

Mustang earns outstanding wrestler award Mustangs win huge games on the road

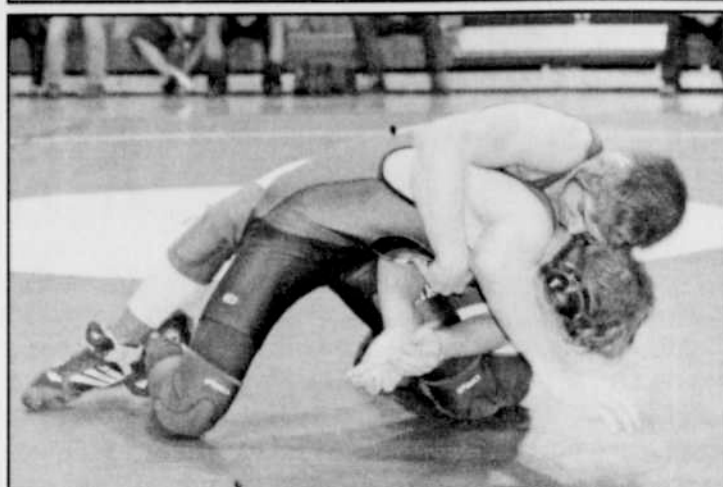
Heppner hosted its first ever major wrestling tournament on Saturday. Fifteen teams competed in the Bank of Eastern Oregon Invitational including all 10 of the teams in Heppner's wrestling district plus Colton, Baker, Riverside, Umatilla and Irrigon.

Competition began at 10 am and lasted until 8 pm. Baker edged out Riverside for the team first place trophy by a score of 185-175. The Mustangs finished sixth overall, third among 2A teams and second against their district competition.

Two Mustang wrestlers fought their way to the championship finals, Chance Day at 152 pounds and Wacy Coil at 160 pounds. Day is ranked fifth in Oregon and Coil is ranked eighth, but both wrestlers would have to face a higher ranked opponent for the gold medal.

Day faced his friend from Irrigon, Kyle Sullivan who is ranked third in Oregon. Day has never been able to beat him in their previous meetings. This time however, in front of the home crowd with the gold medal on the line, Day dominated from the opening whistle, ultimately winning by a major decision 19-7. Most of Sullivan's points came from Day giving him a free one point escape.

Sullivan is known for being a punishing leg rider and for his quick switch to get on top. Day avoided being in the defensive down position the whole match



Top Photo: Andrew Bara goes for the pin during a match in Saturday's wrestling tournament. Bottom Photo: Jarreid Miller takes his opponent to the ground. -Photos by Sandy Matthews

by repeatedly giving the free escape and then taking him down for two points. It proved to be a winning strategy. For his performance, Day received tournament Outstanding Wrestler, an accolade awarded by vote from all the attending head coaches.

In the next match, Coil faced the sixth ranked wrestler in Oregon from Adrian. In what could be a preview of the district championship at 160, the two wrestlers battled back and forth and in the end Coil came away with a silver

medal and second place.

The other medalist for Heppner was Jarreid Miller at 125 pounds. After losing his first match to Zach Cody from Crane, Miller fought his way through the wrestle back to face Cody again in the consolation championship. At the end of the regulation six minutes, the score was tied 10-10 and the match went into overtime. Neither wrestler scored for the first 50 seconds of the 60 second sudden death round. Then after a flurry of action, Miller came out on top with a two

point takedown to win the bronze by a score of 12-10.

Heppner had thirteen wrestlers compete in the tournament and seven placed in the top five. Besides Day, Coil and Miller, the Mustang placers were Cody Nelson, Grant Smith, Dillon Lutchter and Tyler Robinson, each of whom placed fifth.

Andrew Bara and Zach Hintz, two of the most improved wrestlers on the team this year, also scored important team points by winning matches for the Mustangs.

Also competing for Heppner were Zach Yocom, Conner Pappas, Drew Brannon and Alex Fuentes.

"This was a great showing for this young team," said Coach Morgan. "Last year we placed eighth out of 10 teams at districts, and before that we were tenth. To finish second in this tournament among our district teams shows the strong growth of this program. A tournament like this goes a long way toward gaining respect and putting Heppner on the wrestling map. We owe a lot of thanks to all of the volunteers who gave up their Saturday to make it happen. We received many compliments from other teams, coaches and officials. Many couldn't believe it was our first home tournament and that most of the help had never done this before. It went better than we had dared hope."

Cards finish first in Big Sky East Division

The Ione Cardinals split their weekend games, cruising to a win in Arlington Friday night and losing a heartbreaker on Saturday against Condon/Wheeler in Fossil. The win on Friday sealed the deal on a first place finish in the Big Sky East Division for the Cardinals.

