

Ione boys drop to second in Big Sky East

The Ione Boys' Varsity team enjoyed a brief stay in the number one slot of the Big Sky East over the past weekend after winning a high scoring shootout in Prineville on Friday. The league standings were rearranged the next day when the Cardinals were upset by Arlington in overtime moving them back into second. The Cardinals' record after the weekend stands at 9-4 in league, 13-7 overall.

With Kevin Fowler out sick, the Cardinals faced an improving Central Christian team on the road on Friday, February 2 one man down. The Cards jumped out to a 17-9 first quarter lead followed by a 25 point second quarter out of both teams, leaving the score 42-34 at the half. Ione would build a 15-point lead only to have Central Christian scrap back to within eight. In the fourth quarter, the Cardinals held a 13-point advantage that evaporated to just four points with under two minutes to go. But Ione dug in down the stretch, hitting

free throws and coming up with key steals to pull out the 88-80 victory.

Five players notched double figures led by Paul Hams with 26 points, hitting 67% of his shots including three three-pointers. Clay Morter added 18 points followed by Matt Hams with 16, Kip Krebs with 14 and Alan Rietmann with 11. The Cardinals shot 34-66 from the floor for a sizzling 52%. Central Christian connected on 31 of 82 shots that included seven treys.

The Cardinals had an all-around team rebounding effort, outdoing the Warriors 41-38. Kip Krebs led the way with nine, followed by Clay Morter with eight, Justin Archer with seven and Paul Hams with six.

Morter had six steals and three blocked shots while Alan Rietmann and Paul Hams had five assists each.

"This was a must win for us," said Coach Dennis Stefani. "The kids did a great job playing as a team and that showed having five players in double figures. Paul Hams

and Clay Morter really stepped up and had great games for us."

With that win combined with a Nixyawii loss on Friday night, the Cardinals moved into first place in the Big Sky East. However they found that nothing is going to come easy as the regular season winds down. Facing Arlington in Ione on Saturday afternoon, the Cardinals found that the Honkers just wouldn't go away.

As the fourth quarter wound down, the Cardinals attempted to hang on to the lead while Arlington had an upset on their mind. With time running out, the Honkers executed a perfect full court run, ending with a lay-up to tie the score at 51 at the end of regulation.

In overtime, Arlington swung the momentum their way as Alan Rietmann, Clay Morter and Kevin Fowler fouled out. For the game, the Honkers went to the line 42 times, connecting on 27 while the Cards got just 11

chances, hitting five. Arlington outscored the Cards 11-7 in the overtime period to take the win 62-58.

Alan Rietmann led the Cardinal scorers with 15 points followed by Matt Hams with 13 and Kevin Fowler with 11. Rietmann also tallied 11 rebounds, four assists and two steals.

Kip Krebs was the leading rebounder with 12 boards and Ione tallied a 42-30 rebounding edge over the Honkers.

"This was a hard loss for the kids. We have been sick all week and were just trying to get through the weekend," said Coach Dennis Stefani. "The late night to Central Oregon the night before caught up with and we ran out of gas, plain and simple."

The Cardinals finish their regular season this week, hosting Helix on Friday and traveling to Hood River to take on Horizon Christian on Saturday. They also play Condon-Wheeler in Fossil on Tuesday with results coming after press time.

Ione boy's JV team takes win against Arlington

The Ione boy's JV team notched a hard fought win against Arlington on Saturday, February 3 in Ione. After leading 15-7 at the half, the Cardinals fell behind in the third as the Honkers outscored them 14-5. But the young Cards played hard in the fourth to regain the lead and take the 33-31 win.

RJ Ramos led the team in scoring with 13 points followed by William Wehrli with seven. Ramos also had four assists and three steals. Wehrli led the rebounding effort with nine, helped out by Ramos with eight.

"It was our best defensive game all season," said Coach Jim Swanson. "There were four or five times where Arlington worked the ball for at least two minutes without taking a shot." He also noted that RJ Ramos had his best game this year, not only in scoring but also on defense and running the point. "I was really proud of them especially since they returned home the night before at 3 a.m."

The JV's record stands at 7-12 overall and 5-7 against league opponents.

