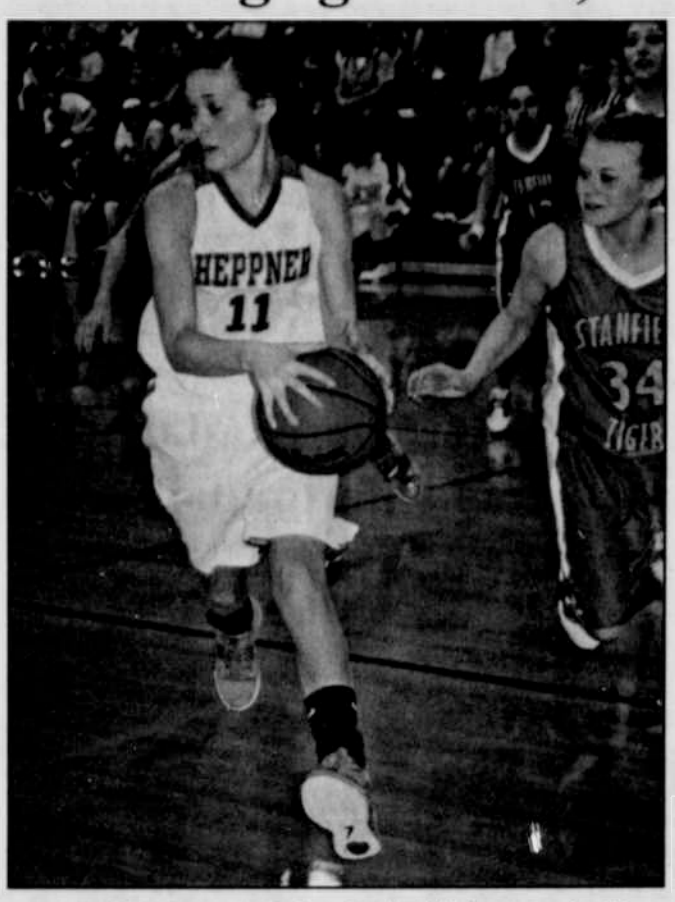
Mustangs girls win, boys lose to Stanfield



Left Photo: Taighler Dougherty protects the basketball. Right Photo: Alex Pickles and Ian Murray fight a Stanfield player for possession. *-Photos by Sandy Matthews*

On February 12 the Mustangs hosted the Tigers of Stanfield. The last home game of the season meant it was senior night in the Heppner gym.

Devin Robinson, Ian Murray, Jared Hedman, Alex Pickles, Taighler Dougherty and Lindsay Cutsforth were all honored for their dedication to Heppner sports, along with a number of senior pep band members that show up every home game to support the team.

In the girls' game the mustangs looked like a team coming together. The Mustangs led at the half 20-13 with Alana Wilson hitting a couple of three's to spark Heppner's offense. In the third quarter the Mustangs poured oats on the hay, outscoring the Tigers 11-4.

The fourth quarter brought out the Tigers' ferocity, clawing back into the game to spook the Mustangs. Foul trouble plagued Heppner as the final minutes ticked down. The Lady Mustangs held on to win their eighth league game of the season for a fourth place finish in the Blue Mountain Conference.

Wilson led scoring with 13 for Heppner, with great team play from everyone. The Lady Mustangs will play at the district tournament February 18-19. They will play the Elgin Huskies in a loser-out game at 6 p.m. on February 18. A win will give them a place in the first round of the 2-A state tournament.

In the boys' game against the Tigers, the Mustangs thundered into the gym, taking it to the coleague leading Tigers 11-2 in the first three minutes of the game.

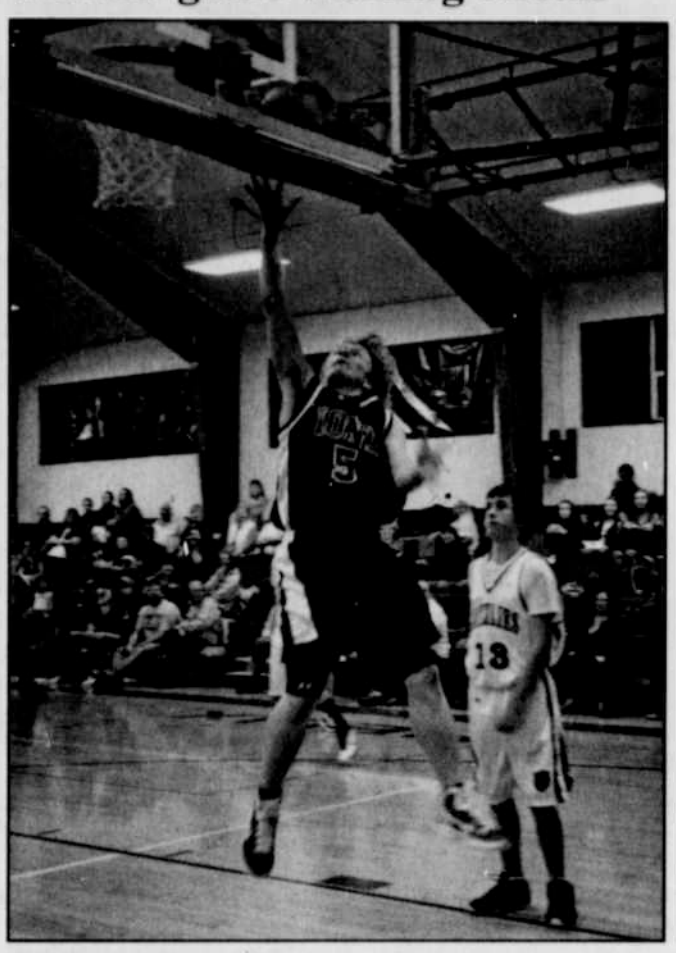
The Tigers roared back into the game to come within one point of the Mustangs at the first quarter mark 20-19. Heppner continued to out-score Stanfield in the second quarter to retain their lead 41-34 at the half.

