

Cardinals split weekend games

The lone Cardinals split their weekend games, losing to league-leading Nixyaawii on the road on Friday and pulling off a thriller against South Wasco County at home on Saturday.

Playing Friday, January 29, at the Eagle's Nest in Mission, the Cards were in the thick of things until a lapse in the fourth quarter, coupled with four three-pointers from the Golden Eagles in the quarter added up to a 74-64 loss. The Cards trailed 15-12 after one but led 29-28 at the half. Ione led twice in the third quarter but the hot-shooting opponent always responded and Nix led by as much as seven points midway through the quarter. The Golden Eagles used a 9-2 run to open the fourth and hit back-to-back threes midway to build a 12 point lead that the Cardinals could not overcome.

Tanner Rietmann led the team's scoring with 18 points. Matt Hams added 15 while Zac Orem had 13 and Adam Collin chipped in with 12. The Cards shot 51% from the floor and hit four three's but the Golden Eagles hit 11 three's and shot 48% from the floor. Ione got the rebounding edge 32-28 led by Tanner Rietmann with 10. Matt Hams paced the team with six assists and two steals.

"We were in this game all the way," said Coach Dennis Stefani. "It was about a minute and half of loss of focus in the middle of the fourth quarter that was the difference in the end."

The Cardinals rebounded from Friday's loss to one of their best wins of the season, defeating a team that has given them nothing but trouble in re-



#21 Zach Orem shoots over a Nixyaawii player. -Photo by Theresa Crawford



#11 Matt Hams puts up a jump shot during the Cardinals' game against South Wasco. -Photo by Theresa Crawford

cent years, South Wasco County, 59-57. The first three quarters gave the fans an indicator that they might be in for some fourth

quarter excitement. The Cards trailed 9-8 at the end of one but the teams played dead even for the next two quarters so Ione entered

the fourth quarter down by that same one point. With 5:32 remaining in the game, the Redside hit a three to take their biggest lead of the quarter, 52-48. The Cardinals responded with 9-1 run over a two minute span to take their biggest lead, 57-53. The Redside scored twice in the closing minute and tied the score at 57 with 41 seconds remaining. Neither team was able to score until Matt Hams swished a baseline jumper with 6.2 seconds on the clock. South Wasco was only able to put up a wild shot s time expired. The Redside coaches were unhappy that the referees didn't hear them trying to call a time out in the final seconds but the final score stood and the Cardinals took the win.

Matt Hams scored 27 points in the game, shooting 59% from the floor. Tanner Rietmann and Zac Orem each added ten and Adam Collin chipped in with nine. Both teams shot 51% from the floor but struggled mightily at the line. Ione made just two of six free throw attempts while South Wasco made just two of 10. The Cardinals were badly out-rebounded by the taller opponent, 34-16. RJ Ramos had six boards to lead Ione's effort. Zac Orem tallied five assists.

"This was a huge win for us," said Coach Dennis Stefani. "It keeps a little bit of separation for second place for us. I really felt this was our best disciplined game of the year."

The Cardinals look forward to another key weekend coming up. They host Echo on Friday and travel to Fossil on Saturday to play Condon/Wheeler.

JV Lady Mustangs take wins over Pilot Rock and Weston-McEwen

On Friday, January 22, the Heppner girls' JV team came out on top of Pilot Rock in a close 28-24 game.

Both teams started okay with the Mustangs taking a first quarter 9-7 lead, led by Natalie Rauch's five points and Bailey Bennett's four points. Then the defense and poor free throw shooting took over for both teams. At the half, the Mustangs had a 13-10 lead.

In the third quarter the Mustangs started moving the ball on offense and got scoring from four different players. They led 24-17 at the end of the third.

In the fourth, however, the Mustangs shot only 7-2 from the free throw line, making it a close game.

