

Mustangs clinch number one seed position

The Heppner Mustang boys' basketball team clinched the regular season championship of the Blue Mountain Conference with a pair of wins last weekend. The Mustangs beat the Enterprise Outlaws 59-48 and then defeated the Union Bobcats 78-57. With the wins, the Mustangs (10-1,16-7) have secured the number one seed going into the district tournament. Heppner has one regular season game left with the Pilot Rock Rockets.

After a long bus ride to Enterprise, the Mustangs came out of the gate fast and led at the end of the first quarter 13-10. They kept up the defensive intensity and held the Outlaws to single digit scoring in the second quarter. The Mustangs led at halftime 27-18.

Cason Mitchell scored four quick points to open up the second half and the Mustangs never looked back. The Heppner lead stayed between ten and thirteen points all quarter long. Enterprise hit a three pointer late to make the score 39-31 as the third quarter ended.

The closest the Outlaws could get in the fourth quarter was seven points. The Mustangs fought off every Enterprise run and outscored them 20-17 in the quarter to get the win 59-48.

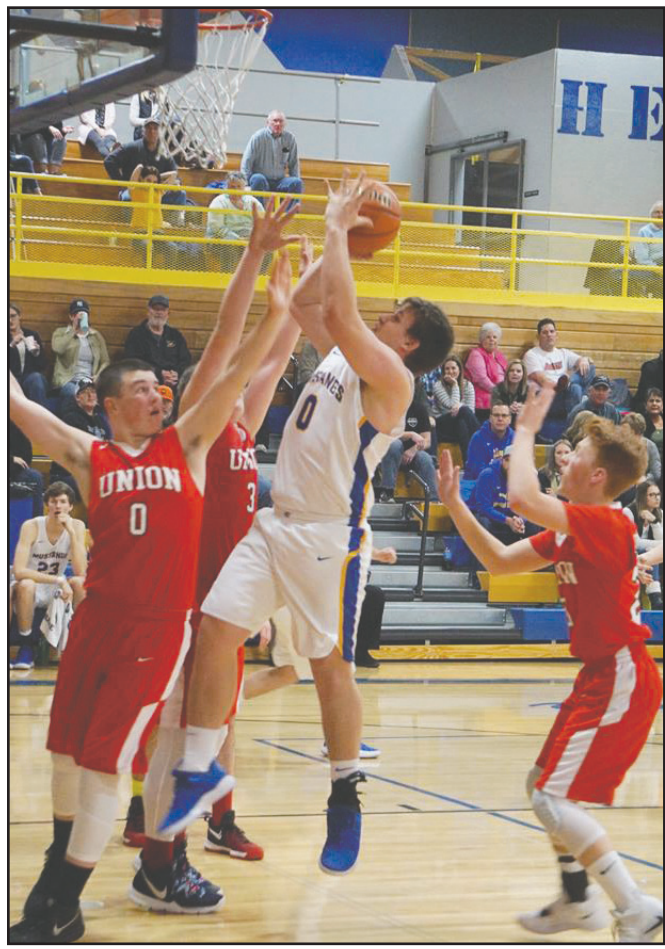
Three players scored eight points to lead the Mustangs in scoring. They were Trent Smith, Gibson McCurry and Logan Burright. Smith also had six rebounds and two assists, while McCurry blocked a shot and had a steal. Burright had three rebounds and blocked a shot in the game. With seven points and three rebounds each for the team were Tyler Carter and Mason Lehman. Hunter Nichols and Reno Ferguson each scored six points for the Mustangs. Nichols also hauled down seven rebounds and dished out four assists. Justin McAninch had five points, three rebounds and a block while Mitchell finished with four points, two rebounds and a steal. Dakota Howard did not score in the game but had five big rebounds.

After spending the night in Enterprise and getting up early to make the bus trip to Union, the Mustangs started fast and took control of the game early. Heppner scored the first eight points of the game before Union got their first bucket. The onslaught continued as the Mustangs led 17-4, 19-7 and 21-9 before the first quarter ended with the Mustangs in the lead 21-11.

Early in the second quarter, Union cut the Mustang lead to only eight points. Heppner then went on an 8-0 run to force a Union timeout with the score 33-17. Once again the Bobcats cut the lead to only eight points before the Mustangs stretched it back out to lead at halftime 39-25.

Twice in the third quarter the Mustangs pushed the lead out to 22 points. Union would not go away and the Mustangs finished the quarter ahead 58-41. The Mustangs kept control of the game in the fourth quarter and opened up a lead of 24 points twice. Every player on the team got into the game in the quarter and the Mustangs won by the score of 78-57.

McAninch led the team with 13 points, five rebounds and two blocks.



Above: Heppner senior Tyler Carter shoots for the basket in the game played at Union last weekend. Below: Heppner's Hunter Nichols goes for the basket while Union players attempt to block.



