

Mustangs boys go 3-2 in non-league play

By Rick Paullus

The 2006-07 Heppner Mustang varsity boys, coached once again by Forest McKinnis, got off to a 3-win, 2-loss start in non-league play.

In their first game, they got off to a slow start against a hot Riverside Pirates team in Boardman, losing 75-48 on Dec. 5. The Pirates led 14-0 before Nathan Van Cleave scored the first point of the year for the Mustangs, hitting one of two free throws. Nacho Elguezabal scored six points inside, but the Pirates led 29-7 after one.

Jared Huddleston and Lane Bailey hit three-pointers early in the second but the Pirates continued their onslaught, extending their lead to 49-13, eventually taking a 54-19 lead into halftime.

Bailey scored 11 points for the Mustangs in the third, Matt McCabe got a steal and lay-in and Huddleston hit a three-pointer, but the Pirates still led 61-35 after three.

Nine straight points by the Pirates to open the fourth put to bed any comeback hopes as they cruised to the easy win.

Bailey finished with 18 points, three assists and three steals. Elguezabal had 14 points and four rebounds. Huddleston had 11 points. Farrens had five assists and two steals, and McCabe had three steals.

Heppner 7 12 16 13 - 48
Riverside 29 25 7 14 - 75
Heppner: Lane Bailey 6 4-5 18, Nacho Elguezabal 7 0-0 14, Jared Huddleston 3 2-2 11, Matt McCabe 1 0-0 2, Daulton Wellman 0 2-2 2, Nathan Van Cleave 0 1-2 1, R.J. Farrens, Aaron Allstott, Justin Delveaux, Tony

Haguewood, Brendan McElligott, A.J. Rauch. 17 9-11 48. Three-pointers: Huddleston 3, Bailey 2.

The Mustangs then traveled to Harrisburg for a tournament and had a huge second half to beat the Warrenton Warriors, 59-42, on Dec. 8. The Warriors held a 24-17 lead at the half, but the Mustangs came out in the third and outscored them, 18-4, in the quarter to take the lead and never looked back, outscoring them 24-14 in the fourth to take the win. Rauch led the way with 13 points and five rebounds. Bailey had 11 points, five rebounds and three steals. Elguezabal had 10 points and nine rebounds. Farrens had five rebounds, five assists and three steals. McCabe had six assists and three steals.

Heppner 6 11 18 24 - 59
Warrenton 10 14 4 14 - 42
Heppner: Rauch 5 3-3 13, Bailey 2 6-6 11, Elguezabal 5 0-1 10, Farrens 2 3-4 7, McCabe 3 0-0 6, Huddleston 2 0-0 5, Delveaux 1 0-0 3, Allstott 1 0-0 2, Van Cleave 0 2-2 2, Wellman, 21 14-16 59. Three-pointers: Bailey, Delveaux, Huddleston.

On the next night, the Mustangs fell behind 15-2 after one and couldn't recover as they lost to the Harrisburg Eagles, 47-32, in the championship game.

Elguezabal led the Mustangs with 10 points and four rebounds. Bailey added seven points, four steals and two assists. Farrens had four assists and two steals, and Rauch had three steals.

Heppner 2 8 8 14 - 32
Harrisburg 15 11 5 15 - 47
Heppner: Elguezabal 5 0-3 10, Bailey 3 0-0 7, Huddleston 2 0-0 5, Rauch 2 0-0 4, Delveaux 1 0-0 3, McCabe 1 0-0 2, Farrens 0 1-2 1, Allstott, McElligott, Van Cleave, 14 1-5 32. Three-pointers: Bailey, Delveaux, Hud-

leston. The Mustangs returned home and took a 61-57 overtime win against the Grant Union Prospectors on Dec. 19. The Mustangs built a 9-2 lead to open the game, getting a three-pointer from Farrens, a running jumper from Bailey and two baskets inside from Rauch. The Prospectors came back to take a 12-11 lead after one.

