

Mustangs in top spot for 2A state basketball rankings

The Heppner Mustang boys' basketball team won both of their games this weekend to stay undefeated in Columbia Basin Conference play. Heppner defeated the Weston-McEwen TigerScots at home 54-42. They then traveled to Culver and beat the Bulldogs by the score of 67-32. The Mustangs (14-1, 4-0) are currently the number one team in the OSAA 2A basketball state rankings.

In the game with the TigerScots, Heppner jumped out to an early lead at the end of the first quarter 14-5. A fast-paced second quarter saw the Mustangs stretch their lead to 29-18 at halftime. Weston-McEwen found some room to operate in the third quarter and outscored the Mustangs 14-9 to close to within 38-32 going into the fourth quarter. In the final frame, the Mustangs took over and scored 16 points and held the TigerScots to 10. The team made some crucial free throws down the stretch to secure the win 54-42.

Patrick Collins was a beast down low and scored 25 points. He also hauled in 8 rebounds and had 2 steals. Logan Grieb had a good all-around game as he scored 12 points, had 2 rebounds, 5 assists and 2 steals. Weston Putman contributed 9 points, 8 rebounds, 2 assists and 2 steals. CJ Kindle scored 5 points and had 3 rebounds, 4 assists and a steal for the Mustangs. Caden Hedman chipped in 3 points for the team.

After the long bus ride to Culver, you might think the Mustangs would start the game against the Bulldogs a little slowly. That was not the case as Hep-



Weston Putman jumps against a TigerScot for possession of the ball during last week's game. -Photo by Sandra Putman

Heppner raced out to a 20-6 lead after the first quarter. The second quarter saw the Mustangs put 19 points on the scoreboard as Culver got 14. That led to a half-time score of 39-20 in favor of the Mustangs.

A dominating performance by the Heppner team in the third quarter saw them score another 20 points. They held the Bulldogs to only eight points and the Mustangs had the lead 59-28 at the end of three. The fourth quarter of the game was played at a slower pace, but Heppner still scored eight points and held the Bulldogs to only four. The Mustangs got the win in the game by a score of 67-32.

Kindle led the team in scoring with 20. He also had 3 rebounds, 1 assist and 4 steals. Grieb followed with 13 points, 6 rebounds,

4 assists and a steal. Putman and Collins each scored 10 points in the game. Putman also had 6 rebounds and 3 steals while Collins chipped in 3 rebounds and 2 assists. Hedman was next with 6 points, 3 rebounds and 2 assists for the Mustangs. Kolby Currin scored 4 points, had 4 rebounds and a steal to help his team. Kaden Clark scored 2 points and had 2 rebounds and 1 steal. Kevin Murray also scored 2 points and had 1 rebound and 1 steal. Jake Lindsay had a rebound and an assist in the game. Tommy Bredfield came into the game and grabbed 3 rebounds. Wyatt Steagall and Kevin Smith each secured a rebound for the Mustang team.

This Friday the number-one ranked Mustangs travel to Pilot Rock to take on the Rockets.

Mustang JV boys fall to Tigers, beat down Bulldogs

The Heppner Mustang JV boys' basketball team split their games this past weekend. They lost to the Weston-McEwen TigerScots 50-45 and then defeated the Culver Bulldogs by a score of 64-30.

The game against the TigerScots started out slowly for the Mustangs. They trailed 14-5 and the end of the first quarter and 33-17 at halftime. The TigerScots played several players in the JV game who saw significant time in the varsity game later in the evening.

The Mustangs cut into the Weston-McEwen lead in the third quarter but still trailed by a score of 42-30. A big push by Heppner in the fourth quarter saw the team pull to within two points near the end of the game. They could not get the lead and lost the game 50-45.

Kevin Smith led the team with 13 points. Coby Dougherty was next with 8 points and Wyatt Steagall chipped in 7. Kolby Currin and Gibson McCurry each scored 4 points and

Jake Lindsay had 3. With 2 points each were Dakota Howard, Derek Howard and Hunter Nichols.

The Mustangs then traveled to Culver and jumped out to a 15-8 lead after the first quarter. A big second quarter saw Heppner outscore the Bulldogs 20-7 and lead at halftime 35-15. The Mustangs then scored 29 points in the second half and held Culver to 15. The final score of the game was 64-30 in favor of the Mustangs.

A balanced scoring attack was led by Smith with 14. Steagall finished with 11 points and Dougherty had 8. Beau Wolters got a hot hand and had 7 points for the team. Currin and Lindsay both had 6 points in only two quarters of play. With 4 points each were Peyton Lehman and Derek Howard. Nichols and Dakota Howard each scored 2 points in the game.

The JV Mustangs play their next game on Friday at Pilot Rock against the Rockets.

