

Beat Lost River

Heppner to play state champs

The Heppner Mustang football team will take on the defending Class A state champions from St. Mary's from Medford Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m. in the second round of the state playoffs.

Heppner won its first game, which was also a home battle, of the playoffs against Lost River by the incredible score of 54-6.

Heppner head coach John Sporseen said St. Mary's plays the same type of game Heppner does. He said they are not very big but they are very quick and they basically run out of their "Fullhouse T" backfield.

"It should be a close game," Sporseen said. "They have shifty backs so the only thing that worries me is that we don't miss tackles but I know we can do it."

PREDICTION: The only way to compare the two teams by a common opponent is that St. Mary's beat Sacred Heart by a large margin and Heppner beat Lost River by an even bigger score and Sacred Heart just edged Lost River 20-16. That should mean that no matter who wins the game, it is going to be a great match-up.

If Heppner can win, they would have to one of the favorites, along with Elgin and Enterprise, to take the Class A title.

St. Mary's will probably be favored—only because they are the defending state champions—but with the home field advantage, I will give Heppner the edge in an upset. Jim Parker has proved he can kick a field goal and it might come down to that. Heppner will win 28-24.

If Heppner does win, the third game of the state tournament will not be a home but will be in either Elgin or Scio, depending on which team wins that game this weekend. The state championship game may be in Heppner if the team goes that far.

Against Lost River, Heppner proved itself as a team to reckon with in the state tournament.

Lost River fumbled the ball on the first play after the opening kick-off and John Murray scored the first of five

touchdowns he had on the day on a 10-yard run. The extra point attempt failed when the snap from center was off the mark and it was fumbled by the holder, John Bier.

A good-sized crowd saw Murray score again only minutes later on a 23-yard jaunt but Parker's kick was off the mark and Heppner led 12-0.

The Raiders could not stop Heppner's passing game either as quarterback Bier rolled to his left and hit Murray coming out of the backfield. Murray caught the ball near the sidelines and tight roped along the white stripe into the end zone from 12 yards out to make the score 19-0 when Parker connected on the extra point kick.

The Heppner defensive line continued to dominate Lost River and the Raider team could not move the ball in the first half. Murray scored again, this time from 10 yards and Parker's kick made the score mount to 26-0.

The Mustang defense held Lost River to minus yardage in the first half and shouts like "You guys gotta block" could be heard from the Raider players.

The defense added to the score, still in the first half, when Ray Miller intercepted the ball at the five-yard line and pranced in for a score. Miller is a defensive lineman. Raider quarterback Rick Newton was rushed by the Heppner line and he tossed the ball in desperation to Miller.

The Raider defense stopped Heppner for the first time with five minutes left in the first half. Lost River then got its first, first down of the game and it looked like the team from the Klamath Falls area might finally get something going but Dale Holland intercepted a pass on the next play.

Following that exchange, Heppner proved to be just as generous as a bad pitch from Bier to Chris Zita turned out to be a fumble with Lost River recovering.

But Lost River would not accept Heppner's generosity and Newton threw another bad pass and this one was intercepted by Murray.

Heppner scored quickly after that turnover on two pass plays. The first was a 14-yard pass to tight end Dale Holland and the second a scoring strike of 13 yards to Holland.

Heppner, with the kick being good, led at halftime 39-0.

The first half statistics showed Murray with 85 yards on six carries and Doug Holland with 67 yards on seven carries. Bier connected on five-of-five passes for 68 yards and Holland had four catches for 56 yards. The team had 178 yards rushing and 11 first downs.

Lost River was 1-8 passing for minus nine yards. The team had five total yards rushing.

The second half was not any closer despite a lot of substituting by the Mustangs.

Murray took the opening kick-off in the second half and returned the ball 40 yards but he fumbled and Lost River recovered it.

Murray redeemed himself when again the Raiders could not move the ball and Heppner

drove it in with Murray scoring the touchdown from 23 yards. To add insult to injury, Lost River was offside three times on the extra point try so Heppner went for two points and Bier made it on a quarterback sneak to make the score 47-0.

Heppner scored with Robert Bier in at quarterback, still in the third quarter, on a two-yard QB sneak by the younger Bier to make the score 54-0 after Parker's successful kick. Rick Cole set up that score with a 44-yard punt return.

Lost River got its only points of the game in the fourth period with six minutes remaining on a one-yard run by Duane Mann. The two-point conversion attempt was unsuccessful to make the final 54-6.

Heppner got 17 first downs in the game (five passing and 12 rushing) while Lost River made nine (none passing, seven rushing and two by penalty).

John Bier was done passing at the end of the first half but Robert Bier was 0 for 2. Lost River was 3 for 16 for seven yards and three interceptions.

Heppner gained 253 yards on the ground in 33 plays and Lost River made 105 yards on 44 attempts.

Murray gained 98 yards on seven carries and Holland had 90 yards on nine carries and Zita gained 46 yards on eight carries.

Tony Currin got to play a lot in the game and it showed as he led the defense in points with 21. Earl Hammon had 20 and Miller 16.

Nine Mustangs chosen as all-stars

Nine Heppner Mustangs were chosen to the Columbia Basin League All-Star Team on the first squads including three repeat performers from last year.

Dale Holland, Jim Parker and Joedy Marlatt were picked to the first team for the second year in a row.

The nine CBL teams picked all-opponent squads and the players picked the most often were named to the all-star team.

Senior Holland was picked as the first team end, senior Parker was chosen as a tackle and the punter on the first unit, and Marlatt, also a senior, was chosen as the starting guard.

Also on the first team for Heppner were sophomore John Murray at a runningback

spot, and junior Ray Miller as the center.

Marlatt and Holland were also named to the first team defensively as a linebacker and an end. Sophomore lineman Earl Hammon joined them on the first team.

Parker was named as the second team placekicker but no other offensive players were honored.

On the second team on defense were Murray in the backfield, Parker at a line-backing spot, and senior Steve Marlatt as a lineman. Senior Larry Palmer was an honorable mention in the defensive backfield.

Riverside also had some players honored on the CBL team.

Lerry Wilson, a junior, was honored as the first team

placekicker and he tied with Heppner's Parker as the all-star punter.

Wilson also was named to the first team on defense at an end spot and senior Steve Daulton was named in the defensive backfield.

Two seniors, Joe Daltoso, a center, and Stacy Coleman, an end, were named to the second team on offense. Wilson was

named as an honorable mention as a runningback and joining him on that team were two senior teammates, Rick Pettigrew, a runningback, and Curtis Viall, a guard.

Pettigrew was also named to the second team on defense as a linebacker. Two linemen, Rod Garrison, a junior, and Wes Haws, a senior, received honorable mention nominations.

Heppner players named to all-star volleyball team

Geri Grieb, Jana Steagall and Lynn Dee Devin were named to the 7A District All-Star Volleyball Team after Heppner took second a week

ago. Grieb was named to the first team and Steagall and Devin were honored as second team picks.

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Marshall Lovgren
City Administrator

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