

## Mustang basketball teams to compete in district tournament

By Jennifer Wilson

The Mustangs' varsity teams had a rough end to the season, losing to Pilot Rock and Union, but both teams still clenched spots in the district tournament.

The Lady Mustangs nabbed the fifth place seed and will face-off against the Stanfield Tigers on Friday at 6 p.m.

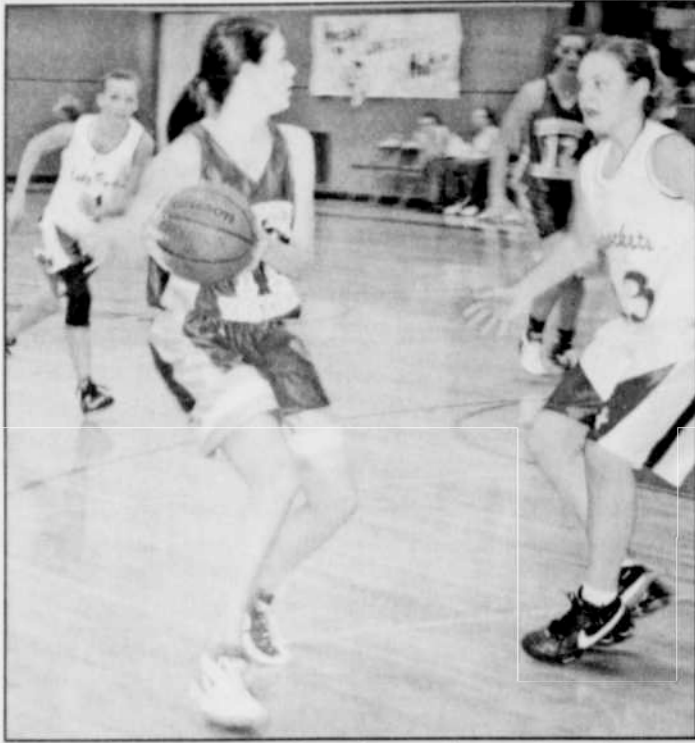
In the Blue Mountain Conference, the Lady Mustangs finished with a 6-8 league record and were 12-12 overall.

The Mustang boys' team took the second place seed and will take on the Union Bobcats on Friday at 3 p.m.

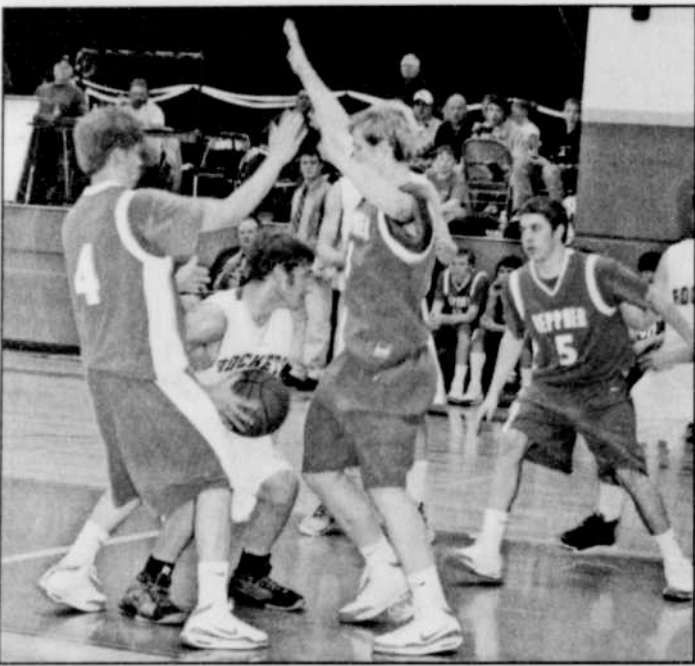
Under a new head coach, the Mustangs finished their regular season with a 15-9 record and a Blue Mountain Conference record of 10-4.

District games will be played at the Convention Center in Pendleton. Come support your Heppner Mustangs.

Ticket prices per session are \$6 for adults and \$4 for students. A day pass is \$10 for adults and \$7 for students. A tournament pass is \$18 for adults and \$12 for students.



Taighler Dougherty tries for a three-pointer to keep the Mustangs alive in Pilot Rock. -Photo by Sandy Matthews



Jared Huddleston, Brent Eckman and Bryan Holland keep a tight defense against the Rockets, but turnovers hurt the Mustangs in the game that determined placement in the district playoffs. -Photo by Sandy Matthews

## Lady Cards finish regular season play with win over South Wasco

The Ione Lady Cardinals rebounded from a hard loss to grab a needed win over the weekend. Their efforts combined with losses from Condon/Wheeler wrapped up the third place spot from the East Side of the Big Sky Conference and a spot in the District Tournament.

Friday, February 13 was Senior Night and the Lady Cards said farewell to seniors, Tiana Camarillo, Tori Heagy, Hailey Arbogast and Brenna Rietmann. With no distractions on their side, the Grizzlies came out gunning. After one quarter, they led 22-5 and by half, had built the lead to 42-15. Helix kept up the intensity and the Lady Cardinals struggled, losing the game 76-30.

Senior Hailey Arbogast led the team in scoring with eight points, all coming in the fourth quarter. Beth Morter had seven and Stefanie Archer added six. Stefanie Archer led the team with 10 rebounds. Beth Morter had two assists and Tiana Camarillo and Tyree Svetich each had two steals.

