

Conklin calls game pivotal

Heppner's one game at a time seems to be working. That philosophy is a prerequisite for any coach, yet some tend to peek past some slighted opponents on their way to the big time.

Heppner's only close call was with Riverside's winless Pirates. John Sporseen admits that even though he and his coaching staff didn't overlook Riverside, a few of the players did. The double overtime told the tale.

"Sherman was nowhere in our minds last night," Dale Conklin told the G-T following the Mustangs 21-6 romp over Weston-McEwen last week. "It was Weston-McEwen. That positive attitude the rest of the season will just be points in our favor."

Conklin says Sherman is big. He saw them against Umatilla and said two backs have deceptive speed. They're not as fast, but they run with authority," Conklin said. "They are power runners that can go outside, too,

so you have to respect them," he said.

Conklin calls the game pivotal between Sherman and the Cardiac Kids, a name pegged to the Mustangs by Jim Wagoner, sports editor at the Hermiston Herald last week.

"We've got three in a row," Conklin said, speaking about facing WM, Sherman and Umatilla in a three week span. "That worked in our favor, there's no question about it," he said. "I'm not calling any of the teams we've played a patsy or easy, but the games gave us a chance to develop. We're improving every week, there's no question about that, either."

One of the real pluses Conklin sees is the almost two

platoon system Heppner uses. "We're able to substitute offensively and defensively so that we're not dependent on as many kids going both ways. We can wear opponents down

by doing that."

The Mustangs have four men that went both ways at Weston-McEwen.

"At this size, there aren't many schools that can do

that," Conklin said. "They get lots of rest and can do a more

efficient job of blocking and running on offense when they aren't tired out on defense."

Band needs funds

The Heppner High School band is soliciting for funds to help pay for expenses at Friday's homecoming show.

The show, directed by Jim Ackley, teaching advisor, and Bill Kenny, student director, will feature fireworks along with the band's marching performance.

Allstott breaks wrist

Dave Allstott was stuck with another problem Tuesday. Allstott, who has been nursing a dislocated shoulder for two weeks, finally went to the doctor Tuesday, complaining of a small, but constant pain in his left wrist.

X-rays revealed that

one of eight bones in the wrist was fractured completely through. He now has his right arm isolated and his left wrist in a cast.

Allstott thinks he broke the wrist against Condon, in the Mustangs' opening clash.

Oct. 22
2:00 pm
at Umatilla

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Dave Conklin

little varsity experience before this year, into one of the top defensive units in the conference, a feat he must be proud of.

Conklin started his coaching career in an obscure way, as a sports editor for the La Grande Observer. He started coaching unofficially for La Grande High School after getting to know coaches there.

After that short stint, he went back to college after coaching a little in the service. At Eastern Oregon State College, he coached the summer baseball program for two years. That's when the bug bit.

His first teaching role was at Klickitat, WA, where Conklin was head football, basketball and baseball mentor. He came to Heppner in 1969 as assistant football and track coach.

His football duties then were majorly scouting reports and junior varsity assignments. After four years in that capacity, he moved into the assistant ranks under Chuck Starr.

This season he is responsible for the Mustang defense and line.

Conklin and his wife Linda have four children: Ashley, seven; Jill, five; Sheryl, three; and Mark, one. This is also his first year as head track coach.

So when you see that rock jawed jock pounding down the sidelines, growling at the Mustangs, just remember, he's proud of those players.



No. 25

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Daly

Sr.

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Heppner

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Hoffnagle

Jr.

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Reed's Mobil
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