

BLEACHER SEATS

With Robb Rush



Cards stun Honkers

HHS edges Condon

20-8. Team AA. Coaches AA. Fans AA. Rally squad, AA.

What more can you say? The lone Cardinals traveled to Arlington to play the Big Sky championship game, and what a game it was. The Cardinals showed up to give the state champion Honkers a real test. The Arlington Honkers appeared to already be migrating south, because the lone football machine, finely tuned and 100 per cent efficient, blew the champion Arlington crew off the field.

The victory was a total team effort. Every aspect of the type of play required to win was demonstrated. A game of this magnitude was given maximum effort by every participant—the players, the coaches, and the fans. (Yes, the fans are participants, at least the vocal, enthusiastic ones are.)

The Cardinal offense surprised the Arlington boys by staying on the ground much of the time, passing only when needed. The Stefani and McCabe show was much in evidence, but by no means the entire program.

Robin LaRue came up with a tremendous clutch catch to set up a touchdown and Dan McElligott had several drive-saving catches on the sidelines. The lone receivers know what to do with the football once they have it in their grasp.

The Cardinal offensive line had an outstanding day against the larger but much slower Honkers. The aggressive Card line blew Arlington off the line of scrimmage not just once or twice, but throughout the whole game.

Well, so much for the bad news. Now for the good news. What a game the Cardinal defense played. To hold the defending state champions (a team that is used to leaving in the big guns and rolling up the score on weaker teams) scoreless until there was only 30 or so seconds left in the game is simply

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14-12. Not pretty, but another win.

The Heppner Mustangs played another tough game Friday night against the Condon Blue Devils. Condon showed up for the contest fired up and ready to play, determined to send the Heppner bunch into the playoffs on a losing note. It was close, but no cigar.

There were several good things to come from the game Friday night. The offense, in a role unfamiliar to them, had to come from behind to score the winning touchdown. It was a real test of character in a statistically (standings-wise) unimportant game, against a quality team.

Another good thing on offense were the extra points. They made the difference in the ball game. You can take it either way. Either ability of the Mustangs to kick theirs successfully, or the inability of Condon to make their conversions. In any event, it was a two point victory and Doug Holland's toe is doing just fine.

The defense had some rough moments but basically played a very solid game. Any time a team can hold Marion Weatherford to less than 50 yards in a ball game there has been some hard-nosed, tough defense played.

The pass defense took some hard knocks (another unfamiliar role) but there was nothing that can't be worked on, and I am sure the "ballhawks" will be back in form against Elgin. The defensive backs are a steady group, who do a good job and can use Condon's aerial effort as a learning experience. And don't forget Todd Sherer's interception on a two-point conversion try. It was one of the differences in the game.

Now it is on to the state playoffs. I hope there will be a large contingent of fans traveling to Elgin for the game Saturday at 1:30. The Mustangs have an excellent football team, a solid offense, outstanding defense, and they get excellent play from the special teams, plus the players don't get rattled or

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Cards clip Honkers in 20-8 romp

Are Big Sky champs

What one word describes lone's football team? CHAMPIONS.

After slaughtering state football champions Arlington last Friday they well deserve the praise. The game made lone the Big Sky Conference champions and gave the Cards a shot at the state title.

"That's one of the best team games that I've had since coaching, all the way down the line. Everybody contributed. If someone asked me to point out some one kid—I couldn't do it," said lone coach Gordon Meyers. "It was a great effort all the way down the line. Our bench contributed so very much. I could put in anyone and feel confident."

lone scored in the first quarter on a Kevin McCabe one yard run. Dennis Stefani connected with Gregg Rietmann to show an 8 point lead late in the first quarter. lone commanded the game from the minute they appeared on the field. They all but stopped Arlington's rushing game and killed their air attack, limiting the Honkers to 8 completions in 20 attempts. Danny McElligott intercepted two passes at very critical times in the ballgame. Meanwhile, Stefani completed 9 of 14 passes keeping near his regular 66 per cent average.

