

Ione wins Sportsmanship Award in state tournament

The Ione Cardinals ended their season on a disappointing note, being swept out of the State 1A Tournament last weekend after losing two games. However the Cardinals were able to revel in the state tournament atmosphere of Baker City and enjoyed being a member of the 2009 "Elite Eight" and the team was honored with the tournament Sportsmanship Award.

The Cardinals faced Mohawk in the tournament opener on Thursday, March 4. Early in the first quarter, the Cardinals hung tough trailing just 12-14 with 3:14 showing on the clock. However, Mohawk shifted gears on the offensive end of the court to match their intense defense on the other end and finished the first period with a 9-2 run to lead 23-14. Mohawk blew the game open in the second quarter when they found their stroke from the outside, hitting six threes in a row. The Indians led 51-26 at the half. Mohawk led by as much as 37 in the fourth quarter, punctuated by a spiffy dunk by Mohawk star, Cord Wilkins. The Cardinals finished the game with a 19-7 run but it was too little and too late as Mohawk took the game 86-62.

Matt Hams led the Ione scorers with 24 points. Zac Orem was the only other Cardinal in double figures with 17. The Cards shot 54% from the field but Mohawk did a bit better with 59% shooting for the game.

"The physical play of Mohawk was too much for us in the first half," said Coach Dennis Stefani. "I believe our boys learned a lot about the intensity level needed to play at the state final level."

The loss sent the Cards to the breakfast bracket where they met up with the 2009 State Champions, Powder Valley. Ione jumped out to the early lead and built as much as nine point margin, 12-3, and held onto that lead throughout the first and second quarters. Powder Valley's Trenton scored the last nine points of the third quarter as the Badgers took the lead and built on it. At the start of the fourth, Powder Valley led 52-47. The Badgers put together a 29 point fourth quarter while holding the



Top Photo: #11 Matt Hams takes it up against Mohawk Indians in the first game of the state tournament. Bottom Photo: Tanner Rietmann wears #13 Trenton Dixon (Powder Valley Badgers) on his back in the second game of the state tournament. -Photos by Theresa Crawford

Cards to 16 to take the 81-63 win.

Matt Hams, named the Qwest Player of the Game for the second time in the tournament, led the team in scoring with 19 points. Zac Orem added 15 and RJ Ramos chipped in with 10. The Cardinals encountered foul trouble in the game which hurt their rebounding effort. The Badgers dominated the boards 58-36. Gunner Jessen led

Ione with eight rebounds.

"We played pretty well in the first half," said Coach Dennis Stefani. "Then we got in foul trouble and our defense and rebounding suffered."

While the losses were a tough way to go out, the Cardinals celebrated a fine season, highlighted by a thrilling second place finish in the Big Sky District Tournament and two exciting state playoff games.

HHS JV Baseball Schedule

- March 16 - at Pendleton, 4 p.m.
- March 29 - at Pilot Rock, 4:30 p.m.
- April 2 - Grant Union at home, 10 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
- April 8 - at Umatilla, 4 p.m.
- April 12 - Pilot Rock at home, 4:30 p.m.
- April 15 - at Stanfield, 4:30 p.m.
- April 19 - Umatilla at home, 4:30 p.m.
- April 23 - Stanfield at home, 10 a.m.
- April 26 - Pendleton at home 4:30 p.m.

Lady Mustangs finish fourth at state tournament

Five Heppner seniors went into their game Saturday morning at the Pendleton Convention Center against Scio knowing that this would be the last time they would play together on the basketball court. They made the most of the opportunity by beating the Scio Loggers and earning 4th place in the 2A State Tournament. Erin Price also came away with some extra hardware as she was named to the 2nd team all-tournament for her efforts as she scored 34 points over three games.

Playing in their third game in four days, both teams scrapped and clawed in a sloppy game that included turnovers, elbows, and blood. Price left in the third quarter after receiving an inadvertent elbow to the face. A bloody nose would not deter her from playing in her final game in blue and gold.

Heppner used a full court press to jump out to an early lead. Leading 17-12 after the first quarter, Heppner held off the first of many Scio rallies in the second quarter and took an eight point lead into the locker room. The final Logger rally came in the final two minutes after Heppner had pulled to a 12 point lead. Scio got back within two points. During the rally, Price fouled out and had to watch the last 1:22 from the bench. Torri Lovgren, Jessica Hughes and Brynna Rust all hit clutch free throws down the stretch to seal the victory. The Lady Mustangs finished with their highest placing since winning the state championship in 1985-86.

Price and Lovgren led the team with 15 points apiece. Hughes finished with 10 points and Joanna Patton had nine points and eight rebounds.