"Helix is a tough team and they came well prepared. They were aggressive and shot the ball very well. I didn't have the team prepared very well for this game. This is one of those games that stays with you as a coach and team for awhile. Anytime you get beat on your home court, on senior night, by 50 points it stings and I hope we can use this loss as a motivator to continue to improve as a team and program," said Coach Mike Garrett.

The Lady Cards took on South Wasco County on Saturday knowing it would be a tough game, but one they could win. Ione trailed 7-9 after one but used a 7-0 run in the last minute to take a 24-16 lead at the half.

South Wasco returned the favor in the third quarter with an 8-2 run that brought them back to within two points with just over a minute to go. Beth Morter hit a basket but the Lady Redsidies nailed a three pointer with 10 seconds on the clock to make the score after three 28-27 in favor of Ione. South Wasco went ahead early in the fourth when they connected on two free throws.



Beth Morter takes a shot against South Wasco. -Photo by Theresa Crawford



Cardinal girls show tough defense. -Contributed Photo

Beth Morter knocked down a three to put Ione back up by two. With just over three minutes to go, the Lady Redsidies tied it up again. Stefanie Archer came through big time with two clutch free throws followed shortly by a three-point play to put Ione up by five. South Wasco hit another basket but Tyree Svetich saved the day when she hit four of four free throws in the last fifteen seconds to give the Lady Cardinals the 40-33 win.

Beth Morter led the team in scoring with 17 points. Stefanie Archer notched another double-double with ten points and ten rebounds. Tyree Svetich added eight points.

I was really impressed with the way that the team responded after the loss to Helix. We came out and had one of the best offensive quarters of the season. We were really patient on offense," said Coach Mike Garrett. "The defense played well and we controlled the boards. We found out the night before that we had secured the final spot into the district tournament and had accomplished our first team goal. To start the season 0-10 and be able to rebound and stay positive says a lot about this team and the kids who are on it. We are really looking forward to the tournament and a rematch with Dufur."

The Lady Cardinals will play in the district tournament on Thursday, February 19, at 3 p.m. at Umatilla High School.

**2-13-09**  
**Ione-** 5 10 5 10 = 30  
**Helix-** 22 20 17 17 = 76  
**Ione-** Arbogast 8, Morter 7, Archer 6, Heagy 2, Camarillo 2, Ramos 2, B Peterson 2, M Rietmann 1  
**2-14-09**  
**Ione-** 7 17 4 12 = 40  
**SWC-** 9 7 11 6 = 33  
**Ione-** Morter 17, Archer 10, Svetich 8, M Rietmann 4, Camarillo 1  
 Rebounds- Archer 10, Morter 9,  
 Assists- Morter 3  
 Steals- Morter 5, Archer 3, M Rietmann 3

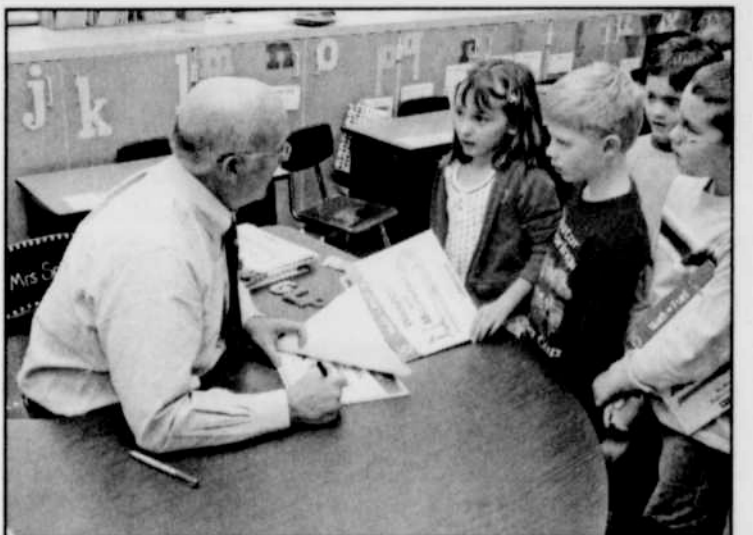
## Ione students visit with famous author

Ione Community School was very excited on Monday morning, February 2, not by the groundhog but by Jerry Pallotta.

Jerry Pallotta is a famous children's book author who came to Ione because of a national contest sponsored by Scholastic Books. The students in the first and second grades entered and were asked to submit a postcard stating why Jerry should come visit their school.

The kids went to work with the theme of teaching Jerry about Ione and the surrounding area of Eastern Oregon. Much to the delight and surprise of Mrs. Spivey, Mrs. Neiffer and their students, Ione's first and second graders won the contest.

Second grader Renee Peterson's postcard was the favorite and put Ione's



Students line up to get an autograph from children's book author Jerry Pallotta. -Contributed Photo

entries over the top. Pallotta said there were at least 10,000 entries.

Pallotta spoke and showed slides to students in grades K-5 about his life in Boston, boating, catching lobster, and writing children's books. He has written over 60 books for children. Jerry brought one of his books, *Weights and Measures*, for each of the children and also signed everyone's book. Jerry brought humor, books and an honor to the Ione Community School students.

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