

Heppner clinches league title with win

Heppner beat Wasco County last Friday night in Maupin 26-6 to clinch the Columbia Basin Conference championship.

The Mustangs travel to Lyle, Wa. for a Saturday afternoon game at 1:30 for its next game.

Lyle-Klickitat beat Wadonka 30-8 last week. They had a 24-0 lead at halftime.

Freshman Rick Beeks was at quarterback last week as the team ran for 175 yards and had 87 more yards passing as Lyle improved its record to 5-2. Bud Lewis had been playing quarterback but he was moved to a running back and he gained 92 yards on 15 carries. Beeks and Lewis both scored on one-yard runs against the Eagles, who are

now 0-7, and the team from Lyle made three of its four two-point conversion tries.

Prediction: Lyle could be one of the better teams Heppner has played this year and they will have the home field advantage so they should give the Mustangs a tough battle. Heppner should win 31-8.

In last week's battle with Wasco County, John Murray carried the ball 24 times for 212 yards for an 8.8 yards per carry average. Doug Holland carried the ball for 85 yards on 14 carries for a 6.1 yard average.

Heppner scored the first time it had the ball on a 12-yard run by Murray. Rick

Cole scored the second touchdown on a 41-yard punt return. Chris Zita scored the third touchdown on a six-yard run and Murray rounded out the scoring in the fourth quarter with a five-yard run.

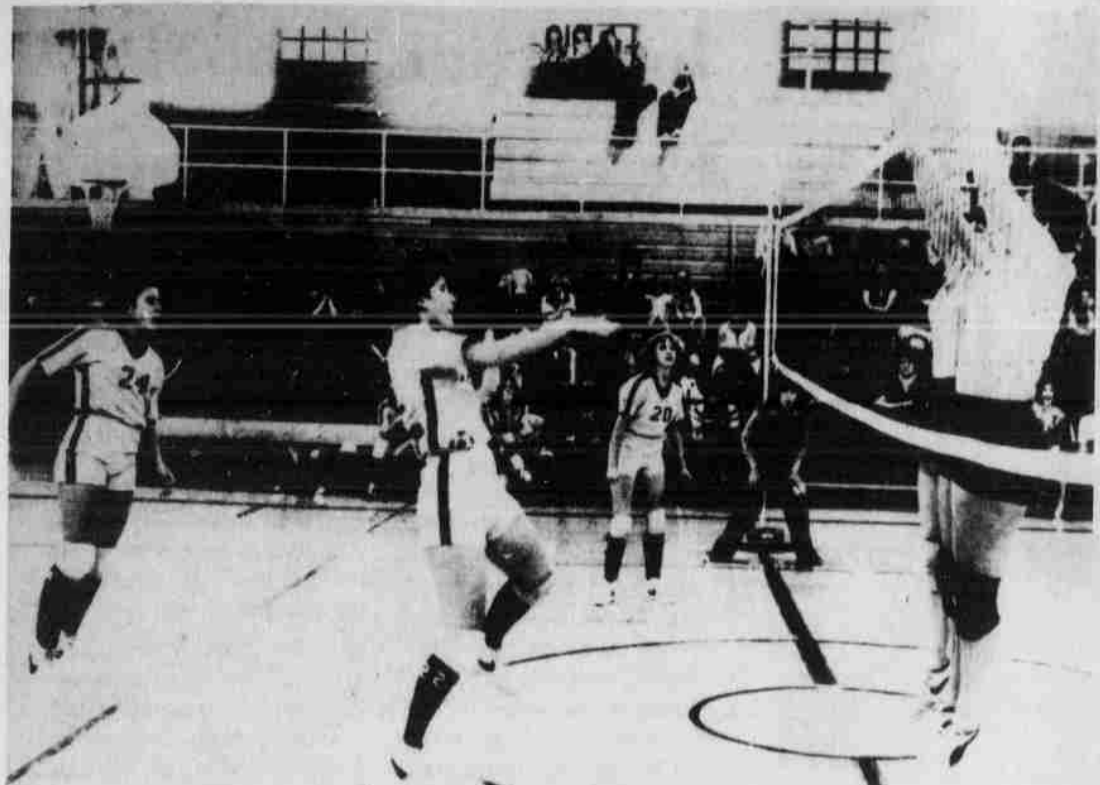
Heppner had 20 first downs and Wasco County had 11. The Mustangs had only one first down passing and had 19 rushing. Wasco County had

two passing and eight rushing.

