

Mustangs' wrestling team begins first week of season in Milton Freewater and Culver

By Mark Lemmon

The Heppner Mustangs wrestling team opened up their season with a strong showing on Monday, December 3, in Milton Freewater. The team was short handed due to the success of the football team, but was still able to take five wrestlers to the tournament. Each of the wrestlers competed in three matches, with a combined record of nine wins and six losses on the night.

Two wrestlers went undefeated. Chance Day and Michael Hawkes both won three matches. Day not only won three matches, he pinned all of his opponents without allowing a point to be scored against him. Of the three, only one made it past the first round before being pinned early in the second round.

Hawkes also dominated all of his opponents by pinning two and winning one by technical fall, meaning he outscored the other wrestler by fifteen points.

Dillon Lutcher also had a winning record for the night, going 2-1 in his three matches. "Dillon is like a little machine," assistant coach Brian Lemmon said. "He just keeps attacking his opponents until he wears them down. He's one of the younger and smaller wrestlers we have on the team, so he gets worked pretty well in practice. But he's not afraid to mix it up with anyone. I

expect him to develop into quite a wrestler."

Also competing for the Mustangs were Trent Miles and Tyler Robinson. Miles won his first match by a pin in the second period. After getting slow starts in his other two matches, he mounted comebacks that just fell short. Miles fought back and was actually leading late in his final match before getting caught in bad position, reversed and then pinned.

Even though Robinson lost all three of his bouts, the score was close and he was competitive in them before making mistakes that ended the matches by pin. "We're a young team in a young program," said head coach Troy Morgan. "We're focusing on not making mistakes that beat ourselves."

The Mustangs then traveled to Culver on December 7 and 8 to compete in the Culver tournament. The tournament was a double elimination, two day tournament hosted by last year's state wrestling champion Culver Bulldogs. There were a total of 27 teams in the tournament, ranging from 1A to 5A. Four Mustangs competed, Chance Day, Michael Hawkes, Jarreid Miller and Tyler Robinson.

Three of the wrestlers successfully advanced to the second day of the tournament, Chance Day,

Jarreid Miller and Tyler Robinson.

After receiving a first round bye, Day won his next bout against Mike Cassaro from Reedsport, the sixth ranked wrestler in Oregon 3A at 140 pounds. Day won 12-9 in a tough battle that came down to the final seconds. He would make it to the quarterfinals in the championship bracket before falling to Gabe Forrester from Glide, the number one ranked 3A wrestler in Oregon in the 145 pound weight class. Day was the last Mustang eliminated from the tournament by losing his final bout by fall despite leading in points for the entire match.

Tyler Robinson, competing at 140 pounds, came back after losing in the first round of the tournament to win his next match in consolation. Robinson dominated his opponent through the first round before winning by a fall in the second round. Robinson ended the tournament with a 1-2 record.

Making his debut as a Mustang wrestler, Grant Smith traveled with the team and competed in an exhibition match. Smith won the match by pinning his opponent early in the second round.

Heppner will have its first home competition on Thursday, December 13, hosting Riverside, Umatilla and Union at 5 p.m. The final home match will be on January 17 at 4 p.m.

The junior high wrestling team begins practice on December 10 at the high school right after school. Competition for the junior high begins on January 17 in Pendleton.

Ione JV boys fall to Enterprise

A day of sitting and waiting wasn't the best preparation for the Ione Boys' JV team as they lost to host, Enterprise in a morning match-up on Saturday, December 8, 36-57. This was the same team the Cardinals had defeated the previous Saturday in Ione 47-44.

The Cards trailed 10-4 at the end of one quarter and 27-14 at the half. Thirteen turnovers in the third quarter alone didn't help the effort as the Outlaws stretched out their lead, 43-20 after three quarters. Ione finally got their game together in the fourth quarter, outscoring the Outlaws 16-14 but it was too little, too late by then.

RJ Ramos led the scoring effort with 10 points. Tanner Rietmann added eight followed by Gunner Jessen with seven. Also scoring for Ione was Marco Juarez with four, Kevin LaRue with two and Dalton Campbell, Luke Bradfield and Alex Rietmann with one each.

Coach Jim Swanson commended the hustle of Luke Bradfield, Dalton Campbell and RJ Ramos. "They really tried to get the rest of the team going," he said.

Dalton Campbell led the team in rebounds with eight and RJ Ramos and Marco Juarez had three steals each.

"This has always been a hard game for the JV team. They make the long bus ride and then sit through the varsity games all day Friday. But the experience of staying with the Enterprise kids is fun for them. We just played a step behind and without much energy," said Swanson.

Cardinals take third in weekend tournament

The Ione Cardinals wrapped up third place in the Enterprise Tournament the weekend of December 7 and 8, following up a lackluster loss to Wallowa on Friday with a good team effort against Enterprise on Saturday.

The Cards looked like a team who had not enjoyed a slippery, snowy ride over the Blues on Friday. Hanging close in the early going, the Cardinals trailed Wallowa by three at the end of one and led by one at the half, 24-23. A frosty third quarter is where the Cougars took control of the game, opening up a 40-33 third quarter lead. The Cardinals made a bit of a run in the fourth quarter but could never close the gap, losing the game 52-47.

Ione shot 34% from the field, missing a number of close-in shots. From outside the three point arc, Ione hit five of 11 attempts. However, hot shooting from Wallowa negated that effort as they nailed seven three pointers. The Cards continued to struggle from the free throw line, making just 6 of 16 for 38%.

