



Community effort

Track project near finish

The Heppner High School Track Project, sponsored by the Heppner Lions' Club, is nearing the finishing stages, with curb expected to be added shortly. The project to date has involved more than five months, more than 1,000 loads of fill and countless hours of volunteer labor.

Five months ago, John Edmundson and Dave Harrison approached the Lions' Club about resurfacing the track and enlarging it to 400 meters. Dimensions involved looked easy. The track was 330 yards and needed to be expanded to 400 meters or 437.5 yards as converted. On the southeast end, the track only needed to be extended eighteen yards. On the northwest end, it only needed to be lengthened ten yards, and needed to go into the rock hillside on the south by about five yards. Sounded easy?

A preliminary contact was made to see if Dick Wilkinson, long time school interested person, could help by furnishing a dozer and his huge road construction type Euclid scraper. Wilkinson looked at the rock hillside and the huge bluff on the northwest side of the track and to cut back the hill on the south side was going to really take some equipment and rock moved. Doc Sherer, a sports enthusiast from Ione, volunteered help. The County furnished a shovel and Doc operated it three days to move rock to the far ends of the track. Wilkinson was busy leveling the fill and pushing rock down the hill to the shovel. Without "Doc" and "Dick," the project was a no-go.

Three trucks hauled about 500 loads from the big shovel. Dick Wilkinson dozed approximately 300 yards of dirt off the hill down to the east end of the track.

Jim Wishart and Larry Mills were named to help co-chair the project.

Jim Phegley was called upon to help. He found tough going on the southeast end of the track, trying to doze out "that hill." The Lions had come to hate the rock hill. One huge rock stuck out into the track and wouldn't budge. Phegley couldn't budge a lot of the rock and blasters from Columbia Basin Electric came in to shoot the rock. Then Pat Patterson came into preliminary grade the track and he brought in a dozer to move much of the rock on

"that hill." He moved about 150 yards of materials to fill out the track on the northeast corner of the track.

Along came Tom Wilson to give a couple hours of loader work and about 20 truck loads of fill to the northeast end of the track.

All this time, Elmer Sams and Bill Gentry were "shooting levels" to try to keep ahead of the dozers and truck loads of fill. Norm Patterson came in with his road grader to level the track again.

Along came Dick Wilkinson again. He brought in his Euclid scraper. Bert Corbin brought his dozer to push the Euclid. There were 150 loads to the load hauled off the top of the hill onto each end of the track. Don McEwen brought in his dozer to help level the fill. Norm Patterson was on the spot to level the fill and rock again.

Back came Don McEwen to run Bert Corbin's loader to help load out 30 loads of dirt fill needed on each end of the track and dump it over the bluffs.

A Columbia Basin Electric crew came back again to shoot a rock spot off the southwest end of the track. Jim Phegley came back to beautify the hillside by leveling it where Dick Wilkinson had scraped it and then filled in the straight-of-way starting area by pushing in 100 yards of rock and fill.

Now it was time for some surfacing material. A base of reject sand was to be added.

There were 50 loads hauled in, mostly from a pit owned by John Pegg, located north of Lexington 20 miles. It was a long haul.

Norm Patterson was back again to level the material with his grader. Now twenty-five rock pickers were called in early on a Sunday morning to help clear rocks off the track surface.

Randy Lott came along to run his loader to provide another 20 truck loads of dirt fill for each end of the track. Bill Gentry and Elmer Sams had been back again a couple more times to shoot levels.

A homemade drag was rigged up. Neil Parks, John Gochbauer, Dave Harrison, Bill Gentry, Elmer Sams, Jim Wishart, and John Edmundson made hundreds of trips around the track to level and pack it.

The night before the first home track meet, Jim Wishart was out helping line the lanes. Harrison and Edmundson were there dragging the track and running a packer.

Lion President Don Cole feels the project has a value of \$35,000 to \$40,000 when completed.

The project is not completed. A curb is to be installed and decomposed granite must be hauled in for final surface. Grass must be planted. There is work to do for the community; fortunately, the Heppner Lions are there to do it or help coordinate great community effort to see it is done.

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The Gazette-Times

Sports



Heppner thinclads take top honors in 8-way meet

Mustang thinclads are on their way to taking top honors in Columbia Basin Conference district competition this Friday and Saturday, predicts Coach Dale Conklin.

Conklin made the comment after his Mustangs took first place as a team in an eight-way meet in Pendleton last week, with individuals breaking school records and bettering their own "season's best" marks.

"We had one super track meet," said Conklin, "and it kind of upset Pendleton, Pasco and Kennewick when we beat their JV squads."

Heppner racked up 128½ points, followed by Pendleton at 123½. Pasco finished third at 79, with Kennewick right behind at 78. From there, placings went to Weston-McEwen, Riverside of Boardman, Oregon Trail and Pilot Rock.

David Allstott and Steve McLaughlin both broke school records at the meet. Allstott went 42-5½ in the triple jump to erase the record set by Bryan Marlin, 42-4, earlier this year.

McLaughlin was clocked at 44.48 in the 330 intermediate hurdles, shaving some time off the Mustang record of 44.6 set by Bryce Powell earlier this season.