Heppner passed the ball for 21 yards hitting on 5-of-10 and Wasco County hit on 6-of-9 passes for 69 yards.

Dale Holland led the receivers with four catches for 24 yards.

Heppner gained 340 total yards while Wasco County gained 203 yards.



Gerri Grieb scoops up a volleyball shot in the game Saturday against Hermiston.

Mustangs VB team beats Hermiston

The Heppner High School women's volleyball team upset the AAA team from Hermiston in a sparkling comeback Saturday. Heppner is a Class A school.

Hermiston won the first game easily 15-7 and it looked like the Mustang team thought Hermiston would beat them.

But the Mustangs began to believe in themselves in the second game.

After trailing 12-3, Heppner came back to win the second game 15-12. Jana Steagall and Carolyn Plocharsky sparked the comeback with Steagall serving and Plocharsky at the net. Heppner came back to tie the score at 12-12 and an unsportsmanlike penalty on Hermiston put Heppner ahead to stay.

The Mustangs again fell behind in the third game before they fought back. Heppner trailed 7-3 then tied it at 7-7. Hermiston then ran off six straight points to lead 13-7 and it looked bad for the home team.

But Steagall again sparked the team with her serving and Heppner pulled ahead 14-13. Hermiston tied it at 14-14 but Gerri Grieb served an ace and Heppner went on to win 16-14.

Steagall was the high server with 17 serves going for points. Grieb had nine serving points. In last Thursday's battle with Riverside, Heppner won in two games 15-13 and 15-12. Lynn Dee Devin was the high server with eight points and Jana Steagall added seven serves for points.

Against the league's first place team from Condon last week, Heppner lost 15-9 and 15-11 so the Mustang is no longer tied for first but they are in second place and still in position for a playoff spot. Mary Kinkaid was the only successful server for Heppner against Condon with 13 serves for points.

The team travels to lone to play the Cardinals today.

In junior varsity action, Heppner beat Hermiston in

three games 15-7, 9-15 and 15-12. The team also beat Riverside in three games losing the first one 15-5 but winning the next two games 15-10 and 15-9. Condon easily beat the JV team 15-12 and 15-2.

The C team, according to coach Sheri Brook, lost to Hermiston 15-11 and 15-6. The team lost to Riverside 15-4 and 15-7 but won the second game 15-13. Condon beat the C team 15-13 and 15-11.



The Heppner Junior High girls' volleyball team beat Ione's squad 15-13 last week.

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Heppner fan objects to 'Backseat Coach'

Editor:

I have never been one to put down a person for voicing an opinion. However, as with most things, there are times and places to voice those opinions and other times when silence should be respected. I feel that the only times that opinions should be voiced publicly is when the public needs to become aware of something, needs to be motivated to back an idea, etc. Telling someone how to do their job through the newspaper is not proper public relations.

I am referring to the recent article in "Backseat Coach", which proceeded in rather redundant terms to attack our football team, our coaching staff, and our league. Here we have a new reporter stepping in and saying that the teams in our league are little more than tackling dummies for us to practice against. Has this reporter forgotten that Riverside High School is in our league? Has he forgotten that

they are in our county and that he represents them through the newspaper, also?

Through the reporter's entire article, he kept repeating that we should pass more. He said that the team had accumulated excellent passing statistics and should be utilized more to increase the effectiveness of our running game. Well, it is obvious to me that our very effective running game is the reason for our excellent passing record thus far, along with the ability of the players and coaches to use that passing game to the fullest.

Coach Sporseen states that his idea of a perfect game would be to pass about one-third of the time. Statistics indicate that the team is not too far off of that percentage. Obviously, the team record speaks for the effectiveness of this philosophy. But, more important than statistics and records are the people involved. Young people are easily

influenced by things written about them in a newspaper. They may begin to question a coach's judgement after reading the "Backseat Coach". They may begin to wonder how they really will do when facing a team which is more than a tackling dummy. If the reporter were not writing for our local paper, I would think

he was trying to psyche out our team.

