

Mustangs sweep first week of league play

The Heppner Mustang boys' basketball team got two big wins last weekend to open up Columbia Basin Conference play. The Mustangs (12-1, 2-0) beat the Irrigon Knights 44-42 and the Stanfield Tigers 83-65.

Heppner traveled to Irrigon to take on the defending state champion Knights. Irrigon lost several key players from last year's team, but they still have many good players who know how to win. In this game, Heppner got to the basket early and often and raced out to a 21-14 lead after one quarter. Neither team could get much going in the second quarter as the Mustangs could only score nine points and the Knights seven. The Mustangs continued to lead the game at halftime 30-21.

Irrigon slowed the game down in the third quarter and got some good shots. They outscored the Mustangs 14-5 to tie the game 35-35 at the end of three. The fourth quarter play was back-and-forth, and Irrigon briefly took a lead. Heppner bounced back to tie the score at 42-42. At that point, Irrigon decided to hold the ball for the last shot of the game. The Knights took that shot with five seconds left to play and they missed it. Patrick Collins grabbed the rebound and was fouled. He calmly stepped to the free throw line and made both shots to give Heppner the win 44-42. The Mustangs shot 52 percent overall from the field and outscored the Knights 18-11.

Collins led the team in scoring with 12. He also had 5 rebounds and blocked shot. Weston Putman followed with 10 points, 6 rebounds and 1 steal. CJ Kindle had 8 points and an assist. Logan Grieb also scored 8 points in the game and had 5 rebounds and 4 assists. Caden Hedman scored 4 points for the Mustangs and had 2 assists. Kevin Murray contributed 2 points and a



Heppner's Caden Hedman stays focused on the net during last week's game versus the Irrigon Knights. -Photo by Sandra Putman

rebound for the team.

On Saturday night the Mustangs hosted the Stanfield Tigers. Both teams started the game out fast, and there was lots of scoring. The blazing first quarter ended with Heppner ahead by the score of 21-20. The Mustang defense stiffened and held the Tigers to only eight points in the second quarter. Heppner's offense continued to click and their shooters continued to have the hot hand. Heppner scored 20 points in the quarter to lead at halftime 41-28.

Both teams shot the ball well in the third quarter and they each scored 19 points. That made the score after three quarters of play 60-47 in favor of the Mustangs. Another fast-paced fourth quarter saw Heppner race by the Tigers 23-18 to win the game by a score of 83-65. Heppner shot an amazing 56 percent from the field and also out rebounded the Tigers 35-20.

Collins recorded another double-double with 27 points and 11 rebounds. He also blocked 2 shots and had a steal. Kindle made four three-pointers on his way to 20 points on the evening. He also had 5 rebounds and 5 assists in the game. Grieb had a good all-around game with 17 points, 6 rebounds and 5 assists. Putman tossed in 15 points, had 9 big rebounds and 4 assists for the Mustangs. Hedman and Murray each scored 2 points for the team. Murray also had 3 rebounds and 1 assist, while Hedman chipped in with an assist. Kaden Clark had a rebound and 2 assists in the game.

Next up for the Mustangs is a home game on Friday night against the Weston-McEwen Tiger-Scots. That game is scheduled to be played at 6 p.m. On Saturday the team travels to Culver to take on the Bulldogs at 4 p.m.

Mustangs wrestle their way to podium in Riverside Rumble

The Mustang wrestling team competed in two separate events in Boardman on Friday and Saturday. On Friday they competed in a six-team dual that included Riverside, Grant Union, Hermiston, Elgin, Imbler and Heppner. On Saturday the Mustangs wrestled in the annual Riverside Rumble that included nine teams from schools ranging in size from 2A to 5A.

In the dual tournament, teams match up weight-by-weight and compete individually for team points. In each of the duals, except against Riverside, Heppner won more matches and scored more team points than their opponent. Against Riverside the Mustangs were just three points—or one match—behind the Pirates at the end of the dual for matches wrestled.

Nearly every Mustang



Mustang Trevor Chamberlin shows what it takes to win a medal at the Riverside Rumble last week. Chamberlin placed second in the 113-pound class, his first high-school medal. Ryan Smith and Cord Flynn each took the gold in their respective brackets, while Tim Jaca finished with a strong fifth place. -Photo by Kirsti Cason

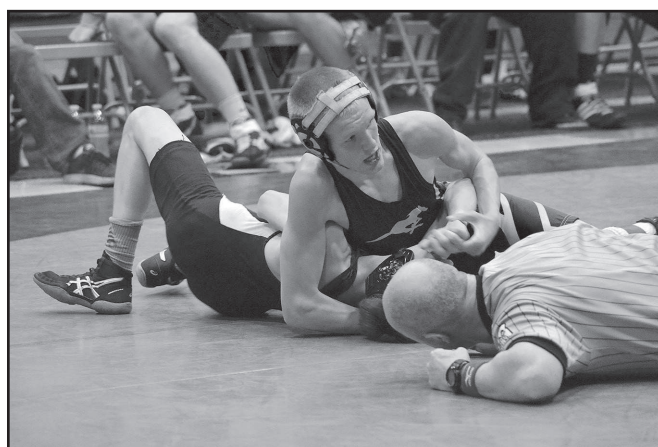
won at least one match during the dual matchups, either in the dual or in exhibition. The wrestlers and their records for matches wrestled at the event were Trevor Chamberlin 2-1, Leo Waite 2-2, Ryan Smith 3-0, Carson Brosnan 0-2, Charles Cason 1-1, Will

Lutcher 1-3, Tim Jaca 1-2, Jacob Wallace 1-0 and Cord Flynn 3-0.

Heppner had three wrestlers in the championship matches for their weight classes at the Riverside Rumble. Trevor Chamberlin at 113 pounds, Ryan Smith at 120 pounds and Cord Flynn at 220 pounds all won their way to the finals.

Chamberlin, a freshman, finished second with a silver medal, his first high school medal, while Smith and Flynn both earned gold medals by easily defeated their opponents from Riverside and Mac-Hi respectively.

Tim Jaca also placed in the tournament, finishing in fifth place and consolation champion.



Mustang Leo Waite holds fast while the ref watches for a pin at the Riverside Duals Friday. -Photo by Kirsti Cason

JV boys kick off league play



The Heppner boys' JV team had its first league game of the season Saturday when they hosted the Stanfield. Pictured are (L-R in white jerseys) JV players Hunter Nichols, Kevin Smith, Gibson McCurry, Trent Smith and Dakota Howard playing defense against the Tigers. -Photo by Sandra Putman

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Lady 'Stangs start slow in league play



Madison Combe holds some Tigers at bay while she watches for the rebound during last week's game. Heppner girls lost their first two league games of the season, suffering a 17-29 defeat at the hands of the Irrigon Knights last Friday and then losing to the Stanfield Tigers 29-36 on Saturday. This week offers them two chances to make up ground in league play when they host Weston-McEwen on Friday and then travel to Culver on Saturday. -Photo by Sandra Putman

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