



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

**Heppner's Caden George (24) runs the ball for a touchdown Saturday, Nov. 13, 2021, during the second half against the Weston-McEwen TigerScots at Les Payne Field in Heppner. The Heppner Mustangs defeated Weston-McEwen 40-0 in the quarterfinal round of the Oregon School Activities Association Class 2A state football playoffs.**

## Mustangs:

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Weston-McEwen got the ball to start the second half, and the TigerScots drove from their own 31 to the Heppner 40 behind some nice running by Levie Phillips. On third-and-9, Heppner's Blane Mahoney sacked Peal to force a punt.

"We knew after the half, they would fire up the intensity," Coe said of the TigerScots. "We wanted to be prepared."

Heppner took over on its own 23, and ran nearly 7 minutes off the clock during its drive that ended with George running 11 yards for his second touchdown of the day for a 20-0 lead.

Heading into the fourth quarter, W-M had third-and-37 at its own 13.

The TigerScots were later forced to punt. Hisler blocked Peal's punt to put the Mustangs at the Weston-McEwen 13. Hisler then ran the ball in for a touchdown and a 26-0 lead.

From there, the Mustangs added a 58-yard touchdown run from Coe, and a 2-point conversion run by Hisler for a 34-0 lead with 7:33 to play in the game.

"We were disappointed at halftime," Grant said of his team. "They knew they had

to get to work."

On the TigerScots' ensuing drive, Peal hit Dylan Youncs on third-and-3. Youncs was hit by Heppner defensive lineman Conor Brosnan, who knocked the ball loose. Brosnan picked up the ball and rumbled 25 yards for the touchdown.

"Those hits do feel good, not going to lie," Brosnan said of the play. "I was running and my calf was cramping. I didn't think I was going to make it."

Grant likes to see his linebackers get a little glory now and again.

"It's nice to see his play pay off," Grant said. "Our kids stepped up and they were resilient."

Hisler finished with 110 yards rushing for the Mustangs, who had 301 yards on the day.

Hisler also had eight tackles, while Mahoney had six and two sacks. Brosnan added seven tackles, while Toby Nation and Tucker Ashbeck each had six. Cade Cunningham and Kegan Steagall each recorded a sack.

The TigerScots were held to just 76 yards of offense, and 115 yards in penalties came back to haunt them.

"I want to thank the senior class, the fans and the community," Hansell said. "We have so many fans that follow us everywhere."

## Character:

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"It's nice to have local teams feel like they can come in as a group," Christensen said. "They were so polite. I told them to please win. When the guy came back to get his card, I told them they were wonderful, and they tipped me. I asked him to call us and let us know if they won. It's important to our business to support local teams."

The team's bill came to \$493, and the anonymous benefactor left Christensen a 15% tip.

When the players got up to leave, they handed Christensen a wad of cash and thanked her. She told them a tip had been left, but they insisted.

"It was cool how they were keeping up with all 25 of us and the rest of the restaurant," Blankenship said. "She looked pretty excited."

The original tip was \$73, and the players left her another \$82.

"I have been here for 23 years, I have never gotten



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**Weston-McEwen football players take to the field Oct. 1, 2021, with United States flags ahead of a game against Heppner. The TigerScots on Thursday, Nov. 11, gathered for a breakfast at Denny's in Pendleton, two days before facing Blue Mountain Conference rival Heppner in the state football playoffs. The tab for the meal came to almost \$500, but a benefactor covered the cost, and the players still left the waitress with cash tips totaling \$82.**

that kind of tip," said Christensen, who said she never counted the money until she got home. "The boys kind of went crazy."

Christensen said she is grateful for the generous tip. With the extra money, she will be able to fly her son, Remington, home for the holidays from Chapman

University in California. Something she was not able to do last year.

"We wanted to be thankful for who paid for our tab and to the kind waitress," Graham said. "If everyone chips in a little bit, we can make someone else's day."

As word got around that the players were generous

and courteous beyond their teenage years, one person wrote in a Facebook post: "We were in Denny's today having breakfast with one of my favorite vets and saw them all come in. They were very respectful and they were opening doors for the elderly and thanking vets at the tables on their way to be seated. Definitely gives hope for the future."

The players' kind act was not lost on W-M coach Kenzie Hansell.

"It's an honor to be the head coach at Weston-McEwen," Hansell said. "It's not just what's between the white lines that matter. It's what happens off the field, at home and in the community. We talk about character a lot. We are fortunate to have them two hours a day. It's easy and a joy to coach these great young men. I'm proud of every single one of them."

Graham said it was nice to go out as a group and be welcomed.

"No matter where we go, we are representing the TigerScots," he said. "We want to keep that good representation."

## Quinn:

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of his career.

The redshirt senior threw a dime down the middle of the field to redshirt senior Sage Wilkerson, breaking the plane of the end zone and giving Eastern the lead with just three seconds

remaining. The Mountaineer sideline and fans in attendance erupted as the team all but secured the victory.

One final Hail Mary attempt from the Raiders was intercepted in the end zone as the Eastern players rushed the field in celebration.

Quinn was elite in his final game in blue and gold,

totaling 284 passing yards, one passing touchdown and 52 rushing yards. Eastern's defense made a strong stand against Southern, holding the Raiders to 292 yards of total offense. In their final games on the Eastern defensive line, Sage DeLong and Chase Van Wyck wreaked havoc. Van Wyck tallied 3.5 tackles for loss and DeLong totaled two tackles for loss

and half a sack.

While the victory will not change the fact that a six-game losing streak led to a losing record this year, fans will not soon forget the late game heroics against Southern.

After a 3-0 start to the season, the Mountaineers wrapped up the season sixth in the Frontier Conference at 4-6.

## ON THE SLATE

### THURSDAY, NOV. 18

**Prep girls bowling**  
Kamiakin at Hermiston, 3 p.m.

### FRIDAY, NOV. 19

**College cross-country**  
Eastern Oregon at NAIA National Championships, 10:30 a.m.

**College men's wrestling**  
Simpson at Eastern Oregon, 7 p.m.

**College women's wrestling**  
Simpson at Eastern Oregon, 5 p.m.

### College men's basketball

Blue Mountain vs. Linn Benton at WWCC, 6 p.m.

**College women's basketball**  
Edmonds at Blue Mountain, 7:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, NOV. 20

**Prep football**  
2A state semifinals: Heppner vs. Coquille at McMinnville High School, noon

**College women's basketball**  
Eastern Oregon vs. Montana Western,

Caldwell, Idaho, 2 p.m.

Lower Columbia at Blue Mountain, 5 p.m.

**College men's basketball**  
Blue Mountain vs. Mountain Home AFB, 2 p.m.

### SUNDAY, NOV. 21

**College men's wrestling**  
Eastern Oregon at Spokane Open, Spokane, Washington, TBA

**College women's wrestling**  
Eastern Oregon at Spokane Open, Spo-

kane, Washington, TBA

**College women's basketball**  
Clark at Blue Mountain, 2 p.m.

### TUESDAY, NOV. 23

**Prep girls bowling**  
Hermiston at Kennewick, 2:30 p.m.

### TUESDAY, NOV. 30

**Prep girls basketball**  
Hermiston at Davis, 5:45 p.m.

**Prep boys basketball**  
Hermiston at Davis, 7:30 p.m.

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