

Mustangs Sweep TigerScots

By Brian Bunch

Friday, May 16, the Heppner/Ione Mustangs traveled to Athena to take on the Weston-McEwen/Griswold TigerScots in a double-header to close out the 2A/1A-SD7 regular season. The Mustangs came into the series hoping to finish the regular season on a strong note and that's just what they did.

Ryan Haugen got the start on the mound in game one; the ace pitched a six-inning complete game, allowing just one unearned run on two hits and two walks with eight strikeouts on the way to a 13-1 win. R. Haugen had a hot start to the game, earning six of his eight Ks in the first two frames, including a 1-2-3 first inning to set the tone.

Pitching fell apart for the TigerScots in the second inning as the first four Mustangs up to bat were walked to give Alakae Rodriguez his first of two runs in the game. The Mustangs would send 10 batters to the plate in the second inning and come out of it with a 6-0 lead. The Mustangs would build on the lead throughout the game, adding two runs in the fourth and one in the fifth before working five walks in the sixth inning for four runs, to put them up 13-0. The TigerScots were backed into a corner and had to score at least three in the bottom of the sixth frame to stay alive; they managed one run, with the help of some Mustang errors.

Caleb George led the team hitting with two hits and a walk, earning two RBIs and scoring two runs. Five Mustangs followed George with one hit a piece, led by Shad Greenup who joined George with two RBIs on his one hit plus a walk. Caylan Proudfoot would join George and Rodriguez as the only Mustangs to score multiple runs, with two each.

Pitching his last regular season game of the year, R. Haugen earned his sixth win of the year for a 6-1 record in 13 starts, finishing the regular season with a 2.639 ERA and batters hitting .236 against him.

Game two was a group effort on the mound for the Mustangs, with Karver Wilkins getting the start and pitching 1.0 scoreless innings, giving up one hit and two walks. Keaton Coiner relieved him and pitched 4.0 scoreless innings, allowing just two hits and

one walk while earning four strikeouts. Proudfoot would close out the game, pitching 2.0 innings, allowing one unearned run on three hits and earning one strikeout.

Runs were a little harder to come by in the second game, as it remained scoreless until the third inning. Greenup would follow his own advice and "wear one" as he would get hit by the pitch and give the Mustangs a lead-off runner. Two other Mustangs would wear one in the inning, all three going on to score runs on the way to a 5-0 Mustang lead after three innings.

Jace Wilson would hit a lead-off single in the fifth and then go on to steal home for a 6-0 lead after five. George hit a two-out RBI double with Coiner in scoring position in the sixth inning to make it 7-0. A defensive error and a pitcher's balk, combined with a couple singles in the bottom of the seventh inning allowed the TigerScots to put up one run for the 7-1 final score.

Wilson led the team hitting with two hits for two RBIs and two runs. Mason Orem led all other hitters with two RBIs on one hit; Proudfoot and George were the only other Mustangs to tally a hit, George also adding an RBI and a run.

With the final game of the regular season scored, Proudfoot (.333/.424/.403) leads the team with 24 hits, 24 runs, 20 RBIs and 11 BBs. George (.315/.457/.466) is right behind him with 23 hits, 27 runs, 18 RBIs and 12 BBs. Rodriguez (.308/.444/.369) and Wilson (.303/.405/.333) both added 20 hits; Rodriguez with 27 runs, 14 RBIs and 9 BBs, Wilson with 20 runs, 12 RBIs and 11 BBs.

Mustangs Stumble After Strong Start

The Heppner/Ione Mustangs traveled to Grant Union High School for part two of the series with the Grant Union/Prairie City/Monument Prospectors on Tuesday, May 13. A five-hit, seven-run first inning for the Mustangs that led to a 7-2 lead after one inning would be the highlight of the game for the Mustangs, but not enough. The Prospectors would prove that slow and steady (and defense) can win the race, as they wouldn't put up more than three runs in any single inning on the way to a 11-9 win.

Caleb George and Caylan Proudfoot would lead the Mustangs with two hits

apiece, each with one RBI, one run and one walk as well. Keaton Coiner would lead all other hitters with three RBIs and one run on one hit, followed closely by Karver Wilkins with two runs and one RBI on one hit. Ryan Haugen got the only other Mustang hit of the game, and the start on the mound, pitching 3.0 innings, giving up four runs (four earned) on five hits with two walks and two strikeouts.

