

# Mustangs end successful season with heartbreaker at Glendale

By Rick Paulus

The Heppner Mustangs' successful season came to a heart-breaking end with a 14-12 loss to the Glendale Pirates last Saturday, Nov. 15, in the quarterfinals of the state 2A playoffs.

The Mustangs fell behind 14-0 in the first half before completely dominating the Pirates in the second half. The Mustangs scored two fourth quarter touchdowns, the last a Shane Matheny one yard run with 18.3 seconds left, but couldn't convert on the conversions to fall just short.

Glendale took over at their own 30 yard line after receiving the opening kickoff. The Mustangs' defense forced a third down and nine pass which was broken up by Matheny.

The Mustangs took over at their own 40 after the Pirates' punt and were faced with a third down and 13. A 40 yard pass to Derek Gunderson was called back on a holding penalty, forcing Heppner into a third down and 24. Matheny ran for 16 yards on a draw, and the Mustangs were forced to punt.

Glendale took over at their own 31 with 7:37 left in the first quarter. The Pirates' top running back, Todd Maurer, then took over, running 14 yards in three plays. The Pirates' quarterback Curtis Foster then hit Justin Dekrueger for a first down to the Mustangs' 44 yard line. Brian Kirkland ran up the middle for 22 yards and Maurer ran for seven yards to the 15 yard line.

After a Mustangs' time-out, Maurer ran to the two yard line, setting up a Foster two yard run for the touchdown. The two point conversion failed and Glendale led 6-0 with 4:00 left in the first quarter.

Matheny returned the kickoff to the 33 yard line of Heppner. Travis Wilhelm ran for six yards and Michael Schonbachler ran for 13 yards and a first down. The Mustangs were held there and were forced to punt the ball back to the Pirates.

Glendale took over at their own 26 yard line after the punt. The Mustangs' defense held and after a 55 yard punt, took over at their own 25 yard line.

Wilhelm ran for five yards and a Matheny pass to Casey Evans gave the Mustangs a first down at their own 41 yard line. Levi Geer then ran for 19 yards and Matheny hit Gunderson for six yards on a screen pass. Wilhelm carried twice for seven yards to the 28 yard line.

The Mustangs' drive stalled there and Glendale took over at their own 22 with 7:35 left in the first half.

Heppner's defense then held the Pirates and, after a 19 yard punt, they took over at the 42 yard line. Wilhelm ran for three yards and Geer for five more, setting up a third down and two. Matheny's pass to Gunderson was picked off by Maurer at the six yard line.

Kirkland then took the ball up the middle for 18 yards and Maurer ran four times for 14 yards. Foster then hit Luke Deavers for 19 yards. Caleb McDaniel stopped Maurer for a one yard loss but Maurer broke

free around the end on the next play for a 46 yard touchdown run. Maurer ran in the two point conversion and Glendale led 14-0 with 1:36 left in the first half.

The Mustangs were unable to move the ball and went into the locker room at halftime trailing the Pirates, 14-0.

Heppner received the second half kick-off with Gunderson returning it to the 28 yard line. Wilhelm ran for two and an offside penalty on Glendale took it to the 35. Geer then ran hard for 10 yards and a first down. Wilhelm then ran for eight more and Matheny for four yards and another first down.

The Mustangs' drive stalled there as Matheny was only able to pick up one yard on a fourth and two, giving the ball to Glendale at their own 33. Maurer ran for 12 yards, but then was held to one yard in two carries before fumbling the ball which Tim Sumner recovered at the 44 yard line.

Geer then ran for 11 yards and a first down to the 33. Geer carried for another eight yards and Matheny carried for three yards and another first down. Gunderson then ran for five yards and for four yards; Wilhelm ran for two more and a first down at the 11 yard line.

The Mustangs again stalled as Matheny was stopped for a one yard gain, an illegal motion penalty and three incomplete passes gave the ball back to Glendale at their own 15 with 1:44 left in the third quarter.

Glendale was unable to move the ball and had to punt. The Mustangs took over at their own 39 yard line after a clipping penalty. Geer ran for four yards and was stopped for no gain on second down, bringing up third and six at the end of the third quarter.

