

# Mustangs outslug Pirates 14-8 Youth football program underway



Photo by Joyce Hughes

Mustang defenders Eric Schonbachler (41), Chris Sykes (77) and Jeff Watkins (81) swarm over Riverside ball carrier.

The Heppner Mustangs remained football king of the county with a 14-8 non league win over the 3A Riverside Pirates, Friday, Sept. 8, at Boardman.

The win was a good one for the Mustangs against the Pirates, who outweighed Heppner by 30 lbs. per man. Riverside was hurt by six turnovers in the game including four fumbles lost and two passes intercepted.

Riverside fumbled the ball away on their first three possessions with senior tackle Chris Sykes falling on the last fumble to set the Mustangs up on the Pirates 19 yard line on the last play of the first quarter.

Halfback Shaun Hisler ran the ball four times in the short drive and scored on a dive play from two yards out to get the Mustangs on the scoreboard. The pass attempt for the two-point conversion was incomplete and Heppner led 6-0 with 10:10 left in the half.

The Pirates just missed getting on the scoreboard twice

just before halftime. Quarterback Chris Huxoll ran for 37 yards on a busted play and hit big tight end Kyle Killingbeck with a 13 yard pass and Riverside was first and goal from the three yard line. Tailback Brandon Kaufmann fumbled on the next play and Heppner took over on their own four yard line. The Mustangs could not generate any offense and tried to punt. The punt snap was mishandled and Riverside took over on the Mustang three yard line with 28 seconds to go in the half. Cornerback Eric Schonbachler intercepted the Pirates as the half ended and Heppner dodged two big bullets.

Hisler gave the Mustangs some breathing room on their second possession of the second half. The senior took a pitch around left end and outran the Pirates' secondary for an 80 yard touchdown run. Hisler gained 124 yards on 16 carries, his second 100 yard effort in as many games. Brian Koffler hit Jeff Watkins for the Pat and Heppner led 14-0.

Riverside answered with

their first touchdown drive of the season. The 63 yard drive was capped off by a Huxoll to Bo Wilkie nine yard pass for the touchdown. Huxoll then hit Brad Emerson with a two-point conversion pass and the Pirates trailed 14-8 with 37 seconds remaining in the third quarter.

The fourth quarter was a wild one, with Rod Zumwalt intercepting Huxoll late in the quarter to preserve the victory. The game was won in the trenches. Sykes, Randy Van Etta and Brent Gunderson battled the Pirates up front while Hisler and Justin Matteson racked up tackles from their linebacker positions.

The Mustangs travel to Imbler to take on the defending Wapiti league champions, Friday, Sept. 15, at 3 p.m. Imbler has beaten Umatilla and Pilot Rock, both CBC teams, for their first two wins of the season. The game could have playoff implications as both the Mustangs and Panthers may fight it out in their respective leagues for a playoff spot.



Photo by Joyce Hughes

Heppner Youth Football Team fifth and sixth grade boys and girls, 'The Colts'

**By April Hilton-Sykes**  
There's a new football league in Heppner. They're young, but they pack a punch.

The new grid kids are the Heppner Colts, fifth and sixth graders who are members of the South Morrow County Youth Football Program, just formed this fall. The Colts beat the Boardman team, 18-0, in a game Friday, Sept. 8 at Boardman. The team also played an exhibition game during half time of the Riverside-Heppner varsity game Friday night.

The newly formed South Morrow County team is part of the Hermiston Youth Football program which has been organized for around 10 years. The program includes four teams from Hermiston and one each from Umatilla, Boardman/Irrigon, Lone/Lexington/Heppner.

Program organizer Greg Grant stresses that the organization gets no funding from the schools and is not a part of the Morrow County Unified Recreation District (MURD), which proposes to fund current county school extra-curricular activities.

"Each youth football team is sponsored by a business," says Grant, "which covers the cost of a comprehensive insurance policy and officials." Equipment has been purchased through donations. Donors in-

clude the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Kinzua Resources, Morrow County Grain Growers, Pat Kilkenny, Heppner Alumni Association, Kilkenny Ranches, Miller and Sons Welding, Drake Ranches, Bruce Young Logging, Brian and Sue Thompson, Tim Rust, William Jepsen and Daniel Jepsen. "The generosity of the people of this area is incredible," said Grant. "Everyone we have talked to has opened their wallets and helped. I knew this community was supportive, but this has convinced me even more." Coach John McCabe said that one team member even donated to the cause.