In the third quarter the Mustangs were let out to pasture, only scoring two points while the Tigers put down 18 points to pull ahead 53-43. The Mustangs played a good fourth quarter but fell short, losing to the Tigers 72-58. The Mustangs shot only 1-20 from the free throw line.

Cody Orr led Heppner's scoring attack with 21 while Devin Robinson added 12 for Heppner. The Heppner boys team ended the season with a fourth place finish in the Blue Mountain Conference at seven wins, seven losses.

The boys will play Pilot Rock Friday night after the girls' game for a berth in the 2A state championship tournament.

Ione varsity boys finish season with 12-game winning streak



#5 Kaleb Dumler scores the teams 100th point against Helix. *-Photo by Paula Emmel*

By Paula Emmel

During their game on February 11, the Ione Cardinals scored the most points this season, exceeding 100 points in a game. Ione won over Helix, 104 to 41. Kaleb Dumler scored the 100th point.

Kirk Haguewood led the scoring with 15, Zac Orem and Omar Juarez scored 14 each, Tanner Rietmann and Kaleb Dumler each scored 12, Evan Rietmann with nine, Steven Holland and Marco Juarez scored eight each, Micah Stillman had four, and Alex Rietmann and Adam Collin each scored three points. Luke Emmel made an attempt to score near the end of the game. Ione made five three-point shots. Ione was 5-8 (63 percent) at the free-throw line. Personal fouls for the game were tied at eight per team.

The Cardinals won over Dufur 60-47 on February 12. Ione sealed first place in the Big Sky East Conference and will play in the district tournament February 17-19 in Umatilla.

Lead scorer was Orem with 19 points. Collin and E. Rietmann followed close with 13 points each. T. Rietmann scored eight points. Holland shot for four points, K. Haguewood for two points and A. Rietmann scored one point. Also seeing playing time was Marco and Omar Juarez, and Stillman. Ione made three three-point shots. Ione shot 75 percent at the line, making 21 of 28 free-throws. E. Rietmann had an exceptional evening shooting 100 percent, eight for eight. The team was 10-12 at the free-throw line in the fourth quarter alone.

Ione will work to be "the best" in District and bring home a district/conference title board.

Lady Cards finish regular season with 13-1 league record

The Ione Lady Cardinals finished their regular season bruised and bandaged but happy as they put two more wins in the record book last weekend. The Lady Cards ran away from Helix on the road on Friday and gritted out a win against Dufur on Saturday in Ione. The Friday win locked up the number one seed from the Big Sky East and the Saturday win moved the team on to the district tournament on a high note. The Lady Cardinals finished the regular season with 13-1 league record, 19-5 overall.

In Helix on Friday, February 11, the Lady Cardinals turned it on in the second quarter and used a 15-0 run to put the game out of reach. Ione outscored Helix 19-4 in the second quarter to lead 31-12 at the half. The Cards led by as much as 27 points late in the third and again early in the fourth quarter as they coasted to the 58-31 win.

Shadow Kendrick led the team in scoring with 12 points but 10 others also put points on the board. JoAnna Patton, Stacee Halvorsen and Makenna Ramos each had eight. Beth Morter, Collette Cason and Lacey Thompson all had six. Emily Holland and Mary Gates both had two and Mary Rietmann added one. On the stat line, Shadow Kendrick and four steals and Makenna Ramos has seven assists.

"I was worried that we might be a little flat thinking about the Dufur game on Saturday night but the kids realized a win would cement our #1 seed in the Big Sky East," said Coach Mike Garrett who was pleased that the team came to play. "We were filling the lanes and we shot the ball very well." He also noted that the Cardinals committed just eight turnovers and had 17 steals.

