

Big first half carries Mustangs past Oakridge

By Rick Paullus

Two touchdowns in the last 36 seconds of the second quarter helped the Heppner Mustangs to a 34-7 halftime lead they carried to a 46-7 win over the Oakridge Warriors in the quarter-finals of the OSAA State 2A football championships on Saturday, Nov. 17, in Oakridge.

The Mustangs advance to the semi-finals where they face the number-one, three-time defending state champions, the Amity Warriors, Saturday, Nov. 24, at Hare Field in Hillsboro. The Mustangs (10-1) lost to the Warriors (11-0) in their third game of the year, 14-7, in Heppner.

The Mustangs' line of Brian Rust, Travis Bellamy, Brad Bowman, Leland Rill, Adam Bergstrom, Conor Kilkenny, David Norton, Kelly Paullus and Luke Murray dominated

the line of scrimmage as they out-gained Oakridge with 469 yards, 252 rushing and 24 first downs to 212 yards.

The ninth-ranked Oakridge Warriors started out going backwards as David Norton rushed in from his defensive end position and tackled the running back for a six-yard loss on first down. Faced with third and long, the Warriors' Uni Prenevost broke free and sprinted down the sideline for a 69-yard touchdown, with the extra point making it 7-0 Oakridge in the opening minutes of the game.

Michael McCabe returned the kick-off 20 yards to the 35, then carried twice for 14 yards and a first down. A motion penalty backed the Mustangs up but Brad Adams picked up the five yards. Chuy Elguezabal was sacked for a eight-yard loss to

bring up third and long. McCabe took a screen pass from Elguezabal 31 yards to the Warriors' 28-yard line. The Warriors jumped offside and, after a short gain by McCabe, he took it in from 21 yards out for his first touchdown. The kick was no good, so the Warriors still led 7-6 midway through the first quarter.

The Mustangs' defense held the Warriors to one yard in three plays to force a punt, taking over at their own 35. Adams ran for three, Elguezabal hit Stefan Matheny for 18 yards, then McCabe for 10 more and another first down. Adams ran twice for 11 yards to the 22 yard line, McCabe went for six, Kyle Lovgren for 14 yards and a first down at the three. Adams was stopped just short of the end zone but McCabe took it in for his second touchdown. The two-point conversion attempt was no good, but the Mustangs led 12-7 late in the first quarter.

On the Mustangs' onside kick, Brian Rust made a hit to jar the ball loose which Adams recovered at the Warriors' 47-yard line. After an incomplete pass, Elguezabal threw a lateral pass to McCabe who hit a wide open Matheny for a 43-yard gain to the four-yard line. McCabe took it in for his third touchdown and Elguezabal ran in the two-point conversion to make it 20-7 at the end of the first quarter.

A good return by Prenevost helped the Warriors move the ball deep into Mustang territory but the defense finally held to bring up fourth down. Conor Kilkenny then blocked a field goal attempt which was recovered by Rust at the Oakridge 27-yard line. The Mustangs were unable to move the ball and had to punt. The defense held and the Mustangs took over at their own 32 after a short Warriors' punt.

Elguezabal hit McCabe for 13 yards on a third and 10, then again for eight more yards. McCabe ran for three yards and first down, then ran 11 more and another first down with 1:30 left in the first half. A delay of game penalty and a holding penalty took the ball back to the 47 of Oakridge. McCabe picked up two, then Elguezabal found Matheny behind the Warriors' defense for a 51-yard touchdown pass. McCabe ran in the two-point conversion to make it 28-7 with 36 seconds left in the first half.

Matheny then picked off a Warrior pass at the Mustangs' 49 and a pass interference penalty moved it down to the 36. McCabe took a pass from Elguezabal and made a great effort to get into the end zone to make it 34-7.

Travis Bellamy recovered another onside kick as the first half ended.

