

Pirates sink Mustangs with late score

Steve Wilkie grabbed an 11-yard scoring pass from quarterback Dan Bozarth with 1:07 remaining on the clock to boost the Riverside Pirates past Heppner, 12-7 Friday in

Boardman. The Pirates had carried a 6-0 lead through most of the game until Heppner jumped on top on the strength of Dennis Peck's 74-yard punt

return with 5:30 left in the game. Marty Smith's PAT kick provided the Mustangs with a one-point advantage. Riverside mounted its game-winning drive from

their own 42 yard line with 1:48 remaining. On a third and 10 situation from the 42, Bozarth connected with split end Dale Brandt who rambled to the Mustang 10 before he

was dragged down by Dennis Peck. On first and goal from the 10, Bozarth hit Brandt to give the Pirates their first win of the season while Heppner dropped to 1-2 on the year.

After an exchange of punts, Peck gambled and lost on an interception attempt, allowing Brandt to go 40 yards before the play was called back on a Pirate holding call.



Heppner quarterback Jerry Cutsforth pivots for handoff to halfback Bryan Marlin as Dennis Peck goes wide. A tough Riverside defense held Mustang runners to 50 yards on the ground as the Pirates posted their first win of the season, 12-7.

Straight ahead

Wetherell, "...best defense ever."

"We just shut them down, that's the best defensive game we've ever had," Riverside coach Mike Wetherell said of his Pirates' 12-7 win over Heppner Friday. The Pirates certainly did shut down the Mustangs, limiting the visitors to only four first downs and 52 yards total offense. "We play a six-man line and challenge teams to pass," Wetherell said. "If they were going to beat us, they were going to have to come right at

us." Wetherell said his team keyed outside to take away Heppner's preference for running around the ends. He pointed to the play of defensive ends Jeff Garrison and Lerry Wilson as a big factor in the Pirate defensive effort. Garrison, a senior, returned from a second game injury and Wilson, a freshman, was shifted to the end spot for the Heppner game. "This team is just starting to get everything together,"

Wetherell said. "We're just getting down our timing and knowledge of individual responsibility." Wetherell said progress was hampered early in the year as some players were not able to begin practice until after school started and two-a-day practices were started a couple of weeks behind most area schools. "This is the first game we've been able to find out who is at what spot," Wetherell

said. "It was also the first game we were able to platoon both our offensive and defensive lines which helped a lot." Injured in the game was junior Rich Hanson, a starting halfback, who broke his right leg early in the game. As of Monday, Hanson was in traction with surgery planned for later in the week to place a metal rod in the bone. Riverside will travel to Moro Friday to take on Sherman County.

Sporseen, "No excuses."

Before the season started, Heppner coach John Sporseen said his team was going to surprise a lot of people this year. True to form, the Mustangs surprised even themselves in dropping a 12-7 contest to an underdog Riverside Pirate team Friday. The loss dropped Heppner to 1-2 on the year—the first time the team has experienced a sub .500 record under Sporseen. "I don't like to make excuses for losing," Sporseen said. "They simply beat us." Sporseen said the Mustangs were hurting in two key positions, as defensive back Jim Kenny was unable to play because of a sprained ankle and tight end Dale Holland was forced to leave the game in the second period with a

shoulder separation. Holland is expected to be out of action for three weeks. "No matter how much we practice against it, we always seem to have trouble with a six-man line," Sporseen said. Riverside's strategy paid off by closing the outside alleys and inviting the Mustangs to pass. Still Heppner could manage only two yards through the air to go with 50 yards on the ground. "Our offensive line wasn't able to move anyone," Sporseen said, noting that part of the problem was attributed to improper footwear for the slippery field conditions. Heppner is now trying to regroup its forces for Friday's home meeting with unbeaten Weston-McEwen.

G T SPORTS

HEPPNER · IONE · BOARDMAN

Filly spikers drop Ione

The Heppner Fillies volleyball team split two matches last week, topping Ione at home after losing to Sherman County in Moro. Heppner beat Ione with game scores of 15-9 and 15-7 as Janice Healy led all scorers with 10 points. Jackie Mollahan and Maureen Healy again handled the spiking duties for the Fillies with eight and seven slams, respectively. Each had three ace spikes in the match. Grace McElligott led Ione scorers with six points while Susan Thompson contributed three spikes and led the team in sets. In JV competition, Heppner bested Ione in three games with scores of 15-7, 9-15 and 15-12. Kristi Edmundson scored nine points and Coach Michelle Portman cited the all around play of Vicki Marlin and the return work of Julie

Grieb. For Ione, Robin Leavitt was leading scorer with 10 points. Both teams found the going tougher earlier in the week with Heppner losing a match to Sherman County and Ione falling to Wasco County. Holland was Heppner's top scorer with five points and Maureen Healy got in two spikes as the Fillies lost 13-15, 5-15. Ione took the first game at Maupin 15-3 as Grace McElligott scored eight straight points but the Cards dropped the final games by identical 6-15 scores. McElligott had 15 points in the match. Heppner JVs lost to Sherman 5-15, 15-8 and 11-15 as Jana Steagall scored 13 points and added two spikes and a block. The junior JVs also lost in three games as Deann Connor scored nine points.

Women's volleyball

Any and all women in the community are invited to play volleyball on a weekly basis each Wednesday at Heppner High School. The first of the informal games will be Oct. 5 beginning at 7:30 p.m. New teams will be picked each week from those present. For more information contact Michele Portman at 676-5114 or Joan Eckman at 676-5088.

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Richards receives award

Donald Richard, Irrigon, received the championship award in the market hog carcass contest at state fair, in addition to other honors previously listed. Donald showed two swine at state fair, with the second hog receiving blue in the carcass contest.

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