The Cards ran out to a solid 25-4 lead in the first quarter at Arlington, playing an opponent with just six players dressed down. With the outcome never in doubt, the Cards worked in the entire bench and tried different player combinations on the way to the 58-29 win.

Zac Orem led the team in scoring with 13 points. Matt Hams had 12 and RJ Ramos had 11. The Cardinals dominated the boards 46-14 led by Clay Morter with 11, Alex Rietmann with seven and Gunner Jessen with five. Cory Peterson and Alex Rietmann each dished out four assists and Zac Orem had three blocked shots to lead the team. Ione shot 45% from the floor in the contest.

"This was one of those games we needed to have," said Coach Dennis Stefani. The kids came out and took care of it early, allowing a lot of playing time for everyone."

On Saturday, the Cardinals traveled to Fossil for a rematch with Condon/Wheeler. The Cards defeated C/W when they played in Ione last week. The Knights



Cory Peterson goes up for a shot against Condon in Fossil on February 7. -Photo by Theresa Crawford

led by nine midway through the first quarter before two RJ Ramos buckets in the last 1:30 narrowed the lead to five. The Cards scrapped back to within one before hot three point shooting by the Knights stretched the lead out to 10.

With 1:47 remaining in the half, Condon made a three point play to take their biggest lead of the day, 37-26. The Cards put up three points before the Knights hit another basket to build the lead back to 10 with under a minute to go. With 36 seconds on the clock, Gunner Jessen drove the key, made the layin and was fouled. When he hit the free throw, the Knights' halftime lead

was a bit smaller, 39-32.

The Cardinals opened the third quarter with an 11-2 run and outscored the Knights 23-14 in the period to take a 55-53 lead into the final frame. The last quarter was nothing but high adventure. The game was tied four times but the Cards held the lead until the Knights hit a pair of free throws with 1:28 remaining to go up by two. Clay Morter's fifth foul with 29.6 seconds left sent the Knights to the line again. Making just one, they held a three point margin.

Cory Peterson knocked down a pair before the Knights went back

to the line again, and again made one. Trailing by two, a Matt Hams jumper rimmed out but the rebound fell right into Cory Peterson's hands. Peterson's shot fell just short and in the melee, the Knights were fouled with 3.2 seconds left. Hitting one, they built their final margin of victory, 73-70.

Matt Hams led the team in scoring with 23 points. Clay Morter chipped in 15. The Cards scratched their way to a 44-32 rebounding edge over the tall Condon/Wheeler squad. Clay Morter led the charge with 17 while Tanner Rietmann added nine and Gunner Jessen had six. Cory Peterson led the team with five assists and Clay Morter had three blocked shots. Ione shot 42% from the floor (28-67) and Condon/Wheeler shot 43% (27-63.)

"All in all, I thought our kids played well," said Coach Dennis Stefani. "Playing in Fossil on the small floor shut down our running game and Condon took advantage of that with their big kids being able to set up on defense. Our kids played hard and I was proud of the heart and effort they gave."

The Cardinals will finish out the regular season hosting Helix on Friday night and traveling to Maupin for a showdown with the number one team on the West side of the Big Sky, South Wasco County.

HHS Basketball Schedule

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

*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.

*denotes a league game

Heppner JV boys fall to Enterprise, beat Huskies

By Jennifer Wilson

The Mustangs had a tough third quarter Friday night and gave up a 46-33 win to the Enterprise Outlaws.

At half time, the score was tied at 16 but the Outlaws came out with full court pressure in the third quarter and scored three

times with no answer from the Mustangs.

At the end of the third quarter, the Outlaws had outscored the Mustangs by 12 points. "We gave up some costly offensive rebounds to them and they made a run and we couldn't recover," said Coach Ken Grieb. "I was pleased with

the overall effort but we came up a little short."

Dan Jeffries led the Mustangs with nine points while Jake Bowles added in six points. The Heppner junior varsity boys team then traveled to Elgin on Saturday for a win against the Huskies.

By Jennifer Wilson

The Mustangs earned a 71-64 victory over the Outlaws Friday night. After getting beat by the Outlaws on their home court, the Mustangs wanted revenge. They played so hard to get the win that three players shed some blood and one even lost his lunch, but in the end, the Mustangs proved to be the better team.

"We came out and played intense for 32 minutes and that's what we need to do to win," said Jared Huddleston.

Chris Lien started out the game with a three-point shot, but with the Outlaw "big guys" making their presence known in the key, the Mustangs trailed 15-12 at the end of the first quarter.

The Mustangs capitalized on the bonus and then double bonus situation at the end of the second quarter, picking up six points from the free throw line. Kyle Fuchs had four of those six free throw points.

To wrap up the third quarter, Jared Huddleston made a three point bucket. Enterprise answered back with three points of their own in the last remaining seconds of the quarter making the score 54-43 in favor of the Mustangs.

