

# Mustang boys crush Redsidies 57-20



Landon Mitchell catching some air and scoring for the Mustangs - Photo by Tylynn Cimmiyotti

The Heppner High School boys' varsity basketball team won two of their first three games of the new season. The Mustangs, who are coming off of a season last year that saw them reach the semi-finals at the OSAA 2A State Basketball Tournament. That team brought home some hardware from the state tournament as they won the highly coveted sportsmanship award and added the 5th place trophy to the Mustang trophy case. Heppner lost several key players off of that team but returned a few players that saw considerable playing time last year.

The Mustangs started their season off by defeating the Wasco County Redsidies by the score of 57-20. Heppner jumped out to a 17-2 lead after the first quarter and never looked back. The Mustangs led 41-9 at halftime and 55-18 at the end of the third quarter. The fourth quarter was played with a running clock because the Mustangs were ahead by more than 30 points. Reserves played most of the quickly played fourth quarter and the Mustangs won the game by the score of 57-20.

Landon Mitchell and Mason Orem led the team in scoring with 12 points each. Mitchell also had 6

rebounds and 4 assists in the game. With 10 points each were Thomas Bales and Caden George. Bales also hauled down 7 rebounds and George recorded 4 assists and 4 steals for the team. Keaton Coiner contributed 6 points, Marty Medina had 5 and Cameron Proudfoot scored 2.

The team then traveled to Milton-Freewater to take on the McLoughlin Pioneers. Heppner lost the close game by the score of 49-47. The Mustang led the game at the end of the first quarter 13-10 and 28-24 at halftime. The game tightened up in the third quarter, but the Mustangs still led by the score of 35-33. McLoughlin scored the first five points in the fourth quarter to take their first lead in the game 38-33. The game stayed close for the rest of the quarter and then the Mustangs missed some key free throws down the stretch. Heppner coach Jeremy Rosenbalm called a time out with only seconds left in the game and set up a play for the winning score. The team ran the play well

and got a good look on a three-point shot that hit the back of the rim and bounced off to give the Pioneers a 49-47 win.

Mitchell once again led the team with 14 points, and he also had 8 rebounds. Caden George battled foul trouble all night but still managed to score 11 points in the game. Cameron Proudfoot scored 9 points and had 5 rebounds for the Mustangs. Bales and Orem pitched in 5 points each and Keaton Coiner scored 3.

The next game was a home contest with the Dufur Rangers. The Mustangs won that hard fought game by the score of 52-35. Heppner jumped out to a 14-5 lead after one quarter and led 22-15 at halftime. A close third quarter saw the Mustangs still lead the game by the score of 33-27. The Mustangs took total control in the fourth quarter and outscored the Rangers 19-8 to come away with the win 52-35.

Mitchell had a good overall game with 18 points, 8 rebounds, 5 assists and 4 steals. Caden George pitched in with 12 points, 6 rebounds and he had 8 steals. Orem scored 9 points for the Mustangs and with 4 points each were Cameron Proudfoot and Bales. Caleb George contributed 3 points and with 1 point each were Medina and Keaton Coiner.

The Mustangs have a busy week ahead of themselves this week as they travel on Tuesday to take on the Union Bobcats. They will then attend the Columbia River Clash Tournament in Umatilla on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The Mustangs' first game of the tournament will be against the Ontario Tigers. It will be Thursday night at 5:30 in the junior high school gym.

# New rules for faster games

By Chris Sykes

The Heppner varsity basketball teams are playing with a 35-second shot clock this season. In September 2022, the Oregon School Activities Association approved the implementation of a shot clock rule, bringing Oregon in line with neighboring states like Washington and California. Despite this change, Ione Athletic Director Ryan Rudolf, who also coaches the girls' basketball team, believes that the shot clock will not significantly impact his team's performance according to a statement he gave to the Hermiston Herald.

In addition to the shot clock, there has been a modification to the free-throw rule. The one-and-one free throw system, previously used after seven team fouls, has been elim-

inated. Instead, a common foul will now result in the awarding of two free throws starting from the team's fifth foul in each quarter. At the end of each quarter, the foul count will reset. This change aims to reduce the risk of injuries and instances of rough play during rebounding opportunities, as stated by BMBOA commissioner Brian Freels. He also emphasized that these rule changes represent the most significant alterations in a single year and that it will take time for everyone to adapt and understand them.

Another adjustment pertains to the uniform rule, specifically regarding the undershirts worn under jerseys. The new rule allows visiting teams, who may have difficulty matching colors, to wear black undershirts, while home

teams will wear white. This ensures a better visual distinction between teams and facilitates easier identification of players.

Although the number of officials in the BMBOA has increased slightly this season, with 55 officials currently enlisted, it still falls short of the desired number. Last year, the BMBOA assigned a total of 1,756 games to officials, encompassing both varsity and junior varsity levels. They anticipate a similar workload for the current season.

Overall, these changes in Oregon high school basketball rules aim to bring the state in line with neighboring states, prioritize player safety, and address uniform color coordination challenges.

## HOME CARE AIDES NEEDED EMPLOYMENT TYPE: HOME CARE AIDES NEEDED

**Working Day- 5 DAYS IN A WEEK**  
**Working Hour- DAYS FLEXIBLE**  
**Salary is \$24 per Hour.**

**JOB DUTIES :** Administering oral and topical medication under the supervision of medical personnel. Preparing and serving meals at the appropriate time.

**For more details about the position, email me (emsaysanchez@gmail.com).**

## Print & Mailing Services

\*Design \*Print \*Mail

Sykes Publishing 541-676-9228

**ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:  
MONDAY 5:00 P.M.**

*Refer a Friend  
and Get Rewarded*

**\$50 Account  
Credit For  
Every Referral**



**Blue Mountain  
NETWORKS**

High Speed Fiber Internet to the home  
Heppner & Ione

Visit [gorge.net](http://gorge.net) or  
call 541-436-223

When you refer a family member, friend or neighbor to Blue Mountain, and they sign up for internet service, you both qualify to receive an extra free month. How many free months? The limit does not exist!