

Lady Mustangs win big



Heppner Senior Hallee Hisler looks for weakness in an Outlaw player. -Contributed photo

Some might say the Heppner team was out of its league when it faced 3A team and North End rival Riverside Jan. 4, but the Lady Mustangs overpowered the Pirates for a 47-32 win.

The game traded loose balls, steals and defensive pressure from the entire Mustang team. Many combinations of the players were rotated in and out throughout the contest.

The Mustangs sealed the win with a 15-9 run in the fourth quarter. Senior Hallee Hisler scored 21 points. Lily Nichols scored eight points for Heppner, and freshman CiCi Stefani put in seven.

The Lady Mustangs again took on a North Morrow team on Tuesday when they encountered Irrigon in their first league game of the season Jan. 7. They conquered the Knights in a crushing 66-17 win.

Hallee Hisler scored seven of her 13 points in the first quarter as Heppner shot to a 20-7 lead. The Mustangs



Kadie Henrichs under the net in last week's game versus the Outlaws. -Contributed photo

tangs held Irrigon to one point in the second quarter, bringing their lead to 29-8 as the first half ended.

Maya Payne scored eight points in the third, contributing to a 27-point scoring spree, while the Lady Mustangs held the Knights to only four points for the quarter.

Payne added 10 points for Heppner, while Delaney



Senior Katie Spivey block an Outlaw attempt at a pass. -Contributed photo

Stefani had eight and Avree Lathrop seven.

The Mustang varsity girls rounded out a winning week when they dominated Enterprise Friday night in Heppner.

In front of a packed crowd, the girls beat Enterprise 52-33. The Outlaws were the number-two ranked team in the Blue Mountain Conference (BMC).

In this game, Heppner came out of the gates quickly with their defensive pressure in the first quarter, causing numerous Enterprise turnovers. Heppner raced out to a 26-12 lead at the first half. The Outlaws did go on a 14-11 run in the third to pull within 32-27, but the Lady Mustangs went on a 16-6 scoring spree in the fourth quarter.

Heppner's Delaney

Stefani had a hot hand early, but had to go to the bench with a high ankle sprain and did not return to play. Hallee Hisler scored 14 of her 15 game points in the second half to lead Heppner. Sophomore Healy Hisler hit the court running and dishing to teammates as she added nine points.

Maya Payne chipped in seven, and Kadie Henrichs

six. Henrichs was a force at both ends of the court. Katie Spivey and Lily Nichols both hit a three to spark the first half and set the pace. Hallee Hisler had a physical encounter at the end of the game and showcased a shiner.

There is now a logjam in the BMC. Weston-McEwen, Stanfield and Heppner all hold 2-0 conference records at this early point in league play. Weston-McEwen sits 14-1 overall and is rated number one in 2A state, while Stanfield is second in 2A with 11-3 overall and Heppner ranks seventh in 2A with an 11-3 overall record.

Friday at 6 p.m., the girls will take on Grant Union at home. They will then travel to Weston-McEwen for a showdown Saturday at 4 p.m.

Heppner boys split weekend play

The Heppner Mustang boys' varsity team split its Blue Mountain Conference (BMC) games last week. The Mustangs (7-7 overall, 1-1 BMC) beat the Irrigon Knights in overtime 62-61 and then lost to the Enterprise Outlaws by the score of 59-47.

Irrigon scored the first five points of the game before Heppner could get a basket. The Mustangs trailed for the rest of the first quarter, and Irrigon even opened up an eight-point lead 15-7 at one point. The Knights led at the end of the first quarter by the score of 18-11.

The second quarter went much as the first one did, with the Mustangs not being able to make up any ground on the scoreboard. It wasn't until just before the half ended that Heppner was able to cut the Knight lead to only three points as they outscored the Knights 16-12 in the quarter. The Mustangs trailed at halftime 31-27.

Heppner cut the Irrigon lead to only two points early in the third and then tied the game at 33-33. Both teams took turns leading the game for the rest of the quarter, but overall the Mustangs outscored the Knights 12-8. When the third quarter horn sounded, Heppner had the lead 39-38.

The fourth quarter saw the Mustangs take control of the game. Heppner even opened up a seven-point lead at 49-42 with three minutes left in the game. Irrigon battled back and cut the Heppner lead to only three points at 52-49 with only seconds left in the game.

On the Knights' final possession, an Irrigon player fired up a long three-pointer that went in the basket to tie the game with .4 seconds left in the game. A Heppner player fouled him on the shot, but he missed the free throw that would have won the game for them, so the teams went to overtime.

Heppner scored first in the overtime period and would never give up the lead. The Mustangs led by as many as four points several times in overtime until Irrigon hit another three-pointer to cut the Heppner lead to 62-61.

After the Mustang team missed some free throws with 11 seconds to play, the Knights took the ball to the other end and missed a shot at the buzzer. That secured the win for the Mustangs by the score of 62-61.

