

# Ione boys kick off basketball season Mustangs begin wrestling season

The Ione boys basketball team kicked off their season last week with a runaway win over Irrigon and followed it up with a couple of reality check losses over the weekend at the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Ione Basketball Bonanza.

The Cardinals opened their season as soon as the law would allow, traveling to Irrigon on Tuesday, December 1. The Cardinals got away early leading 16-4 after one quarter. They then put together one of their highest scoring quarters ever, outscoring the Knights 36-9 in the second quarter to take a 52-13 halftime lead. Irrigon responded a bit in the second half but the Cards rolled to an 88-45 win.

Matt Hams led all scorers with 27 points on some sizzling 77% shooting from the field. Zac Orem chipped in 20 points and Tanner Rietmann added 16 on 7 of 10 shooting. Overall, the team shot 56% from the field. A definite area needing a bit of polish was at the free throw line where the team made just 40% on 8-20 shooting.

Zac Orem had seven steals and Matt Hams had five while Adam Collin led the team on the boards with eight rebounds.

"This was a great game for the whole team," noted Coach Dennis Stefani. "We got off and running early and never looked back. The team did a great job of controlling the tempo."

Over the weekend, the Cardinals encountered the usual 2A and 3A competition found at the annual

Ione Basketball Bonanza. On Friday, December 4, the Cardinals took on 3A Riverside. Trailing 26-36 at the half, Ione rallied to within five points at the end of the third but could not quite close the deal, allowing the Pirates to escape with a 55-51 win.

The game was a serious foul-fest with a total of 53 fouls called on both teams. Neither team took advantage of their time at the line with the Cardinals making just 22 of 39 (56%) and the Pirates hitting 19-34 (56%). The Cards also had some difficulty hanging onto the ball, nearly tripling their turnover total from their season opener with 32 in the contest.

Zac Orem led the team in scoring with 22 points including three three-pointers. The Cardinals who seemingly could not miss at Irrigon came back down to earth a bit in the shooting percentage department, making 13 of 54 for just 24% from the field. Matt Hams was the only other Card in double figures with 10 points. However Hams led all the other stat categories with four assists, six rebounds, three steals and one blocked shot.

"This was a tough loss. The kids worked hard but could never get over the hump," said Coach Dennis Stefani. He noted that the team had difficulty finding a rhythm with all the stoppages for fouls. "It is hard to get anything going when someone is always at the foul line."

Saturday, the Cardinals found themselves down 20 points to Enter-



Top Photo: Matt Hams shoots and scores against Riverside. Bottom Photo: Adam Collin shoots and scores against Enterprise. -Photos by Theresa Crawford

prise early in the second quarter. However a 28 point second quarter allowed them to get back in the game and they were only down four at the half. Enterprise kept the Cardinals on the run and in foul trouble as well as controlled the offensive glass to hold on for the 68-60 win.

Matt Hams scored 22 to lead the team. Adam Collin came off bench to become the only other Cardinal in double figures with 11 points. Tanner Rietmann had a solid rebounding effort with 13 and also led the team in steals with six.

"We found out we have some things to work on after this game," said Coach Dennis Stefani, noting that the team was badly out-rebounded on the offensive end (24-12). "However, the team did a great job of coming back from 20 down to make this a game. Also, Adam Collin was a bright spot, coming in and scoring 11 points and grabbing six rebounds."

The Cardinals will continue a strenuous pre-season campaign, traveling to Pilot Rock on Tuesday and to the Enterprise Tournament over the weekend.

The Mustang wrestling team opened up the season in John Day on Saturday, December 5, at the Grant Union Kickoff Tournament. Teams present were Baker, Burns, Crane, Grant Union, Heppner, La Pine, Mac Hi, Ontario, and Pine Eagle.

Heppner was led by Wacy Coil who finished second at 171 pounds. Coil dominated in his first three matches with two pins and a 13-2 major decision in the semi-finals. His only loss came in the championship bout to Kyle Dennis from Pine Eagle who placed second at state last year.

The Mustangs took 15 wrestlers to the tournament, seven of whom were competing in their first high school match. Five of the seven newcomers came away with at least one win for the day. Austin Harris and Tim Nelson led the new wrestlers with two wins each. Harris placed fourth at 103 in his first high school tournament.

David Berntsen, a foreign exchange student competing for Heppner with only five days of practice, picked up a his first Mustang win at 215 pounds with a flashy 12-second

pin over an opponent from Mac Hi.

Freshmen Alex Smith and Wade Matthew also got initial wins of their high school careers. Matthew's win came via a 25-second pin, while Smith battled hard for his win, finally coming out on top of an exciting 13-10 decision over a Baker wrestler.

Chance Day placed fourth at 160 pounds. He had to forfeit the third place due to national rules limiting a wrestler to five matches per day. After losing his first match, Day pinned his next four opponents to reach his match limit in the consolation semi-finals and was forced to concede the finals bout.

