

A 14-13 cliffhanger

Mustangs spectacular win over McEwen-Weston

The Heppner High School Mustang football team played exceptional ball Friday night to upset McEwen-Weston, 14-13.

The Mustangs knew they were playing one of the top-ranked teams in the state, so this was not going to be an ordinary ball game. They would have to guard against pass receivers who could outrun them and hold against a line that out weighed them.

After the first few series of downs, when the Mustangs held the Scots, they knew they could win. Not over-confident, just determined, and with each play their spirits were renewed as cheers from the crowd spurred them on.

Early in the second quarter, John Boyer, Mustang #1, took a punt return on his own 6 yard line and raced 94 yards for a touchdown. The try for the extra point was good and the Mustangs led 7-0.

The Mustangs managed to hold the Scots scoreless until the third quarter, when the

Scots scored on a pass play and a short run to tie the ball game 7-7.

Midway through the fourth quarter the Scots intercepted a Mustang pass and started a drive toward the Mustang goal line, only to have the Mustangs stop it with a pass interception of their own.

With just over 2 minutes left in the ball game, the Mustangs scored another TD, made the PAT and led 14-7.

The cheers from the crowd had its effect on the Mustangs. The entire squad dug in to hold. They also knew they could not afford to make any errors now, for the Scots were backed against the wall and fighting the clock.

With less than a minute to play, the Scots were knocking on the Mustang door. With fourth down and 15 yards to go for a Scot TD, a pass interference penalty was called on the Mustangs, giving the Scots first and goal on the

Mustang 2 yard line.

The Mustangs tried to hold, but the Scots scored their second TD with less than a minute left to play.

Silence fell over the crowd as fans tried to figure out if the Scots would go for the two points or try for the extra point and a tie. As the Scots lined up for the single point conversion there were shouts from the crowd of, "They won't kick," and "pass! pass!" The Scots went for the tie. The ball missed the uprights. The Mustangs won the ball game by a single point.

Heppner had defeated the mighty McEwen-Weston team that had scored 170 points in its last three games while holding their opponents scoreless.

An upset, no; a victory, yes. The Mustangs proved not only to themselves but to their fans that an inspired team with the proper coaching can over-

come the odds. It happened Friday night in Heppner.

The statistics for the game: 1st downs, Heppner 3, Scots 16; net yards rushing, Heppner 12, Scots 90; net yards passing, Heppner 80, Scots 216; penalties, Heppner 44,

Scots 105; return yardage (kick-off and punts); Heppner 105, Scots 55.

The score by quarters are: 2nd quarter, John Boyer, (H) 94 yard punt return, PAT, Matt Greenup; 3rd quarter, W-Mc, Kelly, Allen, 4 yard

run, PAT, Tony Villanueva; 4th quarter; (H), 33 yard pass, Gentry to Harrison, PAT, Greenup, W-Mc, 5 yard pass, Villanueva to Lieuellen, PAT failed.

