Heppner Mustangs volleyball starts pre-season strong

Hallee Hisler flys high to spike the ball against South Wasco.
- Photo by Tara Proudfoot

Ava Gerry setting the ball for her Heppner teamates against South Wasco.
- Photo by Tara Proudfoot

By Tylynn Cimmiyotti

The Heppner Mustangs volleyball team has started their pre-season strong with a record of 6-3 (17 match wins and 7 match losses), holding the 15th position for State 2A and the #3 spot for the Blue Mountain Conference.

On Saturday, August 26th, the Mustangs traveled to Grant Union for a tournament.

In pool play, they won against Dayville in two: 25-9, 25-2, and lost against Crane in two: 19-25, 14-25.

Heppner vs. Dayville stats: Ava Gerry: 5 assists, 10 aces. Morgan Cutsforth: 3 kills, 6 aces. Hallee Hisler: 3 kills, 2 aces, 1 block. Maya Payne: 1 kill, 4 assists, 1 ace. Katie Spivey: 3 kills, 2 aces.

Heppner vs Crane stats: Ava Gerry: 2 kills, 3 assists. Morgan Cutsforth: 3 kills. Hallee Hisler: 3 aces, 1 assist. Maya Payne: 1 kill, 4 assists, 1 ace. Katie Spivey: 1 kill.

During bracket play, the Mustangs won against Enterprise in two 25-13, 25-20, and lost against Crane a second time in two while improving their score: 20-25, 22-25.

Heppner vs. Enterprise stats: Ava Gerry: 1 kill, 7 assists, 5 aces. Morgan Cutsforth: 1 kill, 4 digs, 3 aces. Hallee Hisler: 3 kills, 1 block. Maya Payne: 3 kills, 2 assists, 2 aces, 3 digs. Katie Spivey: 1 kill, 4 digs. Keeley Nairns: 1 kill, 1 assist. Kadie Henricks: 2 digs.

Heppner vs. Crane stats: Ava Gerry: 1 kill, 1 assist, 1 block. Morgan Cutsforth: 4 digs. Hallee Hisler: 1 block, 3 digs. Maya Payne: 2 assists. Katie Spivey: 2 kills, 8 digs, 1 ace. Kadie Henricks: 3 digs. Delaney Stefani: 4 digs.

Coach Wilson comments that the team had a great day. They worked hard and made improvements with each game. They learned what they need to focus on in the following weeks, and she knows that they will come back stronger.

On Saturday, September 2, 2023, the Heppner High School Mustangs hosted their annual invitational and won both games that they played against Kennedy and Vernonia. Coach Wilson sees that the team played well and is molding themselves into a well-rounded team where each girl contributes to make up a great team. She is proud of the effort that they put into their games this weekend.

Heppner vs. Kennedy: 3-0, 25-15, 25-13, 25-18. Stats: Ava Gerry: 4 kills, 8 assists, 1 ace, 2 digs. Morgan Cutsforth: 3 kills, 4 digs, 1 ace. Hallee Hisler: 6 kills, 2 digs, 4 aces. Maya Payne: 2 kills, 7 assists, 2 aces. Katie Spivey: 2 digs. Keeley Nairns: 1 kill, 2 digs, 6 aces. Kadie Henricks: 3 kills, 4 aces.

Heppner vs Vernonia: 3-0, 25-16, 25-11, 25-9. Stats: Ava Gerry: 4 kills, 5 assists, 2 digs, 7 aces. Morgan Cutsforth: 3 kills, 2 digs, 7 aces. Hallee Hisler: 3 blocks, 8 kills. Maya Payne: 2 kills, 9 assists, 2 aces. Katie Spivey: 2 kills, 8 digs, 1 ace. Kadie Henricks: 2 kills, 1 dig, 1 ace. Delaney Stefani: 3 digs, 2 aces. Keeley Nairns: 1 kill, 1 dig.

On Tuesday, September 5, 2023, Heppner hosted both South Wasco and Echo high schools. The Mustangs lost their first game against South Wasco and won the second game against Echo. South Wasco was a tough competitor for the Mustangs, and Coach Wilson commented that if our team did not capitalize on every ball, then they would. It was a great match-up, and the Mustangs battled to the very end.

Heppner vs. South Wasco: 1-3, 25-21, 23-25, 15-25, 23-25. Stats: Ava Gerry: 7 kills, 8 assists, 4 aces, 4 digs. Morgan Cutsforth: 3 kills, 2 assists, 4 digs, 2 aces. Hallee Hisler: 7 kills, 2 aces, 4 blocks. Maya Payne: 5 kills, 9 assists, 5 aces, 2 digs. Katie Spivey: 2 kills, 3 digs, 1 ace. Keeley Nairns: 1 kill, 2 aces. Kadie Henricks: 2 kills, 1 ace.

