

Backseat Coach

By Steven A. Powell

Heppner's football team is cruising its way to another undefeated season in Columbia Basin League play so like most fans in Heppner, I am looking forward to seeing the games against tougher opponents in Class A Playoff games.

The Mustang team was beaten soundly in the playoffs last year and to prevent that from happening again, John Sporseen and the varsity team should work on its passing game.

John Bier has proven himself to be an accurate passer as he has hit 64 percent of his passes this year but the team just does not pass enough.

And now is the perfect time to practice the passing game.

With three games left on the schedule, Heppner is almost assured of a playoff berth. Now that they don't have to worry about getting into the playoffs, they can worry about how they are going to do in the playoffs.

If the Mustangs finish first, they will play the second place finisher in District VI which, according to Sporseen, will probably be either Bonanza or Culver. The game will be here in Heppner.

If they win that one, the team will again play at home in the second round of the playoffs and they could play possibly all of the playoff games in Heppner, including the state championship game.

But to do that, Heppner will need to do some more passing. In the weak CBL, the Mustangs are cleaning up, but what will happen when they take on tougher teams? Heppner really has not had a close, nail-biting game this year and they definitely will have to come up with something in the playoffs.

Heppner's defense is excellent but what will happen when they meet a team with just as good a defense? It will be up to the best offensive team to win the game. But since Heppner's running game is so good, they seem to rely on it too much. The team needs to work on its passing game so opposing defensive squads cannot concentrate on the running game. It makes it a lot easier to form a defensive game plan since Heppner runs the ball 80 percent of the time.

Heppner's excellent running game needs the threat of a passing attack to make it all the more effective. Bier has caught opposing defenses by surprise a few times this year with his passing but he could be even more effective if he passed the ball more often and that would make the run more effective.

Instead of handing the ball off to John Murray on first down, which has come to be predictable this year, why not pass the ball to tight end Dale Holland for a big gain? Coach Sporseen likes to catch the defense by surprise with the passing attack but why not surprise the defense even more by passing more often?

Heppner can win its league by ramming the ball down its opponent's throats but they cannot win the state title that way. And the state title is within the team's grasp this year if it works on its weaknesses and is not just satisfied with winning the league title.

Winning the league title is no longer a big enough goal for Heppner. Heppner is simply playing in a league with teams that are not good enough for it. So when the real games come up in about a month, the squad will really know how good it is against teams as good as Heppner.

The only question marks on the team are the defensive backfield and passing game.

I was glad to see the success last week in the game against Wahtonka when Bier passed for 158 yards hitting 10-of-15 passes for three touchdowns. But that was against the worst team in the league with an 0-6 record. Bier needs to do that well in every game if Heppner is going to challenge for the state championship.

Since Heppner is playing weaker opponents in the next few weeks, now is a good time to practice on its passing game. The only way to have a successful passing game is to practice it in game situations so the team will build confidence in it. Then, if the team does fall behind in the playoffs and has to throw the ball, they will be used to passing and it will help the team rather than hurt it.

Even if the ball is intercepted a few times Heppner will still be able to win its next three games, although maybe not by as many points. It would be good for the team to have a close game or two going into the playoffs. So Heppner should gamble a little bit and throw about 20 times a game in the next three contests so they can develop the passing attack that will take them to the state title.

If Heppner gets to the state playoff games and does not have to use its improving passing game all that much—great. But just in case they do need a passing game, isn't now a good time to start developing one?

Measuring wood, no simple matter

If you're buying wood to help trim your heating bills, it pays to know what you're paying for, according to experts at the U.S. Forest Service.

Usually wood is sold by the cord or fraction thereof. But the cord you order may not be the cord you get because there are different types of cords. There is a standard cord, face cord, short cord, long cord, a solid cord and maybe others.

The standard cord, which you should specify when ordering wood, is a pile of wood measuring 4 feet high, 8 feet wide and 4 feet long. A face cord measure 4 feet high by 8 feet wide but the pieces may be any length. So a face cord of stovlength (10 inch) wood would be only one-third of a standard cord. "Short cord" is another way of saying "face cord."