Mustang wrestlers competing and their win-loss record for the day were: 103-Austin Harris, 2-2; 119-Alex Smith, 1-2; 130-Earl Propheeter, 0-2; 135-Jarred Miller, 2-2, and Wade Matthew, 1-2; 140-Cody Nelson, 0-2; 145-Andrew Bara, 0-2; 152-Tyler Robinson, 1-2, and Conner Pappas 0-2; 160-Chance Day, 4-1; 171-Wacy Coil, 3-1, and Garrett Gibbs, 0-2. 189-Tim Nelson, 2-2; 215-David Berntsen, 1-2; and 285-Jacob Moore, 0-2.

## Lady Mustangs begin season with loss

The Heppner Lady Mustangs had a disappointing start to their season as they traveled to Imbler Thursday, December 3. Despite a tough defensive effort against the defending 1A State Champions and a late fourth quarter rally, the Lady Mustangs came up short 44-34.

The Mustangs trailed by 13 at the half but outscored the Lady Panthers 18-12 in the fourth quarter. Heppner was able to get to the free-throw line 19 times and converted 11.

Erin Price was the only Mustang in double figures to lead the offensive

attack with 10 points and six rebounds. Brynna Rust led the team on the defensive end with six steals to go along with nine points as well as the team's only three point field goal. Taighler Dougherty led the team in rebounds with seven. Torrie Lovgren pitched in with seven points and six rebounds.

The Mustangs hosted Condon on Tuesday night. Heppner will also play in the Columbia River Classic in Umatilla this weekend, with their first game at 6 p.m. on Thursday night against the host Vikings.

## Ione High School Basketball Schedule

- Dec. 11-12 - Enterprise Winter Classic, 3 p.m.
- Dec. 18 - Horizon Christian at home (GJV, BJV, GV, BV), 3 p.m.
- Dec. 19 - at Boardman (GJV, BJV, GV, BV), 1 p.m.
- Dec. 22 - at Helix (GJV, BJV, GV, BV), 3 p.m.
- Dec. 28 - Irrigon at home (GJV, BJV, GV, BV), 3 p.m.
- Dec. 29 - Pilot Rock at home (GJV, BJV, GV, BV), 1 p.m.

## HHS Girls JV Basketball Schedule

- Dec. 10 - Col. River Classic in Umatilla, 2 p.m.
- Dec. 11 - Col. River Classic in Umatilla, 3 p.m.
- Dec. 18 - at Irrigon, 3 p.m.
- Dec. 19 - at Stanfield, 3 p.m.

## Heppner High School Varsity Wrestling Schedule

- Dec. 11/12 - Muillenburg Tournament, 4 p.m./TBA
- Dec. 15 - at Riverside (c-wrestling), 5 p.m.
- Dec. 19 - Mac Hi Christmas Tournament, 9 a.m.
- Jan. 1 - at Riverside, noon
- Jan. 2 - at Riverside, 9 a.m.

## HHS Girls Jr. High Basketball Schedule

- Dec. 12 - in Dufur, 9:45 a.m.
- Dec. 19 - at home, 9 a.m.
- Jan. 7 - in Umatilla, 4 p.m.
- Jan. 8 - at home, 9 a.m.
- Jan. 14 - in Condon, 4:30 p.m.
- Jan. 16 - in Umatilla, 8 a.m.
- Jan. 22 - in Ione, 3 p.m.
- Jan. 23 - at home, 8 a.m.

## HHS Boys Jr. High Basketball Schedule

- Dec. 12 - at home, 8 a.m.
- Dec. 19 - at home, 9 a.m.
- Jan. 8 - at home, 9 a.m.
- Jan. 14 - in Condon, 4:30 p.m.
- Jan. 22 - in Ione, 3 p.m.
- Jan. 23 - in Arlington, 9 a.m.

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## Heppner High School Boys Basketball Schedule

- Dec. 10 - Col. River Classic in Umatilla, 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 18 - at Irrigon, 3 p.m.
- Dec. 19 - at Stanfield, 1 p.m.
- Dec. 28 - at Hermiston (JV Tourney), 1 p.m.
- Dec. 29 - at Hermiston, 1 p.m.

## Heppner High School Girls Basketball Schedule

- Dec. 10 - Col. River Classic in Umatilla, 6 p.m.
- Dec. 11 - Col. River Classic in Umatilla, 6 p.m.
- Dec. 18 - at Irrigon, 3 p.m.
- Dec. 19 - at Stanfield, 1 p.m.

## HHS Boys JV Basketball Schedule

- Dec. 10 - Col. River Classic in Umatilla, 4:30 p.m.
- Dec. 18 - at Irrigon, 4:30 p.m.
- Dec. 19 - at Stanfield, 4:30 p.m.

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