

Mustangs defeat Knights at BMCD Tournament

On Friday, February 16, 2024, the Heppner Lady Mustangs kicked off their Blue Mountain District basketball tournament with a crushing victory over Irrigon, 53-26. The Mustangs wasted no time in taking control of the game, dominating the long court at the convention center from the first quarter. Hallee Hisler was the star of the show, with a double-double of 20 points, 13 rebounds, and 5 steals. Hadlie Nation chipped in with 8 points, 4 rebounds, and 4 steals, while Katie Spivey and Morgan Cutsforth added 6 and 7 points respectively, along with some solid rebounding and defense. The Mustangs were unstoppable on both ends of the floor, as they outplayed the Knights in every aspect of the game.

In the opening quarter, Hisler set the tone with 8 points from lay-ups and jumpers, while Delaney Stefani and Spivey added to the team's score with some free throws. Heppner's quick guards, Nation, Stefani, Hisler, and Lily Nichols, harassed the Knights with their pressure defense, forcing nine turnovers. The Mustangs also dominated the boards, grabbing 17 rebounds in the first quarter alone; Hisler had 6, Spivey had 4, Stefani had 4, Nation had 2, and Healy Hisler had 1. The Mustangs finished the first quarter with a comfortable 14-7 lead.

The second quarter was even more lopsided, as Heppner held Irrigon to just two points while scoring thirteen of their own. Hisler and Nation continued to lead the way with 8 and 5 points respectively, as the Mustangs extended their lead to 27-9 at half-time. Morgan Cutsforth and Kadie Henrichs also

contributed to Heppner's depth, as they entered the game and played well.

The third quarter saw Heppner pull away even further, scoring 22 points and limiting Irrigon to only eight. Heppner was now rotating their players more frequently, giving valuable court time to Morgan Cutsforth, Arianna Worden, Maya Payne, Ava Gerry, Avree Lathrop, and Zaleta Masterson. The Mustangs closed the third quarter with a commanding 47-17 lead.

The fourth quarter was a mere formality, as Heppner cruised to a 53-26 win. The Mustangs had done all the damage in the first half of play, as they overwhelmed Irrigon with their speed and defensive intensity, causing the Knights to turn the ball over a total of 31 times. Heppner finished Friday night 17-7 overall slated to play the Weston McEwen Tigerscots on Saturday for third place in the league.

Game Stats: Hallee Hisler: 10-19 FG, 20 points, 13 rebounds, 5 steals, 1 assist, 1 foul. Hadlie Nation: 3-9 FG, 2-5 FT, 8 points, 4 rebounds, 4 steals, 1 assist, 1 foul. Katie Spivey: 2-3 FG, 2-2 FT, 6 points, 7 rebounds, 2 steals, 1 assist, 2 fouls. Morgan Cutsforth: 3-6 FG, 1-1 3-pointer, 7 points, 3 steals. Delaney Stefani: 3 points, 3 rebounds, 4 steals, 2 assists, 3 fouls. Arianna Worden: 3 points, 2 rebounds. Healy Hisler: 1 point, 2 rebounds, 1 assist. Avree Lathrop: 2 points, 1 rebound, 2 steals, 2 assists. Maya Payne: 2 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 fouls. Zaleta Masterson: 4 rebounds, 1 steal. Kadie Henrichs: 1 point, 1 rebound. Lily Nichols: 3 rebounds, 2 steals, 1 assist, 1 foul. Ava Gerry: 2 rebounds, 4 fouls.

Lady Mustangs going to state

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advance to the postseason on Saturday.

Heppner was led by junior Hallee Hisler, who posted another impressive double-double performance. Hisler shot 7-13 from the field, scoring 15 points, and also collected 13 rebounds, 4 steals, and 2 assists. Her teammate Delaney Stefani added 11 points, 3 steals, and 3 assists. Katie Spivey contributed 6 points, 5 rebounds, and 1 assist in this crucial win for Heppner.