The game had a total of 15 fumbles. "It was a pretty exciting ballgame," admitted Coach Meyers. Arlington had ten to lone's five. Luckily, the Redbirds were able to shake off their jitters early, but not so with the Honkers.

Halftime came and went with the score at an abnormal low of 8-0 in the Cardinals favor.

Bursting out of the blocks, Gregg Rietmann ran around Arlington's line for four yards and a Cardinal TD. The extra point pass was incomplete, so the score stood at 14-0. Danny McElligott then scored on a 17-yard pass, boosting up the score to 20-0. It appeared that the Honkers were laying themselves a large goose egg



Cardinal quarterback Dennis Stefani unleashes with a pass as his offensive line holds back Honker defenders. lone rolled over Arlington 20-8 to take the Big Sky Championship from last year's top team.

when Grant Wilkens, late in the fourth quarter, broke through the Card defense to score on a 15 yard pass from Tadd Wetherell. Wetherell again passed, this time to DeOllos, for the extra points. Thus ended the scoring attack of the Honkers.

"They played a great ballgame," says Meyers of Arlington. "But my kids played better. We outkicked them over there," he said with a grin. "Look at this," he stated, pointing to the tackle sheet. Several players had 20 or near 20 tackles but few were unassisted. "We were

gang tackling to beat the band. Sometimes we had four to seven kids on their one ball carrier."

"I think the real reason we were able to beat them is that we played a much tougher schedule than they did. We also played our kids all year long and I could put in anyone to fill a slot. He couldn't."

How does the victory stand with the coach?

"It ranks up as one of my most," he pondered as if to find the right word, "satisfying victories."

The victorious Cards are now getting pepped up to play what appears to be North Powder, a team they had previously beaten 26-22, for

the semifinals. The semifinals will be played a week from Saturday in lone.

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Heppner vs. Elgin Saturday afternoon

If everybody loves a winner, then an abundance of affection has smitten high school football fans in southern Morrow County.

A week after Heppner High School clinched the Columbia Basin Conference title, lone High defeated defending state champion B-division titalist Arlington by a resounding 20-8 margin. The Arlington win gave the Cardinals clear title to the Big Sky Conference crown, as well as an undefeated season of conference action.

Both teams now qualify for playoff berths towards the state championship in their respective divisions.

Heppner's playoff action will come first, when the Mustangs will take on Elgin in quarterfinal playoff action, starting at 1:30 p.m. Saturday

in Elgin. Elgin defeated Enterprise last week to capture the Wapiti League championship. The Huskies have an unblemished, 8-0 record going into the showdown with 8-1 Heppner.

Mustang fans unable to travel to Elgin can hear the playoff action live over radio KUMA's AM frequency on Saturday.

The winner of the Heppner-Elgin game will face either St. Mary's or Culver in semifinal action. Game times have not been determined.

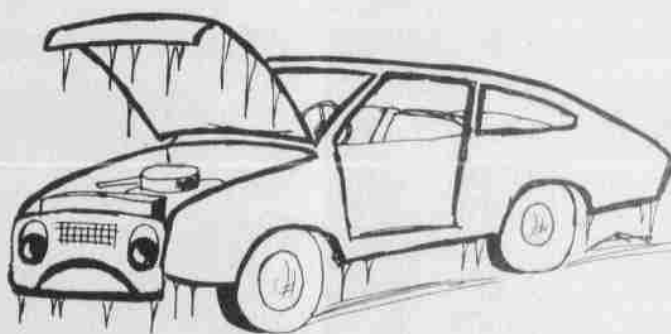
lone, 9-0 for the year, will meet either North Powder or Mount Vernon Saturday, Nov. 18, in lone for semifinal action. North Powder appears to be the most likely of the two contenders to face the red-hot Cardinals. lone thoroughly

overpowered Mount Vernon in pre-conference action, and came from behind to edge North Powder 26-22 during the second game of the year.

Should lone win the semifinal contest, the Cards would again host the state playoff game.

Saving Energy With An Engine-Block Heater

A common practice to help you start your car, truck or tractor during cold winter weather is to use an engine-block heater. These are electric heaters which heat and circulate the water in the vehicle's cooling system, keeping the engine block warmed up and ready to operate.