Adams recovered a Warriors' onside kick at the Mustangs 48-yard line to open the second half. McCabe ran for 13 but a face mask penalty



photo by Joyce Hughes

David Norton makes tackle on Oakridge player during Mustang victory Saturday

took the ball to the 23. Adams ran for 10, then after an offside penalty McCabe ran for three to the five. A hold took it back to the 20. Elguezabal hit Matheny for 16, but was short of a first down, so the Warriors took over.

Adam Bergstrom, Kilkenny and Adams combined to hold the Warriors to no gain and force a punt which McCabe returned to the 25. McCabe took it in from there, getting a good down field block from Kelly Paullus for his fourth rushing touchdown. The kick was no good, but the Mustangs led 40-7 midway through the third quarter.

The Mustangs' defense held again and Elguezabal made a tackle on a fake punt to give the Mustangs the ball at the Warriors' 32-yard line. Adams went for five, McCabe, 11, and Matheny on an end-around for nine more. After a delay penalty, McCabe went for five, Elguezabal for two and McCabe took it in from three yards out for his fifth rushing touchdown of the game. The extra point pass failed and the Mustangs led 46-7 late in the third.

The Warriors moved the ball until Kilkenny had a sack for a four-yard loss. Bellamy made a tackle for a another four-yard loss, then another for a six and loss on fourth down.

The Mustangs gave the ball right back on a fumble, their only turnover of the game, at the Oakridge 45. The Warriors drove to the five, but Elguezabal intercepted a pass in the end zone to end the drive.

Lovgren ran for three, McCabe for five, then three more and a first down. He broke free for 17 yards and 20 more to move the ball down into Oakridge territory. Tyler Boyer ran for one, Donald Adams, two, Lovgren, six, and Tanner Britt for two and a first down. A personal foul penalty on the Warriors took it down to the 11. David Flynn ran for two, but the Warriors held and took over on downs.

Elguezabal picked off another pass with 16 seconds left and the

Mustangs ran out the clock to move into the semi-finals for the first time since 1992 when they won the state championship over Vale.

McCabe led all rushers with 178 yards on 22 carries and five touchdowns. He also caught six passes for another 89 yards and a touchdown. Adams ran eight times for 47 yards and Lovgren four times for 28 yards.

Matheny caught four passes for 128 yards and a touchdown as Elguezabal hit nine of 16 passes for 174 yards and two touchdowns and no interceptions.

Oakridge's Prenevost ended up with 128 yards on 11 carries.

The Mustangs' defense was led by Adams and Elguezabal with 18 points apiece and Bellamy and Kilkenny with 16 points each. Matheny had 15, Rust, 14, Norton and Lovgren, 11 each, and Bergstrom, 10.

The Mustangs' scout team, consisting of quarterback Tanner Britt and running backs Tyler Boyer, Jode Coil, Aaron Delveaux and David Flynn, and ends Justin Botefuhr and Zack Skaggs, has done a tremendous job of getting the

varsity ready for their opponents, especially the last two games. They will have a big job "being Amity" this week. Linemen Ben Turrell, Brian Haguewood, Darren Van Cleave, Robert Whalen, Trevor Rhea, Brian Smith, Judd Lemmon and Aaron Lueck also play a big role.

Statistics
Heppner: 20 14 12 0 - 46
Oakridge: 7 0 0 0 - 7

First Quarter
Oakridge-Uni Prenevost 69 yard run (Rodalpho Alcanter kick) 10:32; Heppner-Michael McCabe 21 yard run (kick failed) 6:30; McCabe one yard run (pass failed) 4:48; McCabe four yard run (Chuy Elguezabal run) :03.

Second Quarter
Heppner-Stefan Matheny 51 yard pass from Elguezabal (McCabe run) :36; McCabe 36 yard pass from Elguezabal (kick failed) :08.

Third Quarter
Heppner-McCabe 25 yard run (kick failed) 7:23; McCabe three yard run (pass failed) 3:20.

