

Mustang boys split weekend play



Trevor Nichols (#2) takes a three point shot during game against Stanfield. -Photo by Tylynn Cimmiyotti



David Cribbs (#1) lays up ball during the Mustangs' game on Saturday. -Photo by Tylynn Cimmiyotti



Landon Mitchell (#12) jumps for the ball at the start of the game against Stanfield on Saturday. -Photo by Tylynn Cimmi-



Tucker Ashbeck (#0) fouled on the shot during the game Saturday. -Photo by Tylynn Cimmiyotti

The Heppner Mustang boys basketball team split its Blue Mountain Conference games last weekend. The boys beat the Weston-McEwen TigerScots 56-45 and then lost to the Stanfield Tigers 63-61. The Mustangs' overall record is 11-4 and their conference record is 1-2. They are currently the eighth-ranked team in the OSAA 2A State Basketball rankings.

The game in Athena against the TigerScots was a good one for the Mustangs. They led after the first quarter 15-9, and 27-22 at halftime. Heppner outscored the TigerScots 15-10 in the third quarter to lead 42-32. The fourth quarter saw the Mustangs hang on to their lead and get the win by the score of 56-45.

A balanced scoring attack was led by Landon Mitchell with 12 points. David Cribbs recorded 11 points and Tucker Ashbeck finished with 10. Trevor Nichols and Caden George both had eight points in the game. Cameron Proudfoot finished with five points, and Thomas Bales had two.

It was a tough-as-nails game against the Stanfield Tigers on Saturday night. Heppner jumped out to a quick 15-9 lead after the first quarter and also led at

halftime 30-23. The third quarter was close as the Tigers outscored the Mustangs 13-12 but still trailed 42-36 as the fourth quarter started. A back-and-forth final quarter saw the Tigers pull within one point at 51-50 midway through the quarter. Stanfield took the lead 52-50 with two minutes left in the game, but Heppner fought back to tie the score with a minute to go. Stanfield then took a one-point lead, but the Mustangs got a big bucket to take back the lead 61-60 with 25 seconds left. Stanfield worked the ball around and hit a big three-pointer at the end of the game to get the win by the score of 63-61.

Another balanced scoring night had Ashbeck leading the team with 16. Mitchell finished with 15 points and George had 12. Cribbs scored 11 points, and Proudfoot five. Nichols had two points for the Mustangs.

The Mustangs will look to get back to their winning ways in conference play this weekend as they first travel to Enterprise to play the Outlaws on Friday night. On Saturday the team will host the Irrigon Knights.

Mustang girls struggle in weekend play



The Heppner Mustangs (#5 BMC, #22 2A) traveled to Weston on Friday to take on the Weston-McEwen TigerScots (#4 BMC, #17 overall). After a tough, close game, the Mustangs fell to the TigerScots 41-42. Saturday, the Mustangs hosted the Stanfield Tigers (#1 BMC, #4 overall). The girls played hard but couldn't keep up and fell to the Tigers 20-59. Pictured: Hailey Wenberg (#22) shoots a free throw during the game Jan. 14. Ava Gerry (#12) drives the ball against Stanfield on Saturday while Hailey Wenberg (#22) make her way up court. -Photos by Tylynn Cimmiyotti



Elks holds 2023 Hoop Shoot

Matheny advances to state shoot



First place for eight- to nine-year-olds, Sonny Matheny and Ella Mullins. -Contributed photo



First place for 10- to 11-year-olds, Max Lindsay and Kamryn Dickenson. -Contributed photo



First place for 12- to 13-year-olds, Jace Wilson and Lizzie Ginn. -Contributed photo

On Dec. 18, the Heppner Elks Lodge sponsored the annual local hoop shoot contest at Heppner Elementary School.

Local shoot participants were Kathryn Knowles, Berkley Hanna, Hannah Sumner, Whitlie Duncan, Ella Mullins, Leo Ashbeck, Lucas Matheny, Richie Brahn, Urijah Wedding, Preston Milligan, Mack Sweeney, Logan Rice, Sonny Matheny, Morgan Milligan, Mikalie Duncan, Kamryn Dickenson, Payton Matheny, Joel Wilson, Jasper Hanna, Colden Hoef, Charlie Mullins, Keller Sweeney, Jonny Ashbeck, Max Lindsay, Abby Sumner, Lizzie Ginn, Kord Dickenson and Jace Wilson. Each shot 10 free throws, rested, and then shot 15 more for a total of 25.

The first place honors were as follows: eight- to nine-year-old girls, Ella Mullins; eight- to nine-year-

old boys, Sonny Matheny; 10- to 11-year-old girls, Kamryn Dickenson; 10- to 11-year-old boys, Max Lindsay; 12- to 13-year-old girls, Lizzie Ginn; and 12- to 13-year-old boys, Jace Wilson.

The first place winners advanced to the East District Hoop Shoot held on Jan. 8 at Heppner Jr./Sr. High. Sonny Matheny earned his way to the state Hoop Shoot by winning the eight- to nine-year-old boys' group, making 17 of 25 free throws. Matheny will attend the Oregon Elks State Hoop Shoot in Silverton on Feb. 18.

Mullins placed fourth, Lindsay placed sixth, Dickenson placed fourth, Ginn placed fifth and Wilson placed second.

Heppner participants competed against shooters from the East District lodges, which include Baker City, Bend, Burns, Condon, Enterprise, Heppner, John Day, Madras, Milton-Freewater, Ontario and Prineville. Before the shoot, participants and their families were treated to a free lunch sponsored by the Heppner Elks Lodge.

"It was a successful event for the kids, and I appreciated the support from the Heppner Lodge, the four high school girls' basketball team members and other community volunteers for rebounding, line judging and score keeping," said East District Hoop Shoot Director Corey Sweeney.

JV boys fall short against Tigers, TigerScots

The Heppner Mustang junior varsity boys basketball team lost both of its games last weekend to bring its overall season record to 7-3. The JV Mustangs lost a close one to the Weston-McEwen TigerScots 38-36 and then were beaten by the Stanfield Tigers 50-35.

The game with the TigerScots saw the Mustangs fall behind 13-7 after the first quarter. Heppner was behind 26-20 at halftime and then played really hard and closed the gap to only trail 31-30 and the end of the third quarter. A close fourth quarter saw the Mustangs lose by the score of 38-36.

The Mustangs were led in scoring by Thomas Bales with 11 points. Owen Cunningham had nine points, and Cooper Wight five. With three points each were Mason Orem, Joseph Albire and Conner Wilson. Finishing with two points in the

game was Caleb George. In the game with the Stanfield Tigers, the Mustangs trailed after the first quarter 13-12, and 28-20 at halftime. Stanfield was a point better than the Mustangs in the third quarter and led 41-32. The Tigers stretched out their lead in the fourth and won by the score of 50-35.

Bales led the team in scoring once again with 12 points. Wight was next with eight points, and George finished with six. With three points each in the game were Orem and Cunningham. Wilson recorded two, and Lane Critchlow finished with one point for the Mustangs.

The JV team will travel to play the Enterprise Outlaws on Friday and then they will host the Irrigon Knights at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday. They will then have a home game against the Ione Cardinals on Monday night the 23rd at 6 p.m.

Colt Wrestling off to busy start



Colt Wrestling started its short season with a bang last Thursday with a packed house. Heppner High School's cafeteria was filled with Heppner-area students in kindergarten through fifth grade who showed up to learn the basics of wrestling from high school coaches and athletes. Pictured top: Heppner High School wrestler Kylie Holden (right) coaches two youngsters on the fine art of taking down an opponent. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

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