

R-1 Board to Decide

Does Heppner Face A-2 Competition for the Last Time this Year?

When Heppner High school's football team goes against Madras High the last game of the season this year, it may be the last time the Mustangs and the White Buffaloes clash on the gridiron.

The last time, that is, unless the Morrow county school district R-1 board of directors doesn't want it to be the last time.

So what's the problem? There isn't any problem, really, it's just a matter of making a decision.

The decision? It's this simple: should the Mustangs continue to play athletics against district 7 A-2 schools, as they have been for several years, or should they drop down to a lower classification and meet such teams as Cascade Locks, Arlington, Dufur and Culver?

Actually, the decision has already been made. It's up to the board to approve it, or reverse it.

That's because under a new redistricting plan approved by the Oregon School Activities Association last spring, the Mustangs will be playing in a new district, against those aforementioned schools, when the 1970 school year opens in 12 months.

Unless the board thinks otherwise.

And the first testimony the board will hear comes Monday night, September 22, when the board meets for its regular monthly meeting at the district office in Lexington.

The plan has come about in the past year because "We've had requests from school districts to do something about re-

districting," says Ron Daniels, R-1 superintendent and member of the OSAA board of directors.

And redistricting was done. Under the plan, there will be three classes of schools, as there are now. Schools with largest enrollments would be AAA schools, next largest schools will be class AA, and smallest schools will be class A.

The enrollment figures are based on enrollment in grades 10 to 12, though not on nine to 12 as is presently done.

And that change drops Heppner from AA to A.

So the Mustangs next fall will be in a football league composed of Condon, Pilot Rock, Sherman county, Wasco county, McEwen, Stanfield and Umatilla High schools.

In basketball, they would be in a league against Condon, Pil-

ot Rock, Sherman county, Wasco county, Arlington, Wheeler county, Cascade Locks, Dufur and Culver.

The same league would be for baseball and track.

The new league would cut down travel for the Mustangs, but would lessen competition, according to Daniels.

And that's the choice that has to be made.

If the Mustangs want to continue in the same league they are in now, it would be no problem, Daniels says.

All that is required of the school district is a petition to the OSAA, asking that the Mustangs be allowed to play in district 7AA, as it is now.

In that league, under the new plan, are Wahtonka, Madras, Burns, Vale, Nyssa, Grant Union and Mac-Hi of Milton-Free-

water. Enterprise drops down to district 8A, while Pilot Rock and Sherman are in 6A.

Mac-Hi, however, has indicated it wants to remain in the Intermountain League, district 7AAA. While the school has not yet petitioned the OSAA for the move, Daniels says the Pioneers "will probably move up."

The superintendent is sure the OSAA would approve Heppner's petition.

"The only reason for refusal of a petition is if the district refuses to accept the school," Daniels says. Even then, if district 7AA refused to accept the Mustangs for competition, the OSAA could place them in the league.

The petition does not have to be made before June 1, 1970, for Heppner to be affected that fall.

But the R-1 board will begin consideration at its meeting, to allow plenty of time for the decision.

"The board will ask coaches to advise them, along with administrators, and citizens," Daniels says.

Whatever decision is made for 1970 is made only for that year, according to the administrator. It can be reviewed annually, and changes can be made.

One thing is for sure, though, the Mustangs cannot split their schedule between two districts. If they decide to go the class A route, it'll be that way all through the year. And the same goes if they play class AA sports.

One way or the other, they'll have to decide: Madras, or Culver?

(See editorial, page 2).

A Windmill Stands Watch

(G-T Photo)



Next Wednesday

Teacher Reception Scheduled

A number of new improvements at the Heppner Elementary and Junior High schools will be seen during a planned tour for parents and teachers as a part of the annual PTA Teachers Reception next Wednesday evening, September 17.

Prior to the tour, the public is invited to meet in the multipurpose room at 8:00 p.m. for a special get-acquainted session. All teachers of the Heppner staff will be introduced by Principal Alan Martin, with special welcome given the teachers who are new this year.

Parents will have an opportunity to become acquainted with their children's teachers

during refreshments and social hour following the short introductory meeting.

During the tour which will follow, the area of the greatest improvement will be noticed in the junior high gymnasium. This has taken on a "new look," freshly repainted to go with the new ceiling installed last year, and new red velvet curtains installed on the stage, replacing the old ones which had been there since 1931. The PTA assisted in the selection and purchase of the new curtains, with Mrs. Gwen Healy serving as committee chairman.

Floors have been repaired in the gym; girls' rest rooms are remodeled with new stalls and

wash areas; boys shower room remodeled and new showers installed. Also of note is newly painted floor in the hall between the lunch rooms. New baking and proofing ovens have been added to the kitchen for more efficient use in baking of breads and pastries for school lunches.

