

Mustang Boys' win 1 of 3 games



Caden George jumps to grab a rebound in their game against Kennedy. - Photo by Tara Eakin Proudfoot

The Heppner Mustang boys' basketball team recently played in the 2A Preview Tournament held at the Pendleton Convention Center. The tournament brings in three of the top 2A teams from the west side of the state to play three teams from the eastern part of the state. The other teams attending this year besides the Mustangs were from Kennedy, Knappa, Vernonia, Riverside and Weston-McEwen.

Heppner started the tournament off by playing Kennedy Trojans. Kennedy is the same team that the Mustangs played in their final game of the season last year at the state tournament. This year the talented Trojan team beat the Mustangs by the score of 55-35. The Mustangs struggled to get their game going and Kennedy jumped out to a quick lead and led 32-15 at the half. The second half was much different for the Mustangs, and they played even with the Trojans, but the damage had been done in the first half and the Mustangs couldn't cut into the Kennedy lead.

Landon Mitchell led the Mustangs with 19 points. Mason Orem followed with 8 points, 6 blocked shots and five rebounds.

The next game for the Mustangs would be against the Knappa Loggers. The teams would be tied 12-12 at the end of the first quarter. Knappa used a 9-4 advantage in the second to lead 21-16 at halftime. Heppner outscored Knappa 22-19 in the second half but just couldn't make up the halftime deficit and lost the game 40-38.

Mitchell again led the team in scoring with 16. He also had 5 rebounds, 3 assists and 2 steals in the

game. Cameron Proudfoot finished with 9 points and 3 rebounds while Mason Orem contributed 6 points, 5 rebounds and blocked a shot. With 5 points, 3 rebounds, 4 assist and 2 steals was Caden George. Thomas Bales had 2 points and 3 rebounds for the Mustangs.

The last game of the tournament for the Mustangs was against the Vernonia Loggers. Heppner started out fast and led 13-7 at the end of the first quarter. Both teams scored 11 points in the second quarter and the Mustangs led at the half 24-18. Heppner opened up the offense in the second half and outscored the Loggers 33-17 to get the win by the score of 57-37.

Caden George and Landon Mitchell each scored 15 points to lead the team in scoring. Caden also had 3 assists, a block, and a steal in the game. Landon also recorded 4 rebounds, 4 assists, 4 steals and a block for the team. Keaton Coiner had a big game as he scored 8 points and had 9 rebounds for the Mustangs. Mason Orem had another good game with 6 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists and a steal. Next was Thomas Bales with 5 points, 3 rebounds and 2 steals. Cameron Proudfoot and Jackson Coiner each tallied 3 points in the game and Cameron also had 2 rebounds and 2 assists. Finishing the game with 1 point each were Caleb George and Caylan Proudfoot.

The Mustangs, with a 7-6 preseason record will enter Blue Mountain Conference play this week as they will travel to take on the Weston-McEwen Tigerscots on Friday and then host the Grant Union Prospectors on Saturday.

30th Annual alumni game in Heppner



Men's teams- White Team LR- Joe Sherman, Kevin Murray, Blake Carter, Kason Cimmiyotti, Brock Hisler, Kolby Currin, Patrick Collins. Blue Team LR- Lane Bailey, Chris Lien, Tate Gentry, Blas Elguezabal, Rocky Turner, Ian Murray, Chuey Elguezabal. - Contributed Photo



Women's teams- Blue Team (LR)- Emma Osmin Lankford, Taylor Tuner (soon to be Currin), Blake Greenup, Hailey Struckmeier, Madison Bailey Rosenbalm, Stephanie Hanson Sweeney. White Team LR- Petra Elguezabal Payne, Annie Hisler Weygandt, Janelle Healy Ellis, Shelly Rietman McCabe, Staci Elguezabal, Jessica Kempken. - Contributed Photo

The 11th annual Heppner Mustang Alumni basketball games were held at the Heppner High School gym on December 23. Twenty-six former Mustangs or their spouses showcased their considerable basketball talents. Both the men's and women's games were highly competitive, and everyone had a great time. The fans and families that filled the gym cheered on their favorites and were highly entertained.

The women's game was won by the white team by the score of 57-24. Janelle Ellis led the winning team in scoring as she poured in several long distance three-pointers. Point guard Annie Weygandt showed some awesome passing ability and had many assists to her teammates. The entire team did a good job of passing the ball to each other as they scored several easy baskets in the paint. Petra Payne and Shelly Rietman controlled the boards as they hauled down the majority of the games rebounds. Staci Elguezabal converted several fast break baskets and Jessica Kempken contributed solid play for her team in the victory.

The blue team was led by Madison Rosenbalm who hit several three-pointers in the game. Taylor Turner (soon to be Currin) played in the Heppner gym for the first time and showed why she was a star player in the state of Washington. Stephanie Sweeney played hard and hustled all game long as she attacked the basket and Emma Lankford looked as if she hadn't lost a step from when she was

a Mustang. Blake Greenup and Hailey Struckmeier contributed to their team with good all-around play in the game.

The men's game was also won by the white team by the score of 88-77. The white team jumped out to a big lead early but were caught and passed late in the game. They battled back and took the lead for good with only a few minutes to go in the game and then

held on to get the win.

Patrick Collins led the winners with 29 points. Brock Hisler was next with 15 points and Blake Carter had 13. With 12 points in his return to HHS was Kason Cimmiyotti and former teammate Joe Sherman finished with 11. With 4 points each in the game were Kolby Currin and Kevin Murray.

Leading the way for the blue team in defeat was

Chris Lien who finished with 25 points. Rocky Turner was next with 23 and Chuey Elguezabal had 13 points. Tate Gentry had 8 points and with 3 each were Lane Bailey and Ian Murry. Blas Elguezabal finished up the scoring for the team with 2 points.

Plans are already underway for next year and the 12th Annual Alumni game.

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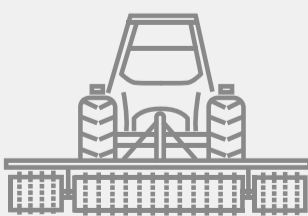
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