

Ione boys win one, lose two

The Ione Cardinals got a league win sandwiched between two hard-fought non-conference losses during a busy week of basketball.

On Tuesday, December 30, Ione hosted Pilot Rock in non-conference action. Clay Morter made the Cards' first four points of the game before the Rockets went on a 15-3 tear to go up 20-7. Ione scored nine points in the last 2:26 to end to end the quarter trailing 13-24.

Ione outscored the Rockets by one in the second but a late Pilot Rock bucket gave them a 10 point margin at the half, 37-27. Pilot Rock used a 21-14 scoring edge in the third to lead 58-41 going into the final frame. Ione scored 23 points in the fourth quarter and narrowed the lead to seven with just under two minutes but the Rockets held on for the 73-64 win.

Three Cards registered double figures led by Matt Hams with 16. Zac Orem added 15 and Clay Morter had 12. Ione shot just 29% from the field, possibly a result of having a long snow and holiday induced layoff. Pilot Rock shot 52%. Between the two teams, the foul line was a very busy spot with 60 free throw attempts in the game. The Cards were 16 of 26 while the Rockets were just 12 of 34.

Clay Morter led the Cardinals' rebounding effort with 11. Matt Hams added seven.

"The kids played hard but we seemed out of sync with the lay-off during the break," said Coach Dennis Stefani.

On Friday, the Cards hosted Dufur for their first league game of the season, one that was originally scheduled to take place back in December.

The first quarter set the tempo that this game was going to be a horse race. Seven lead changes and two ties later, Gunner Jessen put the Cards up by one when he drove the key at the buzzer, making the shot and getting fouled in the process. Making good on the and one opportunity, the Cards led 19-18. The lead changed hands six more times in the second quarter.



Corey Peterson shoots a three-pointer during the game against Dufur on January 2. -Photo by Theresa Crawford

Zac Orem had 10 points in the quarter and Cory Peterson's baseline three pointer with 52 seconds on the clock gave the Cards their biggest lead of the game so far at 38-30.

The Rangers kicked off the third quarter with eight unanswered points to tie the game at 38 with just 1:30 gone. Matt Hams hit back to back jumpers to start a 20-5 Cardinal run. The Rangers finished the quarter with five points to put the Cardinals' margin back where it was at the start of the quarter, eight points, 57-49.

Matt Hams went to town in the fourth quarter, scoring 12 points and coming up with some key steals. With 3:02 remaining in the game, Dufur had cut the lead to four, 65-61, before Matt Hams scored six straight points to build the margin back to 10. Dufur had opportunities in the last minute, going to the free throw line six times and connecting on three. With 19.4 seconds left on the clock, RJ Ramos went to the line for Ione and hit a pair to give the Cardinals the 73-64 win.

Matt Hams led all scorers with 28 points, 21 of those coming in the second half. Zac Orem added 18

and Cory Peterson had 10. The Cards shot 42% from the floor, making 28 of 67 including six three pointers.

"It was a terrific game by the whole team," said Coach Stefani. "The game was a team effort and it showed in the stats. Everyone got involved and really showed the potential this team has."

Clay Morter had a huge night on the boards, hauling in 17 rebounds as the Cardinals fought their way to a 46-43 rebounding edge. Matt Hams grabbed four steals and Cory Peterson dished out four assists to pace the team.

On Saturday, the Cardinals traveled to Stanfield for one of their most exciting games of the young season. Giving the Tigers all they could handle, the Cards' played back from a 13 point half time deficit to force overtime before losing 61-59.

Stanfield was smooth in the early going and before the Cards could catch their breath, they were down 14-2. Ione was able slow the hot-shooting Tigers slightly by the end of the quarter and trailed by 9, 23-14. The Cards pulled back to within five with just over three

minutes to play in the half before Stanfield finished the quarter with eight straight points. The Tigers widened the lead further scoring the first three points of the third quarter before the Cardinals went on a 14-2 run. All of a sudden, the Cards trailed by just four, 41-45 and the momentum was swinging their way. Matt Hams canned a high bouncing three at the buzzer to cut the deficit to two, 48-50.

Cory Peterson opened the fourth quarter hitting one free throw. With almost a minute and half gone, Matt Hams nailed a three pointer to give the Cards their first lead in the game. Stanfield scored the next five points of the game but burned almost three minutes off the clock. With just over three minutes left, Zac Orem drove the key and scored. Thirty seconds later, he buried a three and the Cardinals regained the lead. Stanfield hit a pair of free throws with 1:38 remaining to tie the game again.

The Cardinals ran the clock down to about 30 before a bobbled pass resulted in a jump ball. The Cardinals retained possession. With 7.1 seconds left, Stanfield came up with what looked like a huge steal before it was realized the Tiger player had stepped out of bounds. The Cardinals called time out and ran a play but the last second shot fell short.

In OT, Tanner Rietmann got a wide open look under the basket and put the Cards up by two. Both teams went to the line for a one and one opportunity but didn't score. With under a minute remaining, Stanfield made a lay in to tie the game and with 25 seconds left, the Tigers scored again, going ahead for the final margin.

"The kids did a great job of coming back in the second half," said Coach Stefani. "I really felt if we had played defense like we did in the second half the whole game, we would have won going away."

Cory Peterson was the team's leading scorer with 15 points. Matt Hams added 14 and Zac Orem had 10. Clay Morter had nine rebounds as well as led the team in steals (7) and assists (5.)

