

BLEACHER SEATS



With Robb Rush

The grades: Coaches—A. Team—A. Fans—D+. 32-0. The score tells most of the story. It says the defense played very well, demonstrated by crunching tackles and excellent pursuit. The score also says the offense played very well. The team moved the ball up and down the field almost at will, through excellent blocking at the point of attack, as well as fine blocking downfield.

Dennis Peck streaked for 40 yards on the third offensive play, picking up a total of 80 yards in the first quarter. Since Peck and Bryan Marlin seem to need only a glimpse of a hole to be effective, when they get clear a path in to the secondary—it's Katy bar the door.

What the score does not tell is the distinct possibility that the score could have been 40-0, 50-0, or even worse (or better, depending on your outlook). However, coach Sporseen elected to give game experience to most of the non-regulars, which in turn gave the fans a glimpse of good things to come, especially with the running ability of freshman John Murray.

The score also doesn't tell the story of a blocked punt recovered in the end zone for a touchdown, or the fine return of a punt by Bryan Marlin, ending in paydirt.

The game at Stanfield was not a good test for the Heppner Mustangs. What it really became was a showcase for the things the Mustangs do well. The team was able to demonstrate a superior running game, a tenacious and stingy defense, and the ability to keep the pressure on the opposition with the special teams.

All of last week's "heavy hitters" made this week's list as well. They included Bryan Marlin, Jody Marlatt, Scott (Q. S.) Groshens, and Scott McEwen. However there are some new members to my 110 per cent club. They are Larry Palmer, Todd Sherer, and Jim Parker. These additions put a little more 'heavy' in the Heavy Hitters.

There seems to be a couple of animal types emerging from the center of the Mustang line. It is good to see some players who like to flatten their opposition, then look downfield to see if there is anybody else to knock down and step on. One of these players reminds me of a bull—a Mexican fighting full, just looking for someone to move so he can wreak havoc. The other player reminds me of a bear—the fierce, meat-eating kind, hungry and aggressive. If these players continue to improve and play tough football, I will tell you next week who the Bear and Bull Boys are.

There is one thing about last Friday's game that strikes me kind of odd. The Mustangs decided to test their mettle by playing a 10-man defense, then they decided to test the mathematical ability of the officials by attempting a 12-man punt return. Everybody passed. The defense held with 10, and the officials were able to count past 11.

Well, so much for those kind of tests. Since the rules allow 11, there is no sense in playing with less, and since there is a penalty for 12—we'd just as well forget that one also.

It doesn't sound like football fans in Ione are lacking for excitement this year. The Cardinals are 2-0, with the winning scores coming in the closing minutes of the game. If any of the Heppner fans are unable to go to an away game, and Ione is playing at home, I urge you to make the trip to Ione and see the McCabe and Stefani Show (However, I think the faint of heart should use discretion). There is never a dull moment in eight-man football, and the young men in Ione make it better than usual.

It appears that the Heppner High volleyball team is not letting the footballers reap all the glory. The Fillies are 2-0 and going strong. I had better hit the bleachers in the gym and get it first hand.

I am sorry to hear that the Gazette-Times won't be carrying the football contest this year, due to lack of interested sponsors. However, anyone interested in testing his skill can pick up a list of games each Thursday at the Les Schwab Tire Center. There will be a \$1 handling charge. The winner each week gets to handle half the total take, the runner-up gets a fourth of the take, and the remaining quarter of the take each week goes into a kitty for the top picker of the season.

P.S. John Edmundson and Frank Pearson will be at the game Friday night to take orders for Mustang Booster jackets. Don't be the last fan on your block to have one.

New offense works Volleyball season starts on right foot for Heppner Fillies

Heppner High School started the 1978 volleyball season on the right foot, with a 15-12, 15-6 win over Wasco County on Sept. 12.

Jana Steagall was high scorer during the season opener, racking up 9 points, followed by Jackie Molohan with 7.

