

# Mustangs take second at districts, head to state playoffs



**Tucker Ashbeck, All-Conference First Team**

The Heppner Mustang boys basketball team punched its ticket to the OSAA 2A State Basketball playoffs with a second-place finish at the Blue Mountain District Tournament. The Mustangs (19-5) won their first game at districts, beating the Grant Union Prospectors 78-47, but then lost to the Stanfield Tigers in the district championship game by the score of 59-52.

Heppner will start its journey to the final eight championship site, the Pendleton Convention Center, by travelling to play the Oakland Oakers this Saturday, Feb. 25. Game time has been set for 3 p.m. at Oakland High School. The Oakers tied for third place in their conference but then battled through to win their district championship and get to host a first round playoff game. They finished as the eighth-seeded team into the state playoffs, and the Mustangs are seeded ninth.

At the BMC District Tournament, Heppner started out fast against the Prospectors. The Mustangs led 15-6 at the end of the first quarter and stretched the lead to 38-21 at halftime. Another big scoring quarter of 23 points in the third quarter put the game out of reach when the Mustangs now led the game 61-35. Heppner also outscored Grant Union 17-12 in the fourth to win by the score of 78-47.

A balanced scoring attack that had five Mustangs in double figures was led by Tucker Ashbeck with 17 points. Ashbeck recorded another double-double in the game as he also finished with 15 rebounds. Trevor Nichols was next with 16 points, which included four three-pointers. Caden George finished with 12 points, and with



**Landon Mitchell, All-Conference First Team**

10 points each in the game were David Cribbs and Landon Mitchell. Cribbs also hauled down five rebounds, and Mitchell recorded eight rebounds and four assists in the game. Cameron Proudfoot finished the game with nine points, and with two points each were Mason Orem and Owen Cunningham.

That win moved the Mustangs into the district championship game against the Stanfield Tigers. The teams had split their regular season matchups with each team winning on the other team's home floor. A packed house of blue and gold filled the convention center with excitement.

The game saw Stanfield get off to a hot start shooting the ball and that continued for most of the game. Stanfield jumped out to a 19-14 lead at the end of the first quarter. The Tigers doubled up the Mustangs 14-7 in the second to lead 33-21 at halftime. It was a better second half for the Mustangs as they outscored the Tigers 31-26, but it wouldn't be enough to get any closer than the final score of 59-52.

Heppner was led by



**David Cribbs, All-Conference Second Team**



**Trevor Nichols, All-Conference Honorable Mention**

Nichols with 16 points, which included four three-pointers. Ashbeck was next with 11 points and seven rebounds. With eight points each in the game were Proudfoot and George. Cribbs finished with five, and Mitchell had four points to go along with nine rebounds.

The BMC All-Conference teams were announced after the game. These awards are voted on by the coaches in the conference and a coach cannot vote for his own players. Heppner was honored to have four players that received recognition. Tucker Ashbeck and Landon Mitchell were chosen to the first team. David Cribbs was voted onto the second team, and Trevor Nichols was an honorable mention selection.

## Idaho House passes Greater Idaho bill

The Idaho House of Representatives voted in favor of the "Greater Idaho" bill last week. The bill, numbered HJM 1, authorizes Idaho legislators to begin talks with Oregon about relocating the state line they share. During debate on the floor of the House, proponents of the bill cited the desirability of applying Idaho law to eastern Oregon as a way to push Oregon drug laws farther away from Idaho's current population. They also

cited an economic analysis published last week for the Claremont Institute which shows that rural Oregon counties would be a net benefit to Idaho financially. A press release on the Greater Idaho movement's website, greateridaho.org, said, "We are asking Oregon Legislature leaders to give this idea a hearing in Oregon. Eastern Oregon deserves a chance to present this proposal to Oregon state leaders."

# Mustang girls end season strong, place fourth in districts



**Lily Nichols fights for the ball against Weston players**

**By Tylynn Cimmiyotti**

The Heppner Mustang girls basketball ended the season strong at Districts, finishing as the fourth-ranked Blue Mountain Conference girls team. They came out on top Friday to beat the Irrigon Knights for the first time this season and fell by only three points to Weston-McEwen Saturday night.