The Prospectors increased their lead to 18-13 early in the second, but the Mustangs came back as Delveaux hit a short jumper, Farrens scored twice, then Delveaux hit a three-pointer to give the Mustangs a 22-18 lead. The team traded baskets the rest of the way, with the Mustangs taking a 28-25 lead into the locker room.

In the third, Rauch and Bailey each scored four points and Huddleston hit two three-pointers as the Mustangs took a 42-32 lead after three. Farrens hit a three-pointer early in the fourth to make it 45-34, but the Prospectors came back to get within 47-44 before Elguezabal scored inside off a drive. The Prospectors closed to within one point, but Bailey hit two free throws with 1:06 left to make it 53-50. The Prospectors came back to tie it up and send it to overtime.

Bailey scored off a lay-in and hit two free throws to give the Mustangs a 57-53 lead with 1:34 left. The Prospectors scored with 1:15 left but Bailey and Farrens each hit two free throws in the final 30 seconds to seal the win.

Bailey hit nine of 10 free throws and finished with

17 points, six steals and two assists. Farrens scored 14 points, getting six assists and three steals. Rauch had 12 points, Elguezabal had eight rebounds and McCabe had three steals.

Grant Union 12 13 7 21 4 - 57

Heppner 11 17 14 11 8 - 61
Grant Union: Dieker 8 2-5 18, Roberts 6 1-1 13, Kreger 3 0-1 6, Oliver 3 0-0 6, Ferguson 1 3-4 5, Rawlins 1 2-5 4, Myers 2 0-0 4, Smith 0 1-2 1, 24 9-18 57. Three-pointers: none.

Heppner: Bailey 4 9-10 17, Farrens 4 4-8 14, Rauch 6 0-1 12, Huddleston 2 0-2 6, Delveaux 2 0-0 5, Elguezabal 2 0-0 4, Van Cleave 1 0-0 2, McCabe 0 1-2 1, Allstott 0 0-2 0, 21 14-25 61. Three-pointers: Farrens 2, Huddleston 2, Delveaux.

The Mustangs were supposed to travel to Condon for a tournament on Dec. 21, but icy roads forced the cancellation of the games that day. They went to Condon on Dec. 22 and took a 52-42 win over the Condon-Wheeler Knights.

The Mustangs took a 28-17 lead at the half, getting eight points from Elguezabal. Van Cleave had four points in the third and Elguezabal had eight points in the fourth as they held on for the win.

Elguezabal had 18 points and 14 rebounds, with Farrens adding eight points, 11 assists and three steals. Van Cleave had eight points and Bailey had three steals and two assists.

Heppner 13 15 12 12 52
Condon-Wheeler 7 10 10 15 - 42

Heppner: Elguezabal 8 2-2 18, Farrens 3 0-1 8, Van Cleave 4 0-0 8, Delveaux 2 0-0 4, Bailey 2 0-0 4, Rauch 2 0-0 4, McCabe 1 0-0 3, Huddleston 1 0-0 3, 23 3-4 52. Three-pointers: Farrens 2, Huddleston, McCabe.

Condon-Wheeler: Barnett 7 3-6 17, Standiford 5 5-5 15, Thompson 3 2-2 8, Moore 1 0-0 2, 16 10-13 42. Three-pointers: none.

Mustang boys settle for second at home tourney

By Rick Paullus

After a great second-half comeback to beat the Umatilla Vikings, 56-50, on Friday, Dec. 29, the Heppner Mustang boys couldn't catch up to the Harrisburg Eagles and lost, 47-29, in the championship game of the South Morrow County Basketball tournament. The Mustangs, 5-4 overall and 1-1 in Blue Mountain Conference, get back into BMC play with games at Enterprise and Elgin on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 5-6, and will have a non-league make-up game at home against MacHi on Tuesday, Jan. 9.

On Friday against Umatilla, the Mustangs fell behind, 12-8, after one with Nacho Elguezabal scoring twice inside, then fell behind 26-10, until late in the second when Nathan Van Cleave scored inside on a pass from RJ Farrens, then completed a three-point play to end the first half with the Vikings holding a 26-15 lead.