The Mustangs started strong and took a 10-6 lead after the first quarter. Stefani nailed a three-pointer and a two-pointer, Hisler scored a jumper and a free throw, and Kadie Henrichs hit a jumper to give Heppner the early advantage. The second quarter was more balanced, as both teams exchanged steals and turnovers, as well as rebounds. Hisler, Stefani, Katie Spivey, Hadlie Nation, and Morgan Cutsforth shared the scoring load for Heppner in the second period. The Mustangs also dominated the boards, with Hisler grabbing 5 rebounds, Healy Hisler getting 3 rebounds, Lily Nichols snatching 2 rebounds, Katie Spivey securing 1 rebound, and Morgan Cutsforth picking up 1 rebound. Heppner maintained a slim lead at half-time, 18-16.

The game was a nail-biter until the final quarter. Heppner took the lead at 23-19 when Hisler made a basket. Weston

McEwen responded with a shot from Hansell that put them ahead 25-24. Stefani drew a foul and sank both free throws to give Heppner a one-point lead. But WM hit a three and a jumper to end the quarter with a 30-28 advantage.

Heppner came back strong in the last period outscoring their opponent 16-6. The Mustangs secured third place with a 44-36 victory and advanced to the state 2A playoffs. They had a balanced offense, with multiple players contributing points. They also dominated the boards grabbing 43 rebounds to WM's 36. The Mustangs had more assists, steals, and fewer turnovers than their opponent. It was a team effort that paid off for the Mustangs. Hallee Hisler earned first-team honors. Hadlie Nation, a senior, made second team, and Delaney Stefani, a sophomore, received an honorable mention for the 2023-24 season.

Game stats: Hallee Hisler: 15 points, 13 rebounds, 4 steals, 2 assists, 1 foul, 1 turnover. Hadlie Nation: 4 points, 3 rebounds, 3 steals, 4 fouls, 3 turnovers. Delaney Stefani: 11 points, 6 rebounds, 3 steals, 3 assists, 1 turnover. Lily Nichols: 3 points, 9 rebounds, 1 steal, 2 fouls, 4 turnovers. Katie Spivey: 6 points, 5 rebounds, 1 assists, 2 fouls. Healy Hisler: 3 rebounds, 2 turnovers. Morgan Cutsforth: 1 point, 1 rebound, 1 steal. Kadie Henrichs: 4 points, 3 fouls, 1 turnover.

Mustangs lose against Prospectors and Tigerscots

The Heppner Mustang boys' basketball team finished their season with a pair of losses at the Blue Mountain Conference District Tournament. The Mustangs, who finished the season with a 13-12 overall record, lost to the Grant Union Prospectors by the score of 67-52 and the Weston-McEwen Tigerscots 62-53.

Against the Prospectors, Heppner couldn't find the basket in the first quarter and trailed 29-8 at the end of the frame. The Mustangs continued to struggle offensively in the second quarter and Grant Union shot a sizzling 60% from the field in the first half to lead 45-19 at the intermission.

The Mustangs came out and played inspired basketball in the third quarter and they outscored the Prospectors 20-8. That made the score 53-39 entering the final quarter of play. The teams played nearly even in the fourth quarter as the Prospectors only outscored the Mustangs 14-13 in the quarter. Heppner did cut the Grant Union lead to only 10 points early in the quarter, but the Prospectors held on to get the win by the score of 67-52.

Mason Orem led the team in scoring with 16. Mason also recorded 3 rebounds and 2 assists in the game. Landon Mitchell recorded a double-double as he scored 13 points and had 13 rebounds to go along with 1 assist and a steal. Cameron Proudfoot had a good game with 11 points, 8 rebounds and 2 assists. Caden George was next with 7 points, 5 rebounds and 1 steal. Marty Medina scored 2 points and had 1 assist and Logan Turner also contributed 2 points for the team. Thomas Bales scored 1 point and had 4 rebounds and 2 steals for the Mustangs. Keaton Coiner ripped down 3 rebounds while Tripp Stewart had 1 rebound and 1 steal in the game. Jackson Coiner had a nice pass for an assist late in the game for the team.

The game against rival Weston-McEwen was a close one for the entire contest. The teams were tied 13-13 at the end of

the first quarter and the Tigerscots held a slim lead at the half 33-27. The Mustangs scored the first basket of the second half to cut into the Tigerscot lead as the teams' traded baskets in the fast paced third quarter. The Mustangs cut the Tigerscot lead to only 3 points late in the quarter, but Weston-McEwen led 47-42 as the fourth quarter started. The final frame saw the Mustangs get to within 1 point of Weston-McEwen halfway through the fourth quarter, but they could never take the lead. The teams played the final four minutes close, but the game ended with the Tigerscots getting the win by the score of 62-53.

