

## Mustang girls keep playoff hopes alive with double wins



Paige Grieb outruns a Grant Union player Friday during the Mustang victory over the Prospectors. —Photo by Sandra Putman

The Heppner High School girls' basketball team kept their playoff hopes alive with a pair of wins last week. They avenged two earlier losses on the season by defeating the Irrigon Knights 53-37 and beating the Grant Union Prospectors 44-33.

In the game with the Knights, the score was tied 11-11 at the end of the first quarter. The Mustangs stepped up the defensive pressure in the second and held Irrigon to only seven points. Heppner scored 14 in that period to lead at halftime 25-18. The Mustangs continued to be strong defensively and only

allowed the Knights five points in the third quarter. The Mustangs ran their offense well and scored 11 themselves. The teams traded baskets in the fourth quarter with the Mustangs having a 17-15 advantage. An impressive overall game for the team led to the 53-37 thrashing of the Knights.

Leading the way for the Mustangs was Blake Greenup with 19 points. Maddie Lindsay finished with a double-double, tallying 11 points and 10 rebounds. Kelly Wilson also scored 11 points and had six steals. Micha Hintz had five points, Kayla Kindle two and Rylee Kollman one.

The Mustangs shot well from the free-throw line, going 14-19 for the game.

In another must-win game, the Mustangs beat Grant Union 44-33. A close game in the first half had the Mustangs leading by a score of 15-14 at halftime. Heppner had the lead at the end of three quarters 28-26. The Mustangs then outscored the Prospectors 17-6 in the fourth quarter to get the win.

"Our defense really showed up tonight," coach Jeremy Wilson said. "I was really proud of the girls. We played really good, solid defense."

Greenup again led the team in scoring with 12. Wilson followed with 11 and Kindle had five. Hintz, Paige Grieb and Jessica Kempkin each scored four points in the game. Lindsay and Kollman both had two points for the night. Once again the team was good from the free-throw line, going 21-32.

The Mustang girls' team has two more "must win" games in their bid to qualify for the district tournament. They take on the Enterprise Outlaws and the Elgin Huskies on the road this weekend.

## Mustang wrestlers have five champions in BEO tournament

Seven teams made it through the snow to attend the Bank of Eastern Oregon Invitational wrestling tournament in Heppner on Saturday. Teams in attendance were Adrian, Crane, Grant Union, Heppner, Imbler, Pine Eagle and Union.

Seven of the nine Mustang wrestlers placed in the top two of their weight class.

Heppner led all teams with five individual champions as Ryan Smith (106), Jared Lemmon (132), Treston Maben (152), Cord Flynn (160)

match by pin to score points for the home team.

During the tournament, Maben became the third Heppner wrestler to achieve 100 high school career wins and also took over second place on the Mustang all-time win list.

Jared Lemmon was voted by the coaches as outstanding wrestler of the tournament after going 4-0 with a technical fall and three pins, including a pin in his final match against Jake Clark from Crane, a two-time state placer and the second-ranked 132-pound wrestler.

Just getting the full team to a tournament has been rare for the Mustangs this season.

"We've had more injuries and setbacks this year than I can ever remember," Coach Mark Lemmon said. "All of our team leaders are back and inspiring the other guys to step it up."

"It looks like things are coming together at the most important time of the season."



Jared Lemmon (center) was named outstanding wrestler for the Bank of Eastern Oregon Invitational wrestling tournament in Heppner on Saturday. He stands between coaches Brian Lemmon (left) and Mark Lemmon. —Contributed photo

Host team Heppner placed second, just two points behind Crane, for the team championship. Grant Union took home the third-place trophy.

and John Prophet (195) all won gold medals.

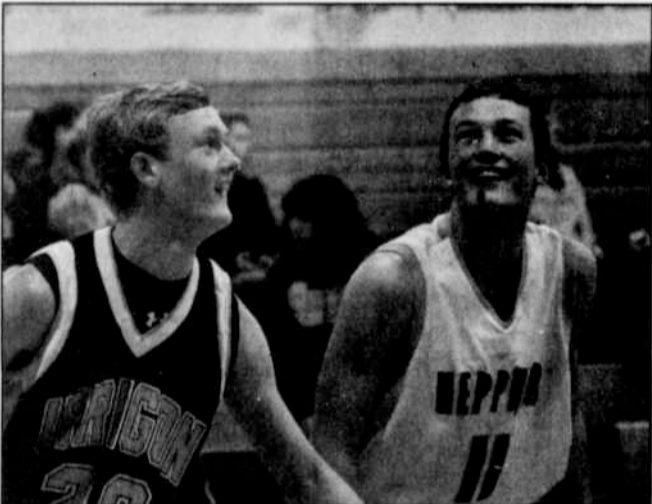
Jesse Boyd (138) and Kyle Aldrich (170) placed second for the Mustangs. Will Lutcher also won a

