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of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

Heppner

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Mustang boys' basketball season ends

The Heppner Mustang boys' basketball team ended the season with a split of their games at the Blue Mountain Conference District Tournament. The Mustangs lost on the first day to the eventual district champions, the Pilot Rock Rockets, by the score of 50-46. Heppner then bounced back to take third-place honors by defeating the Union Bobcats 42-34.

Against the Rockets, Heppner came out slow and trailed at the end of the first quarter 14-4. In the second quarter, the Mustangs got their feet under themselves and fought back to tie the score at 16-16. The Mustangs then took their first lead of the game at 22-21. Heppner outscored the Rockets 18-11 in the quarter but ended up trailing Pilot Rock at the half 25-22.

Heppner saw the Rock-

et lead climb to as much as eight points in the third quarter, but the Mustangs outscored the Rockets 11-10 in the period to only trail 35-33 as the quarter came to an end.

The Mustangs quickly tied the score as the fourth quarter started and then took a brief lead. The Rockets got the lead right back and even pushed it to eight points, 49-41, before the Mustangs fought back to make it close at the end. The Rockets held on and came away with the win 50-46.

Jackson Lehman led the Mustangs with 17 points. He also had six rebounds, three assists and two steals for the team. Joe Sherman was next with 16 points, five rebounds, one assist and one steal. Jayden Wilson scored four points, hauled down 11 rebounds, had three steals

and blocked a shot. Mason Lehman and Brock Hisler each scored three points for the Mustangs. Mason also had three rebounds and one assist while Hisler also had one assist. Scoring two points for the team was Roy Collins. Gavin Hanna Robinson was next with one point, he also had nine rebounds and two steals. Casey Fletcher had four rebounds and two steals while Kellen Grant ripped down one rebound in the game.

In the third-place game against the Union Bobcats, Heppner came out of the gates fast and took the early lead. The Mustangs continued their strong play and led at the end of the first quarter 13-7. The second quarter didn't see much scoring by the Mustangs, but they still led the game at halftime 16-14.

Union came out and



Kellen Grant goes for the basket. -Photo by Susan Hisler.

quickly tied the score, but then the Mustangs took the lead right back. The score was then tied at 24-24 before the Mustangs took the lead back and led at the end of the third quarter 29-27.

Heppner dominated play in the fourth quarter and outscored the Bobcats 13-7. The Mustangs stretched their lead to as many as eight points at 37-29 midway through the quarter. Heppner made several key free-throws down the stretch to secure the win 42-34.

Hisler led the Mustangs in scoring with 19. He also had six rebounds, one assist and one blocked shot. Wilson had a solid game with 10 points, six rebounds, one assist and four steals. With four points each in the game were Grant and Sherman. Grant also had two rebounds and one steal while Sherman had five rebounds and two assists in the game. Jackson Lehman scored three points to go along with six rebounds, six assists and three steals for the Mustangs. Hanna Robinson had two points, three rebounds and three steals for the team. Mason Lehman had four rebounds and one steal in the game and Fletcher had one rebound.

The Mustangs ended their season with a 14-10 overall record. They finished tied for second (8-4) in BMC season play and ended up the third-place team at the district tournament. Mason Lehman was named to the first team all-conference team and Jayden Wilson and Jackson Lehman were awarded honorable mention recognition by the conference coaches.

The Mustangs will lose six seniors off of this year's team. They are Mason Lehman, Gavin Hanna Robinson, Casey Fletcher, Kellen Grant, Jordan Sweeney and Kannon Wilkins. They all spent the last four years in the basketball program and will be missed in the future. "They should be thanked and recognized for their hard work and commitment to the Mustang basketball program," as spokesman said. "Even with the loss of the seniors, the future still looks bright for Mustang boys' basketball. Heppner returns three starters from this year's team and three key reserves that saw lots of minutes in games. Look for more good things to come from coach Rosenbalm and Mustang boys' basketball," he continued.

Lady Mustangs advance to state tournament

The Heppner girls' basketball team is advancing to the first round of the state playoffs after capping off their regular season this past weekend at the district tournament in Pendleton. Despite a fourth-place finish for the Lady Mustangs at the district tournament, their state ranking secured them a spot in the state tournament.

The girls began their district tournament with a game against the Prospectors of Grant Union. The girls split their regular season games against Grant Union. The Mustangs, who were outsize at every position, had to rely on their game plan to overcome that disadvantage. The game was close initially but in the end the girls got hot

from the field and pulled away handily. Consecutive three-point baskets in the fourth quarter by Madelyn Nichols, Madison Ashbeck, ZaBrena Masterson and Sydney Wilson secured a lead the Lady Mustangs would not give back. Heppner finished with a 47-32 victory. The leading scorer was ZaBrena Masterson with 18 points and 13 rebounds, while Sydney Wilson added 16 points and 18 rebounds. Additional scorers were Madelyn Nichols and Madison Ashbeck with five points and Marlee Mitchell added three points.

On Saturday the Heppner girls faced off against the Enterprise Outlaws for the third-place game. Similar to Grant Union, the girls had split their regular

season games with Enterprise. The Lady Mustangs led for most of the game but the Outlaws fought back and held a two-point lead with less than 10 seconds left. Sydney Wilson got the ball and drove the entire court to make a layup as time expired to force overtime. The game remained close throughout overtime but following a controversial call that didn't go in the Mustangs favor, Enterprise secured a 40-38 win. Leading scorer for Heppner was Sydney Wilson with 18 points and 14 rebounds, achieving her second double-double of the weekend. Other scorers included ZaBrena Masterson and Marlee Mitchell with six points each, Madelyn Nichols and Sage

Ferguson with three points each and Madison Ashbeck with two points. Ashbeck also grabbed 10 rebounds.

Following the tournament, all-league honors were announced. The award is based on coaches voting, wherein a coach cannot vote for their own players. Receiving unanimous first team honors was junior Sydney Wilson for her third consecutive year. Honorable mention was awarded to junior Madelyn Nichols.

The girls finished the season with a 14-9 record. With no seniors on the team, Heppner will be returning with their entire team next year. Next up for the Lady Mustangs is a first-round state playoff game against the number



Sydney Wilson takes the ball down the court. -Photo by Susan Hisler.

one ranked Kennedy Trojans in Mt. Angel on Friday, February 28 at 6 p.m.

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ZaBrena Masterson maintains control of the ball during the game played against the Enterprise Outlaws last week. -Photo by Susan Hisler.

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