

## Mustang wrestlers bring home first place trophy

The Heppner wrestling team traveled to La Grande to compete in the Muilenburg Invitational. The tournament represented some of the toughest competition the Mustangs will face all season with teams from 1A/2A to 6A schools.

The Mustang wrestlers proved that they are not afraid to mix it up with big schools and came away with the small school first place trophy for the second year in a row. This year, however, it wasn't even close. Heppner finished 50 points ahead of the nearest 1A/2A team in the tournament and 10 points ahead of fellow Morrow County School, Riverside.

Wacy Coil set the

pace for the Mustangs, winning matches against opponents from Barlow and La Grande to advance to the championship semi-finals. In the semi-finals he lost by one point to a wrestler from The Dalles Watonka. Coil finished the tournament placing fourth.

Austin Harris, Jarreid Miller and David Bernsten each advanced to the consolation championship in their weight classes. All faced tough opponents from 6A schools in the finals and came up short of the win.

Tyler Robinson, Chance Day and Tim Nelson had strong performances and finished with two wins apiece. John Nelson, Wade Matthew and Gar-

rett Gibbs also added team points with wins during the tournament.

Andrew Bara and Conner Pappas got their first wins of the season in exhibition matches against Mac Hi opponents.

Results by wrestler were: 103 - Austin Harris, 1-2; 119 - Alex Smith, 0-2; 130 - Jarreid Miller, 3-2, and Earl Propher, 0-3; 135 - John Nelson, 1-2, and Wade Matthew, 1-2; 140 - Andrew Bara 1-2; 145 - Conner Pappas, 1-2; 152 - Tyler Robinson, 2-2; 160 - Chance Day, 2-2; 171 - Wacy Coil, 3-2, and Garrett Gibbs, 1-2; 189 - Tim Nelson, 2-3; 215 - David Bernsten, 3-2; 285 - Jacob Moore, 0-2.

## Lady Mustangs win championship game at Columbia River Classic

The Lady Mustangs finished a successful weekend, winning the championship game of the Columbia River Classic over Riverside 49-20.

Sloppy play contributed to the low scoring first half as Heppner went to the locker room ahead 13-10. Playing with an increased intensity, the Mustangs scored 23 points in the third quarter to take a commanding lead over the Pirates.

Torri Lovgren scored 16 points, followed by Joanna Patton with 11 points. Lovgren and Brynna Rust were named to the All-Tournament Team.



Pictured are the Lady Mustangs after winning the championship game at the Columbia River Classic. -Contributed Photo

On Friday night, Heppner started strong against Mac-Hi to race out to a 14-0 lead after one quarter of play. Mac-Hi came back and pulled within seven at halftime, 21-14.

Five Mustangs scored against the Pioneers,

led by Rust and Lovgren, each with 12 points. Erin Price chipped in with eight points and Jessica Hughes and Joanna Patton each with five a piece.

The Mustangs will be traveling to Irrigon on Friday and to Stanfield on Saturday.

## Ione takes win over Pilot Rock

The Ione Cardinals used an 18-3 third quarter to erase a three point half time deficit and take a 51-43 road win over Pilot Rock on Tuesday, December 8. The non-conference win moved the Cards' record to 2-2 in the young basketball season.

Zac Orem led the team in scoring with 16 points, shooting 47% from the floor. Matt Hams was the only other Cardinal in double figures with 11. Overall the team shot 36% from the floor (21-59.) Hams led the team in assists with seven while Tanner Rietmann tallied a team high five steals and Adam Collin led the rebounding effort with eight, six of those on the offensive glass.

"This was a needed



Gunner Jessen shoots against Pilot Rock. The Cardinals beat Pilot Rock 51-43. -Photo by Theresa Crawford

win," said Coach Dennis Stefani. "It was a hard fought game that was really decided in the third quarter. Tanner (Rietmann) did a great job of controlling the post and holding their

leading scorer to just four points." He noted that it was Pilot Rock's first game of the season and he expects the Rockets to be ready for a rematch, scheduled for December 29 in Ione.

## Ione takes first place in Enterprise Winter Classic Tournament

The Ione Cardinals won the Enterprise Winter Classic Tournament last weekend, running away from Joseph in the opening game on Friday and cruising to a decisive win over the host, Enterprise on Saturday. The wins moved the Cardinals' season record to 4-2.

It took just a couple minutes of play for the Cardinals to establish dominance over Joseph on Friday, December 11, in their opening game. At the end of one quarter, the Cardinals led 24-10, a lead they lengthened to 27-20 by the half. Ione shot 51% from the floor and had four players in double figures in the win.

"Our press set the tempo of the game," said Coach Dennis Stefani. "We were able to create a lot of turnovers early and turn them into points."

Matt Hams shot a sizzling 64% from the floor on the way to a game-

high 30 points. Zac Orem chipped in with 15 while the Rietmann brothers combined for 27 points, Evan with 14, and Tanner with 13. RJ Ramos led the team in rebounds with 13 as well as steals with six. Ramos and Orem each tallied six assists.

Coach Stefani was pleased with the team's effort and was especially pleased with the bench. "Evan Rietmann had a great game coming off the bench and scoring 14 points for us."

