

## Heppner to host state football playoff game



The power of the Heppner Mustangs front line dominated the Enterprise Outlaws in their 48-0 victory Friday night in Heppner. With the victory the Mustangs clinched the Columbia Basin District Title once again and will advance to the first round of the state playoff Saturday in Heppner at 1 p.m. -Photo by Sandy Matthews

## Mustang seniors, parents honored at football game



Top Photo: Senior parents were honored at the Mustang football game last Friday night. Right Photo: Senior mothers performed during halftime of the football game. -Photos by Sandy Matthews



## Cardinals fall to Huskies 22-20

Ione will host first playoff game in 29 years

The Ione Cardinals lost a heartbreaker in Sherman County last Friday night, falling to the Huskies 22-20. With the league championship and their undefeated season on the line, the Cards had their chances but could not seal the deal. Ione's season record is now 8-1, 5-1 in Big Sky Conference play.

All is not lost though as the Cards' second place finish in the Big Sky assured them of a home playoff game, the first such contest played at home in 29 years. Ione will host Cove, the number two team from



Alex Rietmann #34 catches a pass for a touchdown during the Cardinals game against the Sherman County Huskies. -Photo by Theresa Crawford

the Old Oregon League on Friday, November 13. Kickoff is 7 p.m. As this is an OSAA state playoff game, OSAA prices will apply; \$6 for adults and \$4 for students.

The Cardinals got on the board first when Alex Rietmann ran in a score from 16 yards out. The extra point run attempt was not successful. Sherman answered when their big running back, Tate Eakin bulldozed into the end zone on a 19 yard run. When Eakin scored the two point conversion, the Huskies led 8-6. The Cardinals regained the lead on a 13 yard dash by Tanner Rietmann. Tanner Rietmann also ran in

the extra point. The Cards led 14-6 at the end of one. Neither team scored in the second but the Cardinals had a touchdown called back in what Coach Dennis Stefani described as a "crippling blow."

Sherman County got the lead back with 5:39 to play in the third when Eakin got loose for a 47 yard run. The Huskies punched in for the two point conversion and led the game 16-14. The Cardinals lost running back, Alex Rietmann, to an ankle injury early in the second half. Sherman scored again, early in the fourth quarter in a "fluky" play. The Husky quarterback dropped back to pass with the Ione defenders were closing in. An Ione player hit his arm and the ball caught some air. Again Eakin was in the right spot at the right time. He grabbed the ball and took it in for a score. Sherman then recovered an onside kick and things were looking grim for the Cardinals. However, the defense dug in and did not allow Sherman to capitalize. With 2:47 remaining in the game, Gunner Jensen scored on a two yard run, setting up a tie with the completion of a successful two point conversion. The two point attempt came up just short and Sherman hung on to win the game 22-20.

"We had our chances throughout," said Coach Dennis Stefani. "The two teams were about equal. Sherman's front line was just about our size which made for a tough war up front."

Sherman County maintained a distinct edge

## Booster Club to hold hamburger tailgate party

The Heppner Booster Club will be sponsoring a hamburger tailgate party on Saturday, November 14, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the football field. The cost is \$5 per person.

## Heppner FFA teams place in district contest

The FFA Beginning Ag Sales team recently earned a second place at the district contest. The team consisted of Austin Gutierrez, Kellie Nelson, Stephanie Schuler, Micha Hintz, Justin Pranger, and Bryce Fowler. Shular, Micha Hintz, Pranger and Fowler were all recognized in the Top 10 Individual awards.

## Morrow County schools rank high on state report card

According to Morrow County School Superintendent Mark Burrows, Heppner Elementary School and Riverside High School received an "Outstanding" on the new state report card. A.C. Houghton and Heppner High School missed receiving an "Outstanding" by two points out of a 100 point scale.

Schools receiving

in rushing, chalking up 324 yards in the game to Ione's 143. Sherman's Eakin had a monster effort in the game, carrying the ball 34 times for 235 yards. Ione's leading rushers were Micah Stillman (9-53) and Tanner Rietmann (13-44.) The Cards gained 73 yards in the passing department with Micah Stillman as the leader (1-8) and Matt Hams close behind (2-27.)

Defensively, Eric Jepsen had a fine effort in the game, leading the team with 16 tackles, five of those solo. "Eric was all over the field," noted Coach Stefani. Alex Fetterhoff added 13 tackles (four solo) and Gunner Jensen had 11 (two solo.)

With all the possibilities the game held, the outcome was heartbreaking for the team and coaches. "It is disappointing," said Coach Stefani. "Now we just need to regroup and go as far as we can go in the playoffs. Maybe this is how it should be. It got us out of Imbler's bracket." Sherman County 22, Ione 20

Ione (8-1) 14 0 0 6 — 20  
SCHS (7-2) 8 0 8 6 — 22  
First Quarter  
I — Alex Rietmann 16 run (run failed)  
S — Tate Eakin 19 run (Eakin run)  
I — Tanner Rietmann 13 run (T. Rietmann run)  
Third Quarter  
S — Eakin 47 run (Nathan Earl run)  
Fourth Quarter  
S — Eakin 11 pass from Andrew Olson (pass failed)  
I — Gunner Jensen 2 run (run failed)  
Individual Statistics  
Rushing — Ione: (41-143) A. Rietmann 7-21, T. Rietmann 13-44, Jensen 3-4, R. J. Ramos 4-2, Micah Stillman 9-53, Sherman Co.: (59-324) Eakin 34-235, Andrew Olson 15-47, Danny Kivett 4-22, Earl 4-10.  
Passing — Ione: Ramos 5-13- 73-0, Sherman Co.: Olson 2-6-19-0.  
Receiving — Ione: Matt Hams 2-27, T. Rietmann 1-8, A. Rietmann 1-8, Stillman 1-30.

