

# Heppner wrestlers on a roll at first home meet

By Larry Palmer

Heppner High rolled out the welcome mat and hosted its first ever wrestling meet against the Sherman County Huskies, Irrigon Knights, Umatilla Vikings, and the Riverside Pirates.

The Heppner squad was pumped and ready to go and the nearly packed house responded accordingly. Dillon Lutchter (130) pinned his Irrigon opponent in the first period.

Tyler Robinson (125) came through, working an opponent from Riverside with a 12-9 decision in the third period. Tomás Elguezabal was pinned in the second period. Chance Day (140) took on a highly favored Pirate, sixth in the state for 3A, but he



Heppner Wrestler Dillon Lutchter. -Photo by Sandi Matthews

eluded his grasp and was pinned in the third period. Matt Holland (152), just back from an injury, was valiant in effort but came up short and was pinned in the second period. Spencer Palmer (160) brought the crowd back into it and pinned his Pirate in the first period. Finally, Trent Miles

(171) came through with his first pin of the season in the second period and capped off a remarkable first round with the Mustangs taking four out of seven matches in the history making event.

This was by far the best-attended and noisiest meet that Heppner has participated in.

In the second round, Matt Holland (152) took and pinned a Knight from Irrigon in the first period.

In the third round Heppner took a couple of wins as Chance Day flipped his Viking for a pin in the first period. Spencer Palmer then toppled his Knight with a pin in the first period.

In round four, Spencer Palmer went up against and Husky from Sherman County who he pinned in the second period.

The meet came full circle when Dillon Lutchter secured a win with a 7-0 decision in the third period against a Riverside Pirate.

After 50 league matches, several Junior High Exhibition matches, and one Coach's Exhibition match, the Mustangs finished with a 9 for 21 match record and an enthusiastic home crowd.

## HHS second quarter honor roll

Heppner High School announces their honor roll for the second quarter. To be on the honor roll, students must maintain a 3.5 to 4.0 GPA. The following students achieved that goal:

Seventh grade: Justin Pranger 4.0, Justin Bailey, Camron Day, Zechariah Hintz, Carrie Hagewood, Seth Palmer, Ashlee Ames, Cody Orr, and Natalie Rauch.

Eighth grade: Willy Gentry 4.0, Justin Gutierrez 4.0, Brett Harrison 4.0, Ian Murray 4.0, Kelsi Putman 4.0, Devin Robinson 4.0, Brooke Thompson 4.0, Joseph Armato, Julia Meyer, Donald Matthews, Keshawna Talamantes, Daisy Victorio, Lindsay Cutsforth, and Amber Gray.

Ninth grade: Emily Thompson 4.0, Lane Wright 4.0, Jared Huddleston, Ashley Wolff, Christopher Lien, Curtis Harper, Keenan Jack, Brynna Rust, Frank Meyer, Jodessa Chapa, and Jordan Hatfield.

Tenth grade: Maggie Armato 4.0, Sarah Ballard 4.0, Spencer Palmer 4.0, Sherilyn Peck 4.0, Jordan Shepherd 4.0, Joseph Pranger, Joshua Shank, Grant Smith, Kathryn Moore, Stephanie Rill, Luke Young, and Quinn Chick.

Eleventh grade: Latosha Bowles 4.0, Whitney Matthews 4.0, Sean Murray 4.0, Kelsey Wolff, Ignacio Elguezabal, Keshia Richmond, Luke Basile, Katie Kilkenny, Baillie Keithley, Kendra Rayburn, Taylor Kempas, Jessica Connor, Aftan Betsinger, Jenna Bowman, Cyde Coil, and Megan Orr.

Twelfth grade: Aaron Allstott 4.0, Justin Delveaux 4.0, Sarah Price 4.0, Regina Seitz 4.0, Brendan McElligott, Quinn Peck, Lyndi Patton, Mahaley Huddleston, Casey O'Neal, Kylie Tasker, Tony Hagewood, Roland Farrens, and Ambrosia Patton.

## Cardinals take second place in their division

The Ione Cardinals locked up second place in the East Division of the Big Sky Conference last weekend, soundly beating Helix on Friday night. The Cards concluded their regular season with a two-point loss to Horizon Christian on the road in Hood River the following night.