Saturday was Senior Night and Dufur was on the agenda. That meant #1 from the East versus #1 from the West and though both teams had their spots locked up, it became clear right off that neither team thought the game was meaningless.

Senior Mary Gates #44 makes a bucket against Helix in the closing minutes of the game. Ione beat Helix 58-31. *–Photo by Paula Emmel*

At the end of one quarter, the score was tied at 12 and through the second, it stayed tight. Dufur's biggest lead was four midway through the quarter and they led by three heading to halftime, 24-21. The game was physical, fast-moving, and scrappy. In the third quarter, the Cards regained the lead and were up by four when senior, Beth Morter took a hard elbow to the nose. She had to leave the game but the team kept their focus and led by three, 33-30, entering the final eight minutes of play.

Shadow Kendrick scored eight of her career high 27 points in the fourth quarter including 6-6 free throw shooting. In the first 2 ½ minutes of the quarter, the Cardinals used a 6-2 run to build their biggest lead of the day 39-32. Midway through the fourth, a pile up involving JoAnna Patton, Makenna Ramos and a Dufur player resulted in the two Cardinal players crashing heads. JoAnna Patton sustained cuts around her eye and she had to leave the game while Makenna Ramos was able to continue. Dufur capitalized on the Card's momentary confusion to cut the lead back to three. With 2:56 remaining, Shadow Kendrick hit a pair of free throws and shortly after that, Mary Rietmann bagged a nice bucket with an assist from Collette Cason. With just over a minute to play, the Rangers were in the double bonus but both teams struggled at the line in the late going. With four tries to make two, the Rangers cut the lead back to five with 57 seconds left to play. Then Shadow Kendrick went to the line twice, at 53 seconds and then again at 24 seconds to rebuild the Cardinals' lead to nine. Dufur hit one final free throw at the end of the game for the final score 47-39.

Shadow Kendrick led all scorers with 27 points. Mary Rietmann added seven while Collette Cason had four, JoAnna Patton had three and Lacey Thompson and Beth Morter both had two. Before leaving the game, Beth Morter had seven rebounds, five assists and four steals. Shadow Kendrick and Mary Rietmann both had five rebounds.

Coach Mike Garrett got to cross another item off his bucket list with the win against Dufur. "The seniors and I had never beaten Dufur and there might have been some motivation there." He was also pleased to note that the team had only 13 turnovers in the game. "That is very impressive against their man to man defense. We knew it was going to be a very physical game with both team playing pressure defense. We made a few defensive adjustments at halftime and held them to six points in the third quarter. We also got pretty banged up with Beth hurting her nose and Joanna receiving two cuts around her eye. I was proud how the team responded in their absence."

With a week to heal up and fine tune, the Lady Cardinals roll into district after a very successful and highly competitive regular season. The Lady Cardinals finished regular season play ranked fourth in the OSAA RPI rankings after floating around the top 10 most of the season. Coach Garrett knows what lies ahead for the team is not an easy path but he knows that this is a team that likes big games and has ground out wins all season long.

"The district tournament is going to be tough. As it stands today the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 15th ranked teams in the state will be there. That is one tough tournament. The kids are excited and I like the fact that we have been there the last two years and they also have the success from a great volleyball season," said Garrett.

The Lady Cardinals will open Big Sky Tournament at Umatilla High School play on Friday at 3 p.m. playing the winner of the Thursday Sherman County versus Echo game.

HES Chess Mates place first at regional tournament

Top Photo: Back row - Cara Arbogast, Alex Lindsay, and Leo Waite. Front Row - Hunter Greenup, Jorden Sweeney, Zach Bredfield, Carson Brosnan, and Gavin Hanna. Bottom Photo: (L-R) Ross Cutsforth, Kai Arbogast, and Cade Arbogast. *-Contributed Photos*

The regional tournament for Chess for Success was held at Sandstone Middle School in Hermiston on February 12. The Heppner Elementary School's Chess Mates club placed first and will compete at the state tournament on March 3 and 4 in Portland.

First place was Alex Lindsay and Gavin Hanna placed second. The other members of the team are Cara Arbogast, Leo Waite, Hunter Greenup, Zach Bredfield, Jorden Sweeney, and Carson Brosnan. In the middle school division, Kai Arbogast placed first, Cade Arbogast placed second, and Ross Cutsforth placed fourth.

These tournaments started as the OMSI Tournament in 1967. Forty-six players in grades four through eight participated in the first tournament. Now thousands of students in kindergarten through twelfth grade participate in 24 regional tournaments throughout Oregon. The club is fortunate to have many volunteers that help coach the students. Some of the volunteers are just learning chess and then there are others that are truly masters.

Volunteers who have helped this year are: Brandi Sweeney, Kristine Martin, Sherry Matteson, Deb Campbell, Mary Ann Elguezabal, Doris Brosnan, Cherry Webber, Andrew Sherman, Dick Jones, Bridget Waite, Wayne Seitz, and Joe Armato.