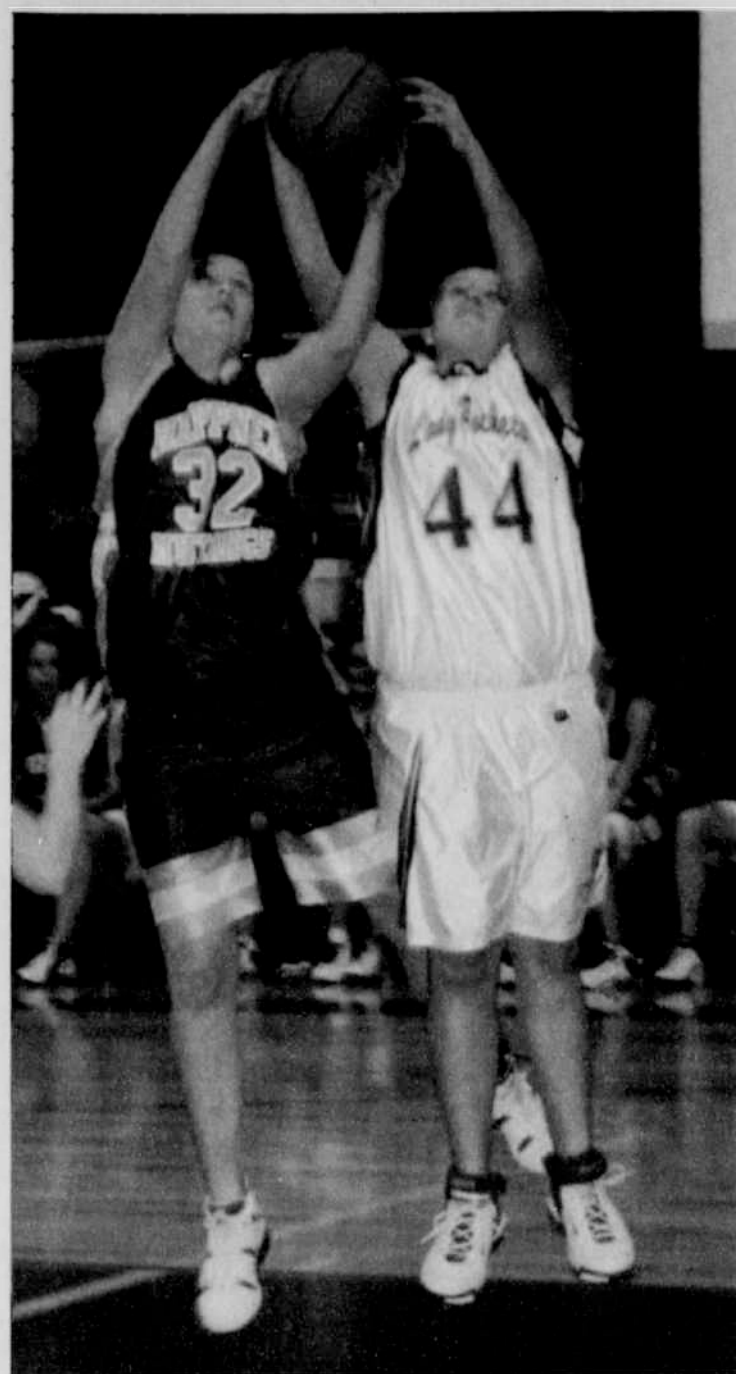
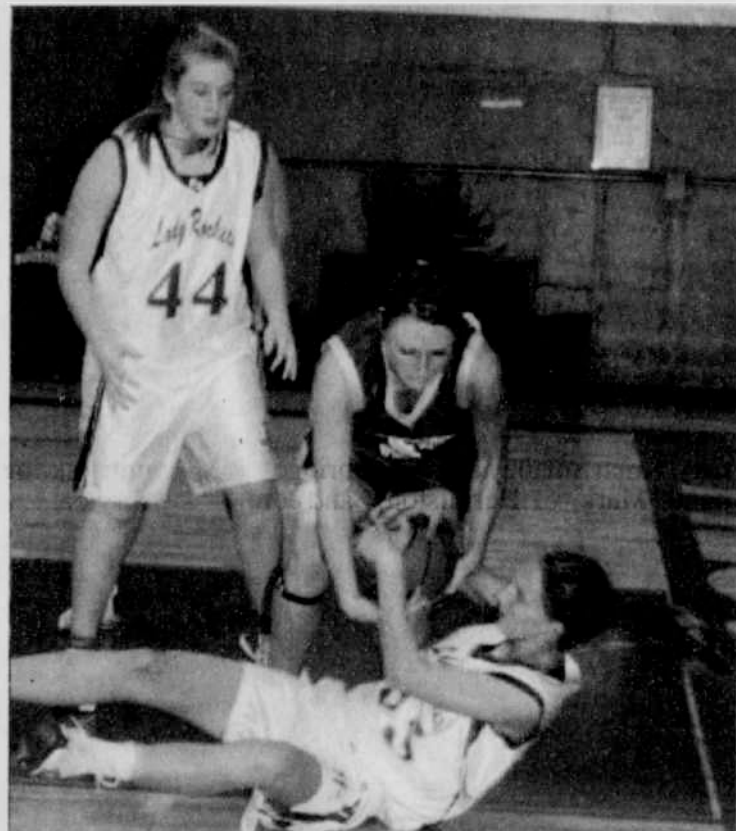