Ione advances to the District Tournament where they will take on Cascade Locks, the number three team from the West Division, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 15 at Umatilla High School.

On Friday, February 2, the Cardinals had just eight turnovers for the game and shot 46% from the floor to put Helix away 62-35. In their last meeting, Helix defeated Ione by nearly the same score but it was a different, inspired team that took the floor in Ione Friday

night. Helix hung in early, trailing just 14-15 after one and 25-31 at the half. But the Cardinals tenacious defense made the difference in the second half, holding the frustrated Grizzlies to just ten points.

The Hams brothers had a terrific offensive effort. Paul Hams led the team in scoring with 13 points, shooting 63% from the floor including three three-pointers. Freshman Matt Hams added 11 points, hitting 57% of his shots. Paul Hams also had seven assists and three steals. Also scoring for Ione was Alan Rietmann and Clay Morter with nine each, Kip Krebs with eight, Justin Archer with seven and Kevin Fowler with five.

Although the Grizzlies held a significant height advantage, the Cards fought their way to a 29-27

rebounding edge led by Clay Morter with ten boards.

"This was a terrific win," said Coach Dennis Stefani. "The kids came out and played the most disciplined game of the year. I think we finally grew up as a team." Coach Stefani was pleased with the overall defensive effort from the team and was especially happy to see the team commit so few turnovers.

The win over Helix assured the Cardinals of the second place spot in the East Division but the team traveled to Hood River to play the red-hot Horizon Christian team with winning on their minds. Horizon jumped out to an early lead, 14-6 after one and 24-14 at the half behind some hot outside shooting. The Cards got moving in the second half though, slowly narrowing the lead to six,

then four, then two points in the fourth quarter. As the game wound down, Ione created several opportunities to take the lead, including a shot in the final seconds but fell short in the end, 42-44.

Kip Krebs led the team in scoring with 13 points. Clay Morter was also in double figures with ten. The Cardinals were out-rebounded 43-32 by Horizon, who had three players 6'3" and over in the game most of the time. Justin Archer and Kip Krebs led the Cardinal's rebounding charge with eight each and Kevin Fowler had seven. Paul Hams paced the team with five steals and four assists and the team had another good night taking care of the ball, tallying just 12 turnovers.

"Even though we lost, I think we gained a ton of experience," said Coach Dennis Stefani. "This was the first game we actually did not fold when behind. We made a great comeback in the second half and actually had the looks to win the game."

Coach Stefani was happy with the team's efforts and ball handling. "We played disciplined ball again with only 12 turnovers."

"I'm proud of how far this team has come. They get better each and every day."

## Mustang boys win at Irrigon

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustang boys took a 70-46 win over the Irrigon Knights on Tuesday, February 6, in Irrigon in Blue Mountain Conference play. The Mustangs, 8-5 in the BMC and 12-8 overall, will be in Pendleton on Friday to play Pilot Rock at around 3 p.m. with the winner to play Union on Saturday night for the district championship. The loser will play Saturday afternoon to determine the third and fourth seeds to the state tournament.

The Mustangs took a 20-9 lead after one getting eight points from Lane Bailey and four each from Nacho Elguezabal and Matt McCabe and stretched it to 32-21 at the half. Andre Rauch had five second-quarter points. Bailey had eight points and Elguezabal seven in the third as they took a 51-33 lead after three. Bailey and Aaron Allstott each had five points and RJ Farrens four in the fourth as they cruised to the win.

Bailey led the Mustangs with 23 points, three steals, and three assists. Elguezabal added 13 points, five rebounds, and two steals, Farrens had nine rebounds, nine assists, and three steals, and Rauch had nine points, six rebounds, two steals, and two blocked shots. McCabe had five steals, four assists and two blocked shots, Jared Huddleston had five assists and Justin Delveaux had two steals.

Heppner 20 12 19 19-70

Irrigon 9 12 12 13-46

Heppner - Lane Bailey 10 0-0 23, Nacho Elguezabal 6 1-4 13, A.J. Rauch 4 1-3 9, Aaron Allstott 3 1-2 7, RJ Farrens 2 1-2 6, Matt McCabe 3 0-0 6, Sam King 1 1-2 3, Tim Hauer 1 0-0 2, Jared Huddleston 0 1-2 1, Justin Delveaux, Dalton Wellman. 30 6- 16 70. Three-pointers - Bailey with three and Farrens with one.

