

Mustang boys win district championship



Mustangs selected for the Blue Mountain Conference all-conference team (L-R): Hunter Nichols was selected honorable mention; Trent Smith, first team selection; Coach Rosenbalm with the district championship award; Tyler Carter, first team selection; Justin McAninch, honorable mention.

The Heppner Mustang boys' basketball team won the Blue Mountain Conference District Tournament championship with a 63-50 victory over the Union Bobcats. The Mustangs, 18-7 overall, wrapped up the conference title with an impressive 11-1 record and moved directly into the championship game on Saturday night. Union, who finished third in the BMC, had to defeat Grant Union on Friday night to advance to the championship game. Heppner had beaten the Bobcats by 21 points both times they played this season. The Mustang team

knew it would be hard to defeat them three times this season and Union had already played a game on the Pendleton Convention Center floor and won.

The Mustangs were ahead early in the game 3-2, but then the Bobcats fought back to take the lead 6-5. Heppner then took control of the game with an 8-0 run before the Bobcats scored again. Another 6-0 run by the Mustangs gave them a 19-9 at the end of the first quarter.

The teams played nearly even in the second quarter. Heppner did stretch their lead to 13 points at one

point midway through the quarter. The Mustangs won the quarter 10-9 and ended up leading at halftime by the score of 29-18.

The Mustangs came out and scored the first five points of the third quarter and pushed the lead to 16 points. That forced Union to call a timeout and adjust. They then came out and chipped away and cut the Mustang lead to eight points midway through the quarter. The Mustangs were able to keep control and stretch the lead back out to 14 points and led 44-30 at the end of the third quarter.

The Mustangs led by as much as 16 and as few as 10 points in the fourth quarter. They fought off every run the Bobcats tried to make and never gave up control of the game. The Mustangs won the game and the district championship by the score of 63-50.

Justin McAninch led the Mustangs in scoring with 15. He also had six rebounds, one assist and one blocked shot. Mason Lehman was next with 13 points, three rebounds, three steals and one assist. He also played great defense on the best Union scorer and held him to much below his season average. Trent Smith followed with 11 points, four rebounds,

one assist and a steal in the game. Hunter Nichols had a good all-around game with nine points, 11 rebounds, five assists and a steal. Tyler Carter was next with five points, 10 rebounds, two steals and one assist for the team. With three points each were Gibson McCurry and Logan Burright. McCurry also had six rebounds and a blocked shot while Burright had two rebounds, two assists and two steals. Derek Howard scored two points, had two rebounds and Reno

Ferguson also scored two points and collected a rebound for the Mustangs. Cason Mitchell and Dakota Howard did not score in the game, but Mitchell had six big rebounds and blocked a shot. Dakota also had two rebounds in the game. Keegan Gibbs came into the game and gave the team some valuable ball control when they needed it.

The Mustangs will now have an OSAA State Basketball playoff game. They will host the Kennedy Trojans this Friday night, Feb. 22, at 6 p.m. Kennedy is

the third-place team from the Tri River Conference. They have an overall record of 19-7 and finished 13-3 in their conference. Kennedy finished 4th at last year's state tournament and returned most of that team this year. The Trojans are familiar to the Mustangs as most of the team played here in the football state playoff game. Both teams also attended a basketball camp last summer at Western Oregon University where they played each other.

Shooting club holds shoots



Teagan Ramsay (left from Heppner) and Radley Griggs (from Boardman) practice their 4-H shooting skills this past weekend during the club's monthly shoot.

The Morrow County Shooting Sports Club has announced the results of their competitions held in January and February at the Lexington Gun Club. The shooting club has 31 students participating this year. Their next practice will be in March.

In January each member shot 25 rounds. In the junior's class, Carter Eynetich shot 13; Radley Griggs, 10; Owen Guerra, 2; Gage Heideman, 6; Aden Lathrop, 2; Avery Lathrop, 0; Mason Orem, 6; Corey Rice, 11; Briar Reeves, 2 and Conner Wilson, 6.

Intermediate's results were Preslie Bowles, 1; Morgan Cutsforth, 9; Adan Guerra, 2; John McElliott, 2; Colt Parker, 9; Tea-

gan Ramsay, 6 and Kalvin Rietmann, 10. Seniors were Lexi Cutsforth, 17; Jake Heideman, 8 and Matt Orem, 8.

At the February shoot each member shot 50 rounds. Junior's results are KC Anderson, 1; Carter Eynetich, 41; Radley Griggs, 21; Owen Guerra, 17; Gage Heideman, 30; Aden Lathrop, 3; Avery Lathrop, 0; Mason Orem, 23; Briar Reeves, 3; Corey Rice, 23 and Conner Wilson, 12.

Intermediate shooters were Harley Anderson, 2; Preslie Bowles, 12; Morgan Cutsforth, 16; Adan Guerra, 18; Jacob Irving, 10; Madison Orem, 5; Colt Parker, 19; Teagan Ramsay, 18 and Kalvin Rietmann, 23. Senior results were Lexi Cutsforth, 13; Hunter Greenup, 21; Jake Heideman, 18 and Matt Orem, 30.

Heppner/Ione wrestlers head to state



Trevor Antonucci of Heppner vs. Jordan Piercy of Culver. -Photo by Kirsti Cason.