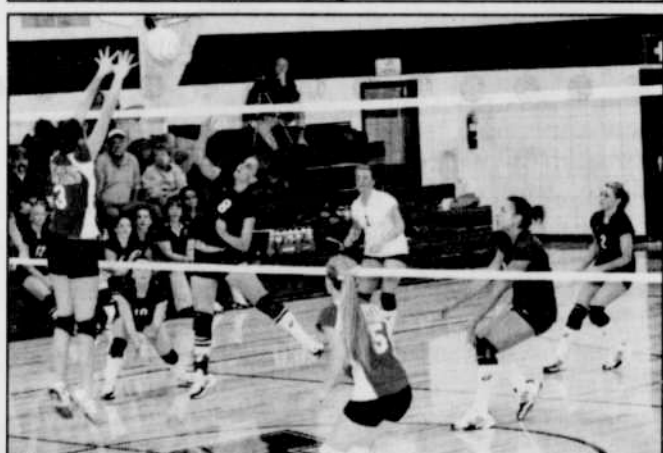
## Lady Cards end volleyball season

The Ione Lady Cardinals fell just short of a trip to the state volleyball tournament but wrapped up a successful season last week when they won in round one of the state playoffs but fell in the second round.

On Wednesday, Ione welcomed Pine Eagle to the newly refurbished Ione High School gym floor. After practicing and playing all season in the middle school gym, the Lady Cards finally got back in the high school gym for two practices prior to Round One of the state volleyball playoffs. Both the floor and the team looked sharp against Pine Eagle and the Lady Cardinals took the match 25-17, 25-20, 25-21.

In game one, the score was tied nine times, the last time at 13-13. From there, the Cards pulled away. Briana Peterson had kills on the last three points of the game to help Ione to the win. In game two, the score was again tied last at 13-13. Beth Morter had an ace and a kill and Vanessa Ziliani had two kills to widen the lead to 18-13. Pine Eagle scratched back into the game, getting as close as 17-18 before Stefanie Archer put down a couple of kills. Beth Morter snapped a long kill to the back of the court for the 25<sup>th</sup> point. Pine Eagle's big left hander raised cain in the opening points of the third game and the Lady Cards found themselves down 2-6. Ione rallied back into contention and the score was tied seven times before Ione could finally shake loose for the win.

"It was just a good game all around," said



Top Photo: Beth Morter hits the ball over the net for a score. Bottom Photo: Brianna Peterson #8 hits ball over net for a score. -Photos by Theresa Crawford

Coach Dawn Eynetich. "Defensively, it was the best I've seen them play all season." She also liked the team's intensity and serving efficiency. The team served 93%. Stefanie Archer and Beth Morter led the team at the net with nine kills each. Brianna Peterson had seven and Vanessa Ziliani had six, including two that almost ran Pine Eagle's libero into retirement. Beth Morter was 16-16 serving with two aces. Vanessa Ziliani was 12-12 and Tyree Svetich was 9-9.

"It was great to have a state playoff game on our new home floor and to get a win," noted Coach Eynetich.

The win put the Lady Cardinals on the road to take on the number one

seed from the High Desert League, Crane. The Lady Cards were scrappy and tough but fell to the Lady Mustangs 18-25, 24-26, 18-25.

In game one, Crane rocked the Lady Cards back on their heels from the start. Down 0-6, Ione got a spiffy kill from Vanessa Ziliani to put some life into the team. The girls scrapped their way back into the game, aided by three bad Crane serves in a row but 17-19 was a close as they could get before the hard-hitting Lady Mustangs pulled away for the win.

Game two was a different story. Although Ione spotted Crane three

points to start the game, they never let them get away, tying the game for the first time at 17 and then taking the lead at 20-19. The Lady Cards were up 23-21 when an odd call was made that at first looked like an Ione point but ended up going to Crane. So instead of 24-21, the score stood at 23-22. Crane tied the game at 23 before a thunderous Vanessa Ziliani kill tied the game again at 24. From there, things went Crane's way and they took the game 26-24. "After the second game, all of our motivation went down the drain" noted Coach Eynetich. Game three looked a lot like game one with the Lady Mustangs jumping out to a 5-0 lead. The Lady Cardinals could find no answer for the warmed up Crane hitters who peppered the back row.

Vanessa Ziliani had seven kills to lead the team at the net. Stefanie Archer had six and Beth Morter had five. Briana Peterson recorded four blocks and Beth Morter added two. Tyree Svetich (13-13) and Vanessa Ziliani (12-12, four aces) were 100% from the service line.

Although the outcome of the match was disappointing, Coach Eynetich was proud of the team's effort. "All in all, the girls played tough and they should be proud of their season."

"Crane is a good team (currently ranked #2 in the state.) We just haven't been up against a team that can block like that."

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