

Bleacher Seats



With Robb Rush

56-36 and one to go!
The way that the Ione Cardinals and the North Powder Badgers went at it Saturday, I am surprised the hospital is not full of fans suffering from whiplash. What an offensive show they put on. Together, both teams accounted for almost 1,000 yards of total offense. Now, that's moving the football.

The Cardinals had another in a series of total team efforts with no real individual stars. Every member of the team made significant contributions to the winning effort. The balance of the offensive attack was very apparent again Saturday. Dennis Stefani had his usual run of the mill game—7 for 9 (77.7 per cent completions), no interceptions, and 182 yards passing and running.

Kevin McCabe was in the same boat. Kevin ran the football six times for 59 yards. That's not much, you say? 9.8 yards per carry ain't bad. And he only caught three passes—for an average of 36.6 yards per catch. Every time Kevin handled the ball he accounted for 19.8 yards. You can see why the opposition keys on him so much during the course of a game.

Although I haven't been able to see all the Ione football games there is one player I have noticed getting better each time I have seen him play. Gregg Rietmann has come into his own as an outstanding running back. Gregg had a terrific day, gaining 167 yards. It is exciting to see him improving and doing so well, because he is only a sophomore and will be around for awhile.

And last but not least, all that running with the football is not possible without the offensive line knocking people down and moving them out. The Cardinal linemen do like to hit and they are very good at it. They play the game as it should be played—as an aggressive contact sport. (Considering the wind and the temperature Saturday, only the very dedicated could have played the game. And all the Cardinals were there.)

Defense? What defense, you say! In a game that had 92 points scored, the defense doesn't stand out like a sore thumb. But it was there. Not in a bushel basket, but it was there. Ask Treve Peterson, whose interception ended in six big ones. And what about fumble recoveries and holding the Badgers on downs. The defense was there. We just lost it occasionally in the midst of the offensive action.

The fans were a little quieter Saturday, kind of like they just expected the Cards to do no matter what. But on the other hand, the Arlington effort was a tough act to follow.

A special hand goes to the Ione cheerleaders. They are an energetic, enthusiastic and skilled rally squad. And they are non-stop. They make a real contribution to the Cardinal effort.

Next week is it. For all the marbles. What started out in September as a dream is now very real and very possible. As in the last two games, if the Cardinals get the kind of team play they are capable of, Ione football fans will have the Class B high school football CHAMPIONS on their hands.

Card offense overpowers Powder Valley

Ione one game away from state title

It was the day of the offense in Ione Saturday, as the Cardinals exploded for 56 points to beat Powder Valley and advance to the state championship game in Class B football.

Hometown fans nearly dug a trench along the Cardinal sideline as they repeatedly marched up and down the gridiron to follow the scoring drives.

Powder Valley was far from scoreless in the contest, racking up 36 points. The Badgers actually tallied more yardage than the Cards, picking up 493 yards in total offense—270 yards via air mail—to 442 yards in offense for Ione.

The North Powder team was first on the scoreboard, when Badger quarterback Terry Boesel connected on a 23 pass play to Coby Moulton for a TD. After the Cardinal defense thwarted a two-point conversion bid, the Redbirds fired up their offensive machine. Ione running back Gregg Rietmann was handed the ball and didn't stop running with it until he sprinted 55 yards for the opening Cardinal score. Before the first quarter ended, Ione was on the scoreboard again, this time on a 36 yard Dennis Stefani to Robin LaRue pass, made possible by a recovered fumble by Mark Patton.

Moving into the second quarter, Ione's Treve Peterson picked off a Badger pass, running it back 23 yards for another TD. Powder Valley countered with a wild, 59-yard run to paydirt by Ken Harling, but the Cardinal machine was only warming up. Ione mounted a 50-yard scoring drive, capped by a four yard touchdown rush by Kevin McCabe. North Powder managed to drive 67 yards in 16 plays to score once more before the half ended, with Ione ahead 28-22.

Returning to the frozen playing field after the half-time break, senior end Danny

McElligott fielded a sideline pass from Stefani, then lateraled the ball to Ione rushing standout Kevin McCabe. The razzle-dazzle paid off, with McCabe outrunning Badger defenders 68 yards to the end zone.

Powder Valley regained six points when Boesel connected with Gerald Smith. Then Ione scored again on a run from two yards out by Gregg Rietmann, followed by a 22-yard goal line sprint by McCabe. A Coby Moulton reception of a Doug Records pass, ended the Badgers' scoring.

Gregg Rietmann iced the Cardinals' victory cake late in the final quarter, running 34 yards for the final Ione touchdown.

Rietmann was the game's leading ground gainer, racking up 167 yards in 20 carries. McCabe was the game's leading pass receiver, his efforts good for 119 yards. Although Stefani only attempted 12 passes during the game, he connected on nine, good for 172 yards. Powder Valley's Boesel threw 26 times and completed on 17, good for 196 yards. Two of his passes, however, were picked off, with Stefani giving up no interceptions.