Heppner started the tournament with the daunting task of playing the undefeated and number one ranked Portland Christian Royals. The Royals came into the game averaging over 74 points per game and on two occasions had scored in the 90's. The Lady Mustangs handled the Portland Christian full court press and were able to force Portland Christian turnovers to pull within three points at the end of the first quarter. Portland Christian's 26 second quarter points and up tempo style of play would prove to be the difference in the game as they took a commanding 42-26 lead into halftime.



Pictured are the members of the Lady Mustangs basketball team. The team placed fourth in the 2A state tournament. -Contributed Photo



Erin Price drives to the basket during last Wednesday night's game against Portland Christian. -Photo by Sandy Matthews

The teams played close in the second half but the lead was too much for Heppner to overcome as Portland Christian won 66-43. Patton's 16 points led the team in scoring. Lovgren and Hughes chipped in with five points apiece.

The Lady Mustangs had to shake off their defeat Wednesday night quickly as they played Thursday morning against the Lakeview Lady Honkers. Heppner started slow after their exhausting game the night before, as Lakeview jumped out to a 6-4 lead after the first quarter. In a back and forth second quarter Heppner would respond to take a 22-17 half-time lead. The Lady Mustangs outscored Lakeview by four points in the third quarter and the teams played even in the fourth quarter. Price led the team in scoring with 15 points. Hughes and Rust chipped in with nine and six respectively.

The five Mustang seniors leave their legacy as their final season ends with a 19-4 record and one of the top teams in school history, according to their record and state placing. Portland Christian 66, Heppner 43. Heppner 13 13 8 9 - 43 Ptd. Christian 16 26 15 9 - 66

Heppner-Patton 16; Lovgren 5; Hughes 5; Price 4; Rust 4; Wilson 4; Cutsforth 3; Dougherty 2; Rauch; Collins; Bennett; Thompson. Portland Christian- Maltman 21; Niebergall 16; J. Beliel 13; Guthridge 6; Schroeder 4; M. Beliel 3; Arnold 3; Smith; Hutchin; Perry; Remington.

Heppner 45, Lakeview 38 HHS 4 16 19 6 - 45 LHS 6 11 15 6 - 38 Heppner- Erin Price 15, Jessica Hughes 9, Brynna Rust 6, Torri Lovgren 6, Taighler Dougherty 4, Lindsay Cutsforth 3, JoAnna Patton 2, Alaina Wilson. Lakeview- Kinsey Seaton 13, Katie Stoffeth 6, Kaitlin Shuffield 5, Courtney Wilson 5, Jessenia Bryant 4, Kati Hall 3, Donna Cahill 2, Mariah Grant.

Heppner 61, Scio 53 SHS 12 7 17 17 - 53 HHS 17 9 20 15 - 61 Scio - Sami DeVore 21, Hailey Guest 15, Marcy Ortiz 6, Riley Graham 6, Amber Stover 3, Cassandra Temple 2, Laiken Pearson, Jordan Lundgren, Ellie Ferguson. Heppner- Erin Price 15, Torri Lovgren 15, Jessica Hughes 10, JoAnna Patton 9, Brynna Rust 7, Lindsay Cutsforth 5, Alana Wilson, Taighler Dougherty, Emily Thompson.

HHS Varsity Baseball Schedule

- March 16 - at Pendleton, 4 p.m.
- March 19 - at Grant Union (double header), 9 a.m.
- March 22 - Riverside Tourney, 9 a.m.
- March 23 - Riverside Tourney, 9 a.m.
- March 30 - Pendleton at home, 4 p.m.
- April 2 - Grant Union at home, noon.
- April 3 - at Burns (double header), 1 p.m.

HHS Varsity Softball Schedule

- March 19 - Umatilla at home (double header), noon.
- March 26 - Union Tournament, TBA
- March 27 - Union Tournament, TBA.
- April 3 - Grant Union at home (double header), 11 a.m.
- April 6 - Weston McEwen at home, 4:30 p.m.
- April 10 - at Stanfield, 11 a.m.
- April 13 - at Umatilla (double header), 4 p.m.
- April 16 - Irrigon at home, 11 a.m.

Leprechaun Fun Run to be held March 13

The Leprechaun Fun Run will be held again this year on March 13 for kindergarten through 6th grade children. Applications are available at the schools and Heppner Chamber Office. Each participating child will need a parent's signature before running.

The Fun Run starts at the Heppner Library/Museum

City Park, down Main Street to the corner of Les Schwab and back to the finish line in the center of Heppner's Main Street. Participants need to meet at the Park by 11:15. Runners will follow the leprechaun and the magic gold dust. A pot of gold dollars is at the end of the fun; one dollar for each participant.

HHS JV Softball Schedule

- March 20 - at Grant Union (double header), 11 a.m.
- March 29 - Riverside at home (two five-inning games), 3 p.m.
- April 15 - at Riverside (double header), 3:30 p.m.

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