

Heppner Track & Field Shines at La Grande Invitational



Heppner Senior Nick Wenberg in the 100m at La Grande. -Photo by Susan Hisler



The Heppner women's 4x400 relay team (L-R): Lily Nichols, Riley Archer, Healy Hisler and Hallee Hisler. -Photo by Susan Hisler

The Heppner High School track and field team brought their energy and talent to the La Grande Invitational on Saturday, April 12, turning in a string of standout performances on both the track and in the field.

Competing against 10 teams from across the region, the Heppner girls delivered a strong showing, finishing in fifth place overall—just a point and a half shy of surpassing Elgin for fourth. The boys' team claimed seventh place in a competitive field.

Junior Chris Humphreys continued his impressive season in the field events, launching himself to a first-place finish in the javelin and securing second in the discus. Fellow junior Joseph Albitre also made waves, earning a personal best in the long jump at 5' 4".

On the track, junior Hallee Hisler led the charge for the Heppner girls, blazing to a first-place finish in the 200-meter dash. She also notched a personal record in the 100-meter, finishing second in a tightly contested race. Healy Hisler added to the team's sprinting success with a third-place finish in the 400-meter.

Distance runner Lily Nichols impressed in both her events, taking third in the 1500 meters and again in the 3000 meters, where she set a personal record with a time of 11:11.37a. The Heppner 4x400 girls' relay team capped off the day with a strong second-place finish, solidifying the team's overall success.

With personal records falling and top finishes across the board, the Heppner team looks to carry their momentum into the next meet this Saturday, April 19, at the 1A-2A-3A Regional Invitational in Cove.



Chris Humphreys at the La Grande shot put finals. -Photo by Susan Hisler

Full La Grande Stats are as follows:

Men's Results

100 Meters (Varsity - Finals)
7th - Hayden McMahon (12) - 12.02a
17th - Nick Wenberg (12) - 12.51a SR

200 Meters (Varsity - Finals)
5th - Hayden McMahon (12) - 24.71a SR
15th - Marty Medina (12) - 25.78a PR

3000 Meters (Varsity - Finals)
7th - Marty Medina (12) - 10:40.39a SR

Shot Put - 12lb (Varsity - Finals)
4th - Chris Humphreys (11) - 37' 8.75"

8th - Landon McMahon (11) - 35' 0.5" PR
13th - Gage Heide- man (9) - 32' 1.75"
17th - Austin Willis (11) - 30' 1.75" PR

Discus - 1.6kg (Varsity - Finals)
2nd - Chris Humphreys (11) - 126' 0" PR
11th - Landon Mc-

Mahon (11) - 95' 7"
15th - Gage Heide- man (9) - 79' 1"
DNS - Lucas King (9)

Javelin - 800g (Varsity - Finals)
1st - Chris Humphreys (11) - 154' 11"
19th - Landon McMahon (11) - 85' 10" SR
31st - Austin Willis (11) - 63' 11"

High Jump (Varsity - Finals)
1st - Joseph Albitre (11) - 5' 4"

Long Jump (Varsity - Finals)
4th - Joseph Albitre (11) - 18' 0" PR
5th - Nick Wenberg (12) - 17' 10"

Women's Results

100 Meters (Varsity - Finals)
2nd - Hallee Hisler (12) - 12.88a PR
4th - Healy Hisler (10) - 13.65a SR
19th - Teagan Kelt- on (11) - 15.37a
DNS - Natalie Piper (10)

200 Meters (Varsity - Finals)
1st - Hallee Hisler (12) - 26.51a SR
14th - Laia Puelles (10) - 32.64a
23rd - Loren Trujillo (11) - 36.15a SR

400 Meters (Varsity - Finals)
3rd - Healy Hisler (10) - 1:02.89a SR

800 Meters (Varsity - Finals)
6th - Riley Archer (11) - 2:45.23a SR
8th - Brooklyn Hendricks (10) - 2:54.79a PR

1500 Meters (Varsity - Finals)
3rd - Lily Nichols (11) - 5:09.20a SR
6th - Riley Archer (11) - 5:38.81a SR
15th - Loren Trujillo (11) - 7:01.76a PR

