

2A preview provides exciting weekend

Heppner, along with seven other schools competed this weekend

By Blake Carter

In 2019 the 2A preview began as it was held in Pendleton, OR by Pilot Rock High School. The preview provided teams from the west and east sides of the state to play in very valuable preseason matchups. Oftentimes the two sides of the state are separated, until it comes to playoff time. An opportunity to see many great games played at the very place the 2A state tournament is held, is one too great to pass up. This last Thursday night, four east side teams had the chance to host a visiting west side team in their home gym to get the preview going. Each team would end up playing three games on the weekend, Heppner hosted Toledo. Each team would play both a girls and boys varsity contest each night.

The Mustang girls team opened the weekend with a solid 30-22 victory over the Toledo Boomers. The two teams displayed great defensive efforts as both teams were able to keep each other quiet.

The Mustang boys' varsity team ended the night with a bang as they grabbed a nailbiter victory, 53-52 over the Boomers. A quick 18-4 start allowed the Mustangs to get an early lead. However, throughout the game the Boomers continued to chip away at the deficit. The Boomers were able to tie the game late in the fourth quarter at 52, with under one minute remaining. David Cribbs would draw a late foul with three seconds left. Cribbs would convert on the first free throw, before intentionally missing the second, as to now allow the Boomers to get across half court without using time. A missed halfcourt heave would leave the Mustangs victorious. Heppner was able to grab the victory despite a strong 26 points from Boomer guard Gunner Rothenberger. Tucker Ashbeck led the team with 13 points while Cribbs wasn't far behind with 12.

Extended stats vs Toledo: Tucker Ashbeck, 13 points, four rebounds; David Cribbs, 12 points, one assist, three rebounds; Trevor Nichols, two points; Caden George, six points, two rebounds; Landon Mitchell, four points, four rebounds, two blocks; Kason Cimmiyotti, one point, one rebound, one steal, one block; Brock Hisler, seven points, one assist, two rebounds, one steal, one block; Joe Sherman, eight points, five assists, four rebounds, two steals, one block.

Friday, all of the teams had the opportunity to gather at the Pendleton Convention Center. Games began at eight o'clock in the morning, and the final games concluded around 10 p.m. at night. It was a full day of great games.

The Bandon Tigers girls' team is coming off of a fourth-place finish and re-loaded offensively. A strong shooting performance from the Tigers sunk the Mustangs in a 45-21 victory. Hadlie Nation started the game off with a 2-0 lead for the Mustangs, but the Tigers would take over and hold the lead for the rest of the contest.

Extended stats vs Bandon: Arianna Worden, two points; Hannah Finch, six points, eight rebounds, two steals; Zandra Masterson, four points, four steals; Hadlie Nation, two points, two rebounds, two



Landon Mitchell (5) and Brock Hisler (23) stop a Culver player

steals; Brook Wilson, one rebound; ZaBrena Masterson, five points, four rebounds; Hallee Hisler, two rebounds, one steal; Morgan Cutsforth, two points, one rebound; Hailey Wenberg, one rebound, one steal; Kadie Henrichs, two rebounds, two steals.

The Mustang boys showed no signs of slowing down after their victory the previous night, as they defeated the Tigers 46-41. This game was close all night long; the Mustangs created an early lead as they led 16-10 at the end of one quarter. The Mustangs held on to the lead for most of the game. Bandon was within four as the first half concluded with Heppner leading 23-19. As the second half progressed, the two sides would trade leads, all half long. Bandon even held the lead at the end of the third quarter at 34-33. After a couple late misses from three, Tucker Ashbeck would grab a tough defensive rebound, and be promptly fouled, as the Tigers were trailing by three with less than ten seconds. Ashbeck would calmly hit two free throws to cap off another impressive win for the Stangs. Landon Mitchell led the team with 11 points.

Extended Stats vs Bandon: Tucker Ashbeck, eight points, one rebound; David Cribbs, three points, two assists, one rebound; Caden George, six points, two assists; Landon Mitchell, 11 points, one rebound, one steal; Kason Cimmiyotti, seven points, one rebound, two steals; Brock Hisler, three points, four assists, two rebounds, three steals; Joe Sherman, eight points, two assists, two rebounds, one steal, one block.

Saturday brought an end to this amazing weekend. With games once again going all day, the Mustangs had the opportunity to close out the night, and the weekend as they battled Culver.

The girls team plowed their way to victory with tough defense, allowing no points through one quarter, and only four points at the half. This defensive effort propelled them to a 31-10 victory. The Mustangs would use an 11-0 first quarter, and 7-0 third quarter to grab the advantage and ultimately win the game. ZaBrena Masterson led the way for the Mustangs with 10 points.

Extended stats vs Culver: Arianna Worden, one steal; Hannah Finch, five points, one assist, three re-



Hannah Finch defends a Culver guard

bounds, three steals; Zandra Masterson, two points, one rebound; Hadlie Nation, two points, one steal; Brook Wilson, five points, one rebound; ZaBrena Masterson, 10 points, one rebound; Hallee Hisler, six points, one rebound, one steal; Morgan Cutsforth, one rebound; Katie Spivey, one rebound; Hailey Wenberg, one point, two rebounds; Kadie Henrichs, three rebounds.

The boys' team was able to fight off a scrappy Bulldogs team, as their shooting woes wouldn't keep them from victory as they won 51-37. The Bulldogs used a late second quarter surge, including a buzzer beater to pull within four at halftime. However, in the second half the Mustangs fast paced attack

would wear down the Bulldogs as they pulled away for a 14-point win.

Heppner will look to build off their strong performance at the 2A preview on Thursday December 16. Heppner will host the Riverside Pirates and this contest will feature the JV teams beginning at 3 p.m. Friday, Heppner will be hosting a tournament as Irrigon, Warrenton and Weston-McEwen will come to compete. Friday, Weston-McEwen and Irrigon will get things going with the girls contest starting at 3 p.m. Starting at 6 p.m. the Heppner and Warrenton varsity teams will play. On Saturday games will start at 1 p.m. with Weston and Warrenton. At 4 p.m. Heppner and Irrigon will conclude the tournament.



Hallee Hisler goes up strong against a Culver defender



Joe Sherman lays in the ball on Saturday against Culver

Photos by Susan Hisler



Hailey Wenberg lines up a free throw



Brook Wilson shoots over a Culver defender

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