I have great respect for our coaching staff. They are all my friends and are very knowledgeable in the game of football. Even more important is the fact that they know how to handle their players.

I have a lot of young friends on that football team and I

know that they have a lot of pride in what they're doing. I think they realize the importance of each game as it comes and do not approach a game with the idea of "practicing".

To the coaches and team members I say: I'm proud of you and what you've done. Keep up your pride and

winning attitude. Don't be influenced by reporters with dreams of being Vince Lombardi.

To the editor of the paper I say: You should put the "Backseat Coach" in the front seat. He may get a better view of the game.

Sincerely,
Jim Ackley

Bowling

Thursday League

Kinzua Corporation leads the Thursday Night Ladies Bowling League with an 18-10 record.

Blackhorse Tavern is in second place with a 16-12 mark and Columbia Basin is tied with that team with an identical record.

Gateway Toyota and Ray Boyce Insurance are tied for the next position with 15-13 records. Kroll's Department

Store is 12-16, Cal's Cafe is 11-17 and Heppner Bowl is last at 7-21.

Billie Doherty rolled the high team game with a 199 and she also had the high series with a 486.

Cindy Doherty made the 5-6-7 split and the 5-10. Ramona Rountree made the 3-7-10 and Harriet Evans made the 5-10 and the 5-6-10 splits.

Sparetimer's League

Every position changed in the Sparetimer's League as the Coast-to-Coast team regained first place after the Morrow County Grain Growers had held that position for the last two weeks.

Coast-to-Coast, with a 20 1/2-7 1/2 record, is only one-half game ahead of the second place team, which is sponsored by Petersons, with a 20-8 record. The M.C.G.G. team dropped to third place with a 18 1/2-9 1/2 mark. No other team is above 500.

Bucknum's Tavern is at 13 1/2-14 1/2, Central Market is at 13-15, Jerry's Mobil has an 11-17 record, Sears is 8-20 and Gardner's Men's Wear is 7 1/2-20 1/2.

Koffee Kup League

The Pytts are atop the Koffee Kup Kegler league with a 19-9 record.

The Three L's are in second place at 18-10 with the Hi Ho's third at 15-13. The Gutter Dusters are fourth at 14 1/2-13 1/2 and the Three Holers are next at 13-15.

Rounding out the league standings are the Newcomers with a 12 1/2-15 1/2 record, the Weary Wives at 12-16 and the Dregs are last at 8-20.

The total pins leader is the Three L's with 11,091. The Pytts are second with 10,992. The Newcomers have been knocking down pins but not winning many games as they are third in total pins with 10,893 but still are in sixth

In total pins, Coast-to-Coast is also first with 15,047 with Petersons second with 14,811. The M.C.G.G. team is third with 14,288. Central Market has knocked down 13,483 total pins and Bucknums is at 12,728.

Sears has 11,737 total pins, Jerry's Mobil has 11,677 and Gardner's has 11,332.

Jean Ball had the high game of the week with a 195. Fran Crook had the high series with a 512 and Jackie Allstott had a 509 series.

Petersons had the high team game with a 761 and the high team series with a 2,156.

Harriet Evans made the 2-10 split and Jo Pettyjohn made both the 5-10 and the 3-7-10 split.

place. The Weary Wives are in a similar situation as they are fourth in total pins with 10,739.

The Gutter Dusters are fifth in total pins with 10,723 and the Three Holers are only seven pins behind with 10,716. The Hi Ho's are seventh in total pins with 10,689 and the Dregs are last with 10,612.

Iris Campbell had the high game of the week with a 170 and Faye Ruhl had the high individual series with 463. The Gutter Dusters had the high team game with a 564 and the Three Holers had the high team series with 1,626.

Ruhl made the 6-7 split and Alberta Johannes made the 6-7-10 combination.

Ione uses reserves in win over Wheeler

Sweeping the bench and dividing the team the Ione Cardinals continued undefeated for the year as they swept past Wheeler County last Friday night by a score of 48-26 at Fossil.