Mustang boys lose at Union

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustang boys kept up with first place Union until midway through the third quarter, but fell behind and could not come back as the Bobcats took a 68-57 win on Friday, February 2, in Blue Mountain Conference play at Union. The Mustangs fell to 6-5 in the BMC and 10-9 overall with the loss.

Lane Bailey and Nacho Elguezabal each had four points in the first but the Bobcats raced out to a 20-12 lead after one. RJ Farrens hit three three-pointers and Matt McCabe had five points in the second as the Mustangs closed the gap to 30-28 at the half.

The Bobcats increased their lead to 49-42 after three and even though Elguezabal had seven points and Farrens five in the fourth, it was not enough as the Mustangs took the tough loss.

Farrens finished with 17 points and five assists with Elguezabal adding 13 points and four steals. Bailey was also in double figures with 10 points and had five assists with McCabe adding nine points, two steals and two blocked shots. A.J. Rauch had eight rebounds and two blocked shots.

Heppner 12 16 14 15-57

Union 20 10 19 19-68

Heppner - RJ Farrens 5 3-4 17, Nacho Elguezabal 5 3-4 13, Lane Bailey 4 2-2 10, Matt McCabe 4 0-0 9, A.J. Rauch 2 1-2 5, Jared Huddleston 1 0-0 3, Brendan McElligot, Tony Haguewood, Sam King, 21 9-12 57. Three-pointers - Farrens with four and McCabe and Huddleston with one.

Union - Hewitt 11 5-6 27, Haney 7 0-2 14, Papineau 2 8-10 13, Titus 4 2-2 11, O'Brien 0 3-7 3, 24 18-27 67. Three-pointers - Papineau and Titus.

Mustang girls take down Tigerscots in fourth

By Rick Paullus

After trailing most of the game, the Heppner Mustang girls led when it mattered as they took a 38-34 win over the visiting Weston-McEwen Tigerscots on Saturday, February 3, in Blue Mountain Conference play. The Mustangs, now 11-1 in the BMC and 17-3 overall, have wrapped up first place in the BMC as they hold a two game lead over the Tigerscots with two games to go and they hold the tiebreaker with their sweep of the two games. The Mustangs wrap up the regular season at home against Stanfield on Friday, February 9.

Regi Seitz had five points in the first as the Mustangs led 11-9 after one but the Tigerscots came back to take an 18-15 lead at the half.

The teams traded baskets through the third as Megan Orr hit a jumper, Katie Kilkenny scored off a pass from Lyndi Patton then fed Aftan Betsinger for a lay-up and Seitz hit two free throws. Orr cut the lead to 26-25 as she scored off a rebound to close out the quarter.

The Tigerscots extended their lead to 31-26 before Orr scored off a pass from Amber Patton then fed Lyndi Patton for a lay-up to cut the lead to 31-30. After a three-point play by the Tigerscots, Lyndi Patton

made one of two free throws, hit a long jumper then got a steal and fed Betsinger for a lay-up who was fouled and made the free throw to give the Mustangs a 36-34 lead with 1:03 left. Lyndi Patton and Betsinger each hit one of two free throws in the final minute and Amber Patton had a blocked shot as the defense held the Tigerscots scoreless.

Betsinger finished with 10 points, Orr had eight points, six rebounds, four steals, and two assists, and Seitz had seven points, five rebounds, and five steals. Lyndi Patton had four steals and two assists, Amber Patton had five rebounds, and Kilkenny had four rebounds.

Weston-McEwen 9 9 8 8-34

Heppner 11 4 10 13-38

Weston-McEwen - Turner 6 1-2 13, Thul 2 2-2 7, N. Griggs 2 1-2 6, Ramirez 1 0-0 2, Thompson 1 0-0 2, Miloy 1 0-0 2, Sampson 1 0-0 2, 14 4-6 34. Three-pointers - N. Griggs and Thul.

Heppner - Aftan Betsinger 4 2-4 10, Megan 4 0-0 8, Regi Seitz 2 3-5 7, Lyndi Patton 2 2-4 6, Katie Kilkenny 1 2-2 4, Sarah Price 1 1-2 3, Sheryllyn Peck, Kylie Doherty, Taylor Kempas, 14 10-17 38. Three-pointer - none.

