

Cards enter district tournament as number one seed

The Ione Cardinals concluded regular season play with a split last weekend, cruising to an easy win on Friday night against Helix and losing a close one in Maupin on Saturday. With the seeding for the District Tournament already secured, the Cards are looking forward to the Big Sky District Tournament this weekend at Umatilla High School where they go in as the number one seed from the Big Sky East. The boys will play at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 20.

Friday, February 13 was Senior Night in Ione and the Cards acknowledged their three senior boys for their contributions to the team. Seniors Clay Morter,

Cory Peterson and Luke Bradfield have provided the Ione fans with some years of exciting basketball.

The Cardinals did not mess around, establishing control of the game from the tip. Cory Peterson hit two fast break buckets in a row as Ione raced out to a 19-2 first quarter lead. Using the entire roster, the Cardinals maintained a steady pace and cruised to a 76-45 win.

Matt Hams led all scorers with 23 points. Zac Orem added 15, Cory Peterson had 14 and RJ Ramos added 11. The Cards shot 48% from the floor which included six three-pointers. Cory Peterson and Zac Orem each had five as-

sists in the game and Clay Morter paced the team with four steals. The Cards out-rebounded Helix 31-26 led by Tanner Rietmann with seven and Clay Morter with six.

"A great win," said Coach Dennis Stefani. "It is always a hard night with it being Senior Night but we sent them off in a good way. It was also nice to get the bench some quality playing time."

Everyone knew the Saturday match-up would be more challenging as the Cardinals traveled to Maupin to take on the number one seed from the Big Sky West, South Wasco County. The Redsidies have been known to play a more deliberate,



Tanner Rietmann puts up a shot against Helix. -Photo by Theresa Crawford

three. Orem connected on a three pointer with 3:53 to go to close the lead to eight. Gunner Jessen nailed two sets of free throws with a South Wasco free throw in between and with 2:12 left in the game, the Cards were within five.

The Redsidies started to stall, forcing Ione to foul. After a couple of free throws, Ione's Cory Peterson went to the line and hit two and again the lead was five with under a minute to go. With 17 seconds on the clock, the Redsidies hit two free throws. Zac Orem responded with a three pointer but with just seven seconds to go, a four point lead was too much to overcome. South Wasco hit two more free throws to take the game 59-53.

"I thought we played good enough to win this game," said Coach Dennis Stefani. "It was about a two minute span in the fourth quarter that hurt us. We lost our intensity and they didn't." He also noted that Clay Morter and Tanner Rietmann had good efforts under the basket, holding South Wasco's big guy to just 11 points. "They worked hard underneath and did a great job of holding South Wasco's inside game in check."

Matt Hams led the team in scoring with 19 points. Zac Orem added 16. Hams is averaging 21.1 points per game this season and Orem 14.6. After shooting 41% for the season, the Cards struggled a bit shooting just 36%. The taller Redsidies managed a 32-25 rebounding advantage but Clay Morter led the Cardinals with 12. He is averaging 11.7 boards per game over the season. Cory Peterson and Gunner Jessen each had three assists.

GOOD LUCK CARDINALS!



Front: Adam Collin, Alex Rietmann, Zac Orem, and Alex Fetterhoff. Middle: RJ Ramos, Luke Bradfield, Cory Peterson, and Gunner Jessen. Back: Assistant Coach Jim Swanson, Tanner Rietmann, Matt Hams, Clay Morter, and Head Coach Dennis Stefani. Not Pictured: Thomas Holland.

**Boys Play
4:30 P.M.
vs.
TBA
Friday,
February
20th
Umatilla
High
School**

slower paced game than the Cards really like and they have a big inside presence. However, Ione hit the court ready to play.

The Cardinals led 11-8 after one quarter but the Redsidies used an 8-0 run midway through the second to bring the game back to a 20-20 tie at halftime. The score see-sawed in the third with hot three-point shooting from the Redsidies building a five point lead with three minutes gone in the quarter. The Cardinals hung tough though and when Matt Hams swished a three point jump shot with 2:42 remaining, the Cards took the lead for a short time.

The Redsidies scored five points in the final 37 seconds to build a seven point lead going into the fourth quarter. South Wasco opened the fourth quarter with a killer 8-1 run and with 5:07 left in the game, the Cardinals found themselves down by 14, 50-36. The Cardinals were not done though. Zac Orem hit a little jumper to get things started and then Matt Hams hit a baseline

Backcountry hike offered

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument Park will hold a three-hour hike into the scenic backcountry of the Sheep Rock Unit.

Those attending are encouraged to dress warmly for the weather. Water, snacks, a walking stick, and sturdy hiking boots are recommended.

There is no fee for this hike and no reservation is required. Hikers will meet at 1 p.m. at the Thomas Condon Visitor Center located in the Sheep Rock Unit of the monument at the intersection of Route 26 and Route 19.

For more information contact Ranger Michelle Ordway at 541-987-2333.

**Girls Play
3:00 P.M.
vs.
Dufur
Thursday,
February
19th
Umatilla
High
School**



Front: Makenna Ramos, Tori Heagy, and Sarah Stillman. Middle: Beth Morter, Brenna Rietmann, Tyree Svetich, Mary Rietmann, and Brianna Peterson. Back: Head Coach Mike Garrett, Manager Mariah Bradfield, Hailey Arbogast, Stefanie Archer, Tiana Camarillo, and Assistant Coach Diana McElligott.

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Christopher Sykes & Breana Anderson

Saturday, February 28th
3:00 p.m.

Pendleton Free Methodist Church

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