

Lady Cards pick up weekend victories Mustang JV girls split weekend games

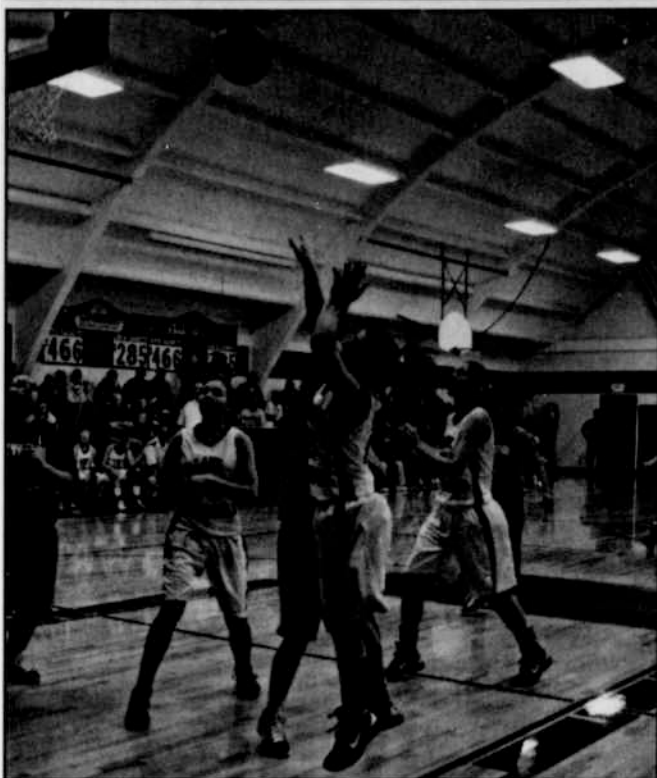
The Ione Lady Cardinals notched two victories this past weekend with a crucial win against a Big Sky East opponent on Friday night and a necessary win against a Big Sky West opponent on Saturday. The Lady Cardinals now sport an 8-1 record in the Big Sky Conference, 14-5 overall.

On Friday night, the Cardinals hosted Nixyaawii, a team they defeated in Mission in January but also the only other team in the Big Sky East with just one loss.

The first half was not an offensive masterpiece for either team. Three minutes went by in the game before either team scored, and at the end of one, Nix held a 9-8 lead. The Cards opened the second frame with a 6-0 run to go up 14-9 but Nix scored nine unanswered points to close the half leading 18-14. The Eagles built their biggest lead of the game with five minutes gone in the third. When they knocked down a three, the Cardinals were looking at an eight point deficit, 18-24. However the Cardinals showed they know how to rally as they have done several times this year. Makenna Ramos put back two offensive rebounds for scores and Lacey Thompson grabbed a steal and fed it to Beth Morter for a fast break lay in. With eight minutes left to play, the Lady Cards trailed by just two points, 22-24.

The teams swapped scores to start the fourth until JoAnna Patton's offensive board went in for a score and with 4:04 remaining, the game was tied. Shadow Kendrick came up big with back-to-back jumpers. By this time in the game, two of Nixyaawii's scoring threats had fouled out, as had JoAnna Patton. The Golden Eagles went to the line with 1:42 remaining and canned two necessary free throws to pull the score back within two. With 38 seconds left, Shadow Kendrick fed a nice pass to Lacey Thompson who canned the bucket, giving Ione a tiny bit of breathing room, 34-30. The Cards kept the pressure on and got the ball back. With 16.2 remaining, Beth Morter hit the second of two free throws to make the final 35-30 margin.

Beth Morter led the team in scoring with



Top Photo: Stacey Halvorsen #12 and Collette Cason #10 trap a South Wasco player. Bottom Photo: Makenna Ramos puts up a jump shot against Nixyaawii. -Photos by Paula Emmel

nine points. Shadow Kendrick added eight while JoAnna Patton and Lacey Thompson both had five. Rounding out the scoring was Makenna Ramos with four and Collette Cason and Mary Rietmann with two each. JoAnna Patton led the rebounding with 10 boards, nine of those off the offensive glass. Beth Morter added nine.

"The girls worked hard," said Coach Mike Garrett. "They (Nix) average 56 points a game so to hold them to 30 was something. It was a great defensive game and a great win for the team."

On Saturday, the Lady Cardinals traveled to Maupin for a game against the third place team on the West Side, South Wasco County. After a tight first quarter, the Cardinals got their groove back to run away with the 61-36 win. Beth Morter had a career night with 21 points, 10 of those in the first quarter. Shadow Kendrick added 10 and Stacey Halvorsen

and Collette Cason both had eight. Rounding out the scoring was JoAnna Patton with seven, Lacey Thompson and Mary Rietmann with three each and Makenna Ramos with one.

