

Cardinals lose first two games of season

The Ione Cardinals kicked off the basketball season on December 1 & 2 at the Ione Basketball Bonanza Tournament with a couple of tough losses.

On Friday, Ione was leading 2A Enterprise in the third quarter when junior point guard, Paul Hams went down in the third quarter on a hard foul, suffering a broken collarbone. Watching Hams leave the court seemed to knock the legs out from under the Cardinals. Enterprise outscored Ione 21-12 in the period to take a 38-33 lead going into the fourth quarter. The Cards never recovered and the Outlaws went on to win 50-38.

Kevin Fowler was the high scorer for the Cardinals with 14 points. Clay Morter paced the team with eight rebounds and Alan Rietmann tallied four assists.

"I actually thought we came out against Enterprise and looked aggressive," said Coach Dennis Stefani. "We were moving the ball well and doing a great job of sharing the basketball. Then when Paul went down it took the wind out of our sails. Anytime you loose your point guard that is going to happen. I was still pleased with our overall performance."

On Saturday, the Cards faced a stiff challenge from Umatilla. The Vikings came out gunning and never looked back, jumping out to a 23-5 first quarter lead and a 44-12 halftime margin. The Vikings shot a red hot 52% from the field while Ione connected on just 13 of 67 shot attempts for 19%.

"I thought we looked like a team trying to find ourselves," said Coach Stefani. "We struggled trying to beat Umatilla's pressure defense and really didn't do

the things we needed to do to get good looks at the basket." Clay Morter led the Cardinals with eight points and 12 rebounds.

Cardinals JV team takes first season win

The Ione boy's JV thrilled the crowd at Irrigon on Tuesday, December 6, with a 46-40 overtime win, their first win of the season.

The Cardinals put together a convincing first half to lead the Knights 26-10 at halftime. But Irrigon made some adjustments at halftime and returned in the third to outscore Ione 18-4. The Cards held a slim two point lead heading into the fourth frame, 30-28 but they couldn't shake Irrigon. With four seconds left on the clock, the Cards were down by three. Gunner Jessen and RJ Ramos brought the ball full court. Ramos threw a pass to Jessen who knocked down a long three pointer at the buzzer.

In the overtime period, the team settled down and worked the ball inside to William Wehrli. Wehrli scored all six of the points in OT on his way to a game high 15 points.

The Cardinals got contributions from many members. Matt Hams scored seven points in the one quarter he had to give to the team. RJ Ramos also scored seven while Cody Keisling had six points and some nice assists. Gunner Jessen had five points and did a fine job running the offense. "But the game was William Wehrli's best game ever with 15 points, 12 rebounds and four blocked shots," said Coach Jim Swanson.

Cardinals take second win of season

The Ione Cardinals evened their record to 2-2 with a strong win over the visiting Cove Leopards on Saturday, December 16.

The Cards started the game on a brisk scoring pace, tallying 24 points in the first quarter followed by a 27 point second quarter. Ione led Cove 51-38 at the half but foul trouble caused the pace to let up a bit in the second half. Kip Krebs and Kevin Fowler fouled out and Alan Rietmann had four fouls. The Leopards pulled to within 12 points at the end of three but the Cards finished strong with a score of 77-61.

For the second game in a row, four Cards were in double figures in the scoring department led by Clay Morter with 16. Justin Archer and Kevin Fowler each added 14 and freshman, Matt Hams added 11. The Ione shooters put up over 80 shots again, this time launching 84 attempts at the basket. They connected on 34 of their 84 attempts for a respectable 41% from the floor, which was better than their percentage from the free throw line (7-21 for 33%). Cove made 20 of 68 from the floor for 29% and 15 of 24 for 63% from the free throw line.

Statistical leaders for the Cardinals were Alan Rietmann with ten assists, Clay Morter with 12 rebounds and Morter and Kevin Fowler with three steals each.

"The kids continue to improve," said Coach Dennis Stefani. "Once again, it was good to see four kids in double figures. It was also good to see us get 80-plus shots up again."

OSU ag scholarship awarded to Boardman native

Agricultural honors scholarships totaling \$82,555 have been awarded to Oregon State University students in the College of Agricultural Sciences.

The scholarships are made possible by gifts to the college. Local recipient of a 2006 scholarship is:

Ruben Mendoza of Boardman, a freshman majoring in animal sciences, received the \$1,500 V. Kent Searles and Nancy J. Billingsley Searles Scholarship.