College workshop planned at HHS

High school seniors who are interested in attending college or trade school but who need money to do it are invited to an Oregon College Goal open house on Wednesday, Jan. 27, from 4-7 p.m. in the Heppner High School library. Juniors and parents are also welcome to

attend to obtain FAFSA help, scholarship information, OSAC deadlines and college applications. Free money will be given to the first 10 seniors who sign up with Mrs. Payne.

For more information, contact Petra Payne at 541-676-9138 or paynep@mor-row.k12.or.us.

Mustang wrestling shows excellence despite low numbers

Smith, Flynn come home undefeated in tournament

The Heppner Mustang wrestling team competed at the 34th annual Oregon Wrestling Classic in the Expo Center in Redmond, OR on Friday and Saturday. The OWC is essentially the dual state championship, in which the best teams in Oregon are invited to compete head-to-head by weight class to score team points. In addition to the 84 high-school teams that competed, the weekend also involved about 200 girls competing in an open women's tournament and 1,000 youth ages 7 to 16 competing in a children's tournament.

The shorthanded Mustangs were only able to cover seven of the 14 weight classes. Each forfeited weight class scores six points for the opposing team when that team has a wrestler to fill the weight. Given that deficit, Heppner lost the first three duals on Friday to Vernonia, Myrtle Point and Culver. The Mustangs actually won four of the six matches wrestled against Myrtle Point and half the matches wrestled against Vernonia.

On the second day of wrestling the Mustangs won two duals against Glendale and Knappa. Heppner won five of the seven matches

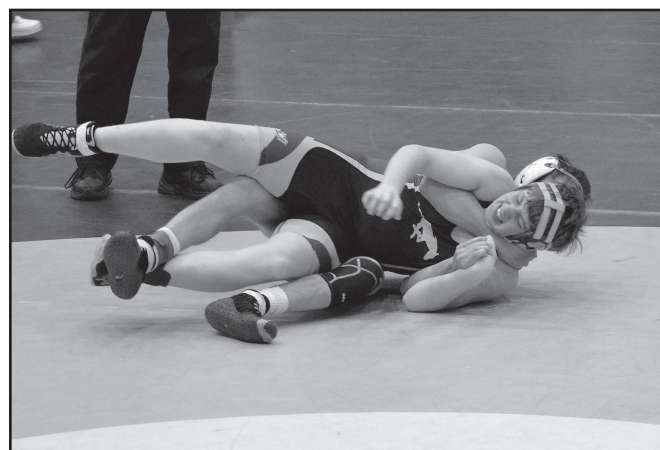


The Mustang wrestlers ran from the high school up to the cross overlooking Heppner on MLK day. After a team meeting, they all made the return run back to the high school. Pictured (L-R): (back) Trevor Chamberlin and Leo Waite; (middle) Carson Brosnan, Will Lutchter, Ryan Smith, Tim Jaca and Cord Flynn; and (front) Charles Cason. Not pictured: Zach Bredfield, Jacob Wallace and Sabastian Futter. -Contributed photo

wrestled against Knappa but at the end of the dual the score was tied 30-30 due to forfeits. Heppner was ultimately declared the winner on tie-breaking criteria but it went clear to the eighth level of criteria, first points

scored in each match. The Heppner wrestlers that competed and their individual records were (including forfeit wins accepted): Leo Waite 4-1, Ryan Smith 5-0, Carson Brosnan 3-2, Charles Cason 1-4, Tim Jaca 3-2, Sabastian Futter 1-4 and Cord Flynn 5-0. Every Mustang wrestler succeeded in scoring team points over the weekend.

Flynn's wins included an 8-6 decision over MacKyle Little, a number-one ranked wrestler from Culver; a fall over Andrew Goozie, a number-two ranked wrestler from Knappa; and a fall over Ryan Godfrey, a number-four ranked wrestler from Myrtle Point.



Mustang wrestler Charles Cason struggles against the grip of an opponent last weekend at the Oregon Wrestling Classic. -Photo by Kirsti Cason

These Heppner students show 'Colt Character'



HES Colt Character recipients were awarded a certificate for being selected as the November and December character winners. The trait was Managing Yourself and students needed to show positive action with their talent, time, thoughts and actions. Front (L-R): John Lindsay, Lily Nichols, Rylee Palmer, Jaysi Dompier, Lita Nelson, Keaton Coiner, Lizzie Ginn and Addison Coe. Back (L-R): Ally Green, Lynn Williams, Dylan Christian, Ireland Martin, Zachary Ferguson, Jacob Finch, Madison Palmer, Jace Coe and Faith Futter. Not pictured: Harley Ann Anderson and Lane Critchlow. -Contributed photo

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HES announces AR drawing winners



L-R: Bryan Collins, Morgan Cutsforth and Mary Ashbeck were the winners of the AR (Accelerated Reader) drawing for fun ocean-themed prizes this month. Each month, students read ocean-themed books and then take a quiz in order to be entered into the prize drawing. -Contributed photo

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