Alakae Rodriguez would pitch 0.2 innings in relief giving up three runs (zero earned) on one hit and four walks with two strikeouts. Proudfoot would replace him on the mound and go 2.1 innings, giving up four runs (four earned) on four hits with two walks.

2A/1A-SD7 League Play Wraps-Up

On Tuesday, May 13, news spread that the Irrigon Knights (13-3 League, 16-7 Overall) had secured the District Championship with a 10-0 win over Sherman. The Knights have completed their scheduled games and are awaiting the OSAA ranking freeze, which will happen at 10 p.m. on May 22.

Sitting in the number two seed are the Union/Cove Bobcats (12-4, 18-4) with the Grant Union/Prairie City/Monument Prospectors (12-4, 13-11) sitting right behind them. While they are done with league play, they do both have non-league contests on the schedule before the rankings freeze, although with their overall records being so far apart it shouldn't make much of a difference in league seeding.

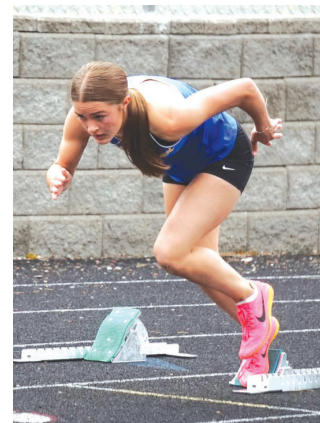
The Heppner/Ione Mustangs (11-5, 15-7) are sitting alone in the four seed with the next closest team two wins behind. The Mustangs join the Knights on the sidelines watching the action and waiting for the ranking freeze. An important note: the Mustangs do hold wins over all three teams seeded above them.

There will be 18 automatic qualifiers for the state tournament, including four from 2A/1A-SD7. After those 18 are selected, the next four highest ranking teams in the state will be selected for at-large bids. The bracket will be built out of these 22 teams. Round 1 games will be played on May 26 with the top 10 seeds getting a bye into Round 2 on May 28.

Big week for Heppner at WM and Grant Union invites



Riley Archer (M) went the distance at Grant Union, placing first in the 3000m. -Photo by Susan Hisler



Healy Hisler takes her mark. She placed first in the 400m at Weston with a season record of 1:01.28. -Photo by Susan Hisler



Chris Humphreys placed first in discus at both Weston and Grant Union. -Photo by Susan Hisler

Heppner athletes shine at WM Invite

Heppner High School track and field athletes delivered strong performances at the WM Invite held on Tuesday, May 13, at Weston McEwen track, with both boys and girls bringing home top finishes across sprint, distance, and field events.

The Heppner girls' team had a standout day, led by Hallee Hisler, who won both the 100 meters (13.00) and 200 meters (26.87). Her younger sister, Healy Hisler, also impressed, taking first in the 400 meters with a season record of 1:01.28, and placing third in the 200 meters.

In the 3000 meters, Lily Nichols broke the 11-minute barrier with a personal record of 10:58.58 for first place, while Brooklyn Hendricks followed in second. The girls' 4x400m relay team of Healy and Hallee Hisler, Riley Archer, and Lily Nichols claimed gold with a 4:19.50 finish.

Other top finishes included Natalie Piper winning the high jump (4'6"), and Laia Puelles taking third in the 100m hurdles and setting a personal record in the 300m hurdles.

On the boys' side, Chris Humphreys led the field squad with a victory in the discus (129'3"), second in shot put (40'9" PR), and second in javelin (164'0"). Teammate Landon McMahon also achieved personal records in both shot put and discus.

Joseph Albitre won the high jump (5'10"), placed third in the 110m hurdles with a personal best of 19.19, and took third in the long jump. In the relays,

the boys' 4x100m team (Medina, Ramos, Wenberg, McMahon) finished second in 47.63.

Marty Medina delivered strong results in middle-distance events, finishing second in the 1500 meters (4:36.20) and third in the 800 meters (2:15.05).

Heppner athletes continue dominant season at GU Invitational

Heppner High School track and field athletes made another strong showing at the Grant Union Invitational on Friday, May 16, at 3 Flags Field, earning multiple event wins and setting numerous personal and season records.

Senior Hallee Hisler continued her dominant sprinting season, winning the 100m (12.86 PR), 200m (26.25), and 400m (59.90). Her sister, Healy Hisler, wasn't far behind, taking second in the 400m (1:01.91 SR) and third in the 100m and 200m.

