

Mustangs stun Sherman

Heppner parlayed a pressing defense and patient offense into a winning hand Friday as the Mustangs dealt previously unbeaten Sherman County a 7-6 defeat in Moro.

The Mustangs capitalized on four Sherman turnovers and kept the Huskies off balance and out of range for much of the night. The game erased the last of the no loss marks among Columbia Basin teams and considerably tightened the conference title race.

After a scoreless first half, Heppner took the lead on a 29-yard scoring run by Bryce Powell in the third quarter with Bob Smith adding the critical extra point. Sherman came back with a touchdown pass in the final period but the Huskies attempt for a two-point conversion was stopped short.

Heppner totaled only 133 offensive yards with Dennis Peck again breaking the century mark for 104 yards on 21 carries. All of the yardage came on the ground as the Mustangs were 0 for 2 in the passing department. Sherman's statistics—165 yards rushing and 140 yards passing for 15 first downs—were impressive but ineffective as the Huskies were kept out of the endzone by the Heppner defenders and by their own mistakes.

The Mustangs jumped on three of the Huskies' six fumbles as Jim Kenny, Bob Smith and Jack Yocom all came up with recoveries. Dennis Peck added an interception and Bob Smith and Joedy Marlatt both turned in solid defensive performances. Bryan Marlin again proved the importance of the kicking game—punting seven times for a 32.7 yard average and three times backing Sherman inside their own 10 yard line.

Heppner took the opening kickoff and moved to midfield on the strength of first down runs by Peck and Marlin before the drive stalled and Marlin's punt was downed at the Husky 15. From there, Sherman mounted a drive deep into Mustang territory. A 19-yard touchdown run by halfback Dave Simantel was called back by a penalty and Heppner took over on downs.

Following another Mustang punt, Sherman threatened before Heppner dug in at their own six and Marlin broke up a fourth down pass attempt. Peck took off on a long run to get the Mustangs out of trouble as they moved to the Sherman 39. Marlin then drilled a punt to the one yard line. The Huskies moved 40 yards but they were shut down again when Bob Smith covered a fumble at the 42.

Neither team was able to get untracked in the second half until Jack Yocom recovered a fumbled punt. Peck and Marlin both picked up yardage on the ground to set up Powell's



Gazette-Times photo by Mark Piper

Coming through....

29-yard TD run.

Fired up by the score, the Heppner defense stopped Sherman cold on tackles by Joedy Marlatt and Bob Smith. Punts were again exchanged as the third quarter came to an end.

Sherman got on the scoreboard in the fourth quarter on a 16-yard pass from quarterback Jim Macnab to Dave Simantel. Going for the win

Mustang runner Dennis Peck (32) charges through a hole in Sherman County's line cleared by Marty Smith (78). Heppner maintained a steady ground attack in the 7-6 win which dropped Sherman from the CBC unbeaten ranks.

instead of a tie, the Huskies' two-point conversion attempt failed.

Following the kickoff, Heppner was forced to punt but Jim Kenny came up with the Mustangs' third fumble recovery with six minutes left in the game. Heppner ate up nearly three minutes on the clock before losing the ball on downs at the Sherman 20.

Aided by two 15-yard penalties, the Huskies moved into scoring position as Simantel and fullback Eric Kalista picked up yardage. The Sherman march was slowed as Jim Wishart, Sam Myers and Bob Smith all were in on sacks.

Kenny, Peck and Marlin broke up last minute pass attempts to preserve the win for the Mustangs.

Sporseen, "Mental toughness."

Sherman County football coach and part time poetic prognosticator Lance Ballew saw his team as a 15-point winner going into last Friday's game with Heppner.

But the Mustangs viewed things differently and proved it on the field—damaging both the Huskies' title hopes and coach's predicting prowess.

According to Heppner coach John Sporseen, Ballew directs the best talent in the league at three positions—fullback Eric Kalista, quarterback Jim Macnab and halfback Dave Simantel. Still, the Mustangs maintained their cool and pulled out a tough 7-6 upset over the strong Husky team.

"It was a case of mental toughness," Sporseen said. "We forced some mistakes on their part and took advantage of them."

"Our scouting reports convinced us that Sherman County was a team that if they didn't score immediately,

they would get frustrated and try almost anything," Sporseen said. The insight paid off as Heppner scored first and turned back late charges by the Huskies to seal the win.

"After we scored we went into a shell to run down the clock and protect the lead," Sporseen said. "We pinned them back with some good punting and stopped them when we had to."

The Mustangs stayed with a conservative ground attack—going to the air only twice early in the game.

"I thought we could pass on them," Sporseen said. "The receivers were open on the first two attempts but we just didn't need to pass."

The Mustangs' touchdown came in the third quarter on what Sporseen called "a fairly simple play"—a counter play to wingback Bryce Powell after faking a dive to Bryan

Marlin up the middle. The play was sprung by a fine

block thrown by Jim Parker who Sporseen calls the team's best blocker.

