

Ione Cards wrap up second in Big Sky East with solid wins

The Ione Cardinals wrapped up second place in the Big Sky East with solid wins last weekend, against Echo on Friday and Condon/Wheeler on Saturday.

Playing in front of a packed house at home on Friday, February 5, the Cards jumped out to a 20-6 first quarter lead but Echo opened the second with a 10-1 run, including back-to-back three pointers to cut the lead to just five points, 21-16. The Cardinals closed the half with a 7-1 run to lead 36-25 at the half. Echo came out gunning in the third quarter, scoring 10 unanswered points, and followed up with a couple more three pointers, and suddenly, the Cougars were in the lead for the first time in the game, 41-40. Matt Hams scored six straight points for Ione and a Zac Orem three with 57 seconds left in the quarter put the Cards up by eight. Echo responded with two baskets in the last 40 seconds, and the difference was four going into the fourth quarter. The Cougars scored six unanswered points midway though the fourth to regain the lead but again Zac Orem hit a three to put the Cards up 60-58. Echo would tie the game at 60 on a pair of free throws with 1:57 on the clock but they would not score again. Meanwhile the Cardinals went to the line 14 times in the last 1:45, hitting 10 to finally put the game away 72-60.

Matt Hams scored a game-high 32 points, shooting a sizzling 65 percent from



Left: Zach Orem, #21 puts the ball in with no help from Condon Players Right: Zach Orem, #21 scores against Echo Friday night.

the field. Zac Orem added 23 points. The Cards shot 46% from the floor while the Cougars hit 41 percent. Echo had the upper hand on the boards, edging the Cardinals 37-31. RJ Ramos led the team with nine boards and Adam Collin had six. Zac Orem had five steals and three assists. Matt Hams added three assists.

"This was a win we had to have," said coach Dennis Stefani. "We went flat in the third quarter and let Echo back in the game but we did a good job of putting things back together in the fourth quarter to claim a huge win."

Traveling to Fos-sil on Saturday, February 6, the Cardinals outscored the Knights 36-23 in the middle two quarters to come away with a solid 66-51 win. Three players scored in double figures led by Matt Hams with 20. Zac Orem added 14 and

Tanner Rietmann had 13. The Cardinals shot 50 percent from the floor and were able to knock down 15 of 22 free throw attempts. The Cards had a 34-30 rebounding advantage led by RJ Ramos with nine for the second night in a row.

"I thought we played one of our better complete games of the year," said Stefani. "I was very happy with our defensive effort and we had one of our better rebounding games in a while."

"It feels good to know we have second placed (in the Big Sky East) wrapped up so we can relax and have some fun in the last two games."

The Cards will finish regular season play hosting Helix on Senior Night on Friday. The team will then travel to Dufur on Saturday.

Ione Community School earns national charter membership

Ione Community School has been granted charter membership in the National Forensic League (NFL). This distinction is the highest school membership honor in the NFL.

As a charter member, Ione Community School has demonstrated excellence in attaining new members and degrees. NFL is a non-partisan, not for profit educational honor society established to train high school students in the forensic arts: debate, public speaking, and interpretation of literature.

Ione Community School debate is coached by Jim Raible.

Ione pep assembly set Feb. 17

A pep assembly will be held for the Ione High School girls' and boys' basketball teams on Wednesday, February 17, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Ione High School gym. The community is invited to attend.

Both the girls' boys' teams will be going into the district playoffs in second place.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

Heppner boys and girls both head to play in BMC district playoffs

The Heppner boys' and girls' basketball teams will both head to the Blue Mountain Conference district playoffs scheduled in Pendleton Friday and Saturday, February 19 and 20. Boys days sessions will begin at 1 p.m.

Friday, January 19, games are as follows:
* 1 p.m., Girls' game #1-Team 2 vs. Team 3;

* approximately 2:45 p.m. Boys' game #1-Team 2 vs. Team 3;

* 6 p.m., Girls' game #2-Team 4 vs. Team 5;

* approximately

7:45 p.m. Boys Game #2-Team 4 vs. Team 5. Team #1 is protected.

Saturday, February, 20 games are as follows:

* 1 p.m., Girls' game #3-winner of game #2 vs. loser of game #1;

* approximately 2:45 p.m., Boy's game #3-winner of game #2 vs. loser of game #1;

* 6 p.m., Girls' game #4-winner of game #1 vs. team #1;

* approximately 7:45 p.m., Boys' game #4-winner of game #1 vs. team #1.

The winner of Sat-

urday's game #4 will be the number-one seed to the state tournament and will receive the first-place trophy. The BMC championship banner will be presented to the league champion.

The loser of Saturday's game #4 will be the number-two seed to the state tournament and will receive the second place trophy.

The winner of Saturday's game #3 will be the number-three seed to the state tournament.

