

# Condon Blue Devils defeat Fillies Mustangs stomp Huskies 44-14

By Patty Anderson

The Heppner Fillies played the Condon Blue Devils on Sept. 22, on the Fillies home court with the Blue Devils avenging last season's loss by beating the Fillies in the last two games.

In game one the Fillies started their serves with Jenny Krein. The Fillies powerful serves created problems for Condon, enabling the Fillies to win 15-8.

In game two a duel began at the net between Holly Eckman and Condon's Mardie Durfy. Eckman and Durfy battled it out with killer spikes and blocks. Heppner, unable to get the advantage over Condon lost the second game 15-7.

Durfy continued to shine, sending lethal spikes into the Fillies back row. Coach Terri Gentry gave praise to Kelsie Evans, Sara Greenup and Rondi Robinson, who took the beating from Durfy's spikes. Fatigue set in and the Blue Devils wore down the Fillies taking the win and the match 15-11.

The Fillies served for a total of 94 percent connecting on 61 out of 65.

Heppner JV players had no problem with Condon powering their way through the first game and beating Condon 15-9. The second game went just as fast with quick thinking and team work the Fillies beat Condon again, 15-4.

September 24 Heppner traveled to Union. It was a disappointing night, after the long ride over. The Fillies were ready to play, but unfortunately, the Fillies' luck wasn't so good. All three teams tried their hardest but came up empty handed. The C-team won their first game, 15-10 but lost their second game 15-17.



Fillie returns ball in Condon match

Photo by Patty Anderson

Jessica Sumner fought hard for the Fillies scoring 13 of the 15 points. In the third game the Fillies just couldn't pull it off losing the game and the match, 11-15.

The JV team, made up of mostly freshmen and sophomores from the C-team were too tired

from playing the previous three games and lost both games 14-16, 11-15.

The Union players, fired up and ready to play battled the Fillies varsity team. Union was too strong for the Fillies beating them in two games.

## Fillies win two, lose one in tournament

The Heppner Fillies traveled to Athena on Sept. 27 to play in an all-important tournament featuring teams from the powerful Wapiti league. Heppner, recently rated ninth in a 2A state volleyball coaches poll, captured fourth place out of the eight team format, winning two matches and losing one.

The Fillies had their work cut out for them, taking on highly touted Imbler in their first morning match. Heppner started out a bit sluggish receiving serves during the first game and the Panthers easily wrapped it up, 15-7.

Game two provided a different story as the Fillies and Panthers went point for point through many rotations. Setter Jodi Johnston, running the offense, had help with accurate passing from Kelsie Evans. They were rounded out with strong middle hits for kills by Holly Eckman. Heppner held solid at 10-7 before losing momentum to Imbler's hard serving and hitting. Imbler then turned on the coal at the service line, producing Filly mistakes. Imbler took the game and match 15-7.

Losing the first match automatically sent Heppner girls



Photo by Joyce Hughes

Mustang running back T.R. Riehl makes yardage against Sherman County Friday.

The Heppner Mustangs used a stifling defense and great field position to start their CBC season out right with a 44-14 win over the Sherman County Huskies Friday, Sept. 25 at the Morrow County Fairgrounds.

The stifling defense came in the form of overall team defense, but more particularly seniors Kevin Kilkenny, T.R. Riehl and Shane Munkers.

The field position was excellent for the Mustangs in the first half. Heppner started from Shermans 40, 30, 35, 38 and six yard lines and scored every time they touched the ball in the first half.

Kevin Payne started the scoring with a 26 yard touchdown run on an option pitch. The pat snap was bad and Heppner led 6-0 with 7:52 remaining in the first quarter.

After the Mustangs took over deep in Huskie territory, it took only four plays for quarterback Rick Koffler to find sophomore split end Leonard Brittner in the end zone for a 15 yard touchdown play. The snap was bad again on the pat and it was 12-0.

It took only three plays the next time Heppner touched the ball to score again. Koffler found senior Jason Hanna for another 15 yard touchdown pass. Brittner missed right on the pat and it was 18-0 as the first quarter ended.

The Mustangs mixed it up on their next possession. Koffler kept on the option for seven yards. Sophomore Chris Dickenson twisted and turned for a 33 yard gain up the middle. Koffler pitched to Payne for a 13 yard gain and Scott Coe, back after an early season injury, scored his first touchdown of the season on a one-yard plunge. Brittner missed left with the pat for a 24-0 lead.

A bad snap over the Sherman punter set the Mustangs up with a first and goal from the Huskies six yard line. After a penalty set the Mustangs back, Koffler kept on the option for a 10 yard touchdown run. Finally the snap was good, the kick was good and Heppner led 31-0.

Heppner's last drive of the half

was a "Riehl" drive. Senior fullback T.R. Riehl carried the ball five consecutive times, gaining 54 yards and ending up in the Huskie end zone. Brittner added the pat for a 38-0 lead at the half.

The stands emptied on this brisk autumn night with the big lead but those that stayed behind watched an entertaining second half.

Heppner scored once more with junior Jim Tellechea rumbling 20 yards for a score to make it 44-0. Dickenson downed the pat to avoid getting one more point. The 45th, or the 45 point mercy rule would have been invoked ending the game.