Mustang boys beat Tigerscots 63-54

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustang boys outscored the visiting Weston-McEwen Tigerscots in every quarter as they took a 63-54 win on Saturday, February 3, in Blue Mountain Conference play. The Mustangs, now 7-5 in the BMC and 11-9 overall, finish the regular season at home against Stanfield on Friday, Feb. 9.

The Mustangs took a 7-5 lead midway through the first on three-pointer by Matt McCabe and two inside baskets - from Nacho Elguezabal. McCabe made two free throws but the Tigerscots came back to take a 10-9 lead before McCabe and Lane Bailey hit long jumpers and RJ Farrens scored just before the buzzer to give the Mustangs a 15-10 lead after one.

McCabe hit a long jumper after four straight points from the Tigerscots. Tony Haguewood scored off a rebound and McCabe hit a three-pointer to make it 22-14. Jared Huddleston hit two free throws, Farrens hit a

three-pointer, and Huddleston hit a jumper to make it 29-18. The Tigerscots then came back to narrow the lead to 29-13 at the half.

A.J. Rauch scored off a pass from Farrens, Bailey hit a baseline jumper and Huddleston hit two free throws as the Mustangs pushed their lead to 35-24 early in the third. Bailey then scored twice more and Farrens made a lay-up to make it 41-29. Farrens scored off a drive and McCabe scored off a steal but the Tigerscots closed the lead to 45-38 after three.

Elguezabal hit two free throws and Rauch scored off a pass from Farrens to open the fourth then Farrens fed Elguezabal and Rauch for lay-ups to push the lead to 53-40. Elguezabal scored twice more inside and Brendan McElligott scored off a pass from Huddleston to make it 59-43.

Farrens fed Elguezabal for a lay-up to make it 61-47 and

Huddleston hit two free throws to close out the scoring as the Mustang took the win.

Elguezabal finished with 14 points and getting four steals. Farrens had nine points, 11 assists and three steals, Huddleston had eight points and five assists, and Bailey had eight points and two steals.

Weston-McEwen 10 13 15 16-54

Heppner 15 14 16 18-63

Weston-McEwen - Giger 5 6-7 16, Eastwood 4 5-7 13, Lindell 3 3-4 10, Schroeder 3 0-0 7, Duke 2 0-0 4, Nelson 2 0-0 4, 19 14-18 54. Three-pointers - Lindell and Schroeder.

Heppner - Matt McCabe 5 2-4 14, Nacho Elguezabal 6 2-2 14, RJ Farrens 4 0-0 9, Lane Bailey 4 0-0 8, Jared Huddleston 1 6-7 8, A.J. Rauch 3 0-0 6, Brendan McElligott 1 0-0 2, Tony Haguewood 1 0-0 2, Tim Hauer, Sam King, 25 10-13 63. Three-pointers - McCabe with two and Farrens with one.

Morrow County Gun Club news

Only six shooters showed up last Sunday to shoot in the fog.

16-yard results were: Mark Schlichting 22, Roger Mortimore 20, and Steven Crum 18. Shooting at 20

yards was difficult due to the fog. Mike Gorman topped all shooters with 20, followed by Mark Schlichting 18, and Roger Mortimore 17. The next shoot will be Sunday, February 11, at noon.

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Cardinal boys outscore Cougars

Kip Krebs scored 10 points in the fourth quarter and the team hit 5 of 6 free throws to put away a pesky Echo team in Echo last Tuesday night 48-43. The Cardinals outscored the Cougars 23-14 in the fourth

quarter after switching to a man-to-man defense to seal the win.

Ione trailed Echo 12-13 after one quarter and 17-18 at the half. Echo held a four point advantage heading into the final frame before the Cards switched gears.

"Kip Krebs came out in the fourth quarter and took over. He had a terrific fourth quarter and really changed things inside," said Coach Dennis Stefani.

Krebs led the Cardinals in scoring with 15 points followed by Matt Hams with 12 and Alan Rietmann with 11. Ione outdid Echo on the boards 39-33 led by Kevin Fowler and Clay Morter with 10 each. Fowler also had four steals and Paul Hams led the team in assists with four.

"Echo is always a tough place to play," said Coach Stefani. "Going to man-to-man defense in the fourth quarter really worked to our advantage."

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