Serving as PTA committee members are: program, Mrs. Gwen Healy, Mrs. Betty Marquardt and Mrs. Randy Lott; room mothers, Mrs. Ron Hague-wood, Mrs. Bob Laughlin; hospitality, Mrs. Sybil Galliher; Mrs. Arnold Raymond; and membership, Mrs. Wallace Wolf.

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Price 10 Cents

Wheat Yields Higher than 1968; Lower Prices Hurt Crop's Value

Wheat and barley yields are vastly improved over 1968, preliminary reports show as the county's grain harvest nears completion.

But low grain prices tarnish the picture for Morrow county farmers.

Tuesday's Portland price was \$1.39 per bushel of wheat, Riley Munkers of Morrow County Grain Growers said. That would put the price at Lexington at \$1.25 per bushel of No. 1 wheat, not figuring storage costs.

Net price for 90 per cent of the wheat stored at Lexington would be \$1.23 per bushel,

Munkers said, when final tallies are made, however.

Munkers said the average of wheat received at MCGG elevators would probably run between \$1.25 and \$1.30 per bushel, less than last year, he said.

Barley prices continue to be very low, running about \$1.50 to \$2.00 under loan.

The county-wide wheat average is estimated at 25 bushels per acre, according to county extension agent Harold Kerr. He said the figure could change 2½ bushels and 24 bushels per acre.

He estimated the Grain Growers have received 2,200,000 bushels of wheat and barley during the harvest.

County-wide, Kerr said about 3,300,000 bushels of wheat and 30,000 tons of barley have been harvested.

Farm storage of grain makes the difference in Kerr's and Munkers' figures.

County average on barley is estimated at three-quarters ton per acre, Kerr said.

Total income on wheat will be about \$3,825,000, Kerr said, while farmers will receive about

\$1 million for their barley.

While last year's price was higher, the county average was only 17 bushels per acre, Kerr said. Two years ago, the wheat price was another dime higher.

About 130,000 acres of wheat were harvested, along with 42,000 acres of barley. These are preliminary figures, Kerr cautioned, with final figures to come from the office of Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Kerr said no figures were available yet in the county's potato harvest, which is yet to be completed.

Moonlight Sale To Offer Bargains On September 26

There will be "down to earth" prices for shoppers who like to save "spacious" dollars at the next three-hour Moonlight Sale, on Friday, September 26, beginning at 7 p.m.

Shoppers can take advantage of bargains, and at the same time have a good time, whether the moon is out or not, visiting the Heppner stores from 7 to 10 p.m. The evening shopping period gives husbands and wives a chance to browse together, and friends and neighbors an opportunity to meet and greet each other over the bargain counter.

Merchants made plans for the coming event at a merchants' committee meeting last Friday. The sale was scheduled on an open date to avoid conflicting with home football games.

Complete details and advertising of merchants will be in next week's Gazette-Times, but the public is asked to mark the date now and keep it free.

Lightning Starts Eleven Blazes; All in Heppner Area Controlled

Eleven lightning-caused fires in the Heppner Ranger district of the Umatilla National Forest were all out and mopped up, officials said Wednesday.

The fires were all started when an electrical storm hit the area Monday night.

The eleven were part of 31 among the Heppner, Ukiah, Dale and Pendleton Ranger districts.

"They were all spots," Frank Rasmussen of the Forest Service said. A "spot" fire is one in

which less than three-tenths of an acre is burned.

Two smokejumpers from La Grande were called in on a fire in Rail Canyon Tuesday, Rasmussen said. The smokejumpers were part of 16 from Missoula, Mont. called in to fight Eastern Oregon fires.

The Rail Canyon blaze was the last of the eleven to be controlled. Earlier Tuesday, crews controlled the Mud Springs fire near Texas Butte. State Forestry crews took initial action on the fire.

Some 30 men from the Heppner district, along with a crew from Kinzua Corporation, handled the fires. The Kinzua men took initial action on two of the fires, Rasmussen said.

State Forestry crews had a 30-acre fire on Bureau of Land Management land near Mountain Creek, controlled Tuesday, but a six-acre fire on Straw Fork between Kinzua and Fossil was uncontrolled.

Two cat tractors and some

firefighters were fighting that blaze Tuesday. Heppner area State Forester Knox Pipkin said.

Ten fires were reported on state land after the Monday night storm, Pipkin said. All but two were less than three-tenths of an acre.

Between 42 and 43 acres were burned as of Tuesday evening, Pipkin said.

The latest fire reported was one on Yellowjacket creek, and crews were on their way to combat the fire.