The Fillies varsity used a new 5-1 offense during the opening contest, rather than the 4-2 system employed last season. "Marie Yocum did an exceptional job of setting for the first game using the new offense," commented

coach Sherri Brock. "The team was able to concentrate on the game, and played well."

Heppner's JV volleyballers also scored a win during the Wasco game, with the C team posting a loss.

On Sept. 14, Heppner hosted Wahtonka, with the varsity Fillies posting a 15-8, 10-15, 15-6 win over the visitors.

Jackie Molohan was the high scorer for Heppner, with 14 points, followed by Mary Daly with nine. Coach Brock noted that Maureen Healy put in good performances in both

games, reading the opposition's offense to score a number of good hits, and using Heppner sets to pound spikes past the opponents.

Heppner jayvees lost to Wahtonka 6-15, 15-5 and 4-15. The Fillies C team pulled off a come-from-behind win, scoring 2-15, 15-9 and 15-9.

On Thursday, Heppner will travel to Boardman for a contest with Riverside, then return on Saturday to host an invitational tourney with Pilot Rock, Weston-McEwen and Ukiah, starting at 9 a.m.

Mustangs stampede Stanfield; tied for lead in CBC standings

The Heppner Mustangs stampeded past Stanfield 32-0 last Friday, in a one-sided contest that gave the Heppner team a chance to demonstrate its finesse in rushing tactics, punt returns, and defense.

It was a downhill battle for Oregon Trail from the opening minutes of the game. In the Mustangs' third offensive play of the game, Dennis Peck carried the ball 40 yards to paydirt. A conversion kick

first quarter scoring.

Peck, who tallied 80 yards on the ground in the first quarter, struck paydirt again in the second, on a ten-yard dash to the end zone. A conversion attempt failed. The final touchdown of the game came during the third quarter, when Bryan Marlin fielded a Stanfield punt, then exploded through Stanfield defenders in a 50-yard touchdown sprint. Jim Parker chipped in the extra point boot, ending the scoring spree at 32 points.

"The offensive line was the key to our performance in the first half," commented Heppner Head Coach John Sporseen. "They just blew 'em out. Ray Miller, the center, did a great job blocking, and guards Jody Marlatt and Jim Parker each had a great game."

Special team practice sessions paid off dividends for the

Mustangs, Sporseen noted. With Marlin returning two boots for 95 yards, including the 50-yard return for a touchdown. Peck also returned a pair of punts for a total of 43 yards.

Heppner defenders picked off five Stanfield passes, believed to be a school record. Lionel Wood returned his pickoff for 28 yards, and Peck converted his interception into a 21-yard Mustang gain. An interception by Palmer was returned for 17 yards.

Mustang rushers have yet to give up a fumble thus far this year. "But the way the backs have been carrying the ball, they will before long," Sporseen said.

The lopsided contest gave the Mustangs a "little more practice time to work on throwing the ball," the Heppner coach noted, adding that