After competing in the OSAA 2A/1A Special District 4 district meet in Halfway, OR on Feb. 15 and 16, two Mustang wrestlers will be heading to the state competition to be held at the Veterans Memorial

Coliseum in Portland on Feb. 22-23. Trevor Antonucci and Carson Brosnan both placed second in their match and qualified for the state meet. Charles Cason and Jace Coe both placed third in their matches and



Carson Brosnan of Heppner vs. Pedro Periolo of Pine Eagle. -Photo by Kirsti Cason.

have been named as alternates.

Other team members placing in their weight divisions at the district meet were Roen Waite,

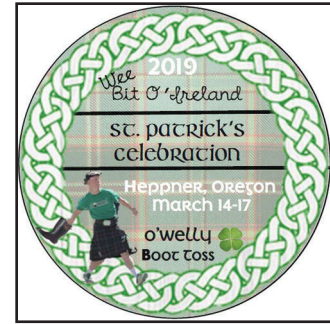
sixth; Leo Waite, fourth and Conor Brosnan, eighth. Also participating in the meet was Suzy Cason. The team placed sixth in the meet with 107 points.

St. Pat's buttons available soon

Collector's buttons for the 37th annual Wee Bit o' Ireland celebration will be available for purchase soon. Each button purchased qualifies for a chance to win a \$100 prize drawn Saturday evening, Mar. 16 at the Tiller's Folly entertainment event at St. Patrick's Parish Hall.

This year's button, designed by Julie Proctor Baker, features local resident Kevin Murray participating in the Welly Toss competition. Buttons will

be sold at Heppner City Hall, Murray's Drug and during the celebration held Mar. 14 to 17. All funds raised go to the St. Patrick's committee.



Mustangs win back to back district titles

At the CBC girls district basketball tournament this past weekend the underdog Lady Mustangs once again surprised the conference and came away with the championship title. This is the second consecutive year that the girls have come into the tournament as the third seeded team and finished as champions.

On Friday the Mustangs faced Enterprise, the 7th ranked team in the state. After a slow start and trailing 8-0, the girls turned it on and dominated the remainder of the game outscoring Enterprise in every quarter to take a 41-33 victory. The Mustangs were led by Sydney Wilson who scored 19 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. Jacee Currin also had a double-double scoring 11 points and securing 15 rebounds. Madison Ashbeck added seven

points, Marlee Mitchell three points and Jenna McCullough one point. Madelyn Nichols combined with Marlee Mitchell to play shut down defense on Enterprise's top scorer, Shelby Moncrief, holding her to only eight points on three of 19 shootings.

In the championship game on Saturday, the Mustangs faced Grant Union, the 4th ranked team in state. The girls trailed by two points after the first quarter before lighting fire to outscore Grant Union 36 to 16 in the next two quarters and holding a huge lead. The Prospectors tried for a late run, but they were no match for the Lady Mustangs who won the game 62-57. Once again, the girls were led by Sydney Wilson who netted an outstanding 31 points and 12 rebounds. Jacee Currin had another



Jacee Currin takes a jump shot while Jenna McCullough looks on.

stellar game with 17 points and 11 rebounds. Madison Ashbeck added five points, Madelyn Nichols three points. Zabrena Masterson, Marlee Mitchell and Jenna McCullough each scored two points. Madison Combe had great defensive game and grabbed six rebounds.

Following the game, the all-league awards were announced. Sophomore Sydney Wilson was a unanimous first team winner and senior Jacee Currin was also given first team honors. Next up for the Lady Mustangs is a home state playoff game against the Santiam

Wolverines on Saturday at 2 p.m. at Heppner High School.

Livestock producers invited to dinner

A dinner, open to all livestock producers, their spouses and employees, will be held Thursday, Mar. 14 at the Heppner Elks Lodge beginning at 6 p.m.

Livestock growers are invited to have dinner and learn about some new products and techniques related

to cattle sponsored by Dr. Temple, Dr. Hansen and Zoetis.

Those interested are asked to RSVP to Erin Heideman at the extension office prior to Tuesday, Mar. 12 by calling 541-676-9642 or email to erin.heideman@oregonstate.edu.

Willow Creek Ag Water Quality LAC to meet

The Willow Creek Ag Water Quality Local Advisory Committee will conduct its biennial review of the Willow Creek Ag Water Quality Management Area Plan on Wednesday, Feb. 27 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Ag

Service Center in Heppner. For additional information contact Kevin Payne with the Morrow SWCD at 541-676-5452. Meetings of the Morrow SWCD are open to the public.

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Family Hunt Club Looking for Big Game Land

Wildlife Development Association (WDA), a 50 member hunting club which is over 40 years old, is seeking to expand its leased big game hunting areas by 10,000+/- acres. WDA is known for promoting the highest standard of hunting ethics, hunter safety and family hunting. Using club volunteers we hold annual work parties on leased properties working on projects directed by the property owner (fence and gate repair, road improvement, vegetation removal, etc.). We do projects to improve hunting, such as "No Trespassing" signage, and Predator Control program. References are available upon request.

If you have land to lease please contact:
Wildlife Development Association
Jason Slangan, President(503) 927-5643