

## Mustangs finish regular season unbeaten at 9-0, blast Rockets 41-0

By Rick Paullus

The second-ranked Heppner Mustangs ended their regular season with a perfect 9 and 0 record by beating the visiting Pilot Rock Rockets, 41 to 0, on a cold and rainy Friday night, Nov. 5.

The Mustangs will host a first-round 2A State play-off game on Saturday, Nov. 13, beginning at 1 p.m.

Heppner's defense held the Rockets after the opening kick-off, forcing a punt which Craig Scott returned 84 yards to the Pilot Rock nine-yard line. Michael McCabe picked up three yards to set up a six-yard touchdown run by Michael Schonbachler. The extra point kick was no good and the Mustangs held an early 6-0 lead.

Neither team could make much ground the rest of the first quarter although Blake Knowles made a nice catch of a pass from Ryan Matteson good for 28 yards.

The Mustangs took over at their own 34-yard line after another Rocket punt to begin the second quarter. Scott picked up seven yards and McCabe ran for three and a first down.

McCabe ran for nine and Schonbachler went for three more and another first down. Matteson then hit Knowles for 26 yards and McCabe went for 15 down to the two-yard line. Scott then took it in for the touchdown and ran in the two point conversion to give the Mustangs a 14-0 lead.

The Rockets again failed to pick up a first down and were forced to punt which was downed at the Mustangs' 15-yard line. Scott went for six then five and a first down. McCabe went for three then took a screen pass from Matteson for 17 yards to the 47. McCabe then ran for 14, then six more. Matteson went for two and McCabe ran for three and a first down. Faced with a

fourth and four at the 21, Scott went for five yards and the first down. Levi Geer ran for three, then McCabe took a shuffle pass from Matteson and took it 13 yards for the touchdown, running over two defenders along the way. Knowles kicked the extra point to give the Mustangs a 21-0 lead.

On the Rockets' next possession, Scott picked off a pass and returned it 18 yards to the 40-yard line. The Rockets then picked off a Matteson pass with 15 seconds left. He then returned the favor with a pick of his own as the half ended.

The Mustangs came out on fire to start the second half as McCabe returned the kick off 37 yards to the 41. Schonbachler then took the hand-off, broke outside, and scampered 41 yards for the touchdown. The conversion run failed and the Mustangs led 27-0 early in the third quarter.

Clint Bellamy recovered a rocket fumble at the Pilot Rock 42 after the kick-off. Matteson hit Stefan Matheny for 11 yards and a pass interference penalty took it down to the rocket 20 yard line, but the drive stalled and Pilot Rock took over on downs.

The Mustangs got the ball back at their own 16 after a punt and Matteson ran for eight, then 17 yards. McCabe and Geer each went for eight, then McCabe ran three times for 14 yards, but the Rocket defense stiffened and took over on downs.

Pilot Rock moved the ball down the field on their only sustained drive but Matteson intercepted a pass in the end zone to end the threat.

Each team traded punts before the Mustangs got the ball back at the Rocket 45. After a short gain by Geer, Schonbachler took a

pass from Matteson and ran 22 yards. McCabe went for eight, then Geer ran for 12. McCabe then went in from three yards out for his second touchdown. The two-point run failed and the Mustangs led 33-0 midway through the fourth quarter.

On the Rockets' next possession, Scott picked off his second pass of the game at the Mustangs 16-yard line.

After a 15-yard penalty, Geer and Brad Adams each ran for 11 yards. Travis Bellamy then ran twice for 12 yards, Brad Adams went twice for 16 yards and Donald Adams ran for 16 yards. Brad Adams took it the final four yards for the touchdown.

Nick Anthony hit Bellamy for the two-point conversion to make the final score 41 to 0.

The Mustangs' defense, which held Pilot Rock to 126 yards total offense, was led by Scott with 17 points. Clint Bellamy and Schonbachler each had 16, Matteson, 14, and Geer ended up with 13 points.

McCabe led all rushers with 93 yards on 17 carries and two touchdowns. Schonbachler had five carries for 50 yards and two touchdowns.

Matteson ended up 6 for 19 for 122 yards and a touchdown. Knowles had two receptions

for 54 yards.