DA's Report

Morrow County District Attorney Elizabeth Ballard has released the following report:

-Daniel Allen Macomber, 35, was convicted of two counts of sexual abuse, a class C felony- 3 years supervised probation, 80 hours of community service, subject to numerous conditions including: not use or possess controlled substances, submit to testing of breath or urine for controlled substance or alcohol use, participate in a substance evaluation as directed and follow recommendations of the evaluator, if recommended, successfully complete a sex offender treatment program and submit to polygraph examination, participate in a mental health evaluation and follow recommendations, have no direct contact with victim, have no contact with any female/male under the age of 18 without prior written approval form court probation officer and/or sex offender treatment provider, consent to sharing of privileged assessment and treatment information between public and private agencies, agents and persons deemed essential in assessing, monitoring and mediating treatment of sexual deviancy problems, enroll, participate, and successfully complete an approved sex offender treatment program and pay all costs, not possess any type of sexually suggestive or explicit material or access such materials by computer, not enter any place where items or performances of a sexual nature are the primary item of sale, not be involved in any organization which would place defendant in direct contact with children, not frequent or visit places that exist primarily for the enjoyment of children, consent to and cooperate with penile plethysmographic assessment as requested by sex-offender treatment provider or probation officer, register as a sex offender pursuant to Oregon Revised Statutes, and provide DNA sample if requested, and other numerous conditions; \$1,423 in fines, fees and assessments.

-Rogelio Martinez Hernandez, 24, was convicted of failure to carry/present license, a class C misdemeanor- 12 month bench probation, 10 hours of community service, \$383 in fines, fees and assessments.

-Jose Martin Zuniga Ruiz was convicted of one count of theft, a class A misdemeanor- 180 days in jail suspended with two years bench probation, 40 hours of community service, letter of apology, \$626 in fines, fees, and assessments.

-Rocky Ryan Gerard, 18, was convicted of two counts of criminal mischief, a class A misdemeanor- 180 days in jail suspended with two years bench probation, 40 hours of community service, \$913 in fines, fees, and assessments, \$392.25 in restitution.

-James Derek Garrett, 18, was convicted of one count of theft, a class C felony- 18 months of supervised probation, 80 hours of community service, subject to numerous conditions including: not use or possess controlled substances, submit to testing of breath or urine for controlled substance or alcohol use, participate in a substance abuse evaluation as directed by the supervising officer and follow recommendations of evaluator, have no direct contact with the victims, \$1,758 in fines, fees, and assessments.

Ag/FFA programs off to good start

The community of Heppner is very excited about the new Ag & FFA programs that have started this fall at Heppner High School. The school board hired Beth Dickenson this past summer for the Vo-Ag teaching position. She is a bundle of enthusiasm and energy as she has the kids in her classes involved in many hands-on projects. They have been able to visit the Experiment Station in Hermiston (to learn about integrated pest management and the various other research they do), the fish hatchery in Irrigon(while the class was raising rainbow trout for ODFW, the Cottage Flower Shop to see the ins and outs of a florist & Hermiston High School to look at their greenhouse production of poinsettias. The students have participated in their first Soils Contest (Heppner) and an Ag Sales Contest (Stanfield). Their last adventure was to experience preg-testing cows at the Thompson Ranch.

Perhaps you have driven by the school and noticed how things have been coming alive on the southeast side of the school property. The greenhouse is up and running finally, complete with electricity. The barn has been cleaned out and a fresh coat of paint has been applied to the feed room. Weeds have been chopped in the field behind the ag complex and a road has been built behind the barn and ag building. They are close to getting water to the greenhouse, barn and pasture, hopefully this next week. While everyone is very excited with the

progress and efforts thus far, there is still a lot to do.

Future plans for Heppner's Ag and FFA Chapter include participating in the District Speaking, Interview and Leadership Contests in January and February, taking a few chapter members to the Northwest Ag Show in Portland, as well as attending the State FFA Convention in March. To round out the year, they plan to be in attendance at the State Livestock Judging, Horse Judging and Ag Mechanics Contest in May. They hope to represent Heppner well!

Our community has always been extremely supportive of things that will benefit our kids. This was apparent this fall when the FFA kids had a fruit sale selling Davis Orchard apples in our community. They sold right at 200 boxes of fruit. The program plans to continue its fundraising efforts by working concessions at a few basketball games this winter and hosting a feed at one of the ball games. Also, look for an upcoming Krispy Kreme doughnut sale after the holidays.

