

Ione girls dominate Loggers at tournament



Rachel Holland (32) jumps against a Knappa Loggers player Saturday. —Photo by Sylvia Sandford

Ione played in the Heppner Kick-Off basketball tournament over the weekend, where the Ione Lady Cards played the Crane Mustangs Friday afternoon, losing 28-48.

Ione came out strong in defense and offense the first half of the game. Utilizing their speed and experience, they kept the scores well matched and the Mustangs from scoring. Then, in the third quarter, Crane's outside shooter made three three-point shots, gaining the lead they needed to pull away from Ione. Several turnovers in the fourth quarter kept the Cardinals from scoring the needed points

to gain the win, but overall they all showed improvement in their desire to win.

On Saturday, Ione

turned its weekend around when the girls played against the Knappa Loggers, winning 62-37 to take third in the weekend tournament held at Heppner High School.

The Lady Cards were determined to dominate the game from the start, taking control of the ball right after the first jump ball. Ione dominated the scoring each quarter and showed great improvement in their handling and steals for the entire game. This was a great win for the Cardinals, and they say they are ready for their next game this Friday, when they travel to Boardman to play the Riverside Pirates.

Game stats are as follows:

Ione vs. Crane

Rachel Holland: 10 Pts, 10 RB, 1 ST; Jessie Flynn: 10 Pts, 4 RB, 5 ST; Maggie Flynn: 2 Pts, 3 RB, 2 ST, 1 Ast.; Hannah Padberg: 2 Pts, 2 RB, 1 ST, 1 Ast.; Morgan Orem: 3 RB; Ivy Sandford: 4 Pts, 2 RB, 1 Ast.

Ione vs. Knappa

Rachel Holland: 5 Pts, 15 RB, 5 ST, 4 Blocks, 3 Ast.; Jessie Flynn: 25 Pts, 8 RB, 3 ST, 1 Ast.; Maggie Flynn: 16 Pts, 1 RB, 4 ST; Hannah Padberg: 4 RB, 1 Ast.; Morgan Orem: 3 Pts, 1 RB, 1 Ast.; Ivy Sandford: 7 Pts, 4 RB, 4 ST, 2 Ast.; Katelyn Bass: 4 Pts, 1 Ast.; Ashley Medina: 2 Pts, 1 RB; Suzie Teeman: 2 Ast.



Jessie Flynn (center) takes the ball down the court for the Cardinals during game versus Crane last Friday. Ivy Sandford (34, left) and Morgan Orem (42) run with her to make sure Ione can score. —Photo by Sylvia Sandford

Ione boys build momentum toward league play

The Ione boys' varsity basketball team played Friday and Saturday against Crane and Knappa in the Heppner High School Kick-Off tournament. The Cardinals lost 23-53 against the Crane Mustangs and lost 30-75 against Knappa.

"The boys played well in the first half against Crane. We just need to keep getting experience and put together a whole game. Knappa is a really good team; they were quicker than us and we just were overmatched," said Ione coach Brian Rust. "We are getting better every game and our goal is to have it all come together by Jan. 8 when we start our league games for the season."

Ione stats are as follows:

Ione vs. Crane

Danny Doherty, 1 RB, 1 ST, 3 Ast.; Alessandro Panozzo, 2 pts, 7 RB, 1 Blk; Colton Hollis, 2 pts, 1 RB, 2 ST; Austin Carter, 11 Pts, 7 RB, 1 Blk, 1 ST; Wyatt McNary, 4 Pts, 1 RB, 3 Blks; Jason Juarez, 4 Pts, 6 RB, 1 Blk, 3 ST; Tyler Carter, 1 Blk.