The Cardinals recovered two Badger fumbles while giving up none themselves.

Ione was the only team to beat Powder Valley this season. In the second game of the year, the Cards came from behind to beat the Badgers 28-22.

"If the fan's didn't get their money's worth Saturday, they'll never spend \$2.50 again and get more excitement," commented Ione's head coach Gordon Meyers.

Meyers also indicated that the Cards' defense may have to toughen up if Ione is to beat MacLaren this coming Saturday in the championship game.

"You're never pleased



Bustin' loose

Kevin McCabe bulls his way past three Badger defenders to pick up big yardage in state semifinal playoff action. The Ione running back is one of eight Cardinals named to the Big Sky Conference's All-Star squad.

about giving up 36 points," he said. "but as long as I have more, I really don't care... when you have 92 points scored and 1,000 yards totaled for both ball clubs, then you know it's an offensive show." "I knew we could move the

ball," Meyers continued, "but it started to look like a track meet and score like basketball."

But the game was not without its defensive moments for Ione. Mark Patton and Treve Peterson were each

credited with interceptions. Kevin McCabe was in on 25 tackles, and Danny McElligott made seven unassisted tackles.

All in all, Meyers had nothing but praise for his

team—right down to the managers, Rick Doherty and Larry Snider. "Rick and Larry did a super job," he said. "They are a part of the ball club as much as anyone else...It was a great win."

Mature Mustang cage squad plans improvement over last year's record

A slightly more mature Heppner High basketball team will appear on the court during the 1978-79 season, with hopes for improving on last year's third-place finish in the Columbia Basin eastern conference.

Although five seniors were lost to graduation, returning to action on the boards will be such standouts as Howard Huddleston, Bryan Marlin, Dale Holland, Jim Parker, Lionel Wood and Dennis Peck. It will be a change for Head Coach Tom Day, who at the start of last year's season—his first at the helm of Heppner's hoop squad—was faced with a loss of seven seniors. Day and his 1977-78 Mustangs turned their backs on the previous year's dismal 2-16 showing to capture a respectable 13-7

season record.

"With the maturity of the guys we have this year, we should do even better," he said.

A total of 26 players turned out at the opening of drills last week to jockey for positions on the Mustang varsity. Cuts were expected to be made this week. The season opener is slated for Dec. 1 against Ione.

Speed has not been and is not expected to be a problem for the Mustang hoopsters. Inside strength should also be maintained by 6'4" senior Huddleston, and 6'3" junior Dale Holland. The Mustangs' rebounding power should be boosted by the addition of transfer student Curtis Day, who led his league in the backboard scramble while playing for Wheeler County.

Dennis Peck, who received a shoulder injury during the Elgin-Heppner semifinal football game, had not been able to work out with the team by the end of last week.

Pilot Rock, a perennial powerhouse in the CBC, is expected to be the team to

contend with again this year, Day predicted. In fact, he said, last year's district champions may be even tougher this year, since few of their starters went out for football, giving them most of the fall to hone their basketball skills.

Fillies see Pilot Rock as team to beat in 1978-79 basketball season

Pilot Rock will also be the team to beat in order to win the CBC girls' division, according to Fillies coach Sherri Brock.

The lady Rockets, state champions last season, "should be tough again this year," said the Heppner coach.

The Fillies, who ended up in second place to the Rockets last year, will have four seniors and two juniors returning to their ranks this season. Like the boys' team, a total of 26 hopefuls turned out for the opening week of practice.

Missing from the Fillies' ranks this year are graduated seniors Diane Holland, Janice Healy and Lori Rhea.

The teams' height, speed and performance at this early stage looks about the same as it did at this time last year, the Fillies coach said.

Spots on the starting team appeared to be fairly wide-open. "We won't pick the starters until the opening game," Ms. Brock commented.

The Fillies schedule will be the same as the varsity boys, with two exceptions. During the

Dec. 8-9 Condon tournament, the girls will face Condon, Gaston and Umatilla, and on Dec. 21, there will be a girls-only game against Hermiston.

The return of Wahtonka to the Columbia Basin Conference increases the official league schedule from 12 to 13 games this year.

MacLaren game will be toughest yet for the red-hot Cards

The state championship is just one game away for the Ione Cardinals, following a 56-36 win on Saturday over Powder Valley in State Class B football semifinal action.

But that one game will likely be the roughest obstacle to face the Cards during the 1978 grid season.

On Saturday at 1 p.m., the 10-0 Cardinals will line up against 9-0 MacLaren School for Boys to decide which team is the best in Oregon 8-man football. The Cardinals will have a home-field advantage, but indications are that that will be the only clear edge they will have over the Woodburn-based team.

MacLaren shut out previously undefeated Elkton 48-0 Saturday to earn the right to face Ione in the state cham-

ampionship. During the course of the season, MacLaren's opponents have averaged only one touchdown per game, with the Woodburn team averaging 400 yards per contest in rushing alone. Elkton was held to only six yards in rushing during Saturday's semifinal.