Collette Cason had a good night on the boards, collecting eight rebounds. Beth Morter nabbed nine steals and Mary Rietmann dished out six assists.

"Things were clicking," said Coach Mike Garrett. "The offense looked good, the defense looked good and people were rotating correctly on the press." He also like the shooting percentage much better than he did the previous night, noting that the team shot 41% from the floor in the first half.

"I wasn't sure how they would come out after the hard win against Nix the night before," said Garrett. "They handled physical play really well though and this will be good preparation for the district tournament."

Putnam, wrestling in his first tournament style competition, finished in fourth place.

Jesse Boyd also placed third at 125 pounds.

Skyler Palmer made it to the championship semi finals by pinning his opponent from Imbler. He lost in the semi finals and went on to place fifth.

Tim Jaca also competed in the tournament for the junior Mustangs.

The Mustang JV girls split over the weekend with Pilot Rock and Weston/McEwen.

On Friday the Mustangs traveled to Pilot Rock for a game and started out playing great, taking the first quarter 9-4 led by Carrie Hagewood's four points. The second quarter went to the Rockets as the Mustang offense disappeared and they went into half time down 13-18. Things picked up a bit in the third and it was 19-22 with girls still trialing. But then the defense let down and the Rockets took the quarter 15-7 for a Mustang loss 26-38. This was still a good improvement over the last meeting when they lost 50-30.

The Mustang scoring was Makenzie Correa with seven, Lilly Sandford five, four each for Blake Greenup, Carrie Hagewood, and Emma Osmin, and two for Cassi Day. Leading rebounders were Greenup, Hagewood, and Makayla Kindle with four each.

The next day the Mustangs came out quick and with the full court pressure took a 15-4 first quarter lead and never looked back.

Emma Osmin led in scoring after one with five points. The second quarter saw the Mustangs not allow a field goal giving up just five points on foul shots. They took a 22-9 lead



Alyssa Gray and Aimee Selnes fight for the ball. -Photo by Sandy Matthews

into half time with Makayla Kindle getting four points in the second. The second half the Mustangs kept up the pressure outscoring the Tiger/Scots 21-17 for the half, led by Larrisa Gray's six points, giving them a 43-26 win. It could have been much bigger but the Mustangs were only 16-5 at the free throw line. The Mustangs also gave up too many points by fouling giving the other team a 27-13 advantage at their free-throw line.

The scoring for

Mustangs was Emma Osmin with eight, six each for Blake Greenup, MaKenzie Correa, Lilly Sandford, and Larrisa Gray, five for Cassi Day, four for Kindle and two for Aimee Selnes. Rebounding leaders were Selnes and Kindle with eight each and four each for Greenup, Hagewood, and Day. Steals were Osmin with six, Correa with four, and Selnes and Day with three each. The win puts the JV's record at 6-6 for the year with four games to go.

Eleven Mustang wrestlers place at Irrigon Invitational

The Heppner wrestling team competed in the Irrigon Invitational Tournament on Saturday. Teams competing at the tournament were Enterprise/Wallowa, Heppner, Imbler, Irrigon, Joseph, Mac Hi, Riverside, Union, and Hanford, WA. The invitational featured a side by side high school and junior high wrestling tournament.

Eleven Mustangs earned a spot on the high school tournament podium with the top six placers of each weight class.

Senior Jarreid Miller went undefeated for

Mustang boys defeat Rockets 66-63 in double overtime

In the varsity boys' game Friday, January 28, in Pilot Rock, the Mustangs came out big and ready to play as they defeated the Rockets in a double overtime thriller, 66-63. The Mustangs earned their fifth win this season in conference play.

Both teams, evenly matched, played a cat and mouse game with neither team gaining much advantage over the other. Pilot Rock led by two at the half, 28-26. Both teams, wanting the win, played hard in the second half. The rockets tied Heppner at the end of regulation on a three-point shot. In the first overtime both teams scored four each. In the final overtime period the Mustangs prevailed, scoring 10 points to the Rockets' seven.

The win put Heppner at 5-4 on the season. Cody Orr led Heppner with 23 points, Alex Pickles scored 13, and Justin Pranger scored 12.

In the boys' home game against the Tigerscots, it was another tough contest for the Mustangs. Coming off a big win against Pilot Rock, the Mustangs had to dig deep into their team to keep pace with the 7-2 Weston-McEwen team.