Echo made the team dig and get into position for every ball and play. The team showed that they were tired near the end but pushed through and got the win.

Heppner vs Echo: 3-0, 25-21, 25-21, 25-18. Stats: Ava Gerry: 7 kills, 6 assists, 9 digs, 4 aces. Morgan Cutsforth: 5 kills, 13 digs, 2 aces. Hallee Hisler: 1 block, 7 kills. Maya Payne: 1 kill, 9 assists, 2 aces. Katie Spivey: 12 digs. Kadie Henricks: 3 kills, 4 digs.

On Saturday, September 9, 2023, the Mustangs traveled to Helix for a tournament where they competed against Cove, Prescott, Riverside, Helix, and Ione. The team won five out of six games, only losing to Ione in the final championship game.

Coach Wilson was proud of the girls and their efforts during the Helix tournament. The stats do not represent how well they played. Each player really came together as a team and worked hard on each area that they had been struggling in. Even though the team did not win the final game, they battled with Ione on every last point, even though many did not go in favor of the Mustangs.

Pool Play:

Heppner vs. Cove: 2-0: 25-23, 25-12. Stats: Ava Gerry: 4 kills, 8 assists, 4 aces, 4 digs. Maya Payne: 4 kills, 5 assists, 5 digs. Hallee Hisler: 2 kills, 2 digs, 2 aces. Morgan Cutsforth: 2 kills, 5 digs, 2 aces. Kadie Henricks: 12 digs. Katie Spivey: 12 digs, 1 ace. Avree Lathrop: 2 kills. Delaney Stefani: 5 digs.

Heppner vs. Prescott: 2-0: 25-10, 25-14. Stats: Ava Gerry: 3 kills, 9 assists, 3 digs. Maya Payne: 4 kills, 6 assists, 1 dig. Hallee Hisler: 6 kills, 6 digs, 1 ace. Morgan Cutsforth: 4 kills, 6 digs, 1 ace. Kadie Henricks: 1 kill, 4 digs. Katie Spivey: 2 kills, 1 assist, 11 digs. Avree Lathrop: 1 kill. Delaney Stefani: 2 aces.

Heppner vs. Riverside: 2-0: 25-6, 25-2. Stats: Ava Gerry: 3 kills, 6 assists, 10 aces. Maya Payne: 3 kills, 4 assists, 1 dig. Hallee Hisler: 4 kills, 3 aces. Morgan Cutsforth: 2 kills, 1 ace. Katie Spivey: 5 digs, 2 aces. Avree Lathrop: 1 kill. Delaney Stefani: 2 aces.

Bracket Play

Heppner vs. Helix: 2-0: 25-7, 25-10. Stats: Ava Gerry: 3 kills, 6 assists, 2 aces, 4 digs. Maya Payne: 4 kills, 5 assists, 1 dig. Hallee Hisler: 5 kills, 2 digs. Kadie Henricks: 1 kills, 3 digs. Katie Spivey: 12 digs, 1 ace. Avree Lathrop: 1 kill. Delaney Stefani: 2 digs, 4 aces.

Heppner vs. Cove: 2-0: 25-12, 25-12. Stats: Ava Gerry: 3 kills, 3 assists, 2 aces, 6 digs. Maya Payne: 2 kills, 4 assists, 4 digs, 6 aces. Hallee Hisler: 2 kills. Morgan Cutsforth: 2 kills, 1 dig, 2 aces. Kadie Henricks: 3 digs. Katie Spivey: 11 digs, 1 ace. Avree Lathrop: 1 kill. Delaney Stefani: 1 ace.

Heppner vs. Ione (Championship Game): 1-3: 20-25, 25-22, 9-15. Stats: Ava Gerry: 3 kills, 10 assists, 6 aces, 4 digs. Maya Payne: 4 kills, 5 assists, 3 digs. Hallee Hisler: 6 kills, 4 digs, 1 ace. Morgan Cutsforth: 5 kills, 10 digs. Kadie Henricks: 2 kills, 6 digs. Katie Spivey: 2 kills, 11 digs. Avree Lathrop: 1 dig. Delaney Stefani: 1 ace, 2 digs.