As with any new program starting up, there have been large costs involved to get it going. The allotted amount of money is running very low. If there are those that are excited to have ag classes back in our school and could help with a financial contribution before the end of the year, it would certainly be welcome. Any contribution is 100% tax deductible. If you have more questions, please contact Heppner High School principal, Daye Stone.

Irrigon Skate Park groundbreaking held

A groundbreaking ceremony for the Irrigon Skate Park was held Monday, December 18, 2006 at Irrigon City Park at 10 a.m. The groundbreaking ceremony was to recognize that the hard work and determination of the Irrigon Skate Park Committee has resulted in the start of construction of a regional skate park in Irrigon. Actual construction will begin shortly after the groundbreaking. Contractor for the project will be Grindline Skateparks Inc., a renowned skate park contractor from Seattle.

The Irrigon Skate Park will consist of at least 8,000 sq. ft. of skate area, including a combination of bowls and street stuff. Also to be constructed, are a permanent public restroom, parking lot,

walkways, picnic tables, and benches. The facility will be lighted for security and for occasional night events.

The Irrigon Skate Park Project has been made possible largely through a \$224,678 grant from the Oregon State Parks Local Government Grant Program, a 149,786 grant from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, a \$20,000 grant from the Tony Hawk Foundation, and donations from many other corporations and individuals. The members of the original Irrigon Skate Park Committee were Mayor Don Baxter, Pastor Rick Yardley, Brian Gering, Keith White, and skaters Chris Klein and Tucker Tovey.

The Irrigon Skate Park Committee has been meeting since June of 2005.

Morrow School District implements administrator performance pay

The Morrow County School Board of Directors approved performance pay for building level administrators at their regular business meeting on Monday, December 11, 2006 at Irrigon Elementary School. The decision followed a work session earlier that evening in which the school board heard recommendations from a committee of administrators and board members. The committee had been working on the incentive pay proposal since last summer with the assistance of Dr. Marc Wallace, a Chicago based compensation specialist.

The purpose of the program is to recognize and reward continuous improvement on key school indicators. These indicators include district and school academic performance as well as the school's strategic improvement plan and its successful execution.

The district and school academic performances are measured by student achievement gains in reading, writing, and mathematics. Each administrator's school improvement plan will target specific goals in attendance, parent/patron engagement, personnel, and school operations. Achievement of each identified goal will be measured against a pre-determined standard and valued at 0 to 125% accomplishment. An administrator achieving 100% overall accomplishment on goals will receive an incentive equal to 5% of his/her annual pay. Administrators achieving 50% or less on goals will receive no payment.

Morrow County Superintendent, Mark Burrows, stated, "I want everyone to understand two things about this program: One, that we are not asking anything of administrators that is not already an expectation. We are asking them to do an exceptional job for our students. We want to recognize and celebrate that exceptional job. Two, the administrators are not receiving a cost of living allowance." School Board Director, Bill Kuhn commenting on their willingness to accept the challenge of pay for accomplishment in lieu of an

annual cost of living adjustment told the administrators, "I want to thank you for your leap of faith and helping us build a better school district." Burrows also indicated that the performance pay was a school-based program: "Our principals are the guinea pigs. We hope that other employee groups may be interested in this kind of compensation."

In other business, approved Visa's for each of the three high schools up to a limit of \$500; presented to Irrigon Elementary School with the School Board Award for exceptional results with their Accelerated Reader Program. In addition to the students who were specifically mentioned at the meeting, Library Tech, Ellen Hendergar was also recognized for her management of the program. Forrest McKinnis, alternative education teacher at the Morrow Education Center, was named Irrigon Educator of the Year for 2006. The 2007-2008 budget calendar was adopted during the meeting. Also approved was the cooperative sponsorship for golf and baseball between Ione High School and Heppner High School for 2006-2007 and 2007-2008.

Superintendent Burrows announced that the governor will be proposing a \$6.06 billion education budget for the next biennium - up to 20% over what was asked for the last session. He also reported that new graduation requirements will be an upcoming topic in the very near future and that the district is putting out a food service RFP for leadership and supply. He also announced that Shannon Priem, from OSBA would be present for a work session in January to share the results of a communications audit.

OWGL closing dates

The Oregon Wheat Growers League office will be closed Christmas Day, Monday, December 25, and New Year's Day, Monday, January 1.

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