Ione vs. Knappa

Danny Doherty, 1 Ast.; Alessandro Panozzo, 10 Pts, 7 RB; Colton Hollis, 2 Pts, 1 RB; Austin Carter, 10 Pts, 7 RB, 4 Blks, 4 ST; Aaron Smythe, 3 RB, 1 ST, 1 Ast.; Wyatt McNary, 6 Pts, 4 RB, 1 ST, 3 Ast.; Jason Juarez, 2 RB, 1 Blk, 3 Ast.; Nestor Ramirez, 2 RB, 2 ST; Tyler Carter, 4 RB, 1 Ast.; Sergio Marin, 2 Pts, 1 Ast.



Above: Colton Hollis (11) takes the ball in against Knappa during Saturday's game as Jason Juarez (24) waits to assist. Below L-R: Austin Carter (12), Wyatt McNary (23) and Danny Doherty (1) play defense against Crane Friday at the Heppner Kick-Off basketball tournament. —Photos by Sylvia Sandford



USDA begins 49th enrollment period for CRP

December 2015 marks 30th anniversary for the nation's most successful voluntary conservation program

WASHINGTON—Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today reminded farmers and ranchers that the next general enrollment period for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) began Dec. 1 and ends on Feb. 26, 2016. December 2015 also marks the 30th anniversary of CRP, a federally-funded program that assists agricultural producers with the cost of restoring, enhancing and protecting certain grasses, shrubs and trees to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and reduce loss of wildlife habitat.

As of September 2015, 24.2 million acres were enrolled in CRP. CRP also is protecting more than 170,000 stream miles with riparian forest and grass buffers—enough to go around the world seven times.

"Over the past 30 years, farmers, ranchers, conservationists, hunters, fisher-

men and other outdoor enthusiasts have made CRP one of the most successful conservation programs in the history of the country," said Vilsack. "Today, CRP continues to make major environmental improvements to water and air quality. This is another longstanding example of how agricultural production can work hand in hand with efforts to improve the environment and increase wildlife habitat."

Participants in CRP establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as "covers") to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat on marginally productive agricultural lands. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. At times when commodity prices are low, enrolling sensitive lands in CRP can

be especially attractive to farmers and ranchers, as it softens the economic hardship for landowners at the same time that it provides ecological benefits. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. The long-term goal of the program is to re-establish native plant species on marginal agricultural lands for the primary purpose of preventing soil erosion and improving water quality and related benefits of reducing loss of wildlife habitat.

Contracts on 1.64 million acres of CRP are set to expire on Sept. 30, 2016. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

For more information on FSA conservation programs, visit the local FSA office or www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation.

Santa and Mrs. Claus coming to SAGE

Free event Dec. 17 from 6-8 p.m. at the SAGE Center

BOARDMAN—Santa Claus is coming to town Dec. 17 at the SAGE Center.

Santa and Mrs. Claus

will run from 6-8 p.m. at 101 Olson Road, Boardman. The event is free, hot chocolate will be served, and Christmas-themed

giveaways will be provided.

For more information about Santa and Mrs. Claus' visit, go to <http://visitsage.com> or call 541-481-7243.



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Christmas lighting event brings over 200 to SAGE

Display available for viewing nightly at SAGE Center

BOARDMAN—More than 200 people attended the SAGE Center's Holiday Lighting Event Dec. 1 to kick off the visitor center's first Christmas lights display.

"We had a great turnout for our lighting event and we are always happy to host family-oriented, community events to help celebrate the holiday season," said Kalie Davis, SAGE Center manager.

"Those who could not attend still have plenty of time to see the wonderful Christmas lights show at the SAGE Center."

Visitors enjoyed free coffee, hot chocolate and cookies throughout the evening, as well as a tour of the SAGE Center.

Donations of non-perishable food items are being accepted for the Community Action Program of East Central Oregon (CAPECO)

for the duration of the display.

The canned food goods can be dropped in marked containers at the front doors of the SAGE Center.

The agriculture-themed Christmas lights show will be illuminated from 4:30-9 p.m. daily at 101 Olson Road, Boardman, until Jan. 1.

The show is set to music, which is broadcast on 106.9 FM.