Carl Christman bettered his javelin toss with a 157-7 mark, enough to finish second in the event. Marty Smith hurled the spear 152-3, a personal best for him and a fourth place finish in the meet.

Freshman Jim Parker put the shot 41-5½, the best mark he's made so far this year and grabbed a first for the team.

Sideline by illness for most of the season, Richard Schmidt has been out for track about three weeks and went over the bar in the high jump at an even six feet. The sophomore also put in a mark of 40-4 in the triple jump for a fifth place.

David Piper logged his best run in the 800-meter with a time of 2:08.67, equivalent of a 2:09.880.

Freshman Danny Nix placed fourth in the 1600-meter event with a time of 4:57.3. In terms of a mile run,

Nix would have been a couple seconds under the five minute mark.

Looking ahead

The Mustangs travel to Condon Friday for the first day of district, the meet starting at 1 p.m. The second day of competition takes place Saturday at Pendleton, beginning at noon.

Competing in the district meet will be Sherman, Wasco, Condon, Riverside of Boardman, Ione, Heppner, Pilot Rock, Umatilla, Oregon Trail, Weston-McEwen, Umapine and Helix.

"We've seen some excellent performances this past few weeks and I really think we have a shot at the thing," said Conklin.

Babe Ruth practice begins May 13

Boys between the ages of 13-15 are urged to meet at the Heppner Rodeo Grounds Saturday, May 14, at 3 p.m. for the first Babe Ruth baseball practice of the season.

Manager Jim Swanson said about 18 youngsters have already signed up, but any boy who hasn't may do so at the practice session.

"With the turnout we're getting, it looks like we'll

probably have two Babe Ruth teams from the Heppner, Ione and Lexington areas next year," said Swanson.

The Babe Ruth program is in its second year in the area.

Coaches for this season's team are Dennis Peck and Kim Gutierrez.

For more information, boys should call Swanson at 422-7162, Don Cole at 676-9425 or Jim Bier at 676-5322.

School Board sets new limitations on sports activities

Action by the Morrow County School Board at its April meeting resulted in approval of an athletic program policy which sets guidelines and limitations for the interschool sports programs at Heppner, Ione and Riverside Junior and Senior High Schools.

The guidelines for the sports program and the limitations on season length and games in each sport were reviewed and approved by local school staffs and local school advisory committees. Superintendent Matt Doherty said.

The action of the Board will result in savings to the school district in reduced costs for transportation, officials, equipment and operation of gymnasium. Also indirect savings will be realized by families through less transporting of their students in private vehicles to and from practices.

Overall, the reduction amounts to approximately 10 per cent fewer games and matches next year. League commitments will continue to be met, but non-league contests will be scheduled less frequently in most sports.

Babe Ruth Baseball

FOR BOYS 13-15

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SIGN UP IF YOU ALREADY HAVEN'T

FOR INFORMATION Don Cole 676-9425 Jim Bier 676-5322 Jim Swanson 422-7162

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HEPPNER-IONE-ARLINGTON MEMBER, FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Mustangs at 2-2

With a 2-2 record in Columbia Basin Conference play, the Heppner Mustangs are looking for a win when they travel to Wasco County today (Thursday) for a single game. Wasco is also 2-2 in conference play.

Last Friday, Dave Allstott shut out Riverside as the Mustangs rolled to a 12-0 victory. Saturday at Adrian, the Heppner nine split the bill, losing the first game 8-1 but bounced back to take the nightcap 3-1.

Next Tuesday, the Mustangs meet Condon here and Thursday, Sherman County travels to Heppner for a double-header, all games beginning at 4 p.m.

A big second inning lifted the Mustangs to a 10-0 lead over Riverside and bolstered the slick pitching of Allstott, who allowed only two hits in the five inning game.

"That's without a doubt the best game Allstott has thrown and one of the first good games he's had this season," commented Coach Dale Holland.

Carrying the big stick for Heppner was Dale Holland, going three-for-three with singles in the first, third and fourth innings. In the second, Holland took a base on balls.

Jim Kenny was the first Mustang on base with a walk, backed up by Holland's single. Allstott, batting cleanup, sacrificed to send the runners

home before the first inning ended.

Stookey, Thomas and Yocom loaded the bases in the top of the second inning on walks and Kenny rapped a single to left-center driving in a run and leaving the bases again loaded.

Riverside pitcher Griffin walked Holland next, adding a tally to the Mustang book and errors gave Peck and Allstott a chance to get on base before Worden slammed a double deep along the left field line.

Heppner didn't score in the third inning, but added one run each in the fourth and fifth.

Adrian split

In the first game at Adrian, the Mustangs were limited to just one run on four hits as their opponents rallied for eight runs off nine hits.

In the second game, Dennis Peck held Adrian to four hits and one run while a fifth inning rally pushed the trailing Mustangs ahead for the 3-1 victory.

With one out in the fifth, Thomas made first on an error and back-to-back singles by Kenny and Holland gave the Mustangs a two-run fifth inning.

In the first game, Kenny picked up a single and Holland grabbed two base hits while Thomas connected for a double.

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