In addition to knowing what type cord you order, be sure the pile you measure is tightly stacked with all the wood pieces lying in the same direction. Otherwise you will pay for air space instead of

wood. Even piled carefully, a cord has only 80 cubic feet of solid wood in it, though its dimensions measure 128 cubic feet.

The size and straightness of the wood in the pile have a lot to do with how much wood you will get. Crooked pieces add to air space but large pieces add up to more wood in the pile even though the spaces may look larger.

Pound for pound, most species of wood produce about the same amount of heat if the wood is dry. However, some species of wood are lighter than others so a cord of wood such as aspen will weigh about half as much as a cord of dry white oak and will therefore have about half the heat value.

It would seem buying wood by weight would avoid questions about piling and measuring. But practice and theory clash because wood always contains moisture. Up to half the weight of "green" wood, fresh-cut from living trees, can be water. At today's wood prices, that is expensive water.

Heppner plays Wasco

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On the season, Parker leads in defensive points with 104 followed by Joedy Marlatt with 78 and Dale Holland with 81.

Bier's passing on the year is at 64 percent hitting 30-of-47 for 430 yards and five touchdowns and only one interception.

Murray leads the team in scoring with 102 points. He also is the leading rusher with 574 yards on 96 carries for a 6 yard average.

Doug Holland is the second leading rusher with 265 yards on 61 carries for a 4.8 average.

Dale Holland leads the receivers with 15 catches for 243 yards for a 16.2 average per catch.

Heppner has outscored its opponents 68-3 in the first quarter, 61-7 in the second, 33-12 in the third and 13-0 in the fourth period for a total of 175 points to 22 for the opponents.

First downs made passing are even at 15-15 but Heppner has 71 first downs rushing to 17 for opponents.

As a team, Heppner has passed 63 times and completed 34 for 489 yards while the opponents are 39-of-116 for 564 yards.

In 287 attempts, Heppner has gained 1,286 yards on the ground while the opponents have gained only 178 yards on 48 carries for a pitiful average of 1.2 yards per carry.

Penalties have been the only thing that has stopped Heppner this year. The team has been penalized 40 times for 460 yards while opponents have

had 27 penalties for 255 yards.

Heppner's game tomorrow night is against Wasco County in Maupin beginning at 7 p.m.

Wasco County beat Sherman last week 7-6 and they are 3-2 this year.

"They beat Pilot Rock in an upset this year in overtime and they are a big team with a back who is a real scooter so you never know because they have an outside chance at second place but we should win," Coach Sporseen said.

The Redsidies Tony Martin ran for 118 yards on 30 carries against Sherman last week.

PREDICTION: Wasco County has pulled a few upsets this year but even though they are playing at home, the Redsidies do not have enough defense to stop Heppner. The team knows how important it is to Heppner because Sporseen says that if they win tomorrow night, they have at least a tie for first place cinched.

The Redsidies will be ready to play so it may be one of the tougher games this year but the Mustangs will win 30-7.

After tomorrow night's game, Heppner has only a non-league game against Lyle Oct. 27 at 1:30 and a home game against Pilot Rock Nov. 2.

After those games, Heppner will probably be going to the district playoffs.

Coach Sporseen said Heppner's chances in the playoffs will be good if the team can avoid penalties at "dumb times."

"I don't know if it's the way I coach or what but my teams always have more penalties than the opposing teams," Sporseen admitted.

Sporseen said he likes to pass the ball when he wants to and not when they are desperate. He said his receivers are good this year and the offensive line gives the quarterbacks good protection so he is not afraid to pass the ball this year.

"My ideal game is to have half as many yards passing as we get rushing," Sporseen said.

Sporseen added, "I am not a huge fan of the playoffs but I will enjoy it when we get there."

The Heppner coach said the Mustangs will play the first two games of the district playoffs at home and they could host all four of the Class A football playoffs if the team can keep winning.

The first playoff game for Heppner, if they come in first place, will be at home against the second place finisher of District VI. Sporseen said Heppner will probably take on either Bonanza or Culver in the first game.

Mustang volleyball team tied for first place

Heppner beat Wahtonka last Thursday to raise its record to 7-1 in league play and the team is tied for first place with Condon.

The Mustangs traveled to Condon Oct. 16 to take on the defending champions to see who would sit alone atop the league standings.