Mason Orem led the team in scoring with 13 points. Mason also had 7 rebounds in the game. Landon Mitchell ended his outstanding Heppner career by recording a seldom scene triple double. Landon had 11 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists in his last game as a Mustang. Landon also had 4 steals and he blocked a shot. Caden George also scored 11 points, had 3 rebounds, 2 assists and 2 steals for the team. Thomas Bales contributed 7 points and had 8 rebounds in the game. Cameron Proudfoot scored 5 points, hauled down 10 rebounds, had 2 assists and 1 steal in another stellar performance filling up the stat sheet. Keaton Coiner was always around the basket and scored 4 points and had 2 rebounds. Marty Medina had 2 points, 2 rebounds and 1 assist in the game for the Mustangs.

The Mustangs will lose four starters from this year's team in seniors Landon Mitchell, Caden George, Cameron Proudfoot and Thomas Bales. They have seen a lot of success on the hardwood for the Mustangs as they were a part of two teams that advanced to the final eight at the State Tournament in Pendleton. As seniors this year, they led their team to a second-place finish in their conference and a district tournament appearance. Their leadership and experience will be missed in the Mustang locker room in the future.

Mustangs places 26th at OSAA Districts

This past weekend the Heppner Mustangs Girls Wrestlers traveled to Scappoose to compete in the OSAA 4A/3A/2A/1A Special District 1 tournament that took place over Friday and Saturday. Heppner Placed 26th overall, with 25 team points. This wraps up the end of the season for our female wrestlers.

Journey Cavan-Harris (140) had a remarkable run at the state wrestling tournament, finishing sixth in her class and contributing nine points to her team's score. She started strong with a 7-4 decision over Samantha Starr of Colton, then pinned Mayzie Dieringer of Scappoose in the quarterfinals. She faced a tough opponent in Hannah Hernandez of Ontario, who stopped her in the semifinals with a fall. Cavan-Harris bounced back in the consolation semifinals but lost by fall to Chloe Comerford of North Marion. She had a rematch with Starr for fifth place but came up short in a 3-2 decision.

Loren Trujillo (125) had a mixed performance at the wrestling tournament, finishing with a 2-2 record and 7.0 team points. Trujillo received a bye in the first round, then pinned Angie Solis of Crook County in the second round. However, she faced a tough opponent in Averi Fisher of Echo, who dominated her with an 8-0 major decision. Trujillo bounced back with a close 10-8 decision over Vera Worthing of Yamhill-Carlton, but her run ended when she was pinned by Claire Frugia of Scappoose in the consolation round.

Sarah Munkers (170) had a remarkable comeback in the consolation bracket of the girls' wrestling tournament, after losing her first match by fall to Sabrina Stewart of Gladstone. Munkers, who had a record of 8-20 and an unknown seeding, received a bye in the first consolation round and then defeated Sayge Johnson of La Grande by a 6-2 decision. She continued her winning streak by pinning Abigail Taylor of Estacada in the third consolation round, earning 5.0 team points for Heppner/Ione. However, her run ended in the fourth consolation round, where she was pinned by Kamaya Vanlanker of Rainier, who had a record of 21-16 and a higher seeding.

Keeley Nairns (190) had a tough day at the wrestling tournament, losing two of her three matches by fall. She started with a win over Emma Stalcup of Estacada, pinning her, but then fell to Gracie Baker of Crane in the quarterfinals. Her last chance to advance was cut short by Katie Rehner of Warrenton, who defeated her by fall in the consolation round. Nairns earned 4.0 team points for her efforts.

Denisse Bracamontes (125) had a tough time on the mat this weekend. She lost both of her matches by fall and did not score any points for her team. She faced Sydnee Azure in the first round and was pinned in 32 seconds. She got a bye in the consolation round but then met Kristianna Boyum, who also defeated her by fall.

HRL to host dinner & bingo

Holly Rebekah Lodge will be hosting their monthly dinner and BINGO afternoon this Sunday, February 25th starting at 3pm. The cost for the meal is \$5 which this month will be loaded nachos. BINGO

will start at approximately 3:30. The cost for a packet of 10 game cards (always more than 10 games are played on these cards) is \$5. This fun afternoon is held at the Lodge Hall on Main Street in Lexington.

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