Irrigon - Griffin 5 2-2 14, White 4 1-5 10, McKeon 3 0-0 8, Rivera 3 2-3 8, Burnett 3 0-0 6. 18 5-10 46. Three-pointers - Griffin with two, McKeon with two, and White with one.

## Morrow County Gun Club news

Twelve shooters did not mind a rainy day at the club.

Singles - Harvy Childers, 21; Dick Goodhead, 21; Garrett Wilhelm, 21; Rob Ashbeck, 20; and Gene Harris, 19. Ladies - Deona Hodges, 18. Sub-juniors - Kirk Hagewood, 12; John Wilson, 11; and Bailey Hagewood, 8.

Two Annies were shot with D. Goodhead winning both.

The next shoot will be Sunday, February 18, at noon.

## Mustang girls take win at Irrigon

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustang girls outscored Irrigon in every quarter as they took a 64-39 win over the Knights on Tuesday, February 6, in Blue Mountain Conference play. The Mustangs, now 12-1 in the BMC and 18-3 overall, will be the first place seed at the district tournament and will play for the championship on Saturday, February 17, at 6 p.m. in Pendleton.

The Mustangs took a 14-7 lead after one, getting five points from Regi Seitz and extended it to 25-16 at the half. Aftan Betsinger had seven points, Seitz had five points, and Amber Patton and Megan Orr each had four points as they took a 49-29 lead after three. Patton added four more in the fourth as they cruised to the win.

Seitz finished with 12 points, seven rebounds and two steals. Betsinger scored 12 points, Patton had

nine points, five rebounds and five steals, Orr had eight assists and three steals, Katie Kilkenny had seven rebounds and four assists, Taylor Kempas had three steals, and Sherilyn Peck had two assists.

Heppner 14 11 24

15-64

Irrigon 7 9 13 10-39

Heppner - Regi Seitz 4 4-4 12, Aftan Betsinger 5 2-5 12, Amber Patton 3 3-5 9, Katie Kilkenny 3 1-2 7, Megan Orr 2 0-0 4, Kylie Doherty 2 0-0 4, Taylor Kempas 1 2-4 4, Sarah Price 1 2-2 4, Sherilyn Peck 0 3-4 3, Kristen Van Cleave 1 1-2 3, Jessica Hughes 1 0-0 2, Lyndi Patton. 23 18-29 64. Three-pointers - none.

Irrigon - Coffman 6 0-0 12, Angelo 4 0-0 9, DeBoise 3 0-0 7, Johnson 3 0-0 7, Tolar 1 0-2 2, Gutierrez 10-22. 18 0-4 39. Three-pointers - Angelo, DeBoise, and Johnson with one each.

## Wrestlers take to the mat at districts

By Larry Palmer

The Heppner Mustangs trekked through the Blues to compete at the District 4 Wrestling Championships for 2A-1A in Imbler. The competition was tough as the fight for state bound spots were up for grabs. The district is comprised of teams from Adrian, Crane Elgin/Imbler, Enterprise, Heppner, Joseph, Pine Eagle, Union/North Powder, and Wallowa.

The preliminary rounds did not fair to well with the Mustangs as they suffered some takedowns, reversals, escapes, and pins. Chance Day (140) did advance to the championship bracket with a pin in the second period over Gage Nebel of Enterprise. Tyler

Robinson (125), Dillon Lutchter (130), Tomás Elguezabal (135), Matt Holland (152), Spencer Palmer (160), and Trent Miles (171) were pinned in their opening rounds.

In the second round, Matt Holland pinned Justin Davis of Crane in the second period and moved up in the consolation bracket. Dustin Moreland of Union/North Powder then pinned him out in the next round.

Chance Day, in a quarterfinal round, went up against Tim Cox of Union/North Powder and was pinned in the second period. That moved Day down to the third/fourth place bracket and into a quarterfinal match against Chancy Warnock of Joseph in which he pinned for the win in the third period. This set up a rematch against Gage Nebel who he defeated in the second round. Day defeated the Outlaw for the second time and claimed the third place medal at 140 pounds. This set up a wrestle against Tim Cox for the second spot to go to state.

Day was pinned with two seconds left in the third period. This brought an end to Heppner's first wrestling season.



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