Alan Rietmann led the team in scoring with 11 points. Six other Cardinals contributed in the scoring department including Paul Hams with nine, Matt Hams with seven, Kip Krebs with six, Justin Archer and Clay Morter with five each and Kevin Fowler with four.

Clay Morter with seven rebounds and two blocked shots and Kevin Fowler with five rebounds and two blocked shots led the effort under the basket. Alan Rietmann paced the offense with four assists and three steals.

"The kids had a tough bus ride up to Enterprise and never got going at all," said Coach Dennis Stefani. "We played with no energy and allowed Wallowa to control the game." He did note there was a lesson to be learned from the outing however. "If we learned something from this game, it was to always be ready to play with intensity."

Ione JV boys take win on second day of Bonanza play

It took a game to shake off the rust but the Ione Boys' JV team won on the second day of the Ione Basketball Bonanza to wrap up third place the weekend of November 30 and December 1.

Jitters turned into turnovers in the Friday contest against the Riverside JVs. Scoring just five points in the first half, the young Cardinals found themselves in a hole they couldn't get out of. However, Coach Jim Swanson was happy to note that the team outscored Riverside by a point in the second half in the 27-47 loss.

Tanner Rietmann led the team in scoring with 11 points. Dalton Campbell and Gunner Jessen each had four, RJ Ramos had three, Alex Rietmann and Thomas Holland each had two and Luke Bradfield added one. Tanner Rietmann and Luke Bradfield each grabbed five rebounds and Gunner Jessen picked up five steals.

"They never quit," said Coach Swanson. "I was proud of how they finished the game."

On Saturday, Ione again got behind in the first quarter, trailing Enterprise 9-17 at the end of the first quarter. But by outscoring the Outlaws 14-7 in the second, they pulled to within one at the half, 23-24. Enterprise opened up a six point margin by the end of three but the Cardinals outscored their opponent 12-3 in the final frame to take the exciting 47-44 win.

Tanner Rietmann led the team in scoring with 19 points. Gunner Jessen was also in double figures with 10. Also scoring for Ione was RJ Ramos with seven, Matt Coleman with four, Alex Rietmann with four and Marco Juarez with three.

"From the start, the team hustled and played with great intensity which is what I want," said Coach Jim Swanson. He noted Tanner Rietmann had a great all-around game with 19 points, 6 rebounds and four steals. Kevin LaRue had a good outing under the basket with seven rebounds and Gunner Jessen kept the team moving, running the point.

"It was a great win against a 2A team. We played much better than our first game," said Swanson.

Mustang Wrestling Schedule

Dec. 13 - Heppner Invite at 5 p.m.
Dec. 15 - Baker-Dual Tourney at 10 a.m.
Dec. 18 - Sherman County at 6 p.m.
Dec. 22 - Elgin Tourney at 11 a.m.
Jan. 5 - Riverside Rumble at 10 a.m.

Ione Basketball Schedule

Dec. 15 - at Dufur, 1 p.m.
Dec. 18 - at Riverside, 3 p.m.
Dec. 20 - South Wasco at Ione, 3 p.m.
Dec. 21 - at Pilot Rock, 3 p.m.
Dec. 28 - Pilot Rock at Ione, 3 p.m.
Dec. 29 - Stanfield at Ione, 1 p.m.
Jan. 4 - Condon/Wheeler at Ione, 3 p.m.
Jan. 5 - at Cascade Locks, 2:30 p.m.

Ione Middle School Basketball Schedule

Dec. 14 - South Wasco at Ione, 2 p.m.
Dec. 15 - at Heppner (boys), 9 a.m.
Dec. 15 - Ione Tournament (girls), 9 a.m.
Dec. 20 - at Dufur, 3 p.m.
Jan. 4 - Condon at Ione, 4 p.m.
Jan. 5 - at Fossil, 11 a.m.

Mustang Basketball Schedule

December 14 - Pilot Rock at Heppner, 3 p.m.
December 15 - Union at Union, 1 p.m.
December 21, 22 - Joseph Tourney, 3 p.m.
December 27 - Riverside at Heppner, 1 p.m.
December 28, 29 - Heppner Tourney, TBA.

HJH Boys/Girls Basketball Schedule

December 13 - at Sunridge (B-A/B) at 4 p.m.
December 15 - Heppner Tourney (B-A/B) at 9 a.m.
January 4 - Pilot Rock at Pilot Rock (G-A/B) at 5 p.m.
January 5 - Condon Tourney (G/B-A/B) at 9 a.m.
January 10 - The Dalles at Heppner (G-A/B) at 4 p.m.
January 11 - Echo Girls (Cove also) at Echo (G-A/B) at 9 a.m.

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Real Estate

By DAVID SYKES

REALTOR

TIPS FOR A LOCAL MOVE

If you plan to make a local household move and do the moving yourself, here is some advice that could be helpful.

If you are going to rent a truck, make your reservations early. Ask if the truck comes equipped with a loading ramp, dollies, padding or boxes or if these items are available for separate rental. The easy way to handle a short move is to leave your clothes right on the hangers. Leave dresser drawers full to avoid repacking. Clearly label your boxes

with room names and don't mix contents from different rooms. Sofa and seat cushions wrapped in plastic bags can be used as extra padding in the truck. Using large plastic trash bags also is a time saver, money saver and an easy way to transport many items a short distance.

Measure your oversized pieces: beds, dressers, refrigerator, sofa to make sure they'll fit through the doorways of your new home. Disassemble pieces that can be easily reassembled.



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