Date changed for Heppner Christian Church community ham dinner

Heppner Christian Church community ham dinner has been rescheduled for Sunday, February 13. This dinner will be held in the Senior Center dining room from 4-6:30 p.m. There is no charge to the public.

HJH wrestlers compete at Irrigon Invitational

The Heppner junior high wrestlers traveled to Irrigon on January 29 with the high school team to wrestle in the Irrigon Jr/Sr High Invitational. The junior Mustangs wrestled opponents from Imbler, Irrigon, Riverside, Union, and Enterprise.

John Propheter placed the highest for the team. He had two falls on the way to winning the championship at the 175 pounds junior high weight

class. Will Lutchter won two matches by tech fall and pin on his way to an appearance in the 90 pound weight class championship bout where he finished second.

Ryan Smith, Kai Arbogast, and Weston Putnam overcame early losses to advance to the consolation championship bouts of their weight classes. Smith and Arbogast went on to win and claim third place.

WCVEDG to hold annual meeting

The Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group will hold their annual meeting on Thursday, February 17, at noon at St. Patrick's Senior Center.

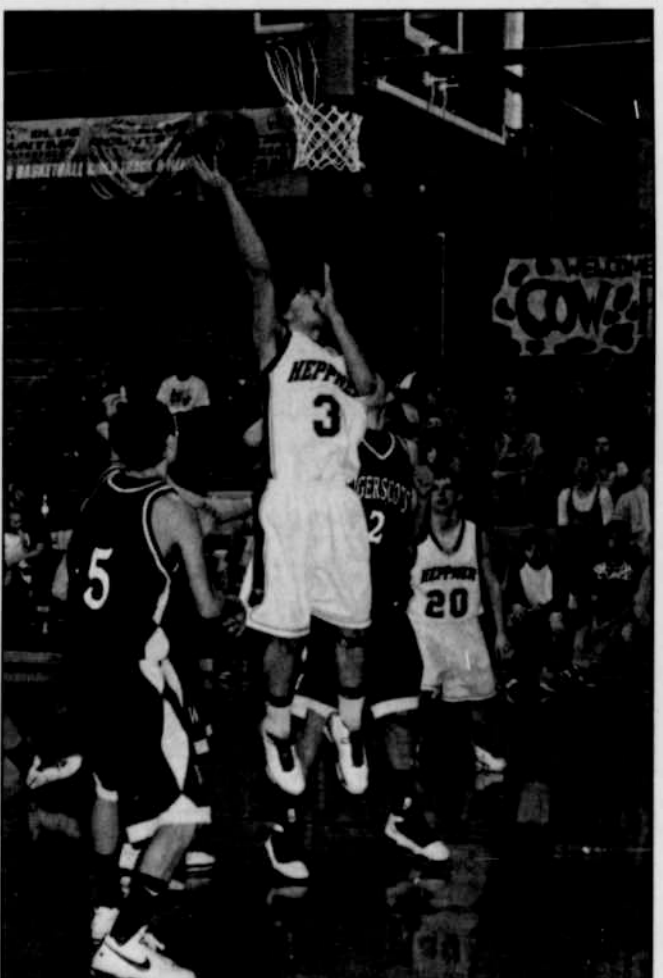
Kurt Christensen, president of Renewable Ag Energy based in Ontario, OR, will be the speaker. He

will discuss the purchase and operation of the power plant at the South Morrow County Industrial Park.

Renewable Ag Energy is a company formed after several years of research in the renewable energy field. Christensen and his partner Lance Wells were instrumental in the

formation of a new Farmers Cooperative, Agri Energy Producers Association that operates in both Malheur County and in the Morrow and Umatilla county areas in Eastern Oregon. This cooperative was formed to produce Energy Crops for the purpose of creating electric energy in the local areas surrounded by the grower member's farms. This is the driving factor working toward the purchase and operation of the power plant at the north end of Heppner.

A hosted luncheon will be prepared by Sweet Productions. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP to Marcia Kemp at 541-676-2100.



Alex Pickles puts up a shot against the Tigerscots. -Photo by Sandy Matthews

Heppner played with a lot of energy in the first half, keeping within striking distance of the Tigerscots, 24-20. The Mustangs were outscored 13-9 and 10-6 in the final two

quarters to lose 43-39. The Mustangs are now tied with Pilot Rock at five wins and five losses in fourth place in league play with four league games to go in the season.

Valentine's Day Dinner

Ecumenical Youth Group Fund Raiser

February 14th

6:00-8:00pm

All Saints Episcopal Church - Heppner

\$10.00 per person

Dinner includes: Lasagna, salad, french bread, cupcakes and sparkling cider or coffee.