Saturday, the Cardinals had a rematch with Enterprise, a team they had lost to a week prior. This week was a different story though as the team built a commanding 28-13 first quarter lead and extended that to 45-25 at half time. Ione kept it up in the second half to notch a 78-60 victory.

Matt Hams scored 33 points to again lead the team. Zac Orem added

18 and Tanner Rietmann chipped in with 15 points. The team shot 48% from the floor on 32-67 shooting. The Cards dominated the boards 42-26 led by Tanner Rietmann with 10 and Adam Collin with eight. Three players had five assists each (RJ Ramos, Orem and Hams.)

"This was a great win for us," said Coach Dennis Stefani. "We came out and got running early and took control of the tempo." He was also pleased with the way the offense ran. "I also thought it was our best performance of running our motion offense so far this season."

The Cardinals will kick off league play this Friday when they host Horizon Christian. The team will travel to Riverside for a non-conference game on Saturday and will play another league opponent on December 22 when they travel to Helix.

## Lady Cardinals fall to Pilot Rock

The Ione Lady Cardinals overcame a slow first half to provide their crowd a little excitement in a close loss on the road to 2A Pilot Rock on Tuesday, December 8. After scoring just five points in the first half, Ione outscored the Lady Rockets 26-24 in the second half and led the game by as many as six points in the third quarter. However, the overall point output fell just short as the team lost 34-31.

Beth Morter led the third quarter flurry on her way to a team high 14 points. She also had nine rebounds and four assists. Stefanie Archer added seven

points and six boards while Briana Peterson chipped in with five points.

"This was a tough game against a good Blue Mountain Conference opponent. Pilot Rock has a lot of height and we did a good job in the first three quarters of controlling the interior," said second year head coach, Mike Garrett. "We found our offense in the second half and really started to move the ball around the floor well. Our full court defensive pressure worked well in the third quarter and we went on a nice run. It seemed like we got a little tired in

the last quarter and gave up some easy rebounds and scores." Despite the loss, Coach Garrett was not displeased. "Overall, this was a good game for us. Helix, Nix, and Echo all have tall athletic posts and playing this tough preseason schedule will help prepare us for those teams."

**Ione (1-4) 2 3 14 12 = 31**  
Beth Morter 14, Stefanie Archer 7, Briana Peterson 5, Tyree Svetich 2, Makenna Ramos 2, Collette Cason 1.  
**Pilot Rock 5 5 5 19 = 34**

## Lady Cardinals lose two at Enterprise Winter Classic

The shorthand Ione Lady Cardinals lost two games at the Enterprise Winter Classic but showed effort and promise in the two day affair. Family obligations and injuries limited the roster to just eight players over the weekend.

The team opened the tourney against host Enterprise. The Outlaws led 12-5 after one and 20-9 at the half. The lead looked safe for the hosts as they built a 26-13 lead going into the fourth quarter. However, the Lady Cards pooled their energy and put on a killer press that rattled the Lady Outlaws. In that fourth quarter, the Lady Cards scored more by two than they did in the first three quarters but came up short in the end, falling to Enterprise 32-28.

Makenna Ramos led the team in scoring with nine points. Beth Morter added eight and Tyree Svetich added five. Stefanie Archer and Morter led the rebounding effort with six each and Tyree Svetich, Morter and Ramos each tallied two assists.

"I was really pleased with the total effort the kids put out against Enterprise. They are an athletic and physical team that is very patient on of-

fense. Turnovers and poor FG percentage are still giving us problems but I am seeing improvement in both areas," said Coach Mike Garrett. "We were a little short handed for this tournament so we were not able to spend as much time in the full court sets as I typically like but it gave us an opportunity to work on some different half court defensive sets that we will use once league starts."

A big third quarter for Joseph was the difference in the Saturday's consolation game. Ione led 10-6 after one and trailed by just one point at the half, 20-21. The Lady Eagles outscored Ione 13-5 to take the biggest lead of the game 34-25 at the end of three. However, the Cards gave it a last ditch effort early in the fourth to close the gap to as little as four points before Joseph forced them to foul and eventually pulled away for the 50-42 win.

Beth Morter led the team in scoring with 17 points. She also had eight rebounds and three assists. Makenna Ramos had 13 points and nine rebounds. Freshman Lacey Thompson had a good effort with four rebounds, three blocked shots and two assists.

"This was an excit-

ing game to coach," said Coach Mike Garrett. "We would go on a run, then they would. We got ourselves in foul trouble and I was pleased with how the kids came off the bench and played. Our depth will be our strength this year and the ability to pressure the other team both on defense and offense will determine how far we go this season."

The Cardinals will kick off league play this Friday night against Horizon Christian in Ione. After a non-league game on Saturday at Riverside, the Cards will host league power, Helix on Tuesday, December 22 in Helix.  
**Ione (1-5) 5 4 4 15 = 28**  
Makenna Ramos 9, Beth Morter 8, Tyree Svetich 5, Stefanie Archer 4, Mary Rietmann 2.  
**Enterprise 12 8 6 6 = 32**  
**Ione (1-6) 10 10 5 17 = 42**  
Beth Morter 17, Makenna Ramos 13, Stefanie Archer 6, Tyree Svetich 3, Collette Cason 2, Lacey Thompson 1.  
**Joseph 6 15 13 16 = 50**

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