

Cardinals advance to state tournament

The lone Cardinals finished a wild week of playoff basketball with the wins they needed to earn a trip to the 1A State Basketball Tournament in Baker City, the first such trip for an lone team since 2005.

The Cards shook off some post-district blahs on Wednesday night to defeat visiting Hosanna Christian in a first round state playoff game before traveling to the high desert where they took a hard fought win over Jordan Valley. The Cardinals will kick off state tourney play on Thursday, March 4, at 8:15 p.m. against Mohawk of Marcola.

A packed house provided an electric playoff atmosphere at the lone gym when the Cardinals hosted Hosanna Christian of Klamath Falls on Wednesday, February 25. The partisan crowd waited patiently for the cards to get rolling. The wait was a little longer than expected as the teams played even through the first half. The half time score showed the visitors up by one, 23-22.

The teams swapped scores early in the third before lone went on a 12-2 run to crack open the game. Matt Hams provided a 10 point spark and the Cards scored 19 points in the period, just three less than they scored in the whole first half. By the time the fourth quarter rolled around, the Cardinals were looking to extend their lead, shooting 6-10 free throws, hitting a couple buckets and holding the Lions to just four points, taking the win 54-36.

Matt Hams led all scorers with 24 points. Zac Orem was the only other Cardinal in double figures with 10. Tanner Rietmann



Top Photo: #11 Matt Hams shoots and scores against Jordan Valley. Bottom Photo: Gunner Jessen throws Coach Dennis Stefani in the air after the teams' win over Jordan Valley.

-Photos by Theresa Crawford

pulled down 12 rebounds to lead the team to a 43-37 edge on the boards.

The Wednesday night win put the Cardinals on the road to Jordan Valley on Saturday for a match-up with the champs of the High Desert League, Jordan Valley.

The word on the Mustangs included their height and the fact that they finished league play without a league loss. As the game started, both teams looked tight and maybe a little nervous. The score differential was never more than seven points in a hotly contested game that saw numerous ties and lead changes. Zac Orem hit a three pointer with 1:25 left in the first quarter to put the Cardinals up 13-12 after one. The teams played even in the second, sending

lone in at the half with just that same one point margin, 26-25. The Cardinals returned to the court in the third with renewed intensity but it was matched by exponential improvement in the Mustang's outside shooting. Freshman Kade Eiguren knocked down six three-pointers in the second half and collectively, the Mustangs hit seven. In the third quarter alone, the lead changed hands six times and the score was tied on four occasions. Jordan Valley went up by three early in the fourth but when Matt Hams laid in a left-handed layin with 6:05 remaining in the game, the Cardinals took a lead they would not relinquish. Hitting seven of 12 free throws down the stretch helped seal the 60-54 win.

Matt Hams had a

sensational night, leading the team with 31 points on 15-26 shooting from the field and scoring all 13 of the Cardinals' points in the second quarter. But a super effort on the boards from Tanner Rietmann and RJ Ramos in the second half was a big difference maker in the game. In the first half, Jordan Valley used its height advantage to collect 11 offensive boards to just two for lone. The Cardinal rebounders came out swinging in the second half, though and held the Mustangs to zero offensive rebounds and just six on the defensive end. Tanner Rietmann led the Cardinal effort on the boards with 13, 10 of those in the second half. RJ Ramos added 12.

"It came down to two things," said Coach Dennis Stefani, "pushing the tempo to get them tired, and our second half rebounding."

"I think we wanted it more," said senior stand-out, Matt Hams. "We talked at half time that we had 16 more minutes to play and we didn't want our season to end yet. We went out and picked up the intensity in the second half."

"They are really peaking at the right time," noted Coach Stefani. "Part of it is believing in what they can do."

Stefani was pleased with the team's effort and most notably his seniors. "Matt just took over. He played possessed and RJ (Ramos) just hustled like crazy." The Cardinals shot 48% for the game while Jordan Valley connected on just 15 of 40 for 38%. Zac Orem added 15 points for lone including two needed three pointers.

Lady Mustangs competing in state tournament



#32 Torri Lovgren goes up for a shot against Riddle. -Contributed Photo

The Heppner Girls Basketball team traveled nearly 400 miles to Riddle to take on the number two seed from the Mountain View Conference. Despite the long journey, the Mustangs came out on top 66-38.

Heppner will take on No. 1 ranked Portland Christian at 6:30 p.m. tonight, Wednesday, at the Pendleton Convention Center in the quarterfinals of the state tournament.

Lindsay Cutsforth had a breakout game against Riddle to score 17 points in a game that was lopsided from midway through the second quarter to the end. Heppner had a 30-21 lead at halftime and extended it to 47-31 at the

end of the third quarter.

The Mustangs next opponent, Portland Christian, will be making their 12th straight appearance to the state tournament in Pendleton.

