

# Mustangs strengthen league record with two conference wins



Heppner senior Trevor Nichols tries to sink the ball while Tucker Ashbeck blocks and the Grant Union players hope for a rebound. -Photo by Tylynn Cimmiyotti

The Heppner Mustang boys basketball team continued its winning ways by picking up two more Blue Mountain Conference games this past week. The Mustangs, who have a 15-4 overall record and are 5-2 in conference play, defeated the Grant Union Prospectors 62-30 and then bested the Stanfield Tigers by the score of 65-53.

Against the Prospectors, the Mustangs' aggressive defense held Grant Union to only seven points in the first quarter while running out for 18 of their own. The second quarter was much of the same and the Mustangs led at half-time 32-17. A big third quarter saw Heppner outscore the Prospectors 22-3 and push the lead to 55-20. The benches cleared for both teams in the fourth quarter and the Mustangs cruised to a 62-30 win.

Tucker Ashbeck and Landon Mitchell both scored 19 points to lead the Mustangs in scoring. Ashbeck also hauled down 14 rebounds in the game. Camden George was next with 10 points and also recorded four assists. Thomas Bales finished the game with six points and Trevor Nichols had four. With two points each were David Cribbs and Cameron Proudfoot.

A big rematch game with the Stanfield Tigers,

who beat the Mustangs by two points on a last-second shot earlier in the year, saw a packed house in the Stanfield gym for the game. It was another close contest at the start as the Mustangs held a slim 14-12 at the end of the first quarter. The Mustangs then went on a 29-17 scoring spree in the second quarter for a 43-29 lead at the half. Each team scored eight points in the third quarter and Heppner led 51-37. Stanfield made several runs in the fourth quarter, but the Mustangs fought each of the those challenges off and held on to their lead. Heppner prevailed in the game and won by the score of 65-53.

Ashbeck had the big night for the Mustangs with 30 points and 12 rebounds. A trio of Mustangs, Nichols, Mitchell and George, each scored nine points in the game. Mitchell also had eight rebounds and five assists. Cribbs scored six points and had five rebounds for the Mustangs, while Proudfoot provided valuable minutes in the game and scored two points.

This week the Mustangs continue BMC play as they host the Enterprise Outlaws on Friday night and then travel to Irrigon on Saturday to play the Knights.

# Colt wrestling ends successful season



This year's Colt Wrestling program can be considered a success on many fronts, especially if numbers of excited children are any indication. About 75 Colt wrestlers signed up for the short season. They were mentored and coached by the junior high and high school wrestlers and their coaches. All in all, about 116 kids are wrestling in Heppner among the three age levels. Heppner High School wrestling is guided by head coach Zac Brown and assistant coaches Tyler Robinson and Mark and Alaina Lemmon. -Photo by Tylynn Cimmiyotti

# Heppner JV boys lose hard-fought games

The Heppner High School boys junior varsity lost their last three games to bring their overall record to 8-7 on the season. The JV Mustangs lost to the Ione Cardinals 38-26, the Grant Union Prospectors 59-57 and the Stanfield Tigers 64-35.

A slow start in their game with Ione set the tone for the whole evening for the Mustangs. Heppner trailed 11-2 after one and 23-11 at the half. Each team scored 15 points in the second half, but the Mustangs could get no closer and lost by the score of 38-26.

Owen Cunningham led the team in scoring with nine points. Thomas Bales had eight, and with three points each were Cooper Wight and Caleb George. Joseph Albitre finished with two points and Mason Orem one.

A conference matchup with Grant Union saw a close game throughout. Heppner led 16-13 after the first quarter and then trailed 37-35 at halftime. The Mustangs outscored the Prospectors 12-6 in the third to lead 47-43 but then gave up the lead in the fourth quarter as they were

# Mustang girls split weekend league play



Kadie Henrichs looks to pass the ball against defenders. - Photo by Tylynn Cimmiyotti

The Heppner Mustangs girls basketball team won one and lost one during their Blue Mountain Conference play this past week. Their OSAA ranking stayed the same at the 22 spot, while their conference record stands at 2-5, 7-12 overall. On Thursday the Mustangs hosted the Grant Union Prospectors and took the win, 45-14. Friday, the team travelled to Stanfield and fell to the Tigers 31-56.

Thursday's game was the second time that Heppner has met the Prospector during league play, and the only team that the Mustangs have been able to hold down thus far. Grant Union came out strong, winning the jump, but it wasn't long before Heppner took the ball back and scored the game's first two points.

Grant Union was a rough and tumble team, hustling after the ball and doing everything they could to keep the Mustangs from scoring, but that proved in vain when the Mustangs took and kept the lead throughout the game. Heppner girls played their game, kept their heads up and pushed forward. At the end of the first quarter Heppner led Grant Union 10-2, and 24-5 at the half. The Mustangs continued to outscore the Prospectors for the rest of the game.

Hallee Hisler led the Mustangs with 12 points, and Zandra Masterson was right behind her with 11 more.

Stats: Zandra Masterson: points: 11, turnover: 1; H. Hisler: points: 12, rebound: 1, fouls: 2, turnover: 1, fouled: 1; H. Nation: points: 4, rebound: 1, fouls: 3; A. Gerry: points: 3, rebound: 1, fouls: 2; M. Cutsforth: points: 3. L. Nichols: point: 1; K. Spivey: points: 4, rebound: 1,



Lily Nichols goes up to for shot against Grant Union. - Photo by Tylynn Cimmiyotti

turnover: 1; H. Wenberg: points: 5, rebounds: 8, foul: 1; K. Henrichs: rebound: 1, fouls: 2.