Coaches for the team, besides McCabe, are Chuck Matteson and Kelly Fox, all volunteers. "The kids had a really good time," said McCabe of the team's first game against Riverside. "They were pretty excited. This shows them that if they work hard and practice, it helps." The program also teaches responsibility. Kids must get their own gear to practices and games and arrange to carpool to the games with parents.

McCabe said that he is impressed with the 25 kids who turned out for the team. "They learn quick," he said. "You show them something one day and they can't get it. They go

home and maybe sleep on it and they do it perfectly the next day." McCabe said that most of the kids on the team attended the South Morrow County Football Camp organized by Grant and held in August. The camp is usually for seventh grade through high school students, but this year was expanded to include the new players.

McCabe said that the kids had been practicing from 4 to 5:30 p.m. every day, but now practices have been pared down to a couple times a week now that school and games are underway.

Games are scheduled for: Wednesday, Sept. 13, 5:30 p.m. vs. Roemarks at Hermiston High School; Friday, Sept. 22, 5 p.m. vs. Simplot at Heppner (they also hope to have a halftime exhibition game that day); Wednesday, Sept. 27, 5:30 p.m. vs. Kiwanians, Hermiston High School; Wed., Oct. 4, 6 p.m. vs. Payless, Heppner. McCabe says that there could be some schedule changes. Games consist of six minute quarters.

"We want to make these evenings a family event, with as many kids involved as we possibly can," added Grant. "What a great thing for a child to look forward to all week."

## Farewell get-together set for Riehls

A farewell coffee hour has been planned for Tom and Helen Riehl on Sunday, Sept.

17, at noon at the St. Patrick's Parish Hall.

The Riehls, who owned the R & W Drive-In for many years, have sold the Drive-In and will be leaving the area.

Everyone is invited to attend and "show the Riehls how much they appreciate them for being such a good part of the community," said a spokesperson.

"Adventures in Faith" is the theme for Friday. School this Friday, Sept. 15 at Hope Lutheran. All Saints' shares in this ministry with Hope Lutheran and the Heppner United Methodist churches. This is a Bible school for elementary school aged children with a limited enrollment. Anyone interested in their children attending, or wishing more information should call one of the three churches.

## High school rodeo team lists Labor Day results

The Heppner-Condon High School Rodeo team rode away with the team title as well as many other titles at the first high school rodeo of the season in Condon over Labor Day weekend.

The ladies' team consists of Tiffanie and Angela Munkers of Lexington, and Katie McCoy and Marsha and Tina

McGuire of Condon.

The boys' team consists of Nate Philbin of Maupin, Jerry Young of Lone, Ty Wilkins of Arlington and Tyson Shoemaker and John Fagen of Condon. The club advisor is Rita Rattray of Condon.

Katie McCoy won all-around girl with teammate Tiffanie Munkers three points behind

her. Reserve champion rookie girl was freshman Angela Munkers.

Following are the results and their state placements:

Barrel racing: first Lexie Matteson, Heppner, second Angela Munkers, third Tina McGuire; Pole bending: first Katie McCoy, fifth Tiffanie Munkers; Breakaway: second Katie

McCain;

Goat tying: first Tiffanie Munkers, fourth Lexie Matteson, fifth Katie McCoy;

Cutting: third Tiffanie Munkers;

Team roping: second Katie McCoy and Justin Matteson; Saddle bronc: third Ty Wilkins;

Bull riding: first Ty Wilkins; Bareback: second John Fagen, seventh Tyson Shoemaker, ninth Nate Philbin; Calf roping: fifth Justin Matteson.

The next high school rodeo is scheduled for Sept. 16-17 in Klamath Falls. For more information on the Oregon High School Rodeo Association and upcoming events, contact Mary Ann Munkers, 989-8488.

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## MCCCF to meet

The monthly meeting of the Morrow County Commission on Children & Families will be Sept. 19 at Riverside High School in Boardman from 7-9 p.m.

The main topics of discussion will be the utilization of Family Support and Preservation funds and amendments to the comprehensive plan. The public is invited to attend and participate in the discussions. For more information, call 676-9675.

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*Friends and family of Bo and Lonnie Lawrence are cordially invited to come to Monument to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on Saturday September 23 at the Monument Senior Center from 1-4 p.m. Dress casual, buffet lunch.*

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