Lehman followed with 12 points, four rebounds, two assists and two steals. Carter and Smith each scored 10 points for the Mustangs. Carter also had nine rebounds and three assists while Smith finished with four rebounds, two assists and a steal. Mitchell scored eight points to go along with seven rebounds for the team. McCurry also scored eight points and had five rebounds and blocked two shots. Derek Howard had four points, three rebounds and a steal in the game. Dakota Howard scored four points and had four rebounds on the night. With three points each were Nichols and Keegan Gibbs. Nichols also recorded three rebounds, three assists, two steals and a blocked shot. To go along with his three points, Gibbs also had two rebounds. Gavin Hanna-Robinson scored two points and Burright finished the night with one point, three rebounds and an assist.



Carson Brosnan won by decision over Gauge Bloomer, Baker/Powder Valley. -Photo by Kirsti Cason.

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JV extends winning streak

The Heppner JV boys' basketball team extended their win streak to 11 games with a pair of wins last weekend. The Mustangs defeated the Enterprise Outlaws 61-20 and beat the Union Bobcats 58-50 to run their overall record to 18-2 for the season. The Mustangs have one game left in their season against Pilot Rock.

The Mustangs started the game out a little slower than usual after the long bus trip to Enterprise. Heppner led at the end of the first quarter by the score of 14-6. They then outscored the Outlaws 19-5 in the second quarter to lead at halftime 33-11.

A 13-5 advantage in the third quarter extended the Heppner lead at the end of the third quarter to 46-18. The fourth quarter saw the

Mustangs hold the Outlaws to only two points while scoring 15 themselves. That made the final score of the game 61-20.

A balance scoring attack was led by Casey Fletch with 10 points. Two players that are seeing their first JV action of the season after coming back from football injuries are Kason Cimmiyotti and Jayden Wilson. Cimmiyotti scored nine points in his first action and Wilson finished with eight. Scoring six points each were Kellen Grant and Jackson Lehman. With five points in the game was Brock Hisler and with four points each were Gavin Hanna-Robinson, Jordan Sweeney and Roy Collins. Cody Fletch scored three points and Kannon Wilkins finished with two.

Heppner raced out to

a 19-2 lead after the first quarter at Union. The Bobcats then started to mix in several of their varsity team starters as they don't have enough players to field two full teams. They outscored the Mustangs 15-10 in the second quarter and trailed 29-17.

The third quarter was close and the Mustangs still led the game 43-30. Heppner was outscored 20-15 in the fourth quarter but still held on for the win 58-50.

Hanna-Robinson led the team in scoring with 18. Wilson pumped in 11 and Lehman finished with 11. Casey Fletcher scored five points and Collins had four. With three points each were Sweeney and Grant. Cimmiyotti finished with two points to round out the scoring for the Mustangs.

Students compete in Geography Bee



Competitors pictured back row (L-R): Gus Cayce, Maya Payne, Avree Lathrop, Jackson Coiner, Rylee Palmer, Delilah Saucedo and Sierra Greenup. Front row L-R): Keaton Coiner, Tripp Stewart, Lane Critchlow, Austin Willis, John Lindsay, Aden Lathrop and Brady Williams.

Heppner Elementary school students competed in the school Geography Bee on Jan. 16. Fourth, fifth and sixth grade students were given a qualifying test and the top 14 students were invited to participate in the competition.

Students were asked a

variety of questions about world and local geography by moderator Mr. Waite, in seven rounds of questions. Answers were judged by Mrs. Allen and Mrs. S-G until competitors were narrowed down to a group of seven for the final round. Eventually only the top two

students, fifth-grader Lane Critchlow and sixth-grader Jackson Coiner remained.

Jackson Coiner was crowned the champion and will take the qualifying test for the state competition. Lane Critchlow was second and Rylee Palmer was third.

Senior wrestlers honored at BEO Invitational



Seniors and their families pictured (L-R): Dean Antonucci, Trevor Antonucci, Teri Antonucci, Damon Brosnan, Carson Brosnan, Carri Brosnan, Doris Brosnan, Kirsti Cason, Charles Cason, Jim Cason, Kim Henrichs, Jacob Wallace, Josh Henrichs, Dieter Waite, Leo Waite and Bridget Waite.

Senior wrestlers and their parents were honored during the BEO Invitational wrestling tournament held Saturday, Feb. 2. Senior Carson Brosnan received the outstanding wrestler award also.

Roan Waite, Suzanneah Cason, Jace Coe, Carson Brosnan, Charles Cason and Jacob Wallace all competed in the tournament. Carson Brosnan scored the most team points with 24, Jacob Wallace scored 19, Charles Cason scored nine and Jace Coe scored five for the team. The team's next competition will be in Echo on Feb. 9.

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