

Senior girls honored at final league game of the season



Hallee Hisler shoots over two defenders.

By Tylenn Cimmiyotti

On Friday, February 10, the Heppner High School Mustangs celebrated their seniors during their last home and final league game against the Weston-McEwen TigerScots. Before the game, seniors Hailey Cimmiyotti, Hailey Wenberg and Brook Wilson were honored along with their parents.

The girls' team came out strong, using a full-court press that we did not see much of this season, and they were getting results. They pressed the TigerScots into turning the ball over and scored during several of these plays. The fire lit under the Mustangs was evident as the game progressed on Friday. They absolutely wanted to end their season on a W.

The first quarter ended with a single-basket lead for the TigerScots, 10-12. The half ended with a larger gap, 15-23, Weston-McEwen.

After the half, Heppner struggled to defend against the height on Weston-McEwen's team, and a smaller 10-point gap quickly became 19. The pace of the game did nothing to help Heppner's shots fall. At the end of the third, the Mustangs weren't able to close the point gap, ending the quarter 21-39.

The Mustangs fought back in the fourth quarter, and Weston-McEwen's game seemed to be slipping as the Mustangs



Zandra Masterson dribbles around defender.

outscored them 17-9 in the last quarter of the game. Heppner showed the drive and determination it would have taken to win the game if it had gone this way in the first three quarters. In the end, two of Heppner's players fouled out, and the team still fell short of a win. The game's final score was 37-48, W to Weston-McEwen.

An unfortunate end to the season as Heppner ended their league play with a 2-8 record (7-15 overall) and dropped to #26 (OSAA).

Zandra Masterson led the Mustangs with 14 points and eight rebounds, and Hallee Hisler added nine points, nine rebounds and six steals. The team was helped along by six steals from Hadlie Nation and 11 rebounds from Hailey Wenberg.

Stats: Zandra Masterson: 14 points, 8 rebounds, 3 fouls, 2 turnovers. H. Hisler: 9 points, 9 rebounds, 4 fouls, 6 steals, 8 turnovers, 1 fouled. H. Nation: 3 points, 4 rebounds, 1 foul, 6 steals, 3 turnovers, and 2 fouled. A. Gerry: 3 points, 2 rebounds, 1 foul. M. Cutsforth: 2 points, 1 foul, 1 steal. K. Spivey: 3 points, 2 rebounds, 3 fouls, 1 steal, 4 turnovers. H. Wenberg: 3 points, 11 rebounds, 5 fouls, 1 steal, 2 turnovers, and 2 fouled. K. Henrichs: 2 rebounds, 5 fouls, 2 turnovers, 1 fouled.

Mustangs slay TigerScots, head to districts



Caden George dribbles of pick set by Landon Mitchell.

The Heppner Mustang boys basketball team wrapped up its Blue Mountain Conference season with a home win over the Weston-McEwen TigerScots by the score of 60-52. The victory puts the Mustangs (18-4, 8-2) as the ninth-ranked 2A team and into the district tournament as the number-two seed behind the Stanfield Tigers.

Heppner will play the third-seeded Grant Union Prospectors on Friday at approximately 2:45 p.m. The Blue Mountain Conference District Tournament will be held at the Pendleton Convention Center.

In the game with the TigerScots, both teams came out fired up, and really dug down and got after each other. Weston-McEwen led after the first period by the score of 15-10. A back and forth second quarter saw the Mustangs outscore the TigerScots 13-12 to trail at halftime 27-23.

The Mustangs came out of halftime again fired up and ready to turn up the pace and defensive intensity of the game. Heppner outscored the TigerScots 20-12 to take the lead 43-39 as the final period started. The fourth quarter was an intense battle that saw the Mustangs keep their cool and play as a team. The team hit some key free throws late in the game and that helped lead to the Mustangs 60-52 victory.

Landon Mitchell led Heppner with 31 points on the night. He made four three-point shots



Trevor Nichols goes up for rebound.

in the game to go along with tough drives to the hoop for scores. He scored 21 of his 31 points in the second half to help key the victory. Tucker Ashbeck had another double-double on the season with his 12 points and 13 rebounds in the game. His clever positioning and strength gave him the advantage inside all game long.

David Cribbs battled through foul trouble to contribute six points and several key rebounds for the team.

Trevor Nichols had four points, three assists and three steals in a good all-around game for the Mustangs.

Caden George also scored four points and he recorded six assists. George also did a fantastic job defending and containing TigerScot sharp-shooter Cameron Reich in the game and holding him to only five points. Reich had exploded for 46 points in game just last weekend.

Cameron Proudfoot hit a big three-pointer in the game and played an outstanding overall game for the Mustangs. Mason Orem played some valuable minutes off the Heppner bench and had a key assist late in the victory.

The three Heppner seniors on the team, Ashbeck, Nichols and Cribbs, were honored before the game for their outstanding contributions to the Mustang basketball program over the past four years. Their skill and leadership will be missed by all the players and coaches.

Colt basketball ends successful season



Bears - Contributed Photo



Beavers - Contributed Photo



Bruins - Contributed Photo



Cougars - Contributed Photo



Huskies - Contributed Photo



Ducks - Contributed Photo

Another Colt Basketball season is in the books. This was the third year of Colt Basketball, and the program had more than 55 participants in grades two through six. The season started with a basketball clinic on Sunday, Jan. 8, followed by four weeks of regular season play. It concluded with a tournament on Sunday, Feb. 12. Students were organized into six "PAC 12" teams—Cougars, Huskies, Ducks, Beavers, Bears and this year's champions, the Bruins. -Contributed photos

Heppner wrestlers advance to state



Zach Brown maneuvers for better position.

Mustang wrestlers wrapped up their regular season at the 1A/2A Special District 3 tournament held in Culver Feb. 10-11. Wrestlers had to place first, second or third to advance to the state tournament held at the Portland Veterans Memorial Coliseum Feb. 23-24. Advancing to the state tournament were sophomore Zach Brown, second place at 138 pounds; senior Saul Lopez, third place at 138 pounds; sophomore Jaime Cavan-Harris, second place at 195 pounds; and junior Cade Cunningham, third place at 220 pounds.

After a long district weekend, Coach Zac Brown said he was excited to see each wrestler's progress on and off the mat; watching all of their hard work pay off was a huge bo-



Saul Lopez ready to get it on.



Jaime Cavan puts opponent in headlock.

Eagle Invitational Feb. 3-4. Placing it at Pine Eagle were Chace Jones, fourth at 120 pounds; Saul Lopez, fourth at 138 pounds; Zach Brown, fourth at 145 pounds; Ty Boor, sixth at 152 pounds; Landon McMahon, sixth at 170 pounds; Austin Willis, sixth at 195 pounds; Jaime Cavan Harris, third at 195; and Cade Cunningham, third

at 220.

Joining the male Mustangs in their shot at state is Journey Cavan-Harris. She was the first Heppner High School female to place at the district level and earn a place at state. (See last week's Heppner Gazette-Times for the full story.)

Plant-based cooking class planned

A free vegetarian and plant-based cooking class will take place Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. at the Heppner Seventh-Day Adventist Church. It will also be shared live on Facebook at Delightfully Yummy.

Cynthia Wenberg will present her favorite

"tried and true" recipes. The theme for the class will be soups and will include take-home recipes and food samples in class.

All are welcome. The Heppner SDA church is located at 560 Minor Street. Call 541-561-9132 for more information.

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