Ticket prices are as follows: Per session: adults-\$6, students-\$4; Day Pass (two sessions): adults-\$10, students-\$7

Mustangs Host Bank of Eastern Oregon Invitation Wrestling Tournament

The Heppner Mustangs hosted an 11-team wrestling tournament on Saturday, Feb. 6, sponsored by Bank of Eastern Oregon. Participating teams were Adrian, Colton, Crane, Enterprise/Wallowa, Grant Union, Heppner, Imbler, Irrigon, Mac Hi, and Riverside. Crane won the first place team trophy, followed by Mac Hi in second and Colton in third. The young Mustang team finished fifth overall.

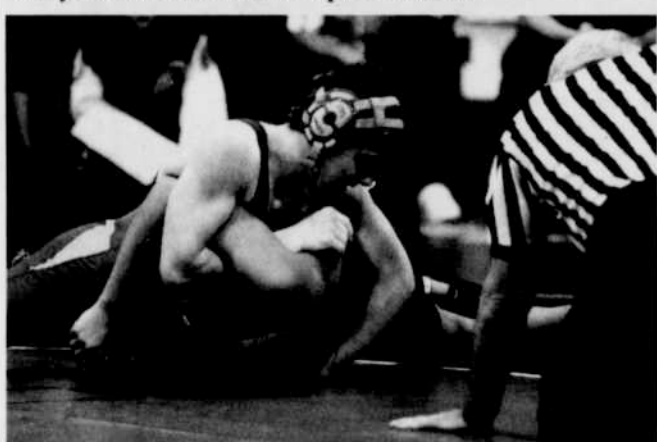
Heppner junior Jarreid Miller took home the gold medal for the 125-pound weight class by defeating his challenger in a second-round pin. Miller marched his way through the championship bracket with three pins after receiving a first round bye.

Chance Day and Wacy Coil also reached the championship finals at 152 and 171. They each finished the day at 2-1 with one loss to a Hansen brother from Riverside. Brigham Hansen (171), a returning state champion and the older of the two Hansen brothers, was voted by the coaches as the tournament's outstanding wrestler.

Freshman Earl Propher, (125), sophomore Cody Nelson (130), and senior Tyler Robinson (145) all finished third and consolation champions of their weight classes. It was Propher's first medal in



Wacy Coil takes on an enterprise wrestler



Tyler Robinson

a major tournament. His only loss came from teammate and tournament champion Jarreid Miller in the championship semi-finals, Nelson took the hard route to third place, requiring four straight victories after losing his first match of the day. Robinson finished 3-1 for the tournament.

Andrew Bara also had an outstanding performance, winning a season-high three matches and finishing fourth at 140 pounds. Two of

his three wins required exciting come-from-behind pins to claim the victory.

Austin Harris finished sixth at 103 pounds.

Wade Mathew and Tim Nelson also earned team points with wins at 130 and 189 pounds.

Other Heppner wrestlers who competed were John Nelson, Conner Pappas, and Jacob Moore.

Lady Mustangs win a pair; undefeated in Blue Mountain Conference play

The Heppner Lady Mustangs traveled over the mountain to take on the Enterprise and Elgin teams last weekend.

Heppner jumped out to early leads in each of their games and hung on to remain undefeated in Blue Mountain Conference play. With the wins, Heppner remains atop the conference standings with two games to play.

Friday night, the Lady Mustangs used a 15-point first quarter to race to a 24-10 lead at halftime over Enterprise. Enterprise fought back to score 17 points in the third quarter to pull within five going into the final frame.

Heppner then held on to win by a score of 39-34. The Mustangs made it to the free throw line 19 times, but only converted on eight (42 percent).

Jessica Hughes led Heppner with 10 points. Erin Price and Torri Lovgren

each had nine points.

In Elgin, the Lady Mustangs again built a comfortable lead at halftime, 26-18, only to see Elgin tighten up defensively. Elgin scored 10 points in the third quarter to pull within two. With just over a minute left and the score tied in the fourth quarter, Brynna Rust made a three-point shot to put Heppner ahead. Neither team was able to score after that and the Lady Mustangs pulled out the victory.

Rust ended the game with 13 points and three rebounds. Torri Lovgren added 10 points and three rebounds. Taighler Dougherty added four steals to lead the team defensively.

Heppner ended the season with a home game Tuesday night against Pilot Rock and a road game against Union on Friday night. A win against Pilot Rock will assure the Lady

Mustangs the number-one seed in the district tournament and a first round bye.

Statistics:
Heppner 39, Enterprise 35.
Heppner: 15 9 8 7-39
Enterprise: 4 6 17 8-35
Heppner: Jessica Hughes 10, Erin Price 9, Torri Lovgren 9, Joanna Patton 8, Lindsay Cutsforth 3.
Enterprise: Summer Despain 12, Shelby Graning 10, Sara Butterfield 7, Alex McCadden 4, Jocelyn Stengle 2.

Heppner 37, Elgin 34
Heppner: 13 13 4 7-37
Elgin: 10 8 10 6-34
Heppner: Brynna Rust 13, Torri Lovgren 10, Jessica Hughes 7, Erin Price 5, JoAnna Patton 2.
Elgin: Malone 8, Knapp 6, Ludwig 5, Southard 5, Robbins 4, Predmore 4, Smith 2.

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