The Mustangs came out on fire in the second half, though, as Lane Bailey hit a three-pointer, Elguezabal scored twice inside and Andre Rauch scored five straight points to give them 27-26 lead. After a three-pointer by the Vikings, the teams traded baskets with Matt McCabe scoring five points and Jared Huddleston scoring off a drive, but the Vikings took a 39-34 lead into the fourth.

Huddleston hit a long jumper and Elguezabal scored an assist from Farrens to cut the lead to one, then McCabe completed a three-point play and Justin Delveaux hit two free throws to give the Mustangs a 43-41 lead. Bailey hit a three-pointer, Rauch scored off a rebound, then Elguezabal scored four points to give the Mustangs a 52-46 lead. The Vikings got to within 53-50 with 38 seconds left, but Bailey hit a short jumper and McCabe hit one of two free throws to close out the scoring.

Elguezabal led the Mustangs with 16 points, eight rebounds and two

steals, with Bailey adding 11 points and five rebounds. McCabe was also in double figures with 10 points and two assists. Rauch had nine points and six rebounds and Farrens had nine rebounds, six assists and four steals.

Umatilla 12 14 13 11-50
Heppner 8 7 19 22-56

Heppner-Nacho Elguezabal 7 2-3 16, Lane Bailey 4 1-2 11, Matt McCabe 4 2-5 10, A.J. Rauch 4 1-1 9, Nathan Van Cleave 2 1-1 5, Justin Delveaux 0 2-2 2, Jared Huddleston 1 0-0 2, RJ Farrens 0 1-2 1, Aaron Allstott, Brendan McElligott, Dalton Wellman, Brent Eckman, 22 10-16 56, 3 point-Bailey 2.

On the following night, the Harrisburg Eagles jumped out to a 9-0 lead before Delveaux hit a three-pointer, but the Mustangs trailed 15-5 after one when Elguezabal got a tip-in at the buzzer.

The Eagles lead 18-8 midway through the second before Van Cleave scored off a pass from Brent Eckman, Dalton Wellman hit a short jumper and Elguezabal hit three of four free throws to close out the second with the Eagles leading, 21-15.

Bailey opened the third scoring off a lay-in, then Rauch scored twice to cut the lead to 24-21 but the Eagles went on a run, taking a 36-23 lead after three. Elguezabal scored off a rebound early in the fourth, but the Eagles went on another run, increasing their lead to 43-25 before Brendan McElligott hit a baseline jumper. Wellman hit a jumper to close out the scoring for the Mustangs.

Elguezabal led the way with nine points and four rebounds with Farrens adding three assists and two steals.

Heppner 5 10 8 6-29
Harrisburg 15 6 15 11-47
Heppner- Elguezabal 3 3-7 9, Rauch 2 0-2 4, Wellman 2 0-2 4, Delveaux 1 0-0 3, Bailey 1 0-0 2, McElligott 1 0-2 2, McCabe 0 2-2 2, Van Cleave 1 0-0 2, Allstott 0 1-2 1, Farrens, Huddleston, Eckman, 11 6-17 29 3-point-Delveaux.

Harrisburg-Smucker 3 4-4 13, Sauers 4 1-2 12, Blakely 4 4-7 12, Buhler 1 4-5 7, Oakes 1 0-0 2, James 1 0-1 2, 14 13-19 46, 3-point-Sauers 3, Buhler, Smucker.

Mustang varsity girls win two

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustang girls christened the new bleachers with a 57-32 win over the visiting Grant Union Prospectors on Dec. 19, then traveled to Condon and beat the Condon-Wheeler Knights, 52-34 on December 22 in non-league action.

The Mustangs jumped out to a 17-4 lead over the Prospectors in the first and still lead 27-14 at the half. Regi Seitz had six points in the third as they increased their lead to 40-24 after three and a three-point play by Sarah Price to open the fourth made it 43-24. Seitz hit a jumper and Megan Orr and Price scored inside to make it 49-28 midway through the fourth and put the game away.

Seitz led three Mustangs in double figures with 14 points with Orr and Aftan Betsinger each adding 11 points.

