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of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

Heppner

GAZETTE-TIMES

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For Letters to the Editor: Letters to the Editor MUST be signed by the author. The Heppner GT will not publish unsigned letters. All letters MUST include the author's address and phone number for use by the GT office. The GT reserves the right to edit letters. The GT is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$10.

Mustangs defeat top two teams

The Heppner Mustang boys' basketball team won two very important games this past week. They defeated the top two teams in the conference standings at this point of the season. Heppner beat the Pilot Rock Rockets by the score of 58-44 and then traveled to John Day and defeated the Grant Union Prospectors 74-68 in two overtimes.

The Mustangs started the game slowly against the Rockets as they trailed at the end of the first quarter 16-6. The Rockets then stretched the lead to 13 points, 21-8, early in the second quarter before the Mustangs started their comeback. Heppner finally caught and tied the Rockets at 24-24. Heppner trailed the Rockets by the slimmest of margins at halftime 27-26.

A close third quarter saw the Mustangs finally

take the lead in the game at 36-34. Heppner continued to put pressure on the Rockets and led at the end of the third quarter 39-34.

The Mustangs then hit a quick three-pointer to stretch the lead as the fourth quarter started. Heppner then went on a 10-4 run to take command of the game at 52-38. Another quick 6-0 run gave the Mustangs complete control of the game and they won by the score of 58-44.

Casey Fletcher led the Mustangs in scoring with 16. He also had an assist and a steal in the game. Joe Sherman followed with 12 points, four rebounds, two assists and two steals for the Mustangs. Brock Hisler had eight points, five rebounds, one assist, two steals and blocked two shots. Jackson Lehman was next with seven points, six rebounds and four assists. Kason Cimmiyotti chipped in six points, three rebounds and a steal while Mason Lehman had four points, five rebounds, four assists and two steals. Gavin Hanna Robinson had two points, one rebound and two assists in the game while Jayden Wilson scored two points and had five rebounds. Kellen Grant had one point and one rebound in the contest and Kannon Wilkins and Roy Collins each had a rebound in the game.

After the long bus ride to John Day, then sitting through two girls' overtime games, the Mustang boys' team ended up playing a two-overtime game themselves with the Grant Union Prospectors.

Grant Union scored the first basket of the game but that would be the last time they led until overtime. The Mustangs led the game at the end of the first quarter 13-9.

The second quarter belonged to the Mustangs as they turned up the defensive pressure and then they outscored the Prospectors 18-5 to lead at halftime 31-4.

Grant Union scored the first three baskets of the third quarter and then continued to chip away at the Mustang lead. They got as close as five points midway through the quarter. The Mustangs still led 39-30 as the fourth quarter started.

The teams fought back and forth in the final quarter and the Prospectors cut the Mustang lead at one time to



Kason Cimmiyotti goes for the basket. -Photo by Susan Hisler.

only two points. Heppner then scored another basket to lead by four points, 50-46, as time was winding down. A three-pointer by Grant Union cut the Heppner lead to only one. The Prospectors then made a foul shot to send the game to overtime with the score tied at 50-50.

The first overtime period saw Grant Union take their first lead in the game since they led 2-0. The Mustangs struggled to control the Prospectors as they stretched their lead to 60-54 midway through the overtime. Heppner battled back and hit two three-pointers late in the period to tie the game at 63-63 and send the game to a second overtime.

In the second overtime period, the Mustangs went down early but then tied the score at 65-65. Heppner then took their final lead of the game at 69-68 and never looked back. The Mustangs outscored the Prospectors 11-5 in the second overtime and scored the final five points of the game to win by the score of 74-68.

Leading the way for the Mustangs was Jackson Lehman with 26 points, six rebounds, three assists and six steals in the game. Wilson was next with 21 points, nine rebounds, one assist and one steal. Mason Lehman finished with nine points, five rebounds, three assists and he blocked a shot. Grant had seven points, eight rebounds and one assist for the team.

Hanna Robinson had five points, eight big rebounds and three steals to help in the victory. Hisler scored four points, had five rebounds, two assists and three steals in the game. Sherman finished with two points, two rebounds, one assist and had two steals on the night. Cimmiyotti pitched in two rebounds, two assists and two steals for the Mustangs.

The Mustang JV boys' team split their games last weekend. They beat the Pilot Rock Rockets by the score of 39-34 and lost to the Grant Union Prospectors by the score of 56-52.

Against the Rockets, Trevor Nichols led the team in scoring with nine points and Ty Boor was next with eight. With five points each were Derrick Smith, Cody Fletcher and Tucker Ashbeck. David Cribbs finished with three points and with two points each were Blake Carter and Mikel Jaca.

In the game with the Prospectors, Ashbeck led the team in scoring with 13 points. Roy Collins was next with 12 and Cribbs finished with 10. Boor chipped in nine points and Fletcher had four. Smith was next with three points and Nichols had one.

This weekend the Mustangs travel to Enterprise to take on the Outlaws on Friday night. The team will spend the night there and then play the Union Bobcats on their way home Saturday afternoon.

Cason receives recognition



Pictured (L-R): Kirsti Cason, Suzy Cason and Jim Cason. -Photo by Damon Brosnan.

Suzy Cason, a senior wrestler on the Mustangs team, received her senior recognition at the BEO Invitational tournament held Saturday, February 1 in Heppner. Cason has been a member of the team

for all four years of high school and is only the second female to wrestle for Heppner. Her parents, Jim and Kirsti Cason have been extremely supportive.

Saturday's tournament

was the last home tournament for Cason and she went out in style with a second-place finish. She will be traveling to the Girls' Regional State qualifier in Hillsboro on Saturday.



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Zabrena Masterson shoots. -Photo by Susan Hisler.



Jackson Lehman keeps the ball from the opponent. -Photo by Susan Hisler.



Marlee Mitchell prepares to shoot for the basket. -Photo by Susan Hisler.

No chamber meeting this month

There will be no chamber lunch meeting held Thursday, February 6 due to the Annual Town and Country Community Awards in the evening.

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, March 5 and will be all entities reports. Additional information will be available at a later date.