In all-conference selections, Hallee Hisler made second team and Hadlie Nation received an honorable mention. These awards are voted on by the coaches in the conference, and coaches cannot vote for their own players.

The girls and their defense showed up to shut Irrigon down on Friday night. They outscored Irrigon 14-7 in the first quarter and tied 9-9 in the second quarter, ending the first half in the lead, 23-16.

Irrigon fought back in the third quarter (5-10), Heppner just narrowly keeping their lead, but Heppner did not let their intensity slip, and they finished the fourth quarter outscoring Irrigon 11-6. The final score was Heppner 39, Irrigon 32.

Hallee Hisler led the Mustangs with nine points and seven rebounds, and Hailey Wenberg added eight points and nine rebounds to lead their team to victory over the Knights.

Stats: Zandra Master-son: 6 rebounds, 3 fouls, 5 points, 3 assists, 8 turnovers, 2 blocks, 4 steals. H. Hisler: 7 rebounds, 3 fouls, 9 points, 1 assist, 6 turnovers, 3 steals. H. Nation: 3 rebounds, 2 fouls, 4 points, 1 assist, 2 turnovers,



**Hadlie Nation, All-Conference Honorable Mention**

2 steals. K. Spivey: 6 rebounds, 4 points, 1 assist, 2 turnovers, 1 block, 1 steal. H. Wenberg: 9 rebounds, 2 fouls, 8 points, 8 turnovers, 2 steals. A. Gerry: 1 rebound, 4 points. M. Cutsforth: 3 rebounds, 2 points, 1 assist, 4 turnovers, 1 steal. K. Henrichs: 3 rebounds, 2 fouls, 3 points, 2 turnovers, 2 steals.

The Heppner Mustangs met the Weston-McEwen TigerScots for their season's final game on Saturday afternoon.

The Mustangs came out looking tired from the day before and ended the first half trailing by 15 points, but the second half was a whole new game. Heppner outscored the TigerScots in both final quarters, quickly closing the gap.

The last three minutes of the game were absolute nailbiters. Heppner was only down by two points, running a full-court press to keep the ball on their side of the court and working hard not to foul since Weston McEwen was already in the bonus.

Heppner was not going down without a fight. In the game's final minutes, Weston scored one point



**Hallee Hisler, All-Conference Second Team**

on the free throw line, and Heppner could not get another shot in. In the end, though, it still felt like a team that was on top. The Mustangs came from the back and were within reach of a win. Not one time did the Mustangs stop pushing for that W. The final score was 43-46, Weston-McEwen.

Hallee Hisler once again led the Mustangs with 20 points and 13 rebounds. Hadlie nation added 12 points, nine rebounds and seven steals to help the Mustangs out.

Stats: Zandra Master-son: 7 rebounds, 4 fouls, 3 points, 2 assists, 6 turnovers, 2 steals. H. Hisler: 13 rebounds, 5 fouls, 20 points, 6 turnovers, 4 steals. H. Nation: 9 rebounds, 3 fouls, 12 points, 1 assist, 4 turnovers, 7 steals. K. Spivey: 1 rebound, 1 foul, 5 points, 1 turnover, 1 block, 1 steal. H. Wenberg: 8 rebounds, 2 fouls, 1 point, 3 assists, 5 turnovers, 3 steals. A. Gerry: 3 rebounds, 2 fouls, 1 turnover. M. Cutsforth: 1 turnover. L. Nichols: 3 turnovers. K. Henrichs: 5 rebounds, 4 fouls, 2 points, 1 assist, 3 turnovers, 3 steals.



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## Lunch & Dinner Menu

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**Thursday: Teriyaki Chicken Burger with chips for \$8.**

**Friday: Southwest Chicken Salad for \$8.**

**Saturday: Our Soup will be Southwest Corn Chowder.**

**Monday 2/27: Tater tot casserole with fruit for \$8.**

**Tuesday: Choice of chicken fry steak or hamburger patty smothered in gravy with eggs, toast, and hash browns for \$8.**


**Tuesday Night from 6-9 taco Tuesday night. \$2 hard shell tacos. \$2 each as many as you want.**

**Wednesday: Turkey and Cucumber salad, potato soup, and bread sticks for \$8.**

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