As a team, the team shot 21-6 from the line while the Rockets were 14-4. The Mustangs were led in scoring by Bennett with eight points, Alana Wilson with eight, Rauch with five, Makenzie Correa with three, Maggie Collins with three, and Tayllor Gould with one. Bennett led the team in rebounds with four and Wilson had four steals along with three assists.

The win pushed the Mustangs' record to 10-2.

On Saturday, January 23, the JV Lady Mustangs gave another outstanding defensive effort, beating the Weston-McEwen TigerScots 39-12. The win moves their overall record to 11-2.

The Mustangs started fast on both ends of the court, taking a 13-0 lead at the end of the first quarter. By the end of the third quarter the score was 31-10 with Maggie Collins putting up six points in the frame.

The Mustangs shot the ball well, shooting 39% from the floor for the game, an improvement of 10%

from the night before. The scoring was led by Bennett's 14 points, followed by Collins with seven, Emilie Blak Anderson with six, Wilson with four, and two points each from Correa, Mayci Garrett, Rauch, and Larissa Gray.

Bennett had a big day on the boards, pulling down eight defensive boards and five offensive. She was assisted by Blak Anderson with eight boards and Gould with five. Wilson led the team with three assists. Correa, Blak Anderson, Bennett, and Rauch each had three steals for the team.

LITTLE LEAGUE SIGN-UPS

February 16th 17th & 18th
5:00 - 8:00 pm
Neighborhood Center

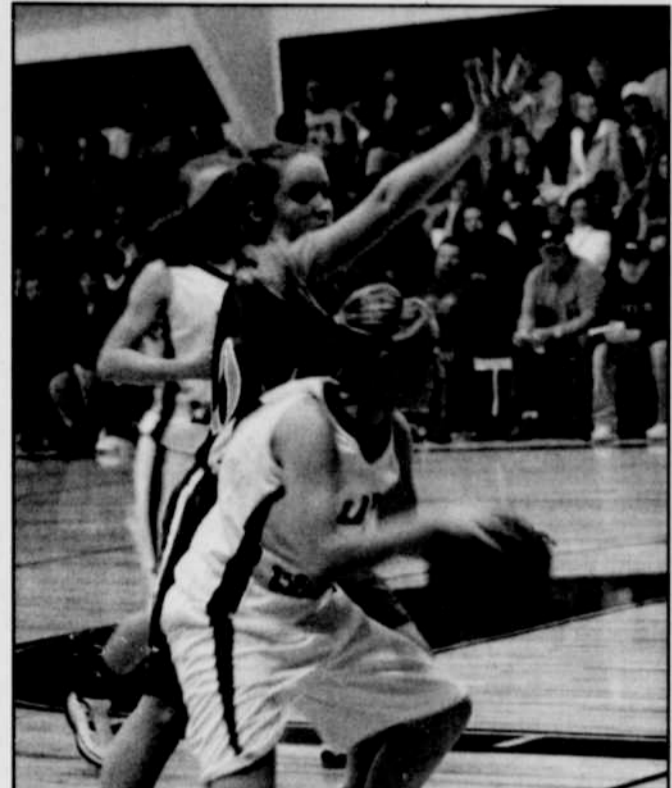
Please bring proof of residency & insurance information

BOMBING RANGE ROAD TEMPORARY CLOSURE

Morrow County Public Works Department would like to announce Due to reconstruction on the south end of the Bombing Range / Hwy 207 Intersection project, it is necessary to close the South end section of Bombing Range road for a period beginning on **January 4, 2010** and continuing through **February 28, 2010** weather permitting. The primary north detour route will be Grieb Ln. The South detour route will be Juniper Canyon to Baseline Rd. All traffic of any kind with the exception of those local residents will be restricted and the closure will be strictly enforced during this period. Local residents will be allowed access subject to following traffic control measures necessary at the time.

