

Mustang wrestling makes good showing in large tournament

Heppner senior wins prestigious wrestling award



Mustang Freshman Sabashtian Futter won a match for the team at his first high-school tournament. —Photo by Kirsti Cason

The Heppner wrestling team competed in the two-day, 22-team Muilenburg tournament in La Grande on Friday and Saturday. The tournament included teams from Oregon, Washington and Idaho ranging in classification from 1A to 6A.

The Mustangs finished 15th overall as a team with 11 wrestlers, seven of whom were freshmen. Even though all wrestlers compete individually head-to-head at the Muilenburg, larger schools may enter two team-point scorers in each of the 14 weight classes, while 1A/2A schools are only allowed one.

Heppner fell just one point short behind Burns in claiming the small school team champion trophy. The two teams traded the lead

throughout the two-day tournament, and Heppner led after the end of competition Friday night. It all came down to the finals Saturday night, with each school having one wrestler contending for a first place. After Ryan Smith's win by fall in the championship at 113 pounds, Heppner had a three-point team lead, but a Burns champion in the very next match at 120 pounds earned four team points and secured the small school champion trophy.

Senior Ryan Smith not only led the team by winning a gold medal, but he also led the entire tournament of 318 wrestlers. Smith did not allow a single point to be scored against him, and won all his matches by pin, including

the championship match against a 6A opponent from Lake Oswego. Coaches from around the region nominated Smith as the "2015 Outstanding Wrestler - Muilenburg Tournament," an award only given to the top performing athlete at the annual event.

"I really have my coaches to thank for this honor," said Smith. "I started wrestling when the program was very young in Heppner. Coaches like Ken Bailey, Mark and Brian Lemmon, Jeremy Lanthorn and Marc Sprague have given so much time to build it up. I am really looking forward to seeing the Mustang wrestling team grow and develop more district and state champions."

Junior Cord Flynn wrestled and won the most matches for the Mustangs, going 5-1 in the 32-man bracket at 220 pounds and earning a bronze medal. His only loss in the tournament was to the eventual 220-pound champion from The Dalles in the semifinals.

Junior Tim Jaca had a personal best tournament with two wins by fall at 170 pounds, while freshman Trevor Chamberlin at 120

pounds also picked up two wins in his first major high school tournament.

Leo Waite (126 pounds), Will Lucher (160 pounds) and Sabashtian Futter (195 pounds) each won matches for the Mustangs. It was Futter's first



Senior Ryan Smith of Heppner won an all-tournament award along with his gold medal at the Muilenburg tournament in La Grande. —Contributed photo

high school tournament and win.

Also competing for Heppner were Carson Brosnan, Zach Bredfield, Jacob Wallace and Charles Cason.

The Mustang grapplers have their first of only two home meets Thursday, Dec. 17, beginning at 4 p.m. at the Heppner High School gymnasium.

Heppner girls split busy week of play



Mustang Morgan Correa blocks a Knappa player during the Heppner Kick-Off tournament last week. The girls split their week of play, losing 18-40 to Arlington on Tuesday before heading to the Kick-Off on Friday. They defeated the Knappa Loggers 40-20 on Friday before falling to Crane 17-41 on Saturday. The girls' next game is Friday at Imbler; game time is 6 p.m. —Photo by Sandra Putman

Mustang alumni game set for Dec. 26

The fifth annual Heppner Mustang alumni basketball game is set to tip off on Saturday, Dec. 26. Heppner alumni are invited to play in the game and reconnect with old friends and teammates. Many of the past years' games have been high-scoring and filled with lots of action and excitement.

The game will have both a men's and women's division. The cost to play is \$25 and will include a Mustang t-shirt. The event is a fundraiser for the HHS boys' basketball team.

For more information call coach Jeremy Rosenbalm at 541-256-0515.

Mustangs win three to maintain perfect record



Heppner's CJ Kindle rises above the competition during the Heppner Kick-Off Tournament last weekend. The team swept both tournament games, handily defeating Knappa and Crane. —Photo by Sandra Putman

The Heppner Mustang boys' basketball team won three games last week to stay undefeated. The team went on the road and beat

the Arlington Honkers by a score of 58-42. They then hosted the Heppner Kick-Off Classic and defeated the Knappa Loggers 52-38

and downed the Crane Mustangs 58-38.