Cardinal Coach Gordon Meyers played the starters through part of the first period then dropped the game plan that had the regulars going the first quarter, the second unit the second quarter and then a divided team playing the remainder of the game. With a 20-0 score, the younger players took over and played Wheeler on rather even terms until the score nearly evened at 21-20 and then the regulars broke open the game in the second quarter and put the game in Ione's pocket leaving in doubt only the final score.

Leading the Cardinals again, as he has all season was Greg Rietmann who had a 100 plus rushing night. The Cardinals got scoring from center Glen Krebs who took over the power running back position from Rietmann. Defensive back Jeff Hams moved to running back and ran 60 yards his second carry and scored the final points for the Redbirds on a cold, blustery night.

Assistant Coach Del LaRue said "This was the type of game where you don't have

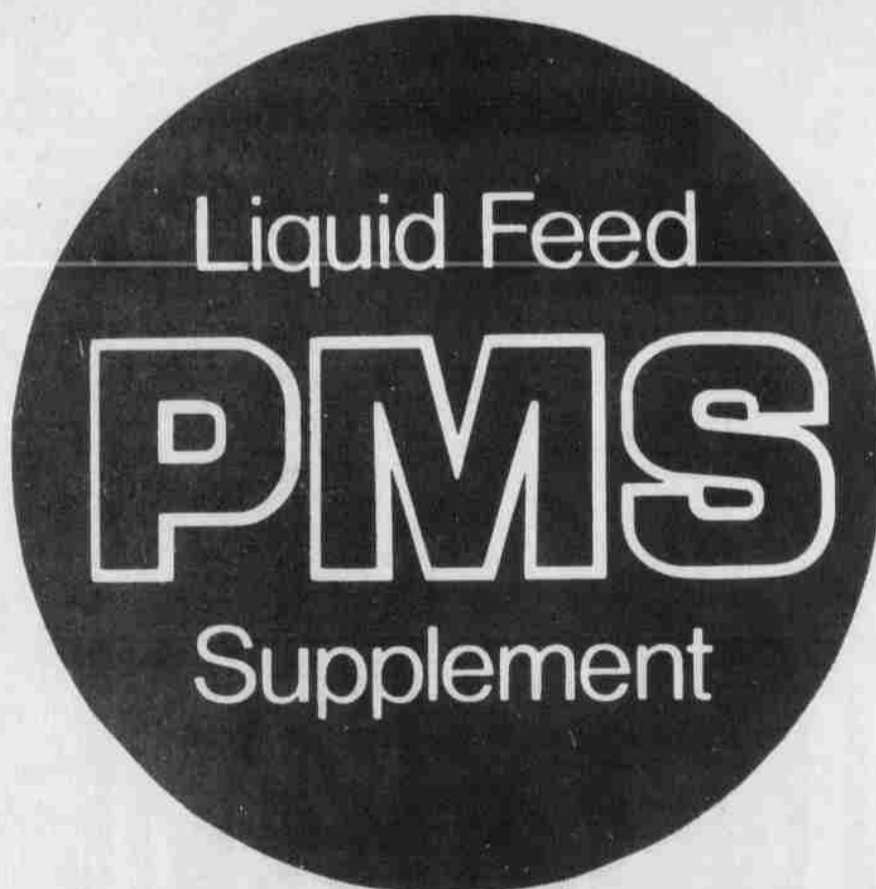
one kid that excels. It is the type game where everyone plays, you use all the possible combinations, the kids that have been blocking fodder for the varsity all season get into the action, and you just hope everyone plays hard enough to keep warm, no one gets injured, you don't destroy the program of Wheeler, who is having a down year, and you go out to do the job that has to be done and you do it. I feel the kids did that and we feel good about the game."

Ironically, on a Sunday afternoon pick-up game with some alumni, the Cardinals lost starting defensive back Jeff Hams for six weeks with a fractured clavicle. Coach Meyers said, "We just can't continue to lose these good players and hope to repeat as state champions. We have lost two starters in LaRue and Hams and we have Key and Peterson down with broken hands. We have had too many injuries. We just hope it stops."

Friday night the Cardinals host Echo in a Big Sky Conference finale before the home crowd as Ione celebrates their homecoming and then goes on the road to complete the season at Cascade Locks the following Friday.



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