Enterprise refused to surrender in the fourth quar-

ter, outscoring the Mustangs 21-17. With seconds left on the clock and the score 71-61, Trenton Neil put up the last shot from behind the three point line to make the final score 71-64. Despite the effort by the Outlaws, the Mustangs were able to pull away for the win.

"This was a hard fought game and a great atmosphere for high school basketball," said Coach David Norton. "We played great team defense and took care of the ball. Our fan support tonight was a huge part of our success."

Jared Huddleston led the Mustangs with 24 points, while Chris Lien added 18 points.

The Mustangs (10-2 BMC) traveled to Elgin last Saturday night for a close 86-83 victory. The Elgin Huskies shot 12 for 19 from the three point line while the Mustangs shot 13 for 21. Needless to say, it was a hard fought win.

"It was a track meet. Both teams shot the lights out. This is a big win going into Pilot Rock this week," said Coach David Norton.

Jared Huddleston led all scorers with a career high 33 points. Chris Lien had 24 points while Brent Eckman added 17 points. Cody Orr posted a double-double with 12 points and 12 rebounds.

Lady Mustangs split weekend match-ups

By Jennifer Wilson

The Lady Mustangs traveled to Enterprise on Friday to take on the Outlaws but couldn't pull off the win as the Outlaws took control in fourth quarter. The Outlaws sealed the 46-37 victory with a solid second half effort.

The Mustangs led at the end of the first and second quarter. Taighler Dougherty led the defensive efforts of the Lady Mustangs in the second quarter with a stripped ball and great hustle to tie up loose balls.

By the time the third quarter started, the Mustangs were down by three but still in the game.

The Outlaws scored a quick basket in the beginning of the fourth quarter and immediately stole the

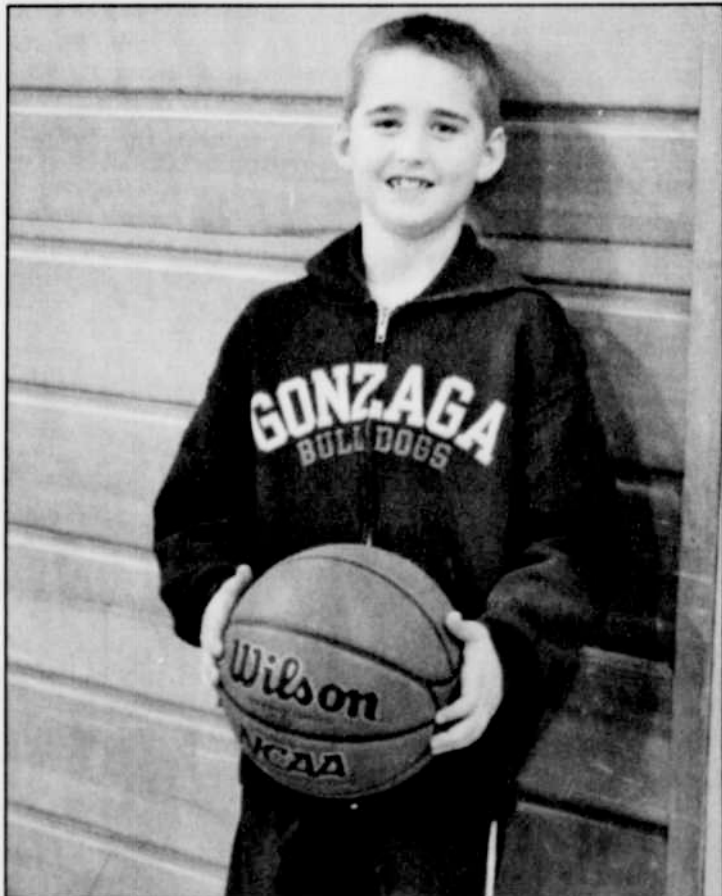
inbounds pass for another bucket, which set the pace for the Outlaws. The Outlaws led by as much as 12 points in the fourth quarter and it proved too much for the Mustangs to overcome.

Erin Price led the Mustangs with nine points. Jessica Hughes added in seven points.

Traveling back out of the mountains Saturday morning, the Mustangs remained hopeful for a win against the Elgin Huskies.

With a great defensive effort, the Lady Mustangs took the 35-21 win over the Huskies. Matilda Hakansson led the Lady Mustangs with 8 points. The Mustangs are now 6-6 in the Blue Mountain Conference.

Lindsay named Hoop Shoot District Champion



Jacob Lindsay of Heppner captured the Elk's Hoop Shoot District Championship on Saturday, January 31, in Hermiston. Jacob made 20/25 shots to earn him the title. He will travel to Salem on February 14 to compete in the state competition. -Contributed Photo