In Condon, the Mustangs got four points each from Amber Patton, Lyndi Patton and Orr as they took a 15-9 lead after one and Price had nine second quarter points as they stretched their lead to 32-18 at the half. Orr had six points in the third and Sherilyn Peck had five points in the fourth as they coasted to the win.

Orr finished with 15 points, 12 rebounds, six assists and five steals with Price adding 11 points, 10 rebounds and two steals. Peck finished with nine points, five rebounds and three steals. Amber Patton had five rebounds and three steals, Lyndi Patton had two assists and two steals, Betsinger had seven rebounds and Seitz had three steals.

Grant Union 4 10 10 8-32
Heppner 17 10 13 17-57

Grant Union-Carey 8 2-4 18, Ashmead 1 2-5 4, Hoffman 2 0-3 4, Gilliam 2 0-0 4, Gibbons 1 0-0 2, Retherford, 0 0-2 0, 14 4-14 32, 3-point-none

Heppner-Regi Seitz 6 1-3 14, Megan Orr 5 1-1 11, Aftan Betsinger 5 1-2 11, Sarah Price 2 1-1 5, Lyndi Patton 1 2-2 4, Kylie Doherty 1 2-2 4, Katie Kilkenny 2 0-0 4, Kristen Van Cleave, Taylor Kempas, Erin Price, 24 8-12 57, 3-point-Seitz.

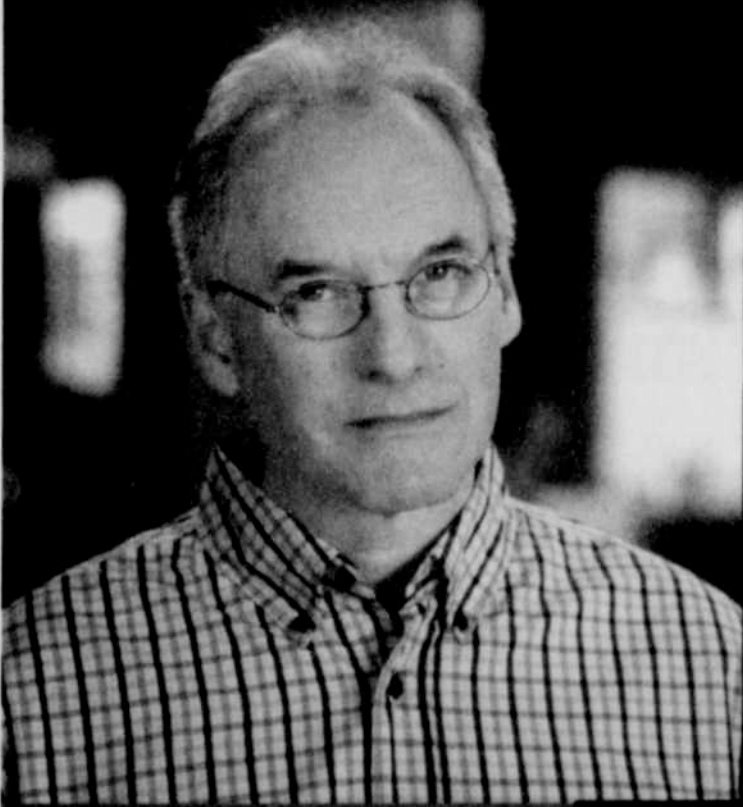
Heppner 15 17 13 11-56
Condon 9 9 7 9-34

Heppner-Orr 7 1-2 15, S. Price 5 1-1 11, A. Patton 4 1-29, Peck 3 3-6 9, Seitz 2 0-0 5, L. Patton 2 0-0 4, Betsinger 1 1-4 3, Kempas, Doherty, E. Price, Van Cleave, 24 7-15 56, 3-point-Setiz

Condon-Wheeler-Lane 4 1-2 11, Greenfield 3 3-5 9, Hawkins 2 1-2 5, Harrison 2 1-2 5, Nelson 2 0-0 4, Wagonaar 0 1-2 1, Fernern 0 0-2 0, 13 7-15 34, 3-point-Lane.



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