

Mustang's season ends in Pendleton

By Rick Paullus

Two straight losses by the Heppner Mustangs at the OSAA US Bank/Les Schwab 2A Championships in Pendleton ended their season a day early. The Mustangs lost 48-45 to the Nestucca Bobcats on Thursday, March 1, and 52-48 to the Lost River raiders on Friday morning, March 2, in the consolation bracket, which prevented them from playing on Saturday for a trophy.

The Mustangs, coached by Mark Dowdy, ended their season with a 21-5 record and said goodbye to seniors Lyndi Patton, Amber Patton, Regi Seitz, and Sarah Price.

The first quarter against the Bobcats was a back and forth as both teams took turns at the lead. After the Bobcats' Kelsea Hurliman hit a three-pointer, the Mustangs' Megan Orr hit a long jumper and a three-pointer to give them a 5-3 lead. Hurliman tied it but Regi Seitz made a lay-up from Aftan Betsinger and hit two free throws to make it 9-5. The Bobcats went on a 6-1 run until Orr hit two free throws to give the Mustangs a 12-11 lead after one.

The Bobcats came back to take a 16-12 lead before Sarah Price hit a short jumper to end a four and a half minute scoring drought. Amber Patton tied it with a rebound basket but the Bobcats ended up with a 20-17 lead at the half.

Seitz scored inside early in the third but the Bobcats extended their lead to 27-19 before Betsinger hit



Juniors Katie Kilkenny and Megan Orr hustle for the team scrambling to get the ball Friday in the Consolation game against Lost River.

-Photo by Sandi Matthews

one of two free throws and Seitz hit a three-pointer. Six straight points by the Bobcats gave them a 33-23 lead. The teams then traded baskets as Orr scored six points and Lyndi Patton scored off a steal but they still trailed 40-31 after three.

The Mustangs went on a 9-2 run to open the fourth as Amber Patton scored twice inside, Taylor Kempas scored off a rebound and Seitz hit a three-pointer to get within two at 42-40. They got within one when Katie Kilkenny hit two free throws with 2:26 left to make it 44-43. Two long jumpers from Hurliman made it 48-43 but Orr came back to hit a long shot of her own to cut the lead to 48-45 with 1:05 left. The Mustangs had two

chances to tie it in the last 15 seconds but could not get the shot to fall as they came up short.

Orr led the Mustangs with 15 points and two steals with Seitz adding 13 points, six rebounds, and two assists. Amber Patton had a strong game off the bench grabbing 10 rebounds and getting two steals to go with her six points. Kilkenny had six rebounds and two assists. Price had six rebounds and Lyndi Patton and Betsinger each had two assists.

Hurliman led the Bobcats with 22 points including three three-pointers.

The next morning, in the consolation bracket, both the Mustangs and Raiders struggled offensively in the first quarter as neither team

could get much going. Betsinger gave the Mustangs an early lead by scoring off a pass from Megan Orr and after the Raiders tied it, Kilkenny made two free to make it 4-2. Taylor Kempas hit a jumper and Amber Patton hit one of two free throws but the Raiders came back to tie it at 7-7 after one.

Jumpers from Seitz and Betsinger made it 11-8 midway through the second. After a Raider basket, Seitz and Betsinger hit jumpers, Lyndi Patton hit a three-pointer, and Amber Patton made one of two free throws to help the Mustangs take a 19-11 lead at the half.

Kilkenny hit two free throws to open the third. The Raiders came back with five straight, then Kilkenny hit a jumper to make it 23-16. The Raiders hit two jumpers, Price answered with a jumper, Lost River scored then Seitz hit two jumpers to make it 29-23. Amber Patton made one of two free throws and Orr and Price hit jumpers to help the Mustangs take a 34-28 lead at the end of the third quarter.

The Raiders opened the fourth with a three-pointer and a jumper to get within one before Kilkenny scored off a pass from Price. Seitz hit a jumper and two free throws but the Raiders came back to take a 42-40 lead with 5:17 left. Betsinger hit two free throws and a jumper to give the Mustangs the lead, but a three-pointer gave the Raiders a 45-44 lead with 4:00 left. After a Raider basket, Betsinger hit two free throws and after



#3 Senior Amber Patton of the Heppner Mustangs goes up for a shot at the State Playoff Game Friday night in Pendleton. The Heppner Mustangs lost in their final game to Lost River 52-48.

-Photo by Sandi Matthews

another Raider bucket and free throw, Kilkenny scored off a rebound to cut the lead to 50-48 with :59 left. Both teams traded turnovers and a Raider basket with :22 left proved to be the back breaker as the Mustangs could not get anything to drop after that.