The Mustangs have upcoming games on 09/12/2023, 5 PM @ Home vs. Irrigon, 09/14/2023, 5 PM @ Weston McEwen, 09/16/2023, TBD @ Powder Valley High School, and 09/18/2023, 5 PM @ Home vs. McLoughlin.

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Mustangs defeat Knappa Loggers 30-8

Landon Mitchell diving for a touchdown playing Knappa *- Photo by Tara Proudfoot*

The Heppner Mustang football team traveled across the state to take on and defeat the Knappa Loggers by the score of 30-8. The Mustangs (2-0) continued their tough pre-season schedule by playing their second top 10 ranked opponent.

Heppner kicked off to start the game and the teams traded possessions. The second time the Loggers had the ball, Hayden McMahon intercepted a Knappa pass and returned it deep into Logger territory. Three plays later the Mustangs scored when Caden George took a handoff and ran 12 yards for a touchdown. Quarterback Landon Mitchell completed a pass to Keaton Coiner for the 2 point conversion to give Heppner a 8-0 lead.

Knappa scored on their next drive to make the score of the game 8-8 at the end of the first quarter.

Both teams went three-and-out on their next possessions and punted the ball. Heppner took over after a Logger punt on their own 13-yard line. A well scripted and executed 12 play, 87-yard drive by the Mustangs ended in a touchdown when Caden George blasted into the end zone from 3 yards out. Mitchell scored the 2 pt. conversion to make the score 16-8 at halftime.

The Mustangs' Nick Wenberg took the second half kickoff at the 19-yard line and returned it to the 35. Heppner would score again, this time on a 65-yard, 8-play drive that ended when Caden George scampered in from 15 yards out. That made the score 22-8.

The teams traded several possessions for the rest of the third quarter and halfway through the fourth. The Mustangs scored their final touchdown of the night midway through the fourth quarter when Mitchell handed the ball to Caden George who then out-ran the Logger defense for a 12-yard score. Caden then ran the ball in for the 2-point conversion to make the score 30-8.

The younger Mustang team members came into the game and played on defense and stopped Knappa on downs. They finished the game on offense as quarterback Caylan Proudfoot handed the ball to Tripp Stewart, Alakae Rodriquez and Caleb George to finish the game. Caleb rushed for 15 yards on the final play as the Mustangs won the game 30-8.

Heppner finished the game with 24 first downs and allowed Knappa only 11. The Mustangs ran the ball for 273 and held the Loggers to 87. Heppner passed for 156 yards and Knappa ,51. The Mustangs had an impressive 429 yards of total offense and limited Knappa to only 138.

Landon Mitchell had another impressive night throwing the football as he went 10-14 for 156 yards. Cameron Proudfoot caught 5 passes for 70 yards and Mason Orem had 4 receptions for a total of 44 yards. Caden George caught 1 pass for 42 yards in the game.

Caden George led the team in rushing with 124 yards and 4 touchdowns on 15 carries. Cameron Proudfoot was next with 64 yards on 10 carries. Hayden McMahon ran the ball 8 times for 42 yards and Mitchell ran for 12 yards on the night. Caleb George ran the ball for 15 yards, Wenberg, 9, Rodriquez, 4 and Stewart, 3.

The Heppner defense was led by Jaime Cavan who recorded 7 tackles for the night. Caden George had 6 and Orem had 5. Owen Guerra stepped up and had 4 tackles while Wenberg, Cameron Proudfoot, Landon McMahon, Stewart and Hayden McMahon each finished with 3. Hayden also had an interception in the game. Lane Critchlow and Rodriquez each finished the night with 2 tackles and with one each were Mitchell and Gino Gallegos.

This Friday the Mustangs travel to Corbett to take on the Corbett Cardinals.

Charlie Ferguson wins WCCC Championship

Curt Day, Charlie Ferguson, Duane Disque
- Contributed photo

The Willow Creek Country Club held its men's club championship on Saturday, Sept.9, and Sunday, Sept. 10. Charlie Ferguson won the club championship, Curt Day was the net champion, and Duane Disque was the senior champion.

Full results are as follows:

Net

1st Curt Day 120 Net Champion

2nd Dave Pranger 123

3rd John Bowles 133

Gross

1st Charlie Ferguson 132 Club Champion

2nd/3rd Tim Wright-Jeff Watkins 134

The next men's play will be the final men's' club event of the season, the cross-country tournament, Sunday Sept. 17. Saturday, September 23, the Elks will have their annual tournament for the Elk's Eye Clinic. Registration will begin at 7:45 a.m., with tee-off at 9 a.m.

For more information contact Marty Brannon.

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