For Friday's game against Umatilla, the Mustangs will be without the services of Bruce Young who hyperex-

tended a knee and possibly Dennis Peck who may be held out with a broken bone in his hand. Heppner will be looking to pay back the Vikings for last year's 21-0 shutout.

G T SPORTS

Doe, quail, pheasant seasons open Saturday

Saturday, Oct. 15, marks the beginning of an eight-day doe season with special permits issued in three area units.

For hunters holding Heppner Unit permits, the best hunting appears to be in the upper Rhea Creek and Willow Creek areas. Columbia Basin permit holders should have their best success in the lowland farm areas. Several landowners have complained of problems with deer in alfalfa fields and hunters should be welcome in these areas. All hunters are reminded that it is necessary to obtain landowner permission before hunting on private property.

Wheeler permit holders will probably be most successful in the Butte Creek and John Day River areas.

In addition to the doe hunt, Pheasant and Valley and Mountain Quail seasons will

open at 9 a.m. Saturday. The Pheasant bag limit will be two cock and the Quail limit is a total of ten birds—Valley or Mountain.

Indications point to a generally lower production through the area although good numbers are expected in the four management areas of Willow Creek, Irrigon, Power City and Coyote Springs.

Duck and Goose seasons also open Saturday with the

Duck bag limit set at seven—including not more than two redheads or two Canvasbacks. Goose hunters are limited to three baggers although the daily limit will be increased to six providing not more than three are dark and three are white.

Reports on the Chukar and Hun season now in progress show most birds have scattered with the recent rains, making them harder to hunt.

Pirates sweep Ione

Riverside swept home and away volleyball matches from Ione last week to even their overall record at 5-5 and their league mark at 3-3.

Kathy Monjay, Vicki Daniels and Marilee Hellberg each scored eight points as the Pirates won at home 12-15,

17-15 and 15-6. Cheryl Stubblefield added four spikes in the match.

On Ione's home court, Riverside took a straight game victory 15-7 and 15-0 as Hellberg and Kathy Farlow both scored eight points.

Riverside blanks Wasco 13-0

Riverside battled both Wasco County and the referees' flags Friday before coming back from Moro with a 13-0 victory. It was Riverside's first shutout of the year and gave the Pirates an even 2-2 standing on the year.

The two Pirate scores came in the fourth quarter as Bill Griffin carried the ball from the 13 and Jim Siberz added another touchdown run from the 10. In both cases, the scores culminated 40-yard drives by the Pirates.

Riverside was hit with a

total of 260 yards in penalties for the game and Wasco infractions accounted for another 75 yards.

Pirate defenders held the 0-5 Wasco team to a total of 59 yards in the game—all on the ground. Deeno Leighton was a standout on the Riverside

line as he racked up a game-high 27 defensive points.

Quarterback Dan Bozarth directed the pirate offense, connecting on eight of 18 passes for 96 yards. Lerry Wilson pulled four Bozarth passes for 46 yards, 187 yards on the ground and were led by

Siberz with 86 yards on 11 carries and Griffin with 63 yards on nine carries.

"We were pretty lucky to win it with that many penalties," Pirate coach Mike Wetherell said. "We may have taken Wasco a little too lightly."

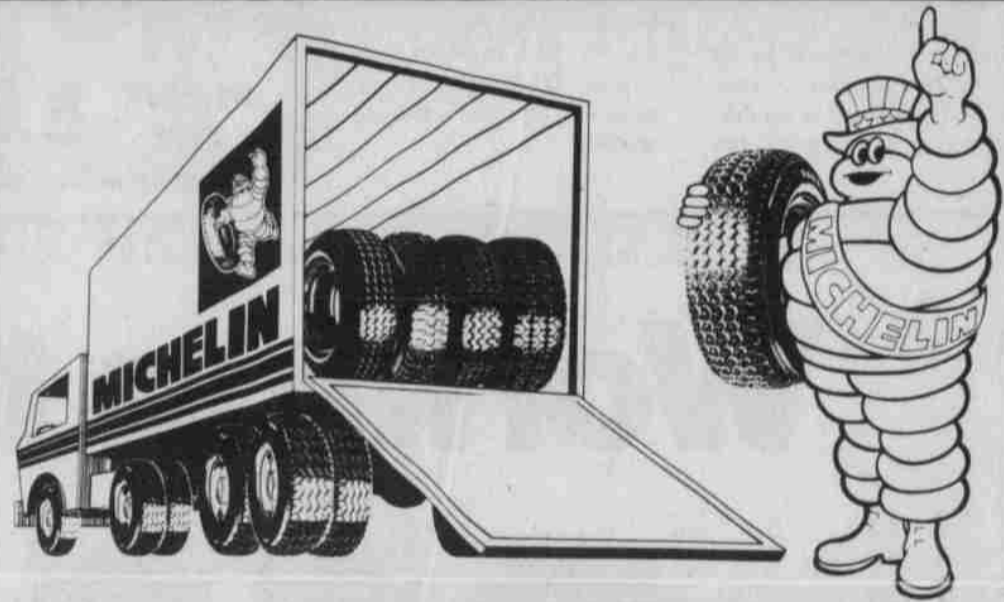
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