## Mustang JV team closes in on season end with 13-2 record

In running their season record to 13-2 for the season, the Heppner boys' JV basketball team defeated the Irrigon Knights 62-37 and the Grant Union Prospectors 58-43.

The Mustangs started the game out strong against the Knights as they raced to a 20-4 first-quarter lead. They continued the fast pace in the second quarter as they outscored the Knights 17-3 to take a 37-7 lead into halftime.

Irrigon came out in the third quarter and played better. They were able to keep up with the Mustangs fast break game and actually outscored Heppner 17-9 in the frame. The Mustangs finished the game by outscoring the Knights 16-13 in the fourth. Kolby Currin had



Heppner's Cade Arbogast and an Irrigon player keep competition friendly during last week's JV game. —Photo by Sandra Putman

the hot hand for the night and made five three-point attempts. He finished the game with 18 points. Jesse Corbin added 14 and Ross Cutsforth and Kevin Murray each chipped in eight. Weston Putman had

five and Jake Lindsay three. Cade Arbogast scored two and Caden Hedman one. Hedman also guarded the leading scorer for the Knights and held him to many points under his season average.

In the game with Grant Union the Mustangs again jumped out to a big lead. It was 16-4 after one quarter and then 32-13 at the half. Heppner continued to play well in the second-half and break the G-U press. They attacked the basket and got to the foul line multiple times. The team made 9-12 free throws in the final quarter to help get the win.

Murray led the team with 12 points in the game. Hedman followed with 11 and Jesse Corbin had nine. Currin tallied six and Putman and Lindsay each scored five. Scoring four points each were Cutsforth and Petzoldt, and Kaden Corbin had two.

The team plays their final two games of the season on the road. They will travel to Enterprise on Friday and then play at Elgin on Saturday.

## After split week, Mustang shot at districts hangs in the balance

The Heppner Mustangs boys' basketball team played two games last week and won one and lost one.

They lost to the number-one ranked Irrigon Knights 54-42 and beat the Grant Union Prospectors 43-37. The team still has a chance to qualify for the district tournament, and it may very well come down to the last game of the season.

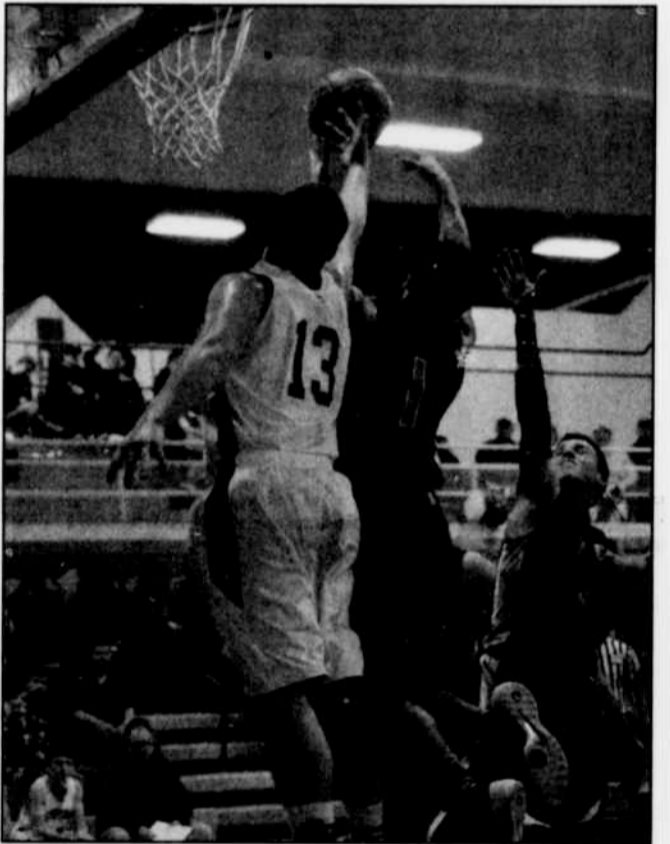
Against Irrigon the Mustangs fell behind 16-8 at the end of the first quarter. They still trailed the Knights 33-23 at halftime and it was 46-29 at the end of three quarters. Heppner outscored Irrigon 13-8 in the fourth quarter to make the final score 54-42. The 54 points for the Knights was the second-lowest total they had scored all year long and around 20 points less than their season average.

