

Mustangs open basketball season with win over Bulldogs



Heppner's Caden Hedman outruns a Bulldog in the Mustangs' first game of the season. The 'Stangs won the season opener by 59-54. —Photo by Sandra Putman

The Heppner Mustang basketball team won their first game of the season by defeating the Nyssa Bulldogs 59-54. The team has had only four days of practice so far this season because every member of the team played in the State Championship football game last Saturday.

The Mustangs started the game fast and moved the ball well. They raced out to a 17-12 lead after

the first quarter. Things slowed down a little bit in the second quarter and Heppner could manage only six points as Nyssa scored 13. The halftime score was 25-23 in favor of Nyssa.

A big third quarter saw the Mustangs outscore the Bulldogs 20-12. Heppner shot the ball well and attacked the basket with passion. The score at the end of three quarters had Heppner in the lead 43-37.

In the fourth quarter, Heppner controlled the pace of the game and made some critical free throws down the stretch. Nyssa outscored the Mustangs 17-16 in the quarter, but it was not enough as the Mustangs won the game 59-54.

Logan Grieb led the team in scoring with 24. He also had seven rebounds and four assists in the game. Patrick Collins started a string of double-doubles with 18 points and 12 rebounds on the night. CJ Kindle followed with seven points, four rebounds and three assists. Weston Putman chipped in five points and four rebounds for the Mustangs. Kevin Murray stepped in and scored three points and pulled down four rebounds. Caden Hedman had two points, one rebound

and two assists for the team. Jake Lindsay, Kolby Currin and Kaden Clark all played significant minutes in the game and pulled down one rebound each.

Heppner shot 49 percent from the field overall and was 17-32 from the free-throw line for 53 percent. The Mustangs dominated the boards as they out-rebounded Nyssa 36-22.

The next action for the team is this Tuesday when they travel to Arlington to face the Honkers. They will then host the Heppner Kick-Off Classic on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 11-12. Heppner will play the Knappa Loggers on Friday night and then face the Crane Mustangs on Saturday afternoon.



Kevin Murray blocks a Nyssa player during Saturday's game. —Photo by Sandra Putman

Heppner JV loses tough game by narrow margins



Above left: Jackson Lehman (10) shows that Mustangs don't go down easily as he battles a Nyssa player under the net. Above right: Mustang Cason Mitchell (11) watches for the rebound during a tough JV game last week. —Photos by Sandra Putman

The Heppner Mustang junior varsity basketball team lost a tough game with the Nyssa Bulldogs by a score of 43-40.

With injuries to members of this team from football season, several freshmen were forced into their first high school action against a 3A-level JV team. They did very well and even had a couple of shots at the end of the game to tie the

score. The game was close from the very beginning and the first quarter ended in a 9-9 tie. Nyssa outscored Heppner 10-7 in the second to lead at halftime 19-16.

In the third quarter, Kolby Currin had the hot hand and he scored 14 points to help the team blitz the Bulldogs 16-4 in the quarter. Heppner led 32-23 at the end of the third

quarter. The fourth quarter saw the Mustangs cool off as they could only manage to score eight points. Nyssa rallied to score 20 in the quarter and get the win by the score of 43-40.

Currin led the team in scoring with 19 on the night. Wyatt Steagall, Dakota and Derek Howard each scored four points in the game and all three pulled down many big rebounds. Trent

Smith added three points for the Mustangs, and with two points each were Coby Dougherty, Hunter Nichols and Gibson McCurry. Jake Lindsay pushed the ball up the floor all game long and recorded numerous assists to his teammates.

The next action for the JV team will be on Tuesday at Arlington. They will then be off until Dec. 18, when they travel to Imbler to take on the Panthers.

Mustang wrestling rules the mat in opening tournament

The Heppner Mustang wrestlers kicked off the season Saturday in a five-way dual tournament in Irrigon. The teams present were Grant Union, Hermiston JV, Irrigon, Echo/Stanford and Heppner.

Heppner won two out of four duals as a team, defeating Echo/Stanford and Hermiston JV.

Despite a short one-week of practice due to the success of the football team, every Mustang won a match during the tournament or in exhibition rounds.

Cord Flynn led the Mustangs with five wins by pin. Flynn covered the 220 and 285 weight classes in the duals, matching up to the opponents' best wrestler in either weight class. Weighing in at around 210 pounds, he was disadvantaged by up to 80 pounds in some matches.

Heppner's other two returning wrestlers also had successful showings

to start the season. Senior Will Lutcher had a winning record for the day, winning two and losing one close decision. Junior Tim Jaca went 2-2 with two wins by pin.

The Mustangs had five freshmen debut their high school careers at the tournament. All five managed a win during the day. Jacob Wallace, wrestling in his first-ever matches with only one week of practice, came away with two wins by fall. Trevor Chamberlin earned two wins, both by decisions. Leo Waite, Carson Brosnan and Zach Bredfield also each claimed their first high-school wins.

The Mustangs will get tested next weekend as they compete at the Muilenburg tournament in La Grande. The Muilenburg is a two-day tournament featuring more than 20 teams from Oregon, Washington and Idaho ranging in size from 1A to 6A.

Heppner girls open basketball season



Heppner's Jessica Kempken tips off against Nyssa in last Saturday's game. The Mustang girls lost the non-league opener 16-47. —Photo by Sandra Putman



OPEN SUNDAY

Noon – 4 pm. Dec. 13 & 20
(Rx Closed)

Treasure Hunt Dec. 17 – Wish Lists on File Now!

Check Out Our

Gifts for the Whole Family and More!

Free Gift Wrap Available



Now In Stock

Herbal Concepts

Neck, Shoulder & Back Heat/Cold Wrap

Bridal Table

Registry

Chelsea Britt

& Michael

McCabe

December 31st

TOYLAND

We Have Toys for all Ages



Great Selection Small Appliances

Stocking Suffers Galore!



Great New Wines in Stock



Hallmark

Murray's Drug.INC.

217 N. Main St., Heppner, OR 97836

541-676-9158

Serving Morrow & Gilliam Counties Since 1959

Pharmacy, Floral, & Gifts, Espresso

Irrigon moves to 3A

Irrigon will move from 2A to 3A in OSAA classifications starting in the 2016-17 sports season. Irrigon and Burns will both move to the 3A Eastern Oregon League, joining current members Vale, Nyssa, Umatilla and Riverside.

Irrigon leaves behind in the 2A Columbia Basin Conference Heppner, Stanfield, Pilot-Rock, Culver and Weston-McEwen.

Heppner Gazette Times

541-676-9228

david@rapidserve.net

Order Your Christmas Wreaths Today!

Custom Designed to Fit Any Décor

Dress Your Holiday Party Table With a Centerpieces from Country Rose

The Country Rose
Flowers with a Personal Touch

217 N. Main St., Heppner 541-676-9426

TOYLAND

We Have Toys for all Ages

Great Selection Small Appliances

Stocking Suffers Galore!

Great New Wines in Stock

Hallmark

Murray's Drug.INC.

217 N. Main St., Heppner, OR 97836
541-676-9158

Serving Morrow & Gilliam Counties Since 1959
Pharmacy, Floral, & Gifts, Espresso