



Ione wins

## Donkeys control the tempo of the game

"We have the greatest assembly of jackasses here tonight ever to be in the county and the donkeys aren't bad either," announcer Gene Rietmann said to start off the humorous night of the Donkey Basketball Game between the Lions Clubs from Heppner and Ione Monday at the Ione High School gym.

The game was low in scoring, the final score was 3-1 in favor of the Ione Lions, but the action was non-stop, in fact the action away from the ball was often more interesting than the basketball play itself.

The two teams battled to a 0-0 tie after the end of the first quarter. The quarters were nine minutes long with the clock running continuously.

Heppner pulled ahead in the second period 1-0 because they were awarded a penalty point for a personal foul on Ione and that was the score at halftime.

The six donkeys the players were riding wore rubber cleats on their feet so they would not scratch up the floor. More than 150 basketball (or were they donkey?) fans came to the game despite the fairly

expensive admission cost of \$2.50 for adults and \$2.25 for students.

The second half was high scoring compared to the first half as a basket was actually made. Dana Heideman of Ione made a long shot from the top of the key to put the Cardinal team ahead 2-1.

The partisan Ione crowd definitely gave the home team the advantage as many of the loose balls were picked up by the Ione fans and thrown to their Lion team members. A few Heppner fans did get into it too however.

The shots at the basket increase in the fourth quarter with time running out and they were being taken from all over the court.

The donkeys obviously were very stubborn and would not go where the players tried to steer them. After the game, a few of the players looked like they had just been in a sweathouse. Everytime a player would start to shoot, the donkeys would start moving away from the basket making it almost impossible to get a decent shot. Many of the shots fell just short of the

rim for that reason.

Ione scored its final point in the fourth period on a penalty for a personal foul to make the final score 3-1.

A musical chairs game was played at halftime with women in the audience trying to drag the donkeys around the court.

No serious injuries occurred but a lot of hard falls were taken and many of the Lions players were probably sore the next morning from their falls, from getting kicked by the donkeys and from pulling them around and trying to steer them.

Members of the winning

team were Dana Heideman, Ron Palmateer, Joe Halvorsen, Harvey Childers, John Piening and Virgil Morgan.

The losing Lions team from Heppner included Kevin Rountree, Carmen Bjella, Dave Thom, Bob Krein, Tim Fromwiller and John Nordheim.



## Mustang team faces Lost River in home playoff game

The Heppner Mustang football team will take on Lost River Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m. at home in the first round of the Class A playoffs.

Lost River was 5-4 this year and Heppner finished the season in first place in the Columbia Basin Conference with a 9-0 record.

Heppner Coach John Sporseen scouted the Lost River team two weeks ago in their game against Sacred Heart. Although Lost River did lose 20-14, Sporseen said he was impressed with the team's passing game.

"The team had some key players out, an all-league runningback and their quarterback, and their coach does not know whether they will be back by the time we play them," Sporseen said.

The Heppner coach said Lost River is not as big as his team and they may not be as fast.

He said they definitely will miss Chuck Day, their star runningback, if he can't suit up Saturday.

If Heppner beats Lost River, the Mustangs will play St. Mary's from Medford the following Saturday at the same time and place.

St. Mary's was the state championship team last year in the A division.

Heppner beat Pilot Rock 35-12 in their last regular season game of the year last Friday.

John Murray scored the first touchdown of the game on a 10-yard run when he went up the middle and saw it was clogged and he moved to the outside for the score. Heppner faked a kick for the extra point and holder John Bier passed to a wide open Dale Holland in

the end zone as Heppner led 8-0.

Heppner added another touchdown in the second quarter on a seven-yard pass from Bier to Holland. Jim Parker kicked the extra point and the Mustangs led 15-0.

Murray set up that score when he intercepted an overthrown Rocket pass from his defensive back position.

Pilot Rock scored in the second quarter on a two-yard run by Dean Jobs to make the halftime score 15-6 after the Rockets missed their two-point conversion.

Many of the fans left the game at halftime because of the dense fog covering the playing field, all a person could see was his own breath and maybe a few shadows on the field. Wind gusts at halftime made the game conditions miserable, at least for the spectators.

It was so foggy in the second half the scoreboard clock was not used because the referees could not even see it. A hand-held time was used instead.

Doug Holland scored on a 37-yard romp when he broke through the line of scrimmage and ramled in for the score. The extra point failed and Heppner led 21-6.

Tim Nielson caught a halfback option pass from Jobs for a 68-yard score in the third period to make it 21-12 after the two-point conversion again failed. It was the second time in the game that the halfback option worked for a large gain. Jobs rolled to the right and passed to the left to Nielson who had three blockers in front of him to escort him to the goal line.

But Heppner broke the

game open in the fourth period.

On a third down and two yards to go for a first down, Mustang quarterback John Bier tried a sneak to get the first down and he broke through the line and scored from 33-yards out. Parker's kick was good and the score mounted to 28-12.

Bier passed to Chris Zita for 25 yards to set up Heppner's final touchdown, on a 1-yard run by Zita. The kick was good to make the final score 35-12.

Statistics for the game showed Heppner with 17 first downs (six passing, nine rushing and two by penalty) and Pilot Rock with 11 (three passing, seven rushing and one by penalty.)

Bier passed for 85 yards and one touchdown as he connected on 7-of-11.

Doug Holland was the lead

ing ground gainer with 93 yards on 15 carries for a 6.2 average. Murray was held to 86 yards on 21 carries. Bier ran for 44 yards on five carries.

Dale Holland caught three passes for 20 yards and Doug Holland grabbed two for 30 yards.

Joedy Marlatt led the defense with 25 points and Earl Hammond had 23.

The nine-game season statistics for Heppner show how awesome the team has been. Heppner has outscored its opponents 270-52.

First downs show Heppner with 152 (24 passing, 118 rushing and 10 by penalty.) and the opponents with 69 (23 passing, 34 rushing and 12 by penalty.)

Despite being mostly a running club, Heppner has passed the ball for 654 yards hitting 52-of-96 for seven

scores. Opponents total 63-of-171 for 874 yards and three scores.

Heppner has ruffed for 2,140 yards on 447 carries and opponents have 411 yards on 230 tries.

The Mustang team has fumbled 22 times, losing just eight, and opponents have fumbled 24 times, losing 11

Heppner has had more penalties, 53 for 605 yards, than their opponents, 44 for 420 yards.

The Coach Sporseen led squad has outscored its opponents 90-3 in the first quarter, 89-13 in the second, 51-18 in the third and 40-18 in the fourth quarter.

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