Matheny hit Gunderson for four yards on a swing pass and then Gunderson ran for two yards to just get the first down. Geer ran for three yards, Wilhelm ran for six more and Matheny sneaked for one to just get another first down.

Matheny then hit Jared Eckman on a nice pass and catch for 21 yards to the 19 yard line. Geer ran for five yards on two carries and Wilhelm was stopped for no gain to bring up a fourth and five with 7:12 left in the game and Heppner still trailing 14-0.

After a time-out, Matheny shovel passed to Gunderson for eight yards and a first and goal at the seven yard line. An offside penalty by Glendale moved the ball to the three yard line. Gunderson then took it in for the touchdown. Matheny was stopped just short of the goal line on the two point conversion attempt and with 7:01 left, it was now 14-6 with Glendale still in the lead.

Heppner tried an onside kick, and after some controversy on who had touched the ball first, Glendale had possession at the 35 of Heppner after an unsportsmanlike penalty.

Maurer ran for two yards then a holding penalty moved the ball back to the 43. Maurer ran around end for an apparent touchdown, but it was called back for a clip-

ping penalty. The Pirates then had the ball at the 50, with a second and 25. Foster hit Maurer on a screen pass, but Brian Burnside turned it into a six yard loss. Maurer then gained seven yards on a fourth down. The Mustangs took over at their own 10 yard line on the punt after a clipping penalty with 4:18 left, still trailing 14-6.

On first down, Wilhelm broke free for 23 yards. Then Matheny hit Evans on a nice pass for a 36 yard gain, down to Glendale's 31. Gunderson ran for six yards, Geer for two and then Wilhelm ran for four yards and a first down at the 18 with 1:58 left.

Wilhelm ran for three yards, Matheny for one and Geer for four, bringing up fourth and one at the 10 yard line. Gunderson then ran four yards to the six, then five more to the one foot line. Matheny then sneaked it in for the touchdown with 18.3 seconds left. The two point conversion pass was just out of reach of Evans and the Mustangs fell just short, 14-12.

Heppner ended a very successful season with an 8-3 record, finishing in the top eight in the state.

The Mustangs' defense, which completely shut Glendale down in the second half, was again led by seniors Travis Wilhelm and Brian Burnside with 11 defensive points each. Junior Tim Dickenson also had 11 points. Senior Tim Sumner and sophomore Clint Bellamy had nine points each. Juniors Shane Matheny and Casey Evans had six points each.

The Mustangs rushed 44 times for 231 yards, led by sophomore Levi Geer's 14 carries for 76 yards. Wilhelm carried 15 times for 70 yards. Matheny rushed 12 times for 38 yards, and Derek Gunderson ran 12 times for 34 yards. Sophomore Michael Schonbachler had one carry for 13 yards.

Matheny passed 13 times, completing seven, for 88 yards, and had one interception. Gunderson passed once but did not complete it.

Gunderson had three receptions for 17 yards, Evans caught two for 47 yards, junior Jared Eckman caught one pass for 21 yards, and Schonbachler had one for three yards.

The Pirates rushed 32 times for 165 yards, with Maurer getting 115 yards on 21 carries. Foster was five for eight for 25 yards and no interceptions.

**STATISTICS:**  
Heppner: 0-0-0-12 12  
Glendale: 6-8-0-0 14  
First quarter: Glendale-Curtis Foster two yard run (run failed).  
Second quarter: Glendale-Todd Maurer 46 yard run (Maurer run).  
Fourth quarter: Heppner-Derek Gunderson three yard run (run failed). Shane Matheny one yard run (pass failed).  
Individual rushing: Heppner-Levi Geer 14-76, Travis Wilhelm 15-70, Matheny 12-

38, Gunderson 12-34, Michael Schonbachler 1-13, 44-231. Glendale-Maurer 21-115, Brian Kirkland 2-41, Foster 6-3, Kevin Cline 3-6.  
Individual passing: Heppner-Matheny 7-13-1-88, Gunderson 0-1-0-0. Glendale-Foster 5-8-0-25.  
Individual receiving: Heppner-Gunderson 3-17, Casey Evans 2-47, Jared Eckman 1-21, Glendale-Luke Deavers 1-19, Kirkland 1-11, Cline 1-2, Justin Dekrueger 1-1, Maurer 1-(-8).

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