hit while striking out three and walking one.

Umatilla 107 000 0-8 5
2
Heppner 000 012 0-3 4
3

Quillen and McLane; Justin Archer, Josh Shank (4) and Dalton Wellman. W- Quillen. L- Archer. 2B- K. Wilson (U). 3B- none. HR- none.

Ione students compete in OSAA state solo music competition



Amy Jepsen at the piano.



Niklas Kamp with his clarinet.

Two Ione High School Seniors, Amy Jepsen and Niklas Kamp, recently competed in the 2006 OSAA State Solo Music Competition. There were 444 vocal and instrumental music soloists representing 108 Oregon high schools in the state finals this year. The competition was held at Corban College in Salem the last weekend in April. Jepsen and Kamp qualified for the state finals by winning first place, and also earning a superior "1" rating in their

instrument category at the district competition on March 4 at Hermiston High School.

State finalists were given 10 minutes to perform. There were three judges for each event and they independently scored each contestant on a score sheet worth 330 points. There were 990 total points possible. The five performers with the highest scores in each category were awarded medals. Jepsen finished in second place out of 22 piano finalists with a score of 929, which was only five points behind the first place winner, Bennita Ki from Tigard High School. Jepsen performed three pieces: Toccata by Khachaturian, Sonata in D Major by Scarlatti and Chopin Etude #4, Opus 10 by Chopin.

Kamp, who is an exchange student from Germany attending Ione High School this year, was one of 16 finalists in the clarinet competition. He did an excellent job, but didn't make it into the top five. Kamp performed the Third Movement of the Concerto in D Flat by Antonin Kozeluh and Aria by Karl Stamitz. He was accompanied on piano by Michelle Stone, Ione music teacher. Both students performed one of their contest pieces for the Ione Spring Music Concert this past week.

Heppner High students attend band festivals



Trumpets players (L-R): Devin Robinson, Justin Gutierrez, Ian Murray and Brett Harrison. Photo by Deb Gutierrez.



Saxophone players (L-R): Grant Smith, Kelsey Wolff and Sean Murray. Photo by Scott Mallory of the Blue Mountain Eagle.

On Wednesday, April 12, the Heppner High School Band attended the Tri-County High School Band Festival at Grant-Union High School in John Day. Small schools from all over the district attended to perform for the guest conductor and clinician, Dr. Ed Carwithen (Affectionately known as "Dr. C").

The Heppner group gave a great performance of a Victor Lopez jazz chart "Cosmic Bb" for the clinician, and was chosen to perform on the evening's concert. After bands performed for Dr. C, all players gathered to practice four pieces as a mass ensemble for an evening concert. Four bands were chosen to play before the mass band, as well as a

Director's ensemble playing a couple Dixieland pieces.

On Wednesday, April 26, the Heppner JH Band attended the Tri-County Junior High Band Festival at Stanfield Junior/Senior High School. Small bands from around the district attended, and each band performed a piece for the clinician, Devin Otto from Eastern Washington University. The Heppner JH Band performed "Flourish for Wind Band" by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Then the students were split into two mass ensembles to prepare for an evening concert. The advanced group was rehearsed and conducted by the clinician, while the younger group was directed by some of the area band directors.

Heppner schools present spring programs

The Heppner Elementary School will be presenting its Spring Program on May 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the HES gym. All grades will be performing. There will be singing,

recorders, Orff percussion, baritone ukuleles and music by the fifth and sixth grade bands.

The Heppner High School Spring Program will be May 23 at 7 p.m. at the high school. The choir and junior high and high school bands will be performing concert music in varied styles, including, "Flourish for Wind Band," by Ralph Vaughan Williams, "In a Mellow Tone," by Duke Ellington and music from the movies, "O, Brother Where Art Thou?" and Peter Jackson's "Fellowship of the Ring."

Academic all-state awards given

OSAA and the Dairy Farmers of Oregon recently announced the 2006 Academic All-State awards. Locally, Ione placed 10th in 1A girls' track and field with a 3.56 gpa. Teams placing in the Top 10 were awarded pins.

Ione also placed 18th in girls' tennis for 3A/2A/1A schools with a gpa of 3.44 and 12th in boys' track and field for 1A schools with a gpa of 3.02.

Riverside High School (a 3A school) placed 23rd in girls' tennis for 3A/2A/1A schools with a gpa of 3.37; 18th for 3A/2A/1A schools in boys' tennis with a gpa of 3.14; 15th in girls' softball for 3A schools with a gpa 3.40; 30th for boys' track and field in 3A schools with a gpa of 3.04; and 21st for girls' track in 3A schools with a gpa of 3.47.

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