Jerry Gentry (H) completed 8x19 passes for a total of 80

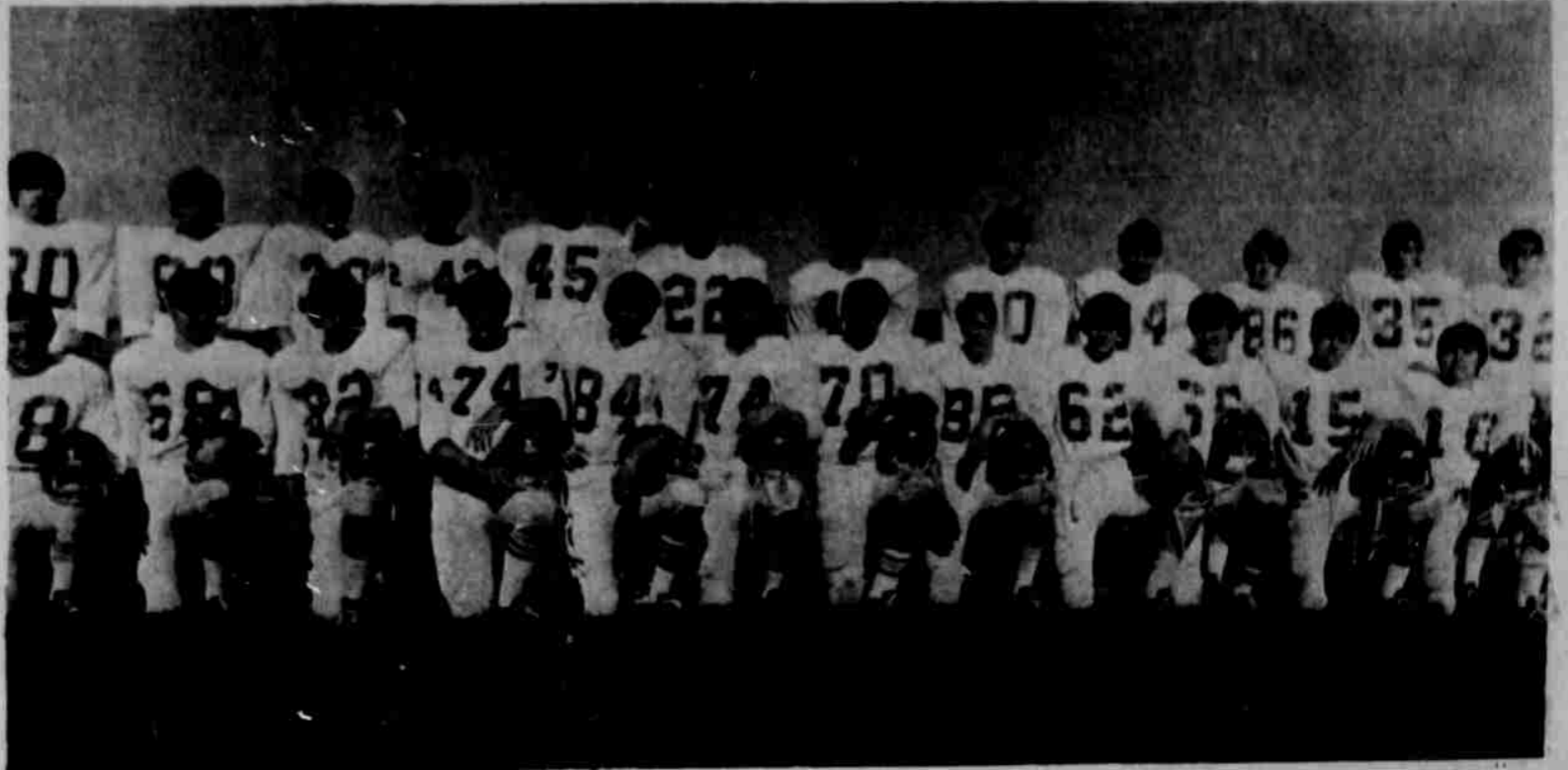
yards; Tony Villanueva (W-Mc) completed 19x36 for 216 yards.

Heppner had 2 interceptions and Weston-McEwen had the ball intercepted 3 times.

The Mustangs are now tied with Condon for first place in

the Columbia Basin League. These teams meet Friday night at Condon. Game time is 8 p.m.

The next home game for the varsity will be against Pilot Rock, Thursday, Oct. 11. Game time is 8 p.m.



The mighty Mustangs, front row from the left, Jim Marquardt, Jim Wilhelm, Jack Chitty, John Luciani, Doug Gonty, Charlie Sumner, John Myers, Dave McLeod, Mark Wright, John Kilkenny, Jerry Gentry, and Karl Harrison. Back row from the left, Dyrk Dunlap, John Boyer, Dana Sweek, David Daly, Mike Bergstrom, Clayton Wilson, Matt Greenup, Randy Morris, Mike Mills, Cliff Harris, Ken Eckman and Joe Kenny.



Heppner's coaching staff, from the left, Dean Naffziger, Chuck Starr and Dale Conklin.

JVs drop one to Weston-McEwen

Heppner junior varsity footballers yielded to a bigger, stronger Weston-McEwen squad at Athena Monday afternoon, 36-18.

After trailing 20-6, at half-time, Heppner came back strong in the second half only to allow the opponents to wear them down in the late going.

"We are improving," said Coach Dale Conklin. "Had we played Pilot Rock and Condon like we played Monday, we would have three wins to our credit."

Heppner's Jayvees moved the ball much more effectively going against the combined Weston-McEwen squad. The locals had over 200 yards gained, most of the yardage

by passing. Credited with outstanding efforts were Dale Munkers, Wade Padberg, Doug Harris, Mike Orwick and David Allstott.

Next Tuesday the JVs travel to Condon for a 4 p.m. rematch.

SCORING:

Heppner 06 120 - 18
Weston-McEwen 12 8 88 - 36

Heppner - Padberg 70 pass from Orwick (run failed).
Heppner - Padberg 80 pass from Allstott (pass failed).
Heppner - Allstott 2 run (pass failed).

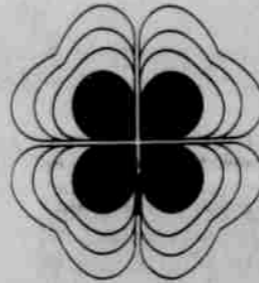


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