"MacLaren's going to be a formidable foe—by far the toughest we've played," said Ione Head Coach Gordon Meyers.

They're also big, with four team members tipping the scales above the 200 pound mark. "We've played a couple of teams with 200 pounders," said Meyers. "We'll just have to hit 'em low to knock 'em down."

Preliminary scouting

reports indicate that MacLaren "runs the kind of offense that Arlington does," the Cardinal coach noted. "They try to run right down your throat...Actually, we do better against a team that tries to out-physical us."

Their spirits buoyed by their decisive victory over Powder Valley, the Cardinals are "psyched up for this game," commented the coach. "They've gotta be ready at this stage."

How to go about beating MacLaren was not the only strategy the Ione coach was working on this week. On Monday night, Meyers was trying to work out the logistics for removing up to one foot of snow from the Cards' football field in order to hold practice sessions.

Boosters to host post-game chili feed

The Ione Booster Club will sponsor a "chili feed" after the State Class B Championship game this Saturday in Ione.

The meal—which includes chili, french bread and beverage—will be held in the High School cafeteria immediately following the game. Prices are \$1.25 for adults and 75-cents for children 12 and under.

Ticket prices set for state title game

Ione Principal Chuck Starr informs those planning to attend the State Class B Championship game Saturday that ticket prices—set by the Oregon Schools Activities Assn.—will be \$3 for adults and \$2 for students.

The game starts at 1 p.m. Saturday with Ione's Cardinals going against MacLaren.

Heppner hoop schedule complete for 1978-79

Here is the Mustang hoop schedule for the 1978-79 season:

- Dec. 1—Ione at Heppner—6 p.m.
- Dec. 2—Helix at Helix—6 p.m.
- Dec. 8—Condon tournament (Condon, Cove, Umatilla) at Condon.
- Dec. 9—Condon Tournament.
- Dec. 15—Ione at Ione—6 p.m.
- Dec. 16—Helix at Heppner—6 p.m.
- Jan. 5—Stanfield at Stanfield—6 p.m.
- Jan. 6—Riverside at Heppner—6 p.m.
- Jan. 12—Pilot Rock at Pilot Rock—6 p.m.

- Jan. 13—Weston-McEwen at Heppner—6 p.m.
- Jan. 19—Umatilla at Umatilla—6 p.m.
- Jan. 20—Wahtonka at Heppner—6 p.m.
- Jan. 26—Condon at Condon—6 p.m.
- Jan. 27—Sherman at Moro—6 p.m.
- Feb. 2—Stanfield at Heppner—6 p.m.
- Feb. 9—Pilot Rock at Heppner—6 p.m.
- Feb. 10—Weston-McEwen at Athena—6 p.m.
- Feb. 16—Umatilla at Heppner—6 p.m.
- Feb. 17—Wasco at Heppner—6 p.m.

Tuesday set for IHS Fall Sports Dessert

The Ione High School Fall sports dessert will be held Tuesday, Nov. 28, at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Volleyball and football awards will be presented. Each family is to bring a dessert.

Haiti keeps world ping-pong crown

Blazing paddles took center stage in Heppner Saturday as world-class ping pong pros from Thailand and Haiti met for a showdown to determine the world's champion team on the table tennis for money circuit.

The event drew television crews, magazine and newspaper reporters and photographers to the Heppner High School gym to record Haiti's five-games-to-three win over the challenging Thailand team. But attendance was somewhat less than promoters of the match had hoped. About 500 persons turned out for the event.

Those who did attend were treated to an often dazzling display of skill, as players managed to return 100 mile-per-hour smashes and English-spinning lobs volley after volley. Players often required up to 30 feet of running room to return shots by opponents.

During breaks in the action, the ping-pong ambassadors from Thailand and Haiti signed autographs for youthful fans, and were willing to talk their sport to anyone un-self-conscious enough to initiate a conversation. The players were also on hand in Heppner Friday night, to

attend a luau at the Elks Club. In the first game of the match, Haiti's Zoltan Pataky, a Hungarian refugee, beat

game. Pradit went on to win over Salem area native Judy Bochenski of the Haitian team 31-28. Tareepranichpan beat

Table Tennis Pictures On Page 6

Thailand's Kumuth Lienghirasit 31-19. Apachart Sears of Haiti took the second game 31-17 over Jogkhw Tareepranichpan of Thailand. The third game, a doubles contest, saw Thailand's Kumuth Lienghirasit and Peter Pradit defeat Pataky and Sears of Haiti 31-28. In the fourth

Bochenski 31-23 in the next game, but Haiti came back to win the next three.

In the sixth game, Pataky defeated Padit 31-27. Sears beat Lienghirasit 31-24 in the seventh game, and Pataky came back to overpower Tareepranichpan 31-27 in the final stanza.