

Mustangs corralled 10-7

One too many turnovers decided the outcome of a tightly contested defensive struggle as Oregon Trail squeezed by Heppner 10-7 last Friday at Heppner.

A 37-yard field goal by OT's Marvin Seifer with four seconds on the clock was set up by Bryan Marlin's fumble in the final minute of play. The kick broke a 7-7 deadlock and left the Mustangs with a 1-1 season record.

Pressure applied throughout the game kept offensive totals under 200 yards for both teams. Mustang runners were limited to 100 yards while the Heppner passing attack gained 81 yards on six completions in 15 attempts.

Dennis Peck carried the ball 13 times for 74 yards while Marlin picked up 52 yards on three receptions. Quarterback Jerry Cutsforth saw his first game action of the year as he

came in to complete five of 11 passes for 67 yards.

For the defense, Jim Wishart took top honors as he recorded five tackles including one sack to go with six assists. Peck came up with OT's only turnover—a first quarter interception.

Both teams found the going tough in the first quarter as three punts were exchanged before a first down was recorded. On Heppner's sec-

ond possession, Peck gave the Mustangs a first down but quarterback Bruce Young was intercepted a the OT 35. A Blazer drive was stalled on two tackles by Wishart and the quarter ended without a score.

Early in the second period, Marlin broke loose for a first down and on third and nine Peck rambled outside for 26 yards. Marlin kept the drive going with another first down. Cutsforth came in to replace Young and on third and seven

from the 40, he threw down the middle where Marlin went high in the air to haul down the pass at the 5.

Marlin scored on the next play to give the Mustangs a 7-0 lead.

On the next series, Peck's interception was nullified as OT covered a Heppner fumble. The Blazers drove to the eight where they had to bring in the kicking unit on fourth down. Holding for the apparent field goal try, quarterback Monty Ellis rolled to his left and passed the ball for a surprise touchdown and a tie ball game.

In the second half, Heppner threatened to score after getting good field position on a punt exchange at the OT 45.

Marlin passed to Peck for a first down at the 20 but a penalty set the ball back to the 35. Peck got the 15 yards back on a sweep but Heppner failed to convert on fourth down.

Late in the final period, Heppner's defense held on a fourth and one at the Mustang 21. Cutsforth was dropped for a six yard loss and Marlin then coughed up the ball to set the stage for the winning score.



Calling the shots

Heppner's Bryan Marlin briefly tried his hand at quarterback during the Mustang's heartbreaker last week to Oregon Trail. Riverside of Boardman and Heppner meet this Friday at 8 p.m.

Sporseen, "well played game."

There's not a whole lot you can say about a game lost in the last four seconds on a 37-yard field goal.

Just when it appeared the game would go into overtime, Marvin Seifer's kick cleared the uprights with plenty of room to spare and Heppner's Mustangs were left out in the cold.

"It was basically a well played game," Sporseen said. "There was some good contact on both sides."

Although one of Heppner's four turnovers in the game was a desperation pass to end the game, Sporseen said the others were a definite factor in the contest. Heppner turned the ball over on passes a total of three times and lost one costly fumble near the end.

"We should have stayed with our game plan a little longer," Sporseen said. Because Oregon Trail was quite a bit faster than Pilot Rock the previous week, Heppner

coaches planned to use more running plays up the middle to take away the Blazers lateral pursuit advantage.

Sporseen also pointed to the uncertainty in the quarterback situation where Bruce

Young started the game but was replaced by Jerry Cutsforth in the first half.

"Our offense was a little out of sync," Sporseen said. "We practiced with Bruce most of the week and things weren't

too smooth with Jerry in the game. Hopefully that will be worked out in practice this week."

Heppner is preparing for their first road game of the year, this Friday at Riverside.

Sports Log

Prep football

FRIDAY, SEPT. 23
Heppner at Riverside, 8 p.m.
Mt. Vernon at Ione, 2 p.m.

Junior Varsity

MONDAY, SEPT. 26
Riverside at Heppner, 6 p.m.

Girls volleyball

THURSDAY, SEPT. 22
Ione at Heppner, 5 p.m.
Sherman Co. at Riverside, 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 27
Heppner at Condon, 5 p.m.
Sherman Co. at Ione, 5 p.m.
Riverside at Wasco Co., 5 p.m.



On the way

Ione quarterback Dennis Stefani lets one fly. Ione stands 2-0 for the season having downed North Powder

Unbeaten Cardinals top North Powder

Two important defensive stands helped Ione record its second straight victory as the Cardinals turned back North Powder 26-22 last Friday at North Powder.

With the lead changing hands throughout the game, the outcome was in doubt until a fourth quarter goal line stand shut down a North Powder scoring threat.

Defensive halfback Gari Gaustad led the defenders with 10 tackles and seven assists. Kevin McCabe racked up four tackles and 10 assists while Danny McElligott added five tackles and four assists.

Offensively, the Cards totaled 208 yards on the ground and 111 through the air as Gaustad gained 96 yards on eight carries and Dennis Stefani completed eight of 20 passes.

In the opening sequence, Ione forced a NP punt which McCabe returned to the NP 30. The Cards threatened with McCabe contributing a 20 yard run before the drive ended with a fumble.

The Card defense again held and Ione took the ball in good field position. Sticking mainly on the ground, Ione moved to the NP three where Stefani carried the ball for the score.

North Powder came back early in the second quarter with a scoring pass to knot the game at 6. After McCabe returned the kick 29 yards, Ione regained the lead as Stefani passed to Robin LaRue for 34 yards, and connected with Gregg Rietmann for 15. Gaustad rushed from the 23 for the TD.

The home team went on top before the half on another scoring pass from Terry Boesel to Garold Smith and a two-point conversion.

The third quarter saw two exchanges of possession before NP gambled on a fourth down play inside their own 30. The Card defense came through to set up an 18 yard scoring run by McCabe two plays later.

After the kick off, Danny McElligott intercepted a NP pass at the Ione 35. Stefani hit LaRue for 35 yards and Gaustad scored from the 19 for

a 24-14 lead.

North Powder cut the lead to 24-22 and then threatened to go in front when a Stefani pass was intercepted and returned deep into Ione territory. Facing a third and goal situation from the one, the Cards turned back NP and then got the ball out of the danger area with the help of good runs by Gaustad and McCabe.

After an Ione punt, the final scoring came when Todd Sherer tackled the North Powder quarterback in the end zone for a safety.



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