3000 Meters (Varsity - Finals)
3rd - Lily Nichols (11) - 11:11.37a PR
5th - Brooklyn Hendricks (10) - 12:51.21a

4x400 Relay (Varsity - Finals)
2nd - Heppner - 4:20.95a
Riley Archer (11), Healy Hisler (10), Lily Nichols (11), Hallee Hisler (12)

Shot Put - 4kg (Varsity - Finals)
13th - Avia Boutefuhr (9) - 23' 9.5" PR

Discus - 1kg (Varsity - Finals)
18th - Avia Boutefuhr (9) - 58' 11" PR

Javelin - 600g (Varsity - Finals)
10th - Teagan Kelt- on (11) - 80' 7" PR
14th - Avia Boute- fuhr (9) - 66' 0" PR
16th - Loren Trujillo (11) - 62' 7"

High Jump (Varsity - Finals)
8th - Natalie Piper (10) - 4' 2"

Heppner/Ione Baseball 3-2 in District



Andrew Lindsay hits a single. -Photo by Brian Bunch

By Brian Bunch

The number-six ranked Heppner/Ione Mustangs baseball team came out hot against the Elgin Huskies on Friday, April 11, after a mid-week tilt with the Stanfield/Echo Tigers went sideways in the rain. The weather was much improved on Friday from earlier in the week, as it was around 57 degrees for the first pitch with a slight breeze and light, passing clouds.

Ryan Haugen would dominate Friday's Game One on the mound for the Mustangs, pitching 5.0 shut-out innings, allowing only one hit and one walk with 11 strikeouts on 16 batters faced on his way to earning the win.

A Husky error in the first inning allowed Caleb George to pick up the first of his team-leading four runs in the game.

R. Haugen would deal three straight strikeouts in the top of the second to bring the Mustangs back to the plate up 1-0.

The bottom of the second inning would reveal how the rest of this game would go. A lead-off walk for Mason Orem would go on to start the scoring again for the Mustangs, who would find themselves up 13-0 before the second inning was over, their biggest of the game.

A one-run third inning and a five-run fourth inning would bolster the run-away second inning and the game would be called in the middle of the fifth inning at 19-0.

George and Keaton Coiner led the team with two hits each, and R. Haugen, Orem, Andrew Lindsay, Caylan Proudfoot, Alakae Rodriguez and Jace

Wilson each added one hit. The run and RBI tallies went through the roof as 12 of the 14 Mustangs scored at least one run a piece, and 10 of the 14 were responsible for RBIs, with everybody contributing in one way or another.

Coiner got the start and the win on the mound in the second game. He pitched 3.0 innings, allowing one hit and two walks with six strikeouts. Rodriguez would finish the game, pitching 2.0 innings and allowing one walk and dealing three strikeouts.

The Mustangs would open scoring early with four of the first six batters crossing home in a first inning that saw eight Mustang batters. The second inning saw nine Mustang batters and another five runs cross the plate.

Four Husky errors in the first two innings would prove costly as the Mustangs carried a 9-0 lead into the third off of only five hits.

Lindsay scored after a lead-off walk in the third inning when George smashed a triple to left field. George would also score in the third, on a Wilson ground-out RBI. In the fourth inning, with the Mustangs up 11-0, and Rodriguez on the mound dealing, Blake Vandever tacked on another run on a Shad Greenup sacrifice fly RBI to secure the 12-0 lead. That lead ended the game in the middle of the fifth by way of the 10-run rule.

Wilkins led the Mustangs with two RBIs, followed by George, Greenup, Proudfoot and Wilson, all with one. George, Lindsay, Orem and Rodriguez all put up two runs, while Proudfoot, Vandever, Wilson and Darby Spivey all added one.

Mid-Week Tilt Goes Sideways in the Rain

The Heppner/Ione baseball team fell to the Stanfield/Echo Tigers when a late rain delay iced Mustang pitching.