Individual Statistics
Rushing: Heppner-McCabe 22-178, Brad Adams 8-47, Kyle Lovgren 4-28, Tyler Boyer 2-1, Matheny 1-9, Tanner Britt 1-2, Donald Adams 1-2, David Flynn 1-2, Aaron Delveaux 1-0, Elguezabal 2(-6); Oakridge-Prenevost 11-128, Michael Dibbert 6-16, Clint Rhea 2-10, Matt Zollman 1-9, Brad Smith 1-1, Jeff McLaughlin 5(-4), Stefan Bolin 3(-5).
Passing: Heppner-Elguezabal 9-16-0 174, McCabe 1-1-0 43, Britt 0-1-0 0; Oakridge-Bolin 3-15-3 59.
Receiving: Heppner-Matheny 4-128, McCabe 6-89; Oakridge-Prenevost 1-27, McLaughlin 1-25, Qhad Robb 1-7.

Auction benefits Matheny family



Don Bristow is auctioneer for Ione United Church of Christ benefit auction for the David and Patty Matheny family.

A benefit baked goods auction was held on Sunday, Nov. 18, following worship service at the Ione United Church of Christ. The event raised \$1,496 for Dave Matheny and his family. He was critically injured in a horse riding accident in September.

Church members and friends donated cinnamon rolls, caramel corn, homemade candy, pies, cakes, rolls and cookies which were auctioned off by Don Bristow. There

weren't many bargains to be had, with a plate of cookies fetching \$15.

In addition to all of the auction proceeds, the Ione UCC is also donating \$100 from the Mission and Outreach fund and the Youth Group is adding \$200 from their summer fund raiser.

A Youth Group member said, "We want Stefan and his family to know how much we care about them."

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes
Chamber Executive Director

Volunteers, you are top notch. The fog rolled in, it was mitted weather and there you all were putting the lights on the trees. Some of you were probably thinking, "Why did I ever buy a tree," or "Some gift this was." Well, if it weren't for you, it wouldn't be "beginning to look a lot like Christmas". You make the difference as each of you gave a positive "yes" when Pat Edmundson makes her annual calls asking you to light your trees or those of others. You are one of the many things we have to be thankful for this holiday season.

Congratulations Mustangs. You put Heppner on the map in a positive way, win or lose, and you won. The Chamber wishes you the best in the weekend game. It is hoped our team will be part of the annual Light Parade on Thursday, Nov. 29, when Heppner businesses roll out the red carpet with open houses, goodies and drawings during Stroll Heppner. There's plenty of time to put together a light parade entry. Prizes will be \$150, \$100, \$50, with a special Kris Kringle award.

Looking for historians to respond to a Chamber e-mail correspondence. A gentleman recently acquired an early 50's Danelectro guitar amplifier and the stamped date code matches up to a mid-1953 "Heppner". He was wondering if it was made in Heppner, so if anyone has a clue, give the Chamber a call. We aim to please.

Next week the Chamber program will be the video "Klamath Crisis Update" at John's Other Place at noon.

Wishing you a wonderful Thanksgiving with gratitude for our freedoms, family and friends, this community and the many blessings that abound.

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Ingrown Toenails?

Dr. Donald J. Carlson, Foot Specialist will be at the Pioneer Memorial Clinic on November 28th for the diagnosis of this and other foot problems.

Call 676-5504 - Heppner
or 567-8750 - Hermiston

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ENTRY RULES:

- All motorized entries must be OPERATED BY A LICENSED DRIVER.
- Due to danger and insurance issues, no entrants under 16 are allowed. Children are allowed to ride on adult floats.
- NO persons will be allowed to ride on the outside of autos or wagons.
- ALL entrants, by entering the parade, agree to maintain suitable insurance which will respond on their behalf and on behalf of the Parade sponsors, for any injury or damage caused by the entrant.
- The entrant also agrees they are participating in the parade at their own risk and agrees to hold the City harmless for any injury or damage which occurs.
- NO candy is to be thrown from vehicles during the parade
- NO GO CARTS allowed.
- Line up at Green Feed and Seed at 5 p.m.

I have read and agree to abide by the above parade rules.

SIGNED: _____
(sponsor or other responsible party)