Friday the team took the short trip to Stanfield to take on the top-ranked Blue Mountain Conference team, the Stanfield Tigers. Heppner showed up and shut down the key. Their defense worked hard to keep the Tigers from bringing the ball into the key for easy points. The Tigers were forced to take their shots from the three-point line, and just were not hitting them in the first half. The Mustangs held the other team to six points in the first, then matched them, ending the quarter tied. Heppner fell behind in the second and trailed behind Stanfield 14-20 at the half. Heppner was not able to catch up in the second half, being outscored by nine points in the third and 10 points in the fourth, sealing the Tigers' win over the Mustangs, 31-56.

Hallee Hisler led the Mustangs again with 10 points, and Ava Gerry followed with six more points for the team.

Stats: Zandra Masterson: points: 5, rebound: 1, foul: 1; H. Hisler: points: 10, rebounds: 4, turnovers: 2; H. Nation: points: 4, rebounds: 2 fouls: 2, turnover: 1; A. Gerry: points: 6, rebound: 1, turnover: 1; M. Cutsforth: turnover: 1; K. Spivey: rebound: 1, foul: 1, turnover: 1; H. Wenberg: points: 4, rebound: 1, fouls: 4; K. Henrichs: points: 2, foul: 1, turnover: 1.

This week the Mustangs will meet Enterprise and Irrigon for league games. The first will be home on Friday, games starting at 3 p.m. For the second game, the Mustangs will be traveling to Irrigon on Saturday, games starting at 1 p.m.

# Currin named to MSU president's list



Jacee Currin of Heppner was named to the

President's List for fall semester 2022 at Montana State University. Currin, a senior at MSU, earned her spot with a 4.0 GPA last semester.

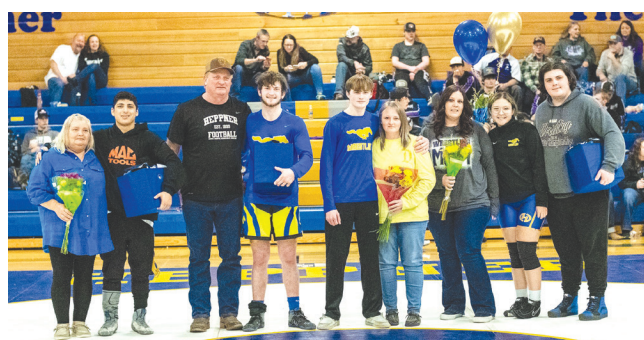
Currin also participates in MSU rodeo in goat tying, breakaway roping, barrel racing and team roping. She was a 2022 College National Finals Rodeo qualifier for MSU Bobcat rodeo.

The Mustangs trailed 17-11 at the end of the first quarter and 27-13 at halftime. It was 49-22 at the end of the third quarter, and the final score was 64-35.

Orem led the team with 15 points. With nine points each were Albitre, George and Cunningham. Bales was next with eight, and with four points was Lane Critchlow. Finishing off the scoring for the Mustangs was Wight with three.

Heppner traveled to Stanfield to play the best JV team in the conference.

# Heppner wrestlers make good showing at BEO Invitational



Wrestling seniors were honored last Saturday at the Bank of Eastern Oregon Invitational in Heppner. Pictured L-R are wrestlers and parents Rosa and Saul Lopez, Doug and Ty Boor, Chace and Ann Jones, Brenda Collins, Kylie Holden, and Toby Boatwright. -Photo by Tylynn Cimmiyotti



Kylie Holden in the final round. - Photo by Tylynn Cimmiyotti



Ty Boor trying to pin opponent. - Photo by Tylynn Cimmiyotti



Chance Jones makes his move. - Photo by Tylynn Cimmiyotti

Heppner hosted the Bank of Eastern Oregon Invitational wrestling tournament last Saturday. Fourteen schools participated; Burns, Crane, Culver, Echo, Elgin, Grant Union, Imbler, Irrigon, Joseph, McLoughlin, Pine Eagle, Riverside and Umatilla attended along with Heppner.

The home team placed third with a strong showing in the final matches, with seven wrestlers making it onto the podium. Cad Cunningham took top honors in his bracket.

The senior wrestlers and their parents were honored during the break between brackets. Senior wrestlers are Chace Jones, Saul Lopez, Kylie Holden and Ty Boor.

Heppner wrestlers and their results were:

120/ Chace Jones (6-13) placed 5<sup>th</sup> and scored 11.0 team points.

138/ Saul Lopez (20-9) placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and scored 22.0 team points.

145/ Zach Brown (22-10) placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and scored 20.0 team points.

145/ Hayden McMahon (7-10) placed 5<sup>th</sup>.

152/ Owen Guerra (2-15) placed 6<sup>th</sup>.

152/ Tyler Boor (5-6) placed 5<sup>th</sup> and scored 11.0 team points.

160/ Taylor Moore (4-15) placed 6<sup>th</sup> and scored 3.0 team points.

170/ Landon McMahon (10-10) placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and scored 9.0 team points.

195/ Jaime Cavan (13-11) placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and scored 22.0 team points.

220/ Cade Cunningham (20-7) placed 1<sup>st</sup> and scored 28.0 team points.

110 & 115 Girls/ Loren Trujillo (2-5) placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and scored 4.0 team points.

145 & 155 Girls/ Kylie Holden (3-4) placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and scored 9.0 team points.

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