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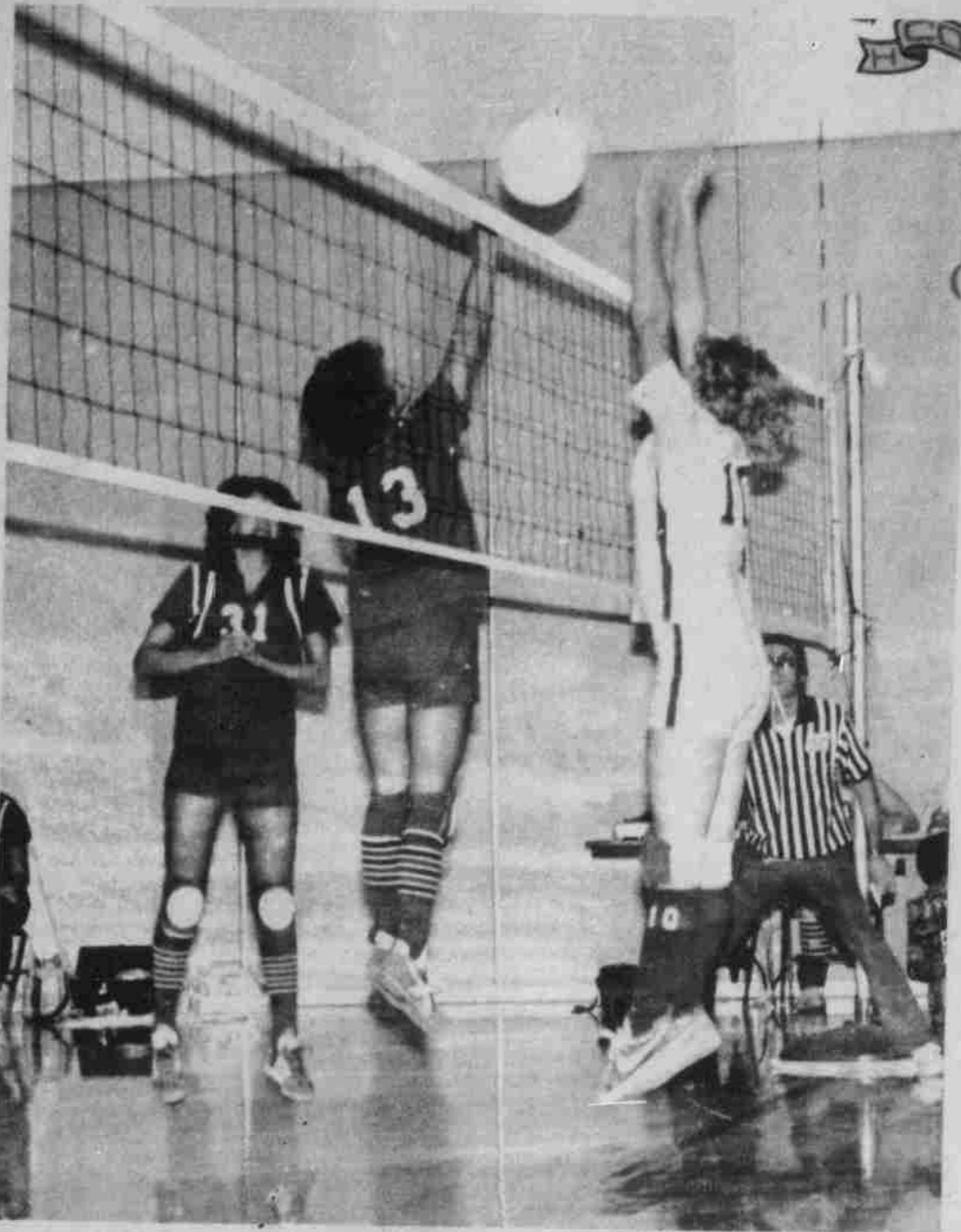
COLUMBIA BASIN CONFERENCE STANDINGS		
	WINS	LOSSES
Heppner	2	0
Sherman	2	0
Condon	1	1
Riverside	1	1
Umatilla	1	1
Wahtonka	1	1
Wasco	1	1
Weston-McEwen	1	1
Pilot Rock	0	2
Stanfield	0	2

failed to clear the crossbars, but the Mustang defense refused to allow Stanfield to maintain a drive, setting the explosive Heppner offensive unit on the trail to 13 more first quarter points.

The second Mustang TD came on a 15-yard sprint by Bryan Marlin. Later in the quarter, Scott McEwen blocked a punt, which was scooped up by junior Dale Holland in the Stanfield zone, making it 18-0 for Heppner. Dale's freshman brother, Doug kicked the extra point, ending the

The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES SPORTS

SECTION TWO



Heppner's high-scoring Marie Yocum, right, jumps high to block return from Condon player during a Fillies road trip to Blue Devil territory on Tuesday. Unfortunately, Condon overpowered the Heppner visitors, beating the varsity 9-15, 7-15, the jayvees 10-15, 14-16, and the C team 11-15, 16-14, and 7-15.

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