Heppner 66, Riddle 38
HHS 14 16 17 19 — 66
RHS 12 9 10 7 — 38
Heppner-Lindsay Cutsforth 17, Erin Price 16, Torri Lovgren 12, Jessica Hughes 9, Brynna Rust 4, Taighler Dougherty 4, Maggie Collins 2, Natalie Rauch 2, Alana Wilson, JoAnna Patton, Bailey Bennett, Emily Thompson. Riddle- Melino Gianotti 13, Allyssa Hunt 12, Kilee Hanson 5, Laloni VanAuken 4, Alex Rogers 3, Marlee Nash 1.

Alumni Softball Game to be held St. Patrick's Day weekend

The 2010 Heppner High School softball program will be holding an Alumni Softball Game during St. Patrick's Day weekend. The game will be played on Friday, March 12, at 4 p.m. on the Bob Kilkenny Field. Any female alumni from Heppner High School, having played softball or not, are welcome to play.

Anyone interested in participating, or for more information, contact Petra Payne at (541) 676-9138 ext.2518, or email: Petra.Payne@morrow.k12.or.us.

GOOD LUCK CARDINALS!



Back Row-Asst. Coach Jim Swanson, Kevin LaRue, Alex Fetterhoff, Zac Orem, Adam Collin, Christian Cederquist, Tanner Rietmann, Matt Hams, Evan Rietmann, R.J. Ramos, Head Coach Dennis Stefani
Front Row-Alex Rietmann, Micah Stillman, Marco Juarez. Not Pictured-Gunner Jessen

IONE vs. MOHAWK

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, AT 8:15 PM IN BAKER

THESE BUSINESS & INDIVIDUALS WISH TO SAY "GOOD LUCK CARDINALS"

2Morrow Energy
Allstott Construction, LLC
BPOE #358 Elks Lodge
Bank of Eastern Oregon
Boardman Foods, Inc.
Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Dances With Mules
Dean's Pendleton Athletic Company
Devin Oil Company, Inc.
Dobyns Pest Control
Eastern Oregon Orthopaedic
Gar Aviation, Inc.
Hale Farms, LLC
Heppner Family Foods
IRT, LLC
Ione Market and Deli
Gregory Jones, DMD
J. Keithley Construction

Les Schwab Tire Center
Lexington Auto Body & Towing
Lexington Pump
Mark Bruno Construction
Mike's Mobile Slaughter & Processing
Morrow County Fair and Rodeo
Morrow County Grain Growers
Morrow County Recreation District
Murray's Drug and Country Rose
Ogden Trail Pro Rodeo
P2L Excavating, LLC
Pea Ridge Embroidery & Signs Inc.
Pendleton Grain Growers, Inc.
Peterson's Jewelers
Pettyjohn's Farm & Builder's Supply
Ramos Brothers Ranches, Inc.
Seitz Aviation
Sherrill Chevrolet
The Stable of Youth

Sykes Publishing, LLC
V & D Construction
Wheatland Insurance Center, Inc.
Woolery House
Perry and Anne Alleman
Allen and Nancy Anderson
Mark and Melissa Bruno Family
Loyal and Betty Burns
Michael and Deanna Camp Family
Louis and Betty Carlson
John and Barb Collin Family
Helen Crawford
June M. Crowell
Becky Doherty
Brian and Peg Doherty Family
Darrell and Paula Emmel Family
John and Marilyn Flynn Family
Tom and Arlynda Gates
Dick and Rosie Graham

Betty Gray
Keven and Linda Haguewood Family
Ron and Karen Haguewood
Frank and Cathy Halvorsen
Joe and Linda Halvorsen Family
Craig, Paul and Matt Hams
Wayne and Dianna Hams
Deacon and Erin Heideman Family
Helen M. Heideman
Loren and Della Heideman
Craig and Janet Holland Family
Dale and Karen Holland Family
Bob Hubbard
Bill and Nancy Jepsen
Jim and Gina Jepsen
Andre and Susan Kendrick Family
J. L. Kincaid Ranch
Skye and Penny Krebs Family
Robin and Melissa LaRue

Del and Linda LaRue
Buzz and Jeanette Logan
Jim and Eileen McElligott
Joe and Jeri McElligott Family
Virgil and Debbie Morgan Family
Perry and Kathy Morter
Ralph and Anne Morter Family
Howard and Dianne Mullins
Duane and Linda Neiffer
Jarrod and Alison Ogden Family
Eric and Brandi Orem Family
Joe and Anita Orem Family
Darrin and Camie Padberg Family
Dustin and Karen Padberg Family
Marvin and Tanna Padberg
Jason and Tara Proudfoot Family
Joel Peterson and Lea Mathieu Family
Rick and Anita Peterson
Dave and Debbie Radie

Bink and Lynn Dee Ramos Family
Keith and Judy Rea
Betty Rietmann
Bill Rietmann
Gregg and Shelly Rietmann Family
Joe and Donna Rietmann Family
John and Kerry Rietmann Family
Dean and Florene Robinson
Rocking T. Ranch
Ryan and Allison Rudolf Family
Dick and Nancy Snider
Dennis and Misti Stefani Family
Dorothy Stefani
Brian and Lorie Sullivan
Jim and Monica Swanson
Rod and Glenda Taylor
Jean Ann Turner
Steve and Vicki Wagenblast
Sherron Woodside