First season win still elusive for Lady Cards



Beth Morter shoots a three-pointer during the game against Pilot Rock on December 30. -Photo by Theresa Crawford

The Ione Lady Cardinals had three games last week including one league contest. Although they played each opponent close until late in the game, they were unable to get their elusive first win of the season.

Tuesday, December 30, Ione hosted Pilot Rock. Ione led 9-6 at the end of the first quarter but Pilot Rock went on a 10-0 run to start the second. The Lady Rockets took a 20-12 lead to the locker room at the half. Tiana Camarillo scored seven points in the third quarter and the Lady Cardinals narrowed Pilot Rock's lead to seven at the end of three, 33-27.

With 2:42 remaining in the game, Stefanie Archer hit two free throws to pull the Cards to within three, 36-39 but it was all Pilot Rock down the stretch as they went to the line eight times in the last two and half minutes, connecting on six. The final score was 45-36 in favor of the Rockets.

"Compared to the first time we played them, we did quite a bit better," said Coach Mike Garrett. "We made some adjustments on defense and limited their post players to 15 foot jump shots." In their last meeting, Pilot Rock's two tall girls combined to score 41 points. This time the Lady Cards held them to a total of 16.

"It was a good defensive game by both teams," said Coach Garrett. "Once our shots start dropping, we'll start winning some ball games." Beth Morter led

Ione in scoring with 12. Tiana Camarillo added ten.

The Lady Cardinals hosted Dufur on Friday, January 2, making up a league contest postponed by snow in December. The Lady Rangers put a pesky full court press for most of the game and eventually pulled away for the 41-29 win.

The Ione girls finished their busy basketball week on the road against Stanfield on Saturday for their final pre-season game. Five players put points on the board in the first quarter as the Lady Cardinals took a first quarter lead. Stanfield opened the second quarter with an 8-0 run to take the lead. McKenna Ramos hit a shot at the buzzer to make the score 22-19 in favor of Stanfield at the half.

In the third, Stefanie Archer put back an offensive rebound with 6:24 showing on the clock and Beth Morter followed up with a full-court lay in to narrow the lead to just one point. Stanfield hit a couple more buckets but a pair of free throws by Beth Morter and later by Hailey Arbogast saw the quarter end with the Cards trailing by just one, 27-28.

Stanfield got serious in the fourth quarter scoring 16 unanswered points and keeping Ione scoreless until all but a minute was gone in the game leading to the final margin 47-33.

Beth Morter led the team in scoring with nine points. Stefanie Archer had six and McKenna Ramos added five.

Mustang Wrestling Schedule

Following is the Heppner High School wrestling schedule for the 08-09 season:

- Jan. 9-10: Jo-Hi Invitational, 10 a.m.
- Jan 15: at Grant Union/Crane, 5 p.m.
- Jan. 17: Sherman Invite, 11:30 a.m.
- Jan. 22: Heppner, 5 p.m.
- Jan. 24: at Gervais, 10 a.m.
- Jan. 31: Irrigon Tournament, 5 p.m.
- Feb. 7: BEO Invitational (at Heppner), 9 a.m.

Heppner High School Basketball Schedule

Following is the Heppner High School basketball schedule for the 08-09 season:

- *Friday, Jan. 9: vs. Union JV/V at Union, 3 p.m.
 - *Saturday, Jan 10: vs. Weston JV/V at Heppner, 1 p.m.
 - *Friday, Jan 16: vs. Enterprise JV/V at Heppner, 3 p.m.
 - *Saturday, Jan. 17: vs. Elgin JV/V at Heppner, 1 p.m.
 - *Friday, Jan. 23: vs. Pilot Rock JV/V at Heppner, 3 p.m.
 - *Saturday, Jan. 24: vs. Weston McEwen JV/V at Athena, 1 p.m.
 - *Friday, Jan. 30: vs. Stanfield JV/V at Stanfield, 3 p.m.
 - *Saturday, Jan. 31: vs. Irrigon JV/V at Heppner, 1 p.m.
 - *Friday, Feb. 6: vs. Enterprise JV/V at Enterprise, 3 p.m.
 - *Saturday, Feb. 7: vs. Elgin JV/V at Elgin, 1 p.m.
 - *Tuesday, Feb. 10: vs. Pilot Rock JV/V at Pilot Rock, 3 p.m.
 - *Friday, Feb. 14: vs. Union JV/V at Heppner, 3 p.m.
 - Friday-Saturday, Feb. 20-21: District Tournament, Pendleton, time TBA
- *denotes a league game

Ione High School Basketball Schedule

Following is the Ione High School basketball schedule for the 08-09 season:

- *Jan. 9: Sherman at home (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 3 p.m.
- *Jan. 10: Central Christian in Prineville (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 1 p.m.
- *Jan. 13: Echo at home (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 3 p.m.
- *Jan. 16: Arlington at home (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 3 p.m.
- Jan. 17: Helix, away (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 1 p.m.
- *Jan. 23: Cascade Locks at home (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 3 p.m.
- *Jan. 24: Echo, away (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 1 p.m.
- *Jan. 30: Horizon Christian at Hood River (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 3 p.m.
- *Jan. 31: Condon/Wheeler at home (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 1 p.m.
- *Feb. 3: Nixyaawii at home (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 3 p.m.
- *Feb. 6: Arlington, away (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 3 p.m.
- *Feb. 7: Condon/Wheeler in Fossil (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 1 p.m.
- *Feb. 13: Helix at home (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 3 p.m.

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