Mustangs battle Rockets



Aftan Betsinger gets the rebound for the Mustangs in Pilot Rock.



Mustang Megan Orr fights for the ball with Rocket Stephka Waite. The Mustangs brought home the win, 58 - 45, on Friday.

Heppner High School basketball schedule

Dec. 21-22-Heppner at Condon Tourney, time TBA.	Jan. 9-Mac Hi at Heppner, 3 p.m.
Dec. 27-28-Heppner JV Boys/Girls at Hermiston Tourney, time TBA.	Jan. 12-Heppner at Stanfield, 3 p.m.
Dec. 29-30-Rainer/Harrisburg/Umatilla at Heppner Tourney, time TBA.	Jan. 13-Irrigon at Heppner, 1 p.m.
Jan. 5-Heppner at Enterprise, 3 p.m.	Jan. 19-Pilot Rock at Heppner, 3 p.m.
Jan. 6-Heppner at Elgin, 1 p.m.	Jan. 20-Heppner at Weston, 1 p.m.
	Jan. 26-Enterprise at Heppner, 3 p.m.
	Jan. 27-Elgin at Heppner, 1 p.m.



Heppner Mustang Andre Rauch glides in for two points against the Pilot Rock Rockets. The Mustangs came up short, losing to the Rockets Friday in Pilot Rock. Mustang photos by Sandy Matthews

Cardinals JV boys drop opening games

A young and tentative Ione JV team had a rough time getting shots to fall during the first half of their first game of the season on Friday, December 1, at the Ione Basketball Bonanza tourney.

Playing the Umatilla Vikings, the Cards had difficulty dealing with the pressure and went to the locker room down 38 points and more than a little discouraged.

The second half was a different story as the Cardinals got rid of some their jitters and settled in to play. They matched the Vikings point for point in the third and fourth quarter but still lost 33-70.

Coach Jim Swanson has to do the usual JV juggling act with players who float between JV and varsity. "I wish we could play all of our players the whole game but since players can only play five quarters a night, we have to be very careful."

Swanson noted that Matt Hams led the team with 15 points and did a good job running the offense. He also commended William Wehrli for his eight points, Dalton Campbell for his four points and good defensive efforts and Cody Keisling for some nice assists.

"They all played very hard in the second half. It was too bad we spotted Umatilla 38 points," said Swanson.