This project is a Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

Lady Cardinals fall to Nixyaawii, take win over South Wasco County



Tyree Svetich takes the ball down the court during the game against South Wasco County. -Photo by Theresa Crawford

The Lady Cardinals split their weekend games, losing to Nixyaawii on Friday night on the road and winning a tough game in Ione against Saturday against a Westside opponent, South Wasco County.

At Mission on Friday, January 29, the Lady Cards ran off 10 early points to build a 10-3 lead against Nixyaawii but the Golden Eagles knocked down three three-pointers in the first half to take a 20-18 halftime lead. The third quarter was costly for Ione as the Golden Eagles outscored them 11-4 and built a 9 point lead entering the final period. Shadow Kendrick had 10 of her team-high 17 points in the fourth quarter but it wasn't enough. Two Collette Cason baskets within 30 seconds of each other got the Lady Cards within six points with 1:35 remaining but from there on out, most of the damage was done at the free throw line. Nixyaawii went to the line eight times in the last minute and half and made six to take the 49-37 win.

Shadow Kendrick led the team in scoring with 17 points. Beth Morter added nine. Stefanie Archer had nine rebounds.

"It was one of the better games we've played all season," said Coach Mike Garrett. The Golden Eagles returned Kristi Miller to the lineup and her outside shooting gave Ione trouble. "Having Miller back was key to them, not only helping the offense but in breaking our press. Our goal was to force them to shoot outside," said Coach Garrett and he noted that the team held Mariah Withers to just four points. However the outside shooters did plenty of damage.

JV Lady Mustangs improve record

On Friday, January 29, the Mustang JV girls played Stanfield with a short-handed team due to illness. Even though the Mustangs got some big games out of their posts, they still came up on the short end of the score, losing 24-26 to the Tigers. The loss was their first one to a league foe.

Once again the JV's were hit by poor free throw shooting, hitting only three of 10 from the line. The scoring was led by Baily Bennett's six points and 17 rebounds, followed by Natalie Rauch with five points, Maggie Collins with five points and 13 rebounds, and four points for Emma Osmin and Emilie Blak Anderson.

The loss dropped the girl's record to 11-3.

On Saturday, January 30, the JV Lady Mustangs rebounded from their loss to put together one of their better games of the season.

They played great

On Saturday, January 30, the Lady Cardinals hosted South Wasco County. The Lady Redside were red hot in the first quarter and jumped out to a 13-6 lead. The Lady Cardinals were pretty darn intense themselves as they scrambled back into contention midway through the second quarter and were down by just three points, 21-18 at half time. Shadow Kendrick poured in nine points in the third quarter and Ione built a 28-23 lead. However the Redside went 6-6 from the free throw line in the quarter and regained the lead 31-30 at the end of three. The Lady Cards took the lead for good with 5:24 in the game and used 5-8 free throw shooting down the stretch to put the game away. Tyree Svetich swished a perfect three with just a couple clicks left on the clock for the final 47-35 margin.

Freshman Shadow Kendrick had a breakout game tallying 23 points. Tyree Svetich added nine. Makenna Ramos had nine steals in the game.

"It was a physical game," said Coach Mike Garrett. "We matched their intensity coming out. We started out in a 2-3 zone and they couldn't miss. In the second quarter, we went to man-to-man and never came out of it. Our defense was able to shut them down in the second half, especially the 17-4 fourth quarter. It was a great league win."

Nothing gets easier for the Lady Cardinals as they look forward to another tough weekend coming up. Ione hosts Echo on Friday and travels to Fossil for a match with Condon/Wheeler on Saturday.

Bennett had another good night, leading the team with 15 points and 10 rebounds. The rest of the scoring was Collins with nine points and seven rebounds, Larissa Gray with six points, MaKenzie Correa and Alana Wilson with four each, and Osmin with two points. Blak Anderson also had five rebounds and Bennett led the team with six steals.

The Lady Mustangs go on the road for an overnight trip next weekend to take on Enterprise and Elgin in two tough games. The JV's record now stands at 12-3 with four games left in the season.