

Mustang alumni game gathers past players



Kneeling (L-R): Brian Rill, Lane Bailey and Caden George. Standing (L-R): Hunter Nichols, Brock Hisler, Aaron Griffith, Patrick Collins, Trevor Nichols, Mason Lehman, Roy Collins, Stephen Thompson, Rocky Turner and Tate Gentry. -Contributed photo

The 12th annual Heppner Mustang alumni game was held on Dec. 22 at the Heppner High School gym. Many three-point shots were attempted, and many

were even made.

The Blue team led the game at halftime 44-40. The game went back and forth in the second half, with both teams leading the game at

one time or another.

When the final buzzer sounded to end the game, the Blue team had defeated the White team by the score of 95-84.

Mustang boys split last weekend of pre-season play

The Heppner Mustang boys' basketball team split its final two non-conference games of the pre-season. They hosted the Dufur Rangers and defeated them by the score of 35-30 and then traveled to Boardman and were beaten by the Riverside Pirates 69-28.

The Mustangs avenged a loss to the Rangers on their home court earlier in the season. The slow-paced scoring game saw both teams struggle to make a basket early in the game. The score was 8-5 in favor of the Mustangs as the first quarter ended.

A strong defensive battle continued in the second quarter and saw the score tied at halftime 13-13.

The Mustangs did stretch the lead out in the early third quarter to six points when they led 21-15. Dufur battled back to only trail 21-20 as the quarter ended.

The Rangers took a quick lead in the game when they hit a three-pointer to open the scoring in the fourth quarter. Heppner then hit a three-pointer of their own to grab the lead right back. It was a lead that they would never relinquish for the rest of the game. Dufur did tie the game at 26-26 before Heppner opened up the lead to 31-26 midway through the quarter. The Rangers couldn't get any closer and the Mustangs sealed the win by the score of 35-30.

Leading the way for the Mustangs with a double-double was Mason Orem. Mason had 12 points and 10 rebounds in the game to go along with three assists. Gage Heideman followed with seven points, seven rebounds and one blocked shot for the team. Scoring six points, grabbing four rebounds and blocking one shot was Joseph Albitre, and next with five points, four rebounds and three assists was Caleb George. Jackson Coiner scored three points and had one rebound and one assist. Caylan Proudfoot scored two points and hauled down one rebound in the game. Keaton Coiner had four big rebounds and three assists for the team, while Marty Medina had one assist.

Playing on their own home floor, the Riverside Pirates came out of the locker room on fire. They were making long three-point basket after basket and quickly jumped out to

a 24-0 lead. The first quarter ended with the Pirates leading by the score of 27-2.

Riverside kept up the scoring barrage in the second quarter and led at halftime 50-9.

The Mustangs switched up their defensive strategy after halftime and won the third quarter 11-8. That made the score of the game 58-20 at the end of three quarters.

The fourth quarter was played with a running clock and many of the reserves for both teams got playing time. The teams played close in the final frame and when the final buzzer sounded it was a 69-28 victory for the Pirates.

The top scorer in the game for the Mustangs was Gage Heideman with 12 points. Gage also ripped down six rebounds. Scoring six points and recording one rebound and one assist was

Caylan Proudfoot. With five points and four rebounds was Mason Orem. Keaton Coiner scored three points and had six rebounds for the team, while Jace Wilson scored two points and had one assist. Jackson Coiner contributed four rebounds and one assist, Marty Medina had three rebounds and one assist and Alakae Rodriguez hauled down three rebounds and had two assists. Joseph Albitre secured two rebounds and had two assists in the game, Caleb George had two rebounds and Tripp Stewart had one rebound and one assist for the Mustangs.

The Mustangs start Blue Mountain Conference play on Tuesday night when they travel to Irrigon to play the Knights. On Friday, Jan. 10, they will host the Enterprise Outlaws. That day the games will start at 3 p.m. with the JV girls' game.

Lady Mustangs make statement in Pendleton tournament with three dominant wins

Heppner traveled to the Pendleton Convention Center Friday and Saturday, Dec. 27 and 28 to take on Knappa and Vernonia in the Christmas Holiday Tournament.

Friday's game with Knappa was a huge test, with both teams ranked high in the 2A rankings. The Lady Mustangs were victorious behind Hallee Hisler's burning the nets for a 26 season-high game. Lily Nichols and Katie Spivey both chipped in six apiece

to take the 53-42 win.

Heppner easily cruised for the 57-34 win versus Vernonia on Saturday. Hallee Hisler scored 20 points and Delaney Stefani poured in 14 points. Teammates CiCi Stefani, Healy Hisler and Katie Spivey added five apiece. These were two big wins for the Lady Mustangs.

On Dec. 30, Heppner played Dufur with a depleted Mustang team, with three players not suiting down due to illness. Freshmen

CiCi Stefani and Isa Payne caught fire and scored 13 and 17 respectively to lead in taking the 60-22 non-league win. Added depth in scoring was Lily Nichols with 11 points and Delaney Stefani and Katie Henrichs with seven each.

This proved to be a confidence builder in getting other scoring opportunities to team players at home.

Heppner now looks forward to league play.

Mustang JV dominates weekend play

The Heppner Mustang JV boys' basketball team had a successful week as it won both of its games. The Mustangs defeated the Dufur Rangers by the score of 33-29 and then travelled and beat the Riverside Pirates 42-33. The JV Mustangs are 4-1 so far this season as conference play begins this week.

The Mustangs avenged a 10-point loss to the Rangers when they played them on their home court. Heppner started the game out slowly and struggled to score in the first quarter. The team could only manage to score four points, and Jace Wilson accounted for all of those. They trailed the Rangers 13-4 as the buzzer sounded to end the quarter.

Things picked up in the second quarter for the Mustangs as they scored 12 points and held Dufur to only five. Gage Heideman came in and had success in the paint as his teammates found him with some nice passes that allowed him to score. Gage had 10 points in the quarter and Mason Seitz had two.

The teams played a close third quarter and the Mustangs were led in scoring by Tripp Stewart with four points and Mason Haugan with two. Heppner still trailed 25-22 as the fourth quarter started.

The final frame is where the Mustangs took control and finished the game strong. Heppner got five points from Alakae Rodriguez, three from Wilson, two from Caylan Proudfoot and one from Stewart for 11 points in the quarter. The Mustangs held Dufur to only four points to secure the win by the score of 33-29.

Heideman finished with 10 points and Wilson had seven. With five points each were Stewart and Rodriguez. Finishing with two points each were Proudfoot, Seitz and Haugan.

In the game against the Pirates, Heppner trailed at the end of the first quarter 13-7. Wilson had five of those points, while Darby Spivey recorded two.

The second quarter is where the Mustangs took control of the game. Heppner outscored the Pirates 12-1 in the quarter. Heideman had eight big points in the quarter and Rodriguez had four. The Mustangs led at halftime 19-14.

Both teams scored 10 points in the third quarter. Spivey scored eight points to lead the Heppner team and Wilson contributed two. The Mustangs' lead was 29-24 as the fourth quarter started.

In the final frame, Wilson and Proudfoot led the team with four points each. Rodriguez hit a clutch three-pointer, and Spivey had another two points. Heppner outscored the Pirates 13-9 to secure the win by the score of 42-33.

For the game, Spivey led the team with 12 points. Wilson finished with 11, and Heideman had 8. Rodriguez contributed seven points and Proudfoot four.

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