Ah, Rain

By EARL GILLIAM

For week of September 3-9

	Hi	Low	Prec.
Wednesday	69	45	—
Thursday	67	46	—
Friday	70	37	—
Saturday	78	39	—
Sunday	84	45	—
Monday	88	48	—
Tuesday	85	62	.15

Mustangs Meet Elgin, Cardinals Go Against Dufur in Grid Season Openers

It's back to the football wars this week-end as both Heppner and Elgin High schools open their 1969 gridiron seasons Saturday.

The Mustangs open at home against Elgin, while the Cards travel to Dufur for their opener.

Game time at Heppner is at 8 p.m., while the lone crew will play at 2 p.m.

Both HHS head coach Ed Hiemstra and lone mentor Gordon Meyers have listed tentative starting lineups for the initial games.

On the offensive front, Hiemstra will go with senior John Harris at center, Harris, a 5-10, 210-lb. two-year letterman, beat out last year's starter, Tom Cutsforth for the spot.

Another two-year man, Dave Wright, will start at one guard position, while the other spot will be filled by Greg Greenup. Wright is a 6-0, 190-lb. senior, and Greenup is a 6-0, 175-lb. sophomore.

At tackles, Hal Bergstrom, a 6-2, 190-pounder, and Rick Marquardt, a 6-3, 210-pounder, are slated to start. Both are seniors.

Two seniors with three years of experience each will hold down the end positions, according to Hiemstra. Matt Murray and Lee Huson, both 6-1, will start.

A sophomore who played as a running back last year will start at quarterback, the coach said.

Dean Wright, a 6-0, 175-lb. second-year man is set to guide the Mustangs in the opener.

Rounding out Hiemstra's "Belly T" backfield will be a pair of juniors and a sophomore.

At tailback, third-year man John Hall, 5-8 and 175-lb., will start.

Rory Stillman, who saw considerable duty a year ago, will run out of the fullback slot. He is 5-6 and 175-lb.

The wingback position is still up for grabs, the coach said, with Terry Hughes, a converted lineman, and Bruce Marquardt battling for the nod.

Hughes looked good early this week, Hiemstra said. He is a 5-10, 175-lb. junior, while Marquardt is a 5-7, 150-lb. junior.

Defensively, Hiemstra will go with Harris at middle guard, Rick Marquardt and Bergstrom at tackles, Murray and Huson at ends, and Bill Greenup at middle linebacker.

Hughes and Dave Wright will play outside linebackers, while Hall and Stillman or Gary Watkins are set to start at halfbacks. Dean Wright will play safety.

Hiemstra will use a man in motion with the Belly T, and plans to use Wright's arm for aerials.

The team will be playing without John McCabe, who last week suffered a shoulder separation in practice. He will be out for two weeks, the coach said.

Little is known about the Huskies, although they list 15 seniors on their 26-man roster.

"They should have good experience," Hiemstra said.

The Cardinals will tentatively go with a pair of seniors, four sophomores and two freshmen in their opener.

The two freshmen, Dick Snider and Doug Beggs, will start in the backfield, with Snider at quarterback and Beggs at halfback. Herbie Ekstrom, a sophomore, will hold down the other halfback spot.

To start at center, along with guard Rick Barnett and end Nick Marick. All are sophomores. The two seniors, Ron Christopherson and Scott Wilson, will open at guard and tackle, respectively.

The lone club thumped Dufur in their opener last season, but Meyers promises nothing this year.

"We don't know what to expect from Dufur," he said.



HEPPNER HIGH'S FOOTBALL TEAM will play their first game here Saturday night against Elgin. Members of the squad pictured here are (front row, from left) Jim McLachlan, Allen McCabe, Dale Hedman, Mike Doherty, Beryl Stillman, Kirk Robinson, George Steagall, Jeff Marshall, John Cutsforth and Dave Eckman. Row 2: Coach Dean Wright, Dave Winter, Bob Poybar, Bill Jepsen, Rick Drake, Allen Peck, Rory Stillman, Kevin Dick, Bruce Marquardt, John Hall and Mike Hedman. Row 3:

Bill Greenup, Charlie Pointer, Rob Abrams, John Harris, Tom Cutsforth, Gary Watkins, Bruce Bergstrom, Terry Hughes, John McCabe and Lee Huson. Row 4: Coach Dale Conklin, Craig Munkers, John Sumner, Matt Murray, Dave Wright, Rick Marquardt, Greg Greenup, Dean Wright, Hal Bergstrom, Barney Marshall and Coach Ed Hiemstra. Managers Duane Steers, Dave Gunderson and Mike Sweek are seated in front of the team. (Not pictured is Dallas Hania). (G-T Photo).