Heppner beat Wahtonka in two games 15-12 and 15-12. Lynn Dee Devin served for 10 points and Jana Steagall was the high server with 11.

The JV team also won but it took them three games. Wahtonka won the first game 15-11 but Heppner came back and won the next two 15-12 and 15-13.

The C team won in two games 15-10 and 18-16.

Condon lost to Sherman and that is why Heppner is tied for first. Heppner lost to Condon earlier this season.

"The game Tuesday could decide the league champ, that

is assuming we win our next three games against Riverside, Sherman and Ione," Coach Sheri Brock said.

The next home match for Heppner is this Saturday at noon against Hermiston. Next Tuesday, Sherman comes to Heppner.

The top two teams in the league, which are Condon and Heppner right now, will participate in the district playoffs. If any teams tie for a playoff berth, the teams would play off on a neutral court to decide which team would go.

Morrow County Court

NOTICE

Effective November 1st the Turner Landfill will be open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday only. Rates: 50¢ a can, \$2.50 for a pickup load, and \$10.00 for a truck load. If attendants are asked to open the site for special dumping during the week, the charge will be \$5.00 for a pickup load and \$10.00 for a truck load. The attendants may be reached at 676-5525 or 676-9953.

The Lexington site will continue to be open on the first and third Saturday mornings between the hours of 8:00 and 12:00 noon, for receiving tires, cars, and "white goods".

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Nov. 5 date of MCGG annual meeting

The 49th annual meeting of the Morrow County Grain Growers will be Nov. 5 at the fair pavilion in Heppner.

The meeting will start with dinner at 6:30 p.m. The featured speaker will be Kenneth Krueger, vice president of the Spokane Bank for Cooperatives. His topic will be "Managing With Inflation."

The meeting agenda will include reports from company officers and the election of directors and associate directors.

Lewis Halvorsen, nominating committee chairman, announced the following slate of candidates for the positions of director and associate director.

The nominees for director are: Ron Haguewood, Heppner; Gene Majeske, Lexington; Larry Lindsay, Lexington; and Joe McElligott, Ione. The nominees for associate director are: Jim Swanson, Ione; Wm. Doherty, Lexington; Leonard Munkers, Lexington; Chuck Nelson, Lexington; and Monte Evans, Heppner. Nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting.

Something new will be added for the annual meeting this year. Free babysitting service will be provided in the dormitory building next door to the fair pavilion. This service will better enable members to attend the annual meeting.

Arts Commission to meet in Ontario

The Oregon Arts Commission will hold a regional public hearing on arts programs, services, and planning on Friday, Nov. 2, at 7:30 p.m. in Ontario City Hall.

On Saturday, November 3, the Eastern Oregon Regional Arts Council will hold its quarterly board of directors' meeting, also at Ontario City Hall, at 11:30 a.m. Regional Arts Council members are welcome to attend this meeting.

Here come the stripes!



The stripes! All over Oregon these stripes are announcing the new First National Banking Card. It's the banking convenience you've been waiting for—and it's yours automatically with any First National personal checking account—current or new.

New check-cashing convenience in Oregon and all over the West! Our new First National Banking Card will identify you as a valued customer and let you instantly cash a check for the balance in your account up to \$200 (larger amounts take only a few moments) at any First National office in Oregon and at more than 800 offices of affiliated Western Bancorporation

banks in 11 western states.

Convenient check acceptance at thousands of Oregon merchants! If you now have a First Courtesy Card, your new Banking Card will have a symbol which means your checks will be honored at thousands of fine merchants throughout Oregon. And we've raised your purchasing power from \$100 to \$200 in goods and services. If you don't have the First Courtesy Card feature, open a checking account with us and apply for it.

Good for instant cash! This unique Banking Card will allow you to get cash and transact other bank business at any of our 50 First Day & Night Teller

machines statewide, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Good for all First National customers! If you're already a First National personal checking customer, your new Banking Card is coming in the mail. If you now have a First Courtesy Card you will find your First Courtesy Card symbol on the back.

If you don't have an account with us: If you're not a First National customer, find out how easy it is to open an account by calling or visiting your local First National office. Soon you, too, will be saying, "First National—that's my bank!"

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