

# Mustang Basketball continues winning ways

The boys basketball team nabbed 2 wins while the girls team gained their first league win

By: Blake Carter

The Mustang basketball teams are heating up at the right time. This past week, the Stangs faced three tough league opponents: The Pilot Rock Rockets, the Stanfield Tigers and the Weston McEwen TigerScots. The boys' varsity squad is coming off an impressive weekend, grabbing two league victories. The girls' team looked to build up after a slow start to league play.

Heppner got onto the bus and traveled to Pilot Rock Friday afternoon. Pilot Rock got off to a slow start in both boys' and girls' league action. The girls' varsity contest featured two squads still searching for their first league victory. The boys' game however provided an opportunity for the Rockets to make a statement win, as Heppner is currently undefeated in league, and ranked seventh in the state.

The girls' varsity game was a tense one, both teams playing with a sense of urgency. Heppner grabbed a 48-37 victory over Pilot Rock. The game got off to a close start, as both teams traded baskets for the majority of the first

quarter. The Rockets took a one-point advantage into the second quarter. Heppner used a 15-8 second quarter to grab a six-point lead at 25-19 going into the break. Heppner would add another three points to their lead in the third and continued to expand the lead in the fourth quarter. ZaBrena Masterson scored 15 points to lead the Lady Mustangs as Hadlie Nation contributed another 10 points.

Girls stats vs PR: Hannah Finch, seven points, three rebounds, one steal; Zandra Masterson, five points, five rebounds, two steals; Hadlie Nation, 10 points, three rebounds, one steal; Brook Wilson, two points; ZaBrena Masterson, 15 points, five rebounds, one steal; Hallee Hisler, one rebound, two steals; Hailey Wenberg, nine points, nine rebounds, one steal; Kadie Henrichs, one rebound.

The boys team looked to go 3-0 in league play, while Pilot Rock looked to shock the conference. Heppner scored in bunches as they grabbed the 77-62 victory. Heppner had a tough time stopping the Rocket attack; they would

find easy gaps into the lanes for quick buckets. Pilot Rock found themselves tied with Heppner at 17-17. Heppner scored three more points before the first quarter ended, and continued into a 10-0 run to start the second that extended the lead out to 13. Pilot Rock wouldn't give up any more ground for the remainder of the half as they trailed 42-29. Heppner couldn't extend the lead much in the second half, but they continued to keep the Rockets behind as they grabbed the win. Heppner was very balanced offensively, seeing six players score in double digits. Caden George scored 15, while Kason Cimmiyoti chipped in 13.

Boys' stats vs PR: Tucker Ashbeck, five points, three rebounds, two steals; David Cribbs, 10 points, two rebounds, one steal, two blocks; Trevor Nichols, one rebound, one block; Caden George, 15 points, one rebound, three steals, two blocks; Landon Mitchell, 11 points, two rebounds, one steal, four blocks; Cameron Proudfoot, two points; Kason Cimmiyoti, 13 points, two rebounds, two steals,

one block; Brock Hisler, 10 points, one assist, four rebounds, three steals; Joe Sherman, 11 points, eight rebounds, four steals, one block.

Heppner returned home as they hosted two talented Stanfield teams. The Lady Tigers sit at number six in the OSAA automated rankings, with two non-league losses, and a spotless league record. While on the other side, the Stanfield boys team looked to continue their early league success. After a rough non-league schedule, Stanfield quickly turned things around as they went 5-0 to start the league schedule. The boys sit atop the BMC standings. The team right on their tail is the Heppner Mustangs.

The Mustangs took the fight to the Lady Tigers, however the Tigers were too much, ending in a 53-21 loss for the Mustangs. Heppner stayed in the game for most of the first half, however Stanfield began to find the bottom of the net and quickly extended the lead into double digits. The second half brought most of the same as Stanfield's size proved

to be too much for the Lady Mustangs to withstand.

The Mustang boys continued to finish out the weekend strong, as they hoped to jump the Tigers into first place in the BMC. Heppner did just that as they routed the Tigers, 73-51. Heppner jumped out of the gates fast, as they limited Stanfield offensively and created easy buckets on the other end. Heppner gained an 11-point lead at the end of the first quarter and added onto it with another 6 in the second quarter to make it 41-24 at half-time. Heppner was able to stomp down on the gas as they used an 18-8 third quarter to all but seal the Tiger's fate as they closed out a 22 point victory. Brock Hisler's 15 points led the Mustangs.

Boys' stats vs Stanfield: Tucker Ashbeck, 10 points, one rebound, two steals; David Cribbs, six points, two assists, four rebounds, one steal, one block; Trevor Nichols, four points; Caden George, four points, one assist, three rebounds, one steal; Landon Mitchell, 12 points, two rebounds, two steals; Cameron Proudfoot, two points; Kason Cimmiyoti,

nine points, seven rebounds, three steals, one block; Blake Carter, two points; Brock Hisler, 15 points, two assists, three rebounds, two blocks; Joe Sherman, nine points, one assist, five rebounds, one steal, one block.

Tuesday night the Mustangs took on the Weston-McEwen TigerScots. They will continue their league schedule this weekend with one game. The Mustangs host Enterprise on Friday January 21, with games beginning at 3 p.m. After Friday Heppner will enter the second half of league play. With only seven teams in the league, each team matches up two times a year. Friday will mark the sixth league game and propel the Mustangs closer to the end of the season.

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