"Obviously we knew that Irrigon is a tough team and we were going to have to bring our best game of the year. We did that; we just came up a little short," coach Jeremy Rosenbalm said.

JC Putman scored 17 points and pulled down 10 rebounds to lead the Mustangs. Logan Grieb scored eight points and had five assists for the game. CJ Kindle had seven points, three rebounds and two assists.

Jaden Orr had one of his best games of the year as he scored four points, had eight rebounds and three assists. Andrew Hatfield scored four points and had three rebounds. Brian Rill had two points and two rebounds on the night.

Heppner used a strong defensive effort to pave the



Mustang Jaden Orr takes to the air as he fights an Irrigon Knight for possession during the Feb. 4 game. —Photo by Sandra Putman

path to victory against the Grant Union Prospectors. The game was tied 7-7 after one quarter and the Prospectors led 17-15 at halftime. The Mustangs took control of the game in the third quarter as they outscored their opponents 15-10, and also 13-10 in the fourth. Although Heppner struggled to score at times, it was a stalwart defensive effort from start to finish that led to the victory.

"It was a great defensive effort for us," said coach Rosenbalm. "We threw some different things at them throughout the game defensively that slowed them down. Our kids were very active and intense on the defensive end of the floor and that was huge for us."

Logan Grieb had 10 points and four assists to lead Heppner. JC Putman

added eight points, eight rebounds and three steals for the team. Kindle had seven points and two rebounds. Rill scored five points, had nine big rebounds and three steals.

Also scoring five points was Jesse Corbin. Hatfield scored four points and had two rebounds. Orr had another big game for the Mustangs with two points, seven rebounds and three steals. Ross Cutsforth also scored two points in the game.

The Mustangs still have district tournament hopes. Heppner needs to win its last two games and Grant Union needs to lose two of three for the Mustangs to earn a tournament berth.

Heppner travels to take on the Enterprise Outlaws on Friday night and then travels to Elgin to play the Huskies on Saturday.



Mustang JV player Jesse Corbin slips past an Irrigon Knight as he charges for the basket. —Photo by Sandra Putman

## Get ready for Wee Bit O' Ireland

March will be here before we know it, so it's time to mark calendars for Heppner's 32<sup>nd</sup> annual "Wee Bit O' Ireland" St. Patrick's Celebration March 14-16.

The weekend of celebration includes (just to name a few) Heppner Chamber's Irish amateur boxing event, KUMA Coffee Hour and Ceili, with

lots of singing, laughing and celebrating.

Leprechauns will be roaming the city; and visitors will want to check out the Cruz-In cars and save a spot to watch the Great Green Parade.

Remember to take in the sheep dog trials and sign up to participate in the Welly Toss and Irish

Bowling team competition.

Of course, there will be plenty of Irish music and entertainment, local shopping, food vendors, books and crafts.

Entertainment planned for this year includes CrossStrung, who will be performing in the Heppner Elementary School gym, and The Old Time Fiddlers,

who will be performing at the fairgrounds dance hall. All of this great entertainment is sponsored by the Morrow County Unified Recreation District and is free to the public.

The new schedule is being finalized and will be out soon. Visit [www.heppnerchamber.com](http://www.heppnerchamber.com) or call the chamber office at 541-676-5536 for questions or to get a copy of the schedule.

## Boxers wanted for seventh amateur boxing event

The Heppner community will be getting "ready to rumble" at the Heppner Chamber of Commerce's seventh annual amateur boxing event on Friday, March 14, in the Heppner High School gymnasium.

Gates will open at 6:30 p.m. Admission will be \$10 for ages 12 to adult, \$5 for

ages eight to 11, with seven and under free.

Heppner chamber also is looking for some individuals who would like to box in the event.

Bouts are limited, so call the chamber office at 541-676-5536 or email [heppnerchamber@centurytel.net](mailto:heppnerchamber@centurytel.net) to have sign-up information emailed.