**Statistics**  
Pilot Rock 0 0 0 0-0  
Heppner 6 15 6 14-41

**First quarter**  
Hep-Michael Schonbachler 6 yard run (kick failed) 9:43

**Second quarter**  
Hep- Craig Scott 2 yard run (Scott run) 9:40  
Hep- Michael McCabe 13 yard pass from Ryan Matteson (Blake Knowles) 1:11

**Third quarter**  
Hep- Schonbachler 41 yard run (run failed) 11:44

**Fourth quarter**  
Hep - McCabe 3 yard run (run failed) 7:12  
Hep - Brad Adams 4 yard run (Travis Bellamy pass from Nick Anthony) :35

**Individual statistics**  
Rushing - Pilot Rock - Eric Stelk 1-21, Seth Cristiansen 5-19, Bobby Humphreys 2-7, Kelly Jobs 3-4, John Ellis 2-0, Troy Sampson 5-(15).

Heppner - McCabe 17-93, Schonbachler 5-50, Scott 9-41, Matteson 7-38, Levi Geer 6-37, B. Adams 4-31, Donald Adams 1-16, T. Bellamy 2-12.

Passing - P.R. - Sampson 6-19-2-51, Humphreys 0-2-1, Stelk 0-1-1. Heppner- Matteson 6-19-1-122.

Receiving - P.R. - Christiansen 3-26, Humphreys 3-10. Heppner - Knowles 2-54, McCabe 2-30, Schonbachler 1-22, Stefan Matheny 1-11.

## Mustangs to face familiar foe in first round

By Rick Paullus

The Scio Loggers will be making their second trip of the season to Heppner to face the Mustangs this weekend. The Loggers traveled to Heppner for the first game of the season with the Mustangs coming out on top, 29-16. This time there will be more on the line as it is the first round of the State 2A play-offs.

In the first game the Mustangs overcame five fumbles to come from behind to defeat the Loggers. The Loggers finished the season tied for first with Colton and Regis and ended up second on the coin flip. Regis ended up first with Colton missing out on the play-offs.

Scio is predominately a running team and has two backs who rushed for over a 1000 yards to help them to a 7 and 2 overall record.

The Mustangs were led by junior Craig Scott's 1,004 yards rushing on 101 carries, scoring 13 touchdowns. Sophomore Michael McCabe rushed 105 times for 801 yards and 15 touchdowns. Seniors Michael Schonbachler and Levi Geer

contributed 331 yards and 249 yards respectively.

Quarterback Ryan Matteson, a junior, completed 44 of 98 passes for 650 yards and eight touchdowns with just three interceptions.

Matteson also rushed for 177 yards and six touchdowns.

Junior Blake Knowles caught eight passes for 148 yards and two touchdowns. McCabe also caught eight passes out of the backfield for 154 yards and two touchdowns. Scott also caught eight passes for 97 yards. Junior Joe Papineau caught seven passes for 135 yards and two touchdowns and sophomore Stefan Matheny had seven receptions for 137 yards and a touchdown.

The defense was led by seniors Clint Bellamy, Jake Roy, Josh Hill, Schonbachler and Geer; juniors Knowles, Papineau, Scott, Matteson and Matt Baker and sophomores McCabe and Matheny.

Game time is at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 13 at the Morrow County fairgrounds in Heppner.



Mustang end Joe Papineau (90) leads the blocking for running back Craig Scott (23) during Friday's game against Pilot Rock. No. 10 is Stefan Matheny.

photo by Joyce Hughes

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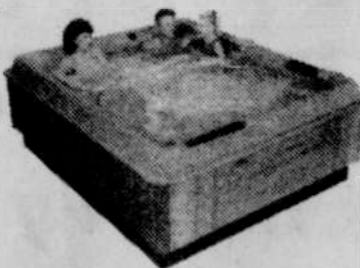
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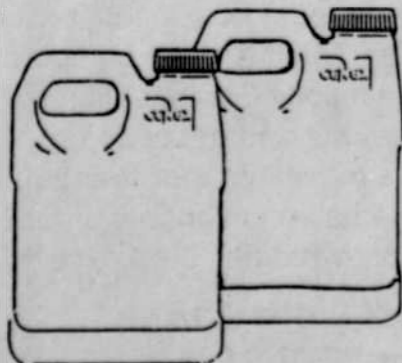
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