

# WILCO ROUNDUP

Milwaukie, Clackamas aim high in title chase

## Who's best of rest? Try Ponies, Cavs

Whatever Milwaukie coach Jerry Harn says this year, don't believe him.

He'll talk about all the starters that have graduated, the lack of size on the Mustangs and how this season is a "rebuilding" year.

And if you believe him, he'll probably pull the rug from under you again and go 7-2 and enter the playoffs — just like last year, which he promised was to be a "rebuilding" year.

Harn has three starters back on offense. The biggest hole he has to fill is at quarterback, a spot vacated by graduated Lee Weikum, a second team all-state pick last year.

The Mustang coach has pulled senior Mark Courtney from his all-Wilco positions at split end and defensive back to be the quarterback. To help fire up the run-and-shoot offense will be returning split ends Robert Schwarz and Lewis Weikum, and slotback John Poole.

The defense is small again, with an average weight of 160 pounds and one defensive end that goes 150. Harn plans to stunt frequently on defense to make up for the lack of size.

For someone who has made the playoffs six of the last seven years, Harn is modest about his picks. He looks for Reynolds and Gresham to top the Wilco League, with his Mustangs a "possible" third.

After last season, Clackamas must be wondering what it must do to reach the playoffs. Two years ago, it went 5-4 and lost a playoff berth to Barlow in the final game. Last season, the Cavaliers were 7-2 but were the only ones to sit out the dance when they ended in a four-way tie for first place.

This might be the Cavs' year as they return 17 starters. But gone are Mike Geertsen (fourth team all-state and the leading rusher in the Wilco League) and fullback Trace Czyzewski. Together, the two combined for 2,000 yards rushing in 1980.

Coach Bill Hartman will stick to his USC I formation, however, as he puts his hopes in James Qurillo, a 5-11, 180-pound tailback who rushed for 1,600 yards last season as a member of the Cavalier JV team.

The offense is further boosted by the return of all-state center Bob Starr, all-Wilco tight end Scott Springer and an offensive line that averages more than 200 pounds per man. David Bass will start at quarterback.

Hartman has the entire defensive line and linebacking corps back. The loss of three defensive backs will hurt the Cavs, though, especially all-state safety Czyzewski, who holds the state career record for interceptions with 21.

At The Dalles, Coach Bill Miles is a year wiser. He was shooting for the playoffs last year but is looking to hit .500 this season.

That's a much more realistic goal when one realizes the school's enrollment is less than 600.

Mark Beaton is likely to start at quarterback after taking the position halfway through last season as a sophomore. A total of 14 lettermen return from that 3-6 team.

"We're not as big as last season but we are hoping to improve our speed," Miles says. "We are going to pass more."

Instrumental to The Dalles' season are place kicker and tackle Shaun Urban and defensive back and wide receiver Tom Gale, both seniors.

Miles also hopes to improve the secondary after opponents riddled last year's squad with bombs.

"We just couldn't stop the deep passes last year," he says. "We would have done better if we put the secondary in the grandstands and had them run down from there."

Coach Pete Hopkins will have adequate depth on his Hood River squad for a change. Inexperience slowed the Eagles to a 1-8 mark last year.

Hopkins has seven starters back on offense. At quarterback is junior Mark Crown, whom Hopkins describes as "better than (former Eagle standout) Jeff Buckley at this point."

Hood River plans to throw 75 percent of the time, Hopkins says. He is high on his pair of 6-4 receivers, Ernie May and newcomer Mark Jensen.

The Eagles have also switched to a radar defense this season with second-team all-Wilco defensive back David Harpe anchoring it. Beefed up to 190 pounds, Harpe will play at linebacker this year.

Hopkins has discarded last year's big, but immobile, defensive line for a lighter, quicker combo this time around.

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Winless Putnam must do without QB Rich Becker.

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