The game was tied at four after six innings. The April weather that had been threatening all day couldn't hold off any longer; the skies opened up and Keaton

Coiner walked two batters in the top of the seventh before a wild pitch to the third batter finally induced the ump's to pause the game for the weather.

Coming out of the rain-delay, Caleb George took the mound to get the last three outs of the half, but not without allowing four runs (one earned) on three hits. Couple those runs with the two runs Coiner was responsible for, and the Tigers took the field in the bottom of the seventh up 10-4.

Mason Orem worked a lead-off walk to give the Mustangs a sliver of hope. Coiner popped out and Shad Greenup would strike out to bring Jace Wilson to the plate with Orem standing on second base. Wilson hit a line drive to center field for a single, but Orem got thrown out trying to advance to home.

Ryan Haugen got the start, going 3.0 innings allowing one run on one hit with four walks and four strikeouts. Coiner took the loss, pitching 3.0 innings in relief, allowing five runs (four earned) on five hits with two walks and three strikeouts. George pitched 1.0 innings and gave up four runs (one earned) on three hits with two walks and one strikeout.

George led the team with two hits, followed by Wilson and Karver Wilkins, each with one.

Special District 7 Chaos

As the dust settles on the weekend, the Mustangs find themselves in fourth place in league play at 3-2 (6-4 overall). The Mustangs traveled to Stanfield Secondary School (1-4 league, 5-6 overall) on Tuesday, April 15, for a shot at redemption for their last loss.

They will host Sherman (0-2, 3-6) in a double header on Friday, April 18, with the first game at 1 p.m.

Irrigon (4-1, 6-3) sits atop the league, their lone league loss to the Mustangs. Union/Cove (3-0, 8-0) and Grant Union/Prairie City/Monument (3-0, 4-7) sit between the two Morrow County Schools in second and third respectively.

Opening Day Little League

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(R) Cam Adams throwing out the first pitch. - Photo by Rachel Sykes

felt rendition of the national anthem. The ceremonies continued with the Little League Pledge, reminding players of the values of teamwork, sportsmanship and doing their best.

Adding to the excitement, Cam Adams had the honor of throwing the first pitch of the season, officially getting things underway.

After the ceremonies, the excitement continued with teams engaging in a friendly round-robin series of games, allowing everyone a chance to play.

Teams spread out across Heppner to compete on various fields.

Overall, the Opening Day ceremonies were a success, setting the tone for what is sure to be an exciting and memorable baseball season in Heppner.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:



MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

Mustang softball drops hard-fought battle to TigerScots in league matchup

The Heppner Lady Mustangs fell to the Weston-McEwen TigerScots 7-3 on Wednesday, April 9, in a gritty softball league contest that saw momentum shift multiple times before the TigerScots pulled away late.

Heppner was the first to strike, putting a run on the board in the top of the third after CiCi Stefani delivered an RBI single. Weston-McEwen quickly answered back in the bottom half of the inning when Sams connected on a single to even the score at 1-1.

The TigerScots took their first lead in the fourth inning when Hope Berry launched a solo home run over the left-field fence,

giving Weston-McEwen a 2-1 edge.

The Mustangs weren't finished, however. Maya Payne came through with a clutch RBI double to right field in the top of the fifth to knot the game once again at 2-2. But the bottom of the inning proved costly for Heppner. A series of defensive miscues opened the door for the TigerScots, who capitalized on two errors and a scoring play to plate four runs and seize a 6-2 advantage.

K. Kramer extended the TigerScots' lead with a solo shot to center in the sixth inning, pushing the score to 7-2.

Despite the setback, Heppner's offense showed


signs of life, collecting nine hits in the contest. Keeley Nairns and CiCi Stefani each tallied two RBIs, with Nairns also showing excellent plate discipline by drawing three walks. The Mustangs collectively worked six free passes, displaying patience at the plate.

On the mound, Payne went the distance for Heppner, allowing seven hits and seven runs—only three of which were earned—while striking out six and walking one in six innings of work.


The Mustangs will look to bounce back on home turf when they host Irrigon on Friday, April 18.

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