

Mustangs lose close game to TigerScots



Mason Orem #23 grabs a rebound against two TigerScot defenders. -Photo by Tara Eakin Proudfoot



Keaton Coiner #10 goes up for a shot while TigerScot defender tries to block. -Photo by Tara Eakin Proudfoot

The Heppner Mustang boys' varsity basketball team lost a tough home game against the Weston-McEwen TigerScots by the score of 50-49.

The Mustangs, (7-13, 1-7) have two Blue Mountain Conference games left in the regular season. This week they travel to John Day to play a make-up game for the game that was canceled because of weather. They then finish with a home game against the Irrigon Knights this Friday. It will be senior night, and the seniors on both the girls and boys team, to go along with a senior band member, will be honored before the start of the boys' varsity game.

Against the TigerScots, a close game that ended with a first quarter

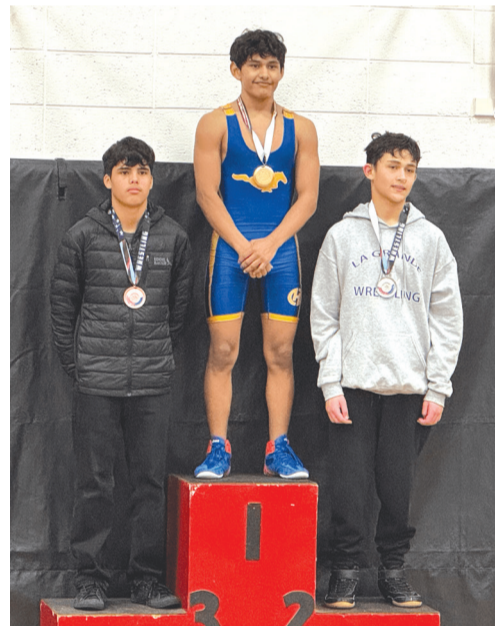
score of 9-9, continued to stay close as the Mustangs held a slim 23-21 lead at halftime.

Weston-McEwen outscored the Mustangs 15-14 in the third quarter and the Mustangs led the game 37-36 as the fourth quarter started. Heppner pushed their lead to five points midway through the quarter, but the TigerScots quickly caught up. The Mustangs still led the game 49-48 with two minutes left in the game. Furious play by both teams saw the TigerScots score a basket late to take a 50-49 lead. The Mustangs got a shot off with just seconds left in the game, but it did not connect. Heppner lost the game by the score of 50-49.

Mason Orem led the

team in scoring with 16. He also had 10 rebounds and two assists in the game. Caleb George scored 11 points, had three rebounds and one assist for the Mustangs. Keaton Coiner had seven points, five rebounds and blocked one shot, while Gage Heideman also recorded seven points and had four rebounds. Joseph Albitre scored four points and one assist for the team, and with two points each were Alakae Rodriguez and Caylan Proudfoot. Rodriguez also had four rebounds and one assist while Proudfoot had four rebounds and four assists. Marty Medina tallied four rebounds and had two assists for the team.

Ramos, Knutz take top spots in junior high meet



Aidden Ramos and Brody Knutz of Heppner both topped the podium at the Central Middle School wrestling tournament last Saturday in Milton-Freewater. Paisley Cutsforth (not pictured) also made a good showing at the tournament, placing third in her weight bracket. -Contributed photos

Heppner junior high wrestlers Aidden Ramos and Brody Knutz both took the top spots in their weight classes in last Saturday's tournament in Milton-Freewater. Paisley Cutsforth, Heppner's sole female junior high wrestler at the Central Middle School Tournament, also made a good showing, placing third in her weight bracket.

Cutsforth, wrestling in the 95 and 100 weight bracket, started out slowly, losing by fall to Ella Risteen of La Grande in the quarterfinal match. She came back with a vengeance in the consolation round one match, though, pinning La Grande's Kaelyn Roe in only 54 seconds. She then went on to defeat Edith Peck (Weston-McEwen) in the consolation semifinal and Kamila Rangel (Riverside) in the third-place match, both by fall.

Brody Knutz dominated the 95-pound class, pinning Sam Larsen of The Dalles in only 13 seconds in the quarterfinal match. He beat Asa Winters of Echo by fall (1:12) in the semifinal. In a tougher championship round, Knutz won by technical fall (20-3) over Kason Barnes of Echo, securing the championship. He scored 25.5 team points.

Wrestling in the 125 weight class, Aidden Ramos also dominated the mat last Saturday. He pinned Graysen Cain (Sunridge) in 20 seconds in round one and Matteo St. Claire (La Grande) in 11 seconds in the quarterfinal. He then pinned Riverside's Vinicio Sanchez in 53 seconds. The championship round was tougher and longer, but Ramos still managed to defeat Thomas Jayne of La Grande by fall. He scored 28 team points.