Seitz led three Mustangs in double figures with 12 points, four rebounds, four steals and two assists. Betsinger added 12 points, seven rebounds, and two steals. Kilkenny had a double double with 10 points, 15 rebounds, and two assists. Orr had six rebounds, three steals, and two assists. Price had six rebounds and two assists, Lyndi Patton had three steals and two assists, and Amber Patton had two assists.

Nestucca 48, Heppner 45

Nestucca 11 9 20 8-48
Heppner 12 5 14 14-45

Nestucca -
Hurliman 9 1-1 22, Chitwood 4 0-0 10, Carver 3 0-0 6, Wenrick 1 1-2 3, Kosinski 1 1-4 3, Royster 1 0-1 2, Measor 1 0-0 2, 10-60 3-8 48. Three-pointers, Hurliman with three and Chitwood with two.

Heppner - Megan Orr 6 2-2 15, Regi Seitz 4 3-4 13, Amber Patton 3 0-0 6, Lyndi Patton 1 0-0 2, Sarah Price 1 0-0 2, Katie Kilkenny 0 2-2 2, Aftan Betsinger 0 2-4 2, Taylor Kempas 1 0-2 2, Sherilyn Peck 0 1-2 1, Kylie Doherty, 16-43 10-16 45. Three-pointers, Seitz with two and Orr with one.

Lost River 52, Heppner 48
Heppner 7 12 15 14-48
Lost River 7 4 17 24-52

Heppner - Seitz 5 2-2 12, Betsinger 4 4-4 12, Kilkenny 3 4-4 10, Price 2 0-0 4, L. Patton 1 0-0 3, A. Patton 0 3-8 3, Orr 1 0-0 2, Kempas 1 0-1 2, Peck, Doherty, 17-55 13-19 48. Three-pointer, L. Patton.

Lost River - Rieger 7 1-2 15, Thompson 3 0-0 8, Johnson 3 0-0 8, Swingle 3 1-3 7, Rajnus 2 2-2 6, Hernandez 2 0-0 4 Martinez 1 0-0 2, McCulley 0 1-2 1, Condon 0 1-2 1, Hammers, Barajas, 21-65 6-11 52. Three-pointers, Thompson with two and Johnson with two.

Heppner Middle School wrestler advances to state



Aidan Wright

Heppner Middle School wrestler Aidan Wright placed at a middle school wrestling regional at Riverside High School on Saturday and will advance to the middle school state championships, set this Saturday, March 11, at Woodburn High School.

Jared Gorham, Alex Smith, Cody Nelson, Seth Palmer, John Nelson, Zach Yocom, Jarred Miller, Curtis Martin, Tim Nelson, Bryce Fowler, Josh William, Drew Brannon, and Justin Yocom also competed at the regional but did not place.

The Riverside regional, one of three in the state, hosted teams from 28 schools and had 341 wrestlers in attendance. It was the second largest of the three. The top six placers in each regional weight bracket advance to state competition.

We appreciate Ken Bailey and Brian Harmon, Heppner High School and Heppner Booster Club for all their time and efforts in building a wrestling program for Heppner.

Heppner/Echo AAU team completes season



Pictured left to right are Conner Bettencourt, Ian Rivera, Trey Waite, Corey Barros, Brian Gutierrez, Kyle Harrison, Treve Moffit and Steven Thompson.

A combined Heppner/Echo boy's sixth grade AAU team recently completed a two-month schedule of six tournaments. The team consisted of boys from the two towns to ensure the team had enough players.

The team played in tournaments in Pendleton,

Hermiston (2), Imbler, LaGrande, and hosted a tourney in Echo. The team showed steady improvement, often playing against teams from larger towns, and finished second in the last two tourneys played. In addition to the regular practice games with

the Hermiston sixth grade AAU team.

Heppner team members included Trey Waite, Kyle Harrison, Steven Thompson, and Garrett Robinson. The other members of the team are Ian Rivera, Brian Gutierrez, Conner Bettencourt, Treve Moffit and Corey Barros.

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is accepting bids on a surplus 20 year old Merlin Legend phone system and a 20 year old Spirit 8 X 24 phone system, both include a server and multiple phones.
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Heppner Jr/Sr Booster Club meeting to be held

The Heppner Jr/Sr High School Booster Club meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 15th in the Home-Ec room at 7:00 p.m.

Class representatives are needed. For more information contact Reica Herbison for details at 676-5313.

Come find out what the Booster Club is all about.