Keaton Coiner recorded a double-double as he had 15 points and 10 rebounds in the game. Joseph Albitre was next with 14 points, three rebounds and five assists. Mason Orem had a complete game as he scored 12 points, had six rebounds and dished out two assists on the night. Gage Heideman had a strong game with 10 points, eight rebounds and one assist. Scoring nine points, hauling down three rebounds and having three assists was Caylan Proudfoot. Marty Medina scored two points, had three rebounds and one assist for the team. Jackson Coiner had three rebounds and one assist, and Caleb George recorded two rebounds and three assists, while Alakae Rodriguez had three rebounds and two assists.

The Enterprise Outlaws, who are the third-ranked team in the state, came to town with a team that has 6'7" and 6'4" players along the front line. The Outlaws jumped out to a 23-10 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Heppner trailed by as much as 18 points in the second quarter but cut it to 15 as the half ended, with Enterprise leading by the score of 35-20.

The Mustangs had a

good third quarter as they scored 15 points and gave up 17 to the Outlaws. Heppner trailed at the end of the third quarter 52-35.

Heppner outscored the Outlaws 12-7 in the fourth. That made the final score of the game 59-47 in favor of the Outlaws.

Albitre led the team in scoring with 11. He also had four rebounds and four assists in the game. Orem was next with 10 points, one rebound and two assists for the team. Keaton Coiner had nine points and two rebounds for the Mustangs, and Medina had a good game with five points, seven rebounds and four assists. Proudfoot scored three points and had one rebound, while Jackson Coiner also scored three points, had two rebounds and two assists. Scoring two points each were Heideman and Jace Wilson. Heideman also recorded two rebounds and had one assist. With one point each in the game were Rodriguez and Tripp Stewart. Rodriguez also had two rebounds and one assist and Stewart hauled down one rebound.

This week the Mustangs host the Grant Union Prospectors on Friday night and then travel to Athena to play the Weston-McEwen TigerScots on Saturday.

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Mustang JV takes down Knights, Outlaws

The Heppner Mustang JV boys' basketball team won both of its games last week to run the Mustang JV record to 6-1 for the season. The Mustangs beat the Irrigon Knights by the score of 53-38 and then defeated the Enterprise Outlaws 41-28.

In the game at Irrigon, the Mustangs had a good first quarter as they scored 12 points. The only problem was that they gave up 19 points to the Knights and trailed at the end of the first quarter by the score of 19-12. Jace Wilson had three buckets for six points in the quarter, Tripp Stewart tallied four points and Darby Spivey hit two free-throws.

Heppner reversed things in the second as the Mustangs scored 17 points to the Knights eight. Gage Heideman took control inside and scorched the net for 10 points in the quarter. Caylan Proudfoot scored four and Stewart followed with three. The Mustangs led 29-27 at halftime.

The teams played even in the third as they both scored eight points. Wilson, Spivey, Brody McDaniel and Mason Haugen all had two points for the team in the quarter. Heppner still had a two-point lead, 37-35, as the final quarter started.

The fourth quarter is where the Mustangs took control of the game. Heppner turned up the defensive pressure on the Knights, which really gave the Irrigon team trouble. The Mustangs ran their offense well and outscored Irrigon 16-3 in the quarter to secure the 53-28 victory. Alakae Rodriguez led the scoring in the quarter with six points. With four each were Wilson and McDaniel. Proudfoot had two points in the quarter for the team.

For the game, Wilson led the team in scoring with 12. Heideman was next with 10, Stewart finished with seven, and with six points each were Proudfoot, Rodriguez and McDaniel.

Spivey had four points in the game, and Haugen contributed two.

In the home game with the Outlaws, the teams finished the first quarter tied 8-8. Stewart hit a three-pointer in the quarter and Wilson had a bucket and a free-throw for his three points in the quarter. Haugen also had a basket for two points.

Neither team could score much in the second quarter, but the Mustangs did outscore the Outlaws 7-3. Heideman had five points and Proudfoot converted two free throws to give the Mustangs a 15-11 lead at halftime.

Heppner was doubled up by the Outlaws 14-7 in the third quarter and trailed 25-22 at the end of three. In the quarter, Stewart scored four points and Wilson had a three-point basket for the Mustangs.

The Mustangs had a big fourth quarter as they outscored Enterprise 19-3.

A strong defensive effort led to many easy baskets for the Mustangs in transition. Rodriguez hit two three-pointers and a free throw to lead the team with seven points in the quarter. Wilson and McDaniel each had a three-pointer and a basket for five points each. Spivey finished with two points in the game. The big fourth quarter led to the Mustangs 41-28 win.

Wilson led the team in scoring with 11 points. With seven points each were Stewart and Rodriguez. Heideman and McDaniel finished with five points each, and with two points in the game were Proudfoot, Spivey and Haugen.

The JV boys have their next game at home this Friday, Jan. 17, when they will play the Grant Union Prospectors. On Saturday they will travel to Athena to play the Weston-McEwen TigerScots.