One cost-effective way to cut down on your electric bill is to use a timer to turn your block heater on automatically for you a few hours

before you actually need to start the engine. Experience has shown that since a prior warm-up time of only about two hours is actually needed, a timer helps you avoid running the heater needlessly overnight.

Engine block heaters are commonly rated from around 850 to 2500 watts, which constitutes a sizeable electrical load—not only in terms of actual electrical energy usage, but also in terms of added Cooperative investment for line construction to handle these loads. When used to control a large electrical load, such as an engine-block heater, inexpensive electric timers can pay for themselves rather quickly. At current Columbia Basin Electric rates, a timer costing six dollars could pay for itself in less than one month's time, based on average daily use periods. In the future, with anticipated higher electric rates, the payback period might be even shorter. Then, of course, after the initial payback period, the energy you save will be money in the pocket. (The actual payback period will naturally depend on the purchase price of the timer, the size of the heater, and the duration of heater operation.)

By using a timer in conjunction with an engine-block heater, you not only can save energy, you can "earn" money for yourself in the long run!

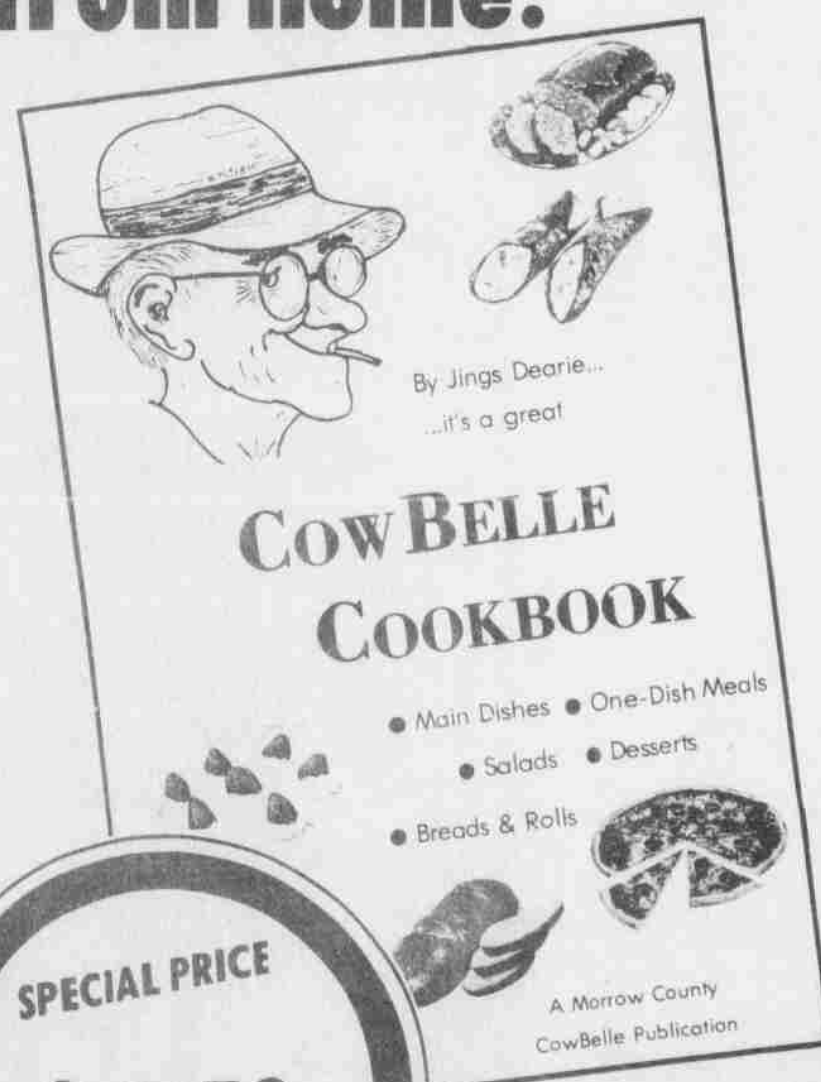
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