In the game against Arlington, the score was tied 14-14 at the end of the first quarter. Heppner then picked up the pace and outscored the Honkers 15-4 to take a 29-18 lead at halftime. In the second half of the game the Mustangs worked on some different player combinations and tried out some new plays. They outpaced the Honkers 19-14 in the half to win by the score of 58-42.

Patrick Collins led the team with 16 points, 7 rebounds and 3 steals. Weston Putman scored 12 points and had 4 rebounds and an assist. CJ Kindle played a complete game with 10 points, 4 rebounds, 6 assists and 4 steals. Caden Hedman had 8 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists and 3 steals. Kaden Clark, Kevin Murray and Jake Lindsay all scored 4 points for the team. Clark also had 2 rebounds and 2 steals. Murray finished with 5 rebounds, 1 assist and 1 steal. Lindsay also contributed 1 rebound, 1 assist and 3 steals. Tommy Bredfield had 2 rebounds and 1 steal in the game. Kolby Currin recorded 2 rebounds, 2 assists and 1 steal for the Mustangs.

Facing the tradition-rich Knappa team that the Mustangs beat in the first game of last year's state

tournament would be a challenge. The Loggers returned many of the players off last year's team and were certainly a high-quality early-season opponent. A back-and-forth first quarter ended with the score tied 11-11. Heppner began to pull away in the second quarter and led 25-16 at the break. The Mustangs then outscored the Loggers 27-22 in the second half to get the win by the score of 52-38. It was a great team defensive effort to hold a team like Knappa to 28 percent shooting for the game. Heppner also outrebounded the Loggers 48-26.

Collins dominated in the paint and scored 24 points and hauled down 18 rebounds. He also had 5 assists, 1 steal and 3 blocked shots in the game. Putman followed with 7 points, 7 rebounds and 3 steals for the team. Kindle was next with 5 points. He also recorded 4 rebounds, 4 assists and a steal. Clark, Hedman, Murray and Currin each had 4 points in the game. Clark also had 3 rebounds and 1 steal. Hedman had 2 rebounds and a steal while Murray pulled down 8 rebounds and Currin had 3. Lindsay, Kevin Smith and Wyatt Steagall each had 1 rebound in the game.

In the game with Crane, a big first quarter saw Heppner put the game

out of reach early. They outscored Crane 20-7 and did not look back. Heppner led 31-16 at halftime and 49-23 at the end of three. Crane did outscore Heppner 15-9 in the fourth quarter but it was not enough. Heppner won the game 58-38. A scrappy defensive effort held Crane to 34 percent shooting in the game and Heppner also won the rebounding battle 37-20.

Once again Collins led the team in scoring with 17. He also had 12 rebounds and a blocked shot in the game. Kindle had a hot hand and finished with 14 points. He also pulled down 8 rebounds, had 1 assist and 3 steals. Putman finished with 13 points, 6 rebounds, 3 assists and 2 steals. Hedman scored 5 points, had

1 rebound and 5 assists. Steagall came in and scored 4 points and had a rebound. Lindsay hit a 3-pointer and had 1 rebound, 2 assists and 1 steal in the game. Murray scored 2 points and had 2 rebounds. Clark played a good game and finished with 6 rebounds, 2 steals and a block. Currin recorded 1 rebound and had 1 assist. Bredfield contributed an assist for the Mustangs and Smith had a rebound.

Another busy week is in store for the Mustangs. On Tuesday they host the Sherman County Huskies. On Friday the 18th they travel to Imbler to take on the Panthers. They then finish off the week on Saturday by hosting the Grant Union Prospectors.



Weston Putman pushes through the Honkers press during the game versus Arlington last week. The game was the first of three victories for the Mustangs last week. —Photo by Sandra Putman

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Loop to meet Jan. 5

The Loop Morrow County Transportation Advisory Committee monthly meeting for January will be Jan. 5, 2016 at Lexington Town Hall at 2:30 p.m.