There were many more highlights. Sophomore Brent Wright made a nifty interception of a Sherman pass to end a threat and returned it 25 yards. Freshman Shaun Hisler made a touchdown saving tackle and squirted 10 yards on his first varsity carry.

Linebackers Ryan Munkers and Kevin Scott, both juniors, kept the Huskies in check for the majority of the half with exciting and hard hitting tackles. Sophomore Bill Schliach also played a tough defensive end.

Sherman scored two confidence building touchdowns in the final quarter. One half of the Huskie lineup is composed of freshmen and sophomores. They should be tough in years to come.

Heppner packs their bags for the next three weeks, traveling to Stanfield, Harrisburg and Pilot Rock before returning home.

Game time at Stanfield, Fri' Oct. 2 is 7:30 p.m.

Stanfield lost their two pre-season tilts and opened league play with a 29-6 loss to the Weston-McEwen TigerScots.

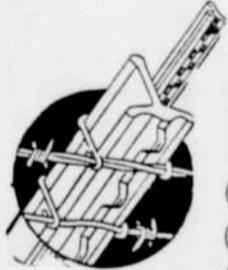
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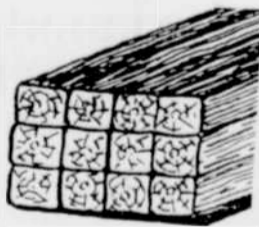


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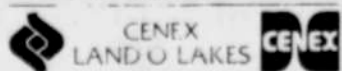
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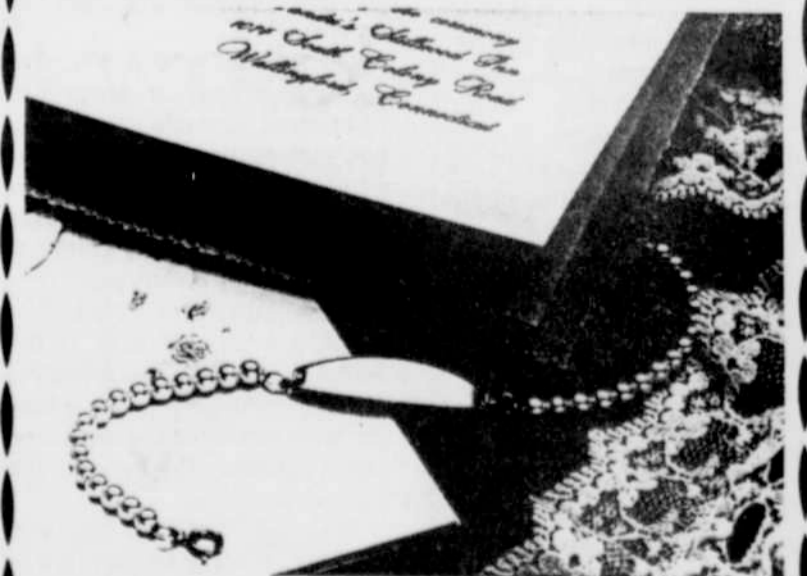
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into the losers' bracket to challenge Elgin. Jodi Johnston set the stage with good serving and a 4-0 lead, followed by Jenny Kreins' dink kill. Elgin began to fight back to tie it up 4-4. Sara Greenup steadied things back at 6-6, but Elgin started a roll and built a 12-7 lead. The Fillies, rebuilding a new varsity team, used three juniors and three sophomores in court action to rally back. Clutch play with a Johnston middle kill, an Evans' serve, two net play kills from Holly Eckman and unison team work by players had Heppner gaining advantage. Down 14-10, Sara Greenup, with a consistent serving arm, took control and carried out a 16-14 win over Elgin.

In game two, Heppner raced out on top with excellent serving and Elgin's receiving errors to quickly lead 13-0. In a turn of events, the Fillies had a series of mental errors and a lapse that brought Elgin roaring back for 11 points. Heppner finally regrouped to win the game and match, 15-11.

The third match featured the Columbia Basin rivals Heppner and Weston-McEwen. Weston-McEwen, also in a rebuilding situation, lost many quality athletes due to graduation last spring. The first game took off in a sluggish manner as fatigue began to set in for both teams with many unforced errors and mistakes. Neither team could grab the momentum with the score seesawing. Weston-McEwen came out on top in a long game, 17-15.

Game two saw both teams getting into the swing of things with Rondi Robinson giving clutch play with needed setting and Holly Eckman connecting on surprise dink sets for kills. Heppner won 15-7.

In game three the Fillies, playing good solid volleyball, used Krein for an ace block, Greenup for continued serving strength, Evans for back row play and Eckman to ace dink sets and hits. Coach Terri Gentry moved Char Coe to the net and senior Donita Sharp showed leadership in winding up the serving attack with a 15-7 win to beat Athena.

Ruth Norton also showed strength at the net during the day. The Fillies were missing senior Chry Schultz out with a hand injury.

The tournament provided a high level of volleyball competition for the Fillies as the Wapiti League, as usual, is very strong. Coach Terri Gentry, ready to wrap up pre-season, is pleased with the rapid progress her young team is making.