In other results, Frank Di Salvo wrestled in the 95-pound bracket. He was defeated by Cash Akes of Weston in the quarterfinal but rallied to take down Gus Hawks (La Grande) in consolation round three. His run for third place ended when he lost to Echo's Asa Winters in the consolation semifinal. He scored four team points.

Jaxson Wight, wrestling at 102, easily pinned Leo Meier of Sunridge in round one. His hopes for the championship were dashed when he lost a tough match to Myles Snook of Milton-Freewater. Wight went on to beat Fisher Murray of La Grande in consolation round two before pinning La Grande's Alex Verdugo in a mere 21 seconds during

consolation round three. Another tough match saw Wight lose the consolation semifinal in an 11-6 decision. He scored 10 team points.

Dylan Scherrer, in the 110 bracket, had a tough day on the mats, starting with a loss to Preston Hendricks (Central) in round one. He then lost by major decision (19-9) to Jamyson Bartell (Sunridge) in consolation round two.

Jayden Macias, wrestling at 132, also suffered double losses, losing by fall to Westin Loiland of Sunridge in the quarterfinal and Wesley Thomas of Weston-McEwen in consolation round two.

Rounding out the day was Haden Cimmiyotti. Wrestling in the 175 and 190 bracket, he quickly pinned As Yarofaitog (La Grande) in a 14-second quarterfinal bout. He then lost to Sunridge's Clay Somnis in the semifinal and Tonu Fanene (The Dalles) in the consolation semifinal.

The season is nearly at an end for Heppner's junior high wrestlers. With a light tournament schedule for the next few weeks, they will be preparing for district championships March 7-8 at Riverside High School in Boardman.

Lady Mustangs move up in BMC ranking



Delaney Stefani #12 taking the ball up court during her first game back from an ankle injury. -Photo by Tara Eakin Proudfoot



Hallee Hisler #2 getting some air vs Weston-McEwen TigerScots. -Photo by Tara Eakin Proudfoot

The Lady Mustangs topped the second-place team in the Blue Mountain Conference with a 51-41 win over the TigerScots last Saturday. This places the Heppner team at number two in BMC rankings, and sixth in state 2A ranking.

The Lady Mustangs took an early lead over the Weston-McEwen team, leading 16-8 after the first quarter. Lily Nichols led in scoring with five points.

The TigerScots tried to close the gap in the second

quarter, but the Lady Mustangs held on to their lead, making the score 27-17 at the half.

Delaney Stefani was back on the court after an injury kept her out for several games. She scored four of her 10 game points in the second quarter.

Weston McEwen went on a scoring spree in the third, making 14 points to Heppner's 11, to cut the Heppner lead to 38-31 at the end of the third quarter.

However, Heppner

again outscored the TigerScots 13-10 in the fourth quarter, securing the win and taking the second-place BMC ranking from the Weston-McEwen team.

Hallee Hisler led Heppner with 12 points, while Nichols had eight. Healy Hisler and Maya Payne each finished with five.

The Heppner girls are now 5-3 in the BMC and 14-6 overall. They will host Irrigon this Friday at 6 p.m. Friday will also be senior night for the players.

Mustang JV dominates TigerScots

The Heppner Mustang Junior Varsity boys' basketball team won its only game of the week by defeating the Weston-McEwen TigerScots by the score of 53-23. The JV Mustangs ran their season record to 10-3 with the victory. The JV boys have one game left on their season schedule, and that is at home this Friday against the Irrigon Knights.

In the game with the TigerScots, Heppner jumped out to a big lead early in the game. The Mustangs led at the end of the first quarter 16-3. The TigerScots outscored the Mustangs 8-6 in the second quarter but Heppner had Weston-McEwen doubled up at halftime 22-11.

Heppner had a great third quarter that saw them score 20 points in the quarter. They held Weston-McEwen to only 10 points and led at the end of three 42-21. Another close fourth quarter saw the TigerScots outscore the Mustangs 12-11. That led to the win for the Mustangs by a 53-33 score.

Jace Wilson had a big game for the Mustangs as he erupted for a game-high 28 points. Gage Heideman



Heppner's #12 Jace Wilson and #22 Darby Spivey try to block a shot from a TigerScot player in their decisive victory. -Photo by Tara Eakin Proudfoot

played a quarter and finished with 10 points and had multiple rebounds. Tripp Stewart had eight points in the game, and

Darby Spivey was next with four. Rounding out the scoring for the JV Mustangs was Mason Haugen with two.



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