The distance squad kept the momentum going. Lily Nichols captured gold in the 1500m (5:04.59) and placed second in the 800m (2:30.16). Riley Archer won the 3000m (11:44.86) and placed fourth in the 1500m, while Brooklyn Hendricks followed closely behind in both.

Nichols also shined in hurdles, claiming first in the 300m hurdles (49.73 SR). Laia Puelles earned third in the 100m hurdles and set a new personal record in the 300m hurdles.

The girls' 4x400m relay team (Hallee Hisler, Healy Hisler, Riley Archer, Lily Nichols) once again took top honors with a 4:20.05 finish.

In the field, Natalie

Piper hit a PR of 4'8" for fourth in the high jump, while Claire Lindsay threw 96'4" for fourth in the javelin. Avia Boutefuhr, just a freshman, placed fifth in the shot put (28'1.5" PR) and added solid marks in discus and javelin.

Junior Chris Humphreys led the boys with a triple crown performance, winning the shot put (40'2.75"), discus (131'0" PR), and javelin (167'11"), adding to his growing list of podium finishes this season.

Marty Medina also impressed in distance events, taking first in the 1500m (4:30.98) and fourth in the 800m (2:12.54). Nick Wenberg notched a PR in the 3000m (11:59.40) for second, and also earned second in long jump (18'2.5").

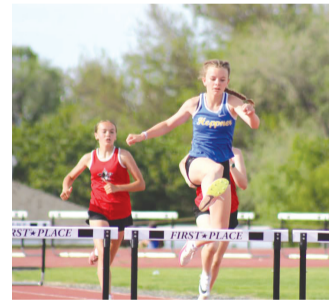
Joseph Albitre showed versatility by finishing second in the high jump (5'10"), first in long jump with a PR (18'10"), and eighth in the 300m hurdles, where he set a new personal best (48.23).

In the throwing ring, Heppner's depth was on full display, with multiple PRs from Gage Heideman, Lucas King, and Austin Willis in shot put, discus, and javelin. Heideman placed third in the shot put (37'7.5" PR) and seventh in the javelin.

Next Stop: District Championships

Heppner's athletes now set their sights on the 2A-SD4 Special District 4 Championships, scheduled for Friday, May 23, at Ward Rhoden Stadium. With strong momentum and standout performances across the board, the Mustangs are poised for a powerful showing.

Mustangs shine at MS Meet of Champions



Sixth grader Hadlie Duncan qualified for the state meet in three events, setting personal records and placing in the top 10 in two of them. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo



Catherine Lindsay takes the baton in the 4x400 relay in Irrigon May 9. She qualified for state in the 400m, in which she ran a personal best of 1:02.20. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo



Brodie Ogden, pictured here in the 400m in Irrigon, qualified for state in the javelin. He threw a personal-record 147 feet last Friday in Corvallis, earning sixth in the state. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo



Aidden Ramos Lopez (L) leads his heat in the 400m in Irrigon. He qualified for state in the 400m, where he placed 20th with a personal best 56.30. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

Brodie Ogden earned a sixth-place finish with a throw of 147 feet, setting a new personal best.

For the girls, eighth grader Catherine Lindsay ran a personal best of 1:02.20 in the 400 meters, placing 18th overall.

Sixth grader Hadlie Duncan had an impressive day across multiple events. She placed 10th in the 800 meters with a time of 2:29.18, and sixth in the 1500 meters with a time of 4:59.96—both personal records. Duncan also competed in the 200-meter hurdles, finishing 31st with a time of 34.59 (-2.0) seconds.

The Mustang junior high track and field team had a strong season overall, with several athletes making their mark in various events. Ogden and Lindsay will be worth watching as they continue their careers in high school. The remaining middle school team members also showed great promise, gaining valuable experience and laying the groundwork for future success.

With a solid foundation and growing talent, the future of Heppner track and field looks bright.

Four Mustang junior high athletes delivered strong performances at the Oregon Middle School Meet of Champions, held Friday, May 16, at Corvallis High School. The Heppner track and field representatives faced off against top

athletes from more than 60 schools around the state.

In the 400 meters, seventh grader Aidden Ramos Lopez placed 20th with a personal record time of 56.30 seconds.

In the javelin (450g AeroJav), eighth grader

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Please call to schedule an appointment at 541-922-6420. We are located in the Morrow County Government Center at 215 NE Main Avenue in Irrigon. Heppner appointments are available.