In the consolation game of the Basketball Bonanza Tourney, the young Cardinals had the bad luck to encounter 2A Enterprise, a team with only four true JV players.

The Outlaws were too strong and experienced for the Cards who played most of the game down 15-20 points.

Coach Swanson noted that once the Ione team started taking better care of the ball late in the second quarter, they were able to stay in the game much better.

The JVs played without Matt Hams who was moved up to varsity after his brother broke his collarbone. But Swanson commented that the other players really stepped up and played a good game.

RJ Ramos led the team with seven points followed by Matt Coleman with six.

Deadline for December 27th G-T issue: Friday, December 22 at 5 p.m.

Cardinals boys basketball pick up first season win

Four players in double figures paved the way for the Ione Cardinals Boys Varsity's first win of the season. Playing on the road at Irrigon on Tuesday, December 6, the Cardinals got their fast-moving offense going early on to run away with a 70-40 win.

Full court pressure and working the outlet helped the Cards race out to an 18-6 first quarter lead. They kept the pedal to the medal in the second quarter, leading 39-13 at halftime. The Cards maintained their momentum in the second half before coasting home to the convincing win.

For the first time in the coach's memory, the Cardinals put up more than 80 shots in a game. "I have preached to the kids for years that they will win games if they put up 80 shots. The closest we have ever come before this game is 74" said Coach Dennis Stefani. The team's total at Irrigon was 82 shots. Irrigon

put up a ton of shots themselves (78) but suffered through a cold shooting night, connecting on just 18%.

Junior Kevin Fowler had a great outing, leading the team with 16 points on 7-13 shooting. Fowler also had nine rebounds and led the team with three steals. Alan Rietmann scored 14 points in the contest including two threes. Clay Morter and Kip Krebs each notched a double double. Morter had 13 points and 12 rebounds while Krebs had 10 points and 12 boards.

"We came out and played great. The kids shared the ball around the court and played terrific defense once the game got going," said Coach Dennis Stefani. "This was an important game as it showed our kids that they can play this game and be very competitive. It was a great performance from all with four kids scoring in double figures."

Mustang wrestlers compete at Riverside

By Larry Palmer

The Heppner Mustangs traveled to Boardman to participate in a face-off involving several area schools - Hermiston and the Pendleton JVs, along with Irrigon and host Boardman Riverside.

The 'Dawgs of Hermiston showcased their talent as several Mustangs faced the Bullpups, but just couldn't pin them to the mat. A couple of bright spots for the Mustangs were Tyler Robinson (121) and Chance Day (140). Robinson scored a pin against a Hermiston wrestler in his first match, and again in his third match pinned a Riverside Pirate in the first period. Day took a Bullpup and scored a pin in the first period in his opening match.

The other Mustangs competing for the Blue and Gold were Trent Miles (160), Spencer Palmer (160), and Tomás Elguezabal (140), who all did well in their second meet.

Ione Middle School basketball schedule

Dec. 16-Ione at Heppner tourney, 9 a.m.

Dec. 19-Dufur at Ione, 3:30 p.m.

Jan. 5-Condon at Ione, 3 p.m.

Jan. 6-Ione at Helix, 9 a.m.

Jan. 12-Ione tourney, 9 a.m.

Jan. 13-Ione at Helix tourney, 9 a.m.

Jan. 13-Ione vs. Cove at Heppner, 10 a.m.

Jan. 19-Fossil at Ione, 4:30 p.m.

Jan. 20-Ione at Arlington, 11 a.m.

Jan. 26-Ione at Condon, 1 p.m.

Jan. 27-Sherman at Ione, 1 p.m.

Feb. 2-Heppner at Ione, 10 a.m.

Feb. 3-Arlington at Ione, 11 a.m.

Feb. 9-Ione at Spray, 10 a.m.

Feb. 10-Ione at Sherman tourney, Moro, 10 a.m.

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