

Mustangs roll past Rockets at Homecoming



Aaron Delveaux (42) gains yardage against the Pilot Rock Rockets. photo by Teresa Hughes (more game photos at www.heppner.net)

By Rick Paullus

A stingy defense helped the Heppner Mustangs roll past the visiting Pilot Rock Rockets 48-0 on Homecoming night, Friday, Sept. 26 in Columbia Basin Conference play. The Mustangs (2-0 in the CBC and 4-0 overall) held the Rockets to 58 total yards while racking up 478 yards, 335 on the ground.

The Mustangs started out in great field position after forcing a punt that was downed at the Pilot Rock 34-yard line. They went right to work as Tyler Boyer ran for four yards then took a pass from Chuy Elguezabal 15 yards. Tyler Lovgren ran for three then Aaron Delveaux took a swing pass from Elguezabal 12 yards for a touchdown. Lovgren kicked the extra point to make it 7-0 early in the first quarter.

Another deep kick-off pinned the Rockets back at their 10-yard line and the Mustangs forced another punt, which was downed at

the Pilot Rock thirty-one. After a motion penalty Boyer carried three times for 19 yards before Lovgren broke free for a 17-yard touchdown run. Lovgren's kick was good to make it 14-0 with 5:35 left in the first quarter.

After a failed outside kick gave the Rockets good field position, the defense forced another punt that was downed at the Mustangs' 12-yard line. The offense took over from there as Boyer ran for five and after a motion penalty ran for eleven more and a first down, as the first quarter ended. Lovgren picked up seven, Boyer two, Elguezabal picked up three before Lovgren broke free for 22 yards. Boyer ran twice for 19 yards, Lovgren ran for eleven, Matt Kenny ran for six, and an offside penalty took the ball to the four where Lovgren took it in for the touchdown. His kick was good to make it 21-0 with 8:30 left in the first half.

The defense held again as back-to-back sacks by Brian Smith and Zack Skaggs brought up a fourth

down and long forcing a punt that was downed at the Rocket forty-four.

Lovgren ran twice for seven yards, Delveaux picked up two and Elguezabal picked up one and a first down. Delveaux ran for seven, Elguezabal picked up thirteen on a bootleg then hit Lovgren on a 16-yard touchdown pass. The kick was no good but the Mustangs held a comfortable 27-0 lead at the half.

Elguezabal started the second half by returning the kick-off to the Pilot Rock 46-yard line to give the Mustangs good field position again. Cody Walton picked up seven before Lovgren broke through the middle for a 39-yard touchdown run. His kick was good to make it 34-0 less than a minute into the third quarter.

Delveaux picked off a Rocket pass on their next possession and returned it to the Mustang 28-yard line. Walton ran twice for 24 yards and Lovgren rushed twice for 10 yards, but a fumble gave the ball back to the Rockets at their 35-yard line.

The defense held again forcing a punt, but a penalty and a bad snap out of the shotgun gave the ball back to the Rockets. The defense came up solid again as they took over on downs at their own 38-yard line. Boyer ran for seven, Elguezabal ran for five, and then hit Justin Botefuhr for 21 yards. Boyer

gained 21 yards on a pass from Elguezabal and after an offside penalty on the Rockets, Walton took it in the end zone from four yards out. Quinn Peck ran the two-point conversion in to make it 42-0 early in the fourth quarter.

Walton tackled the kick returner at the 10-yard line on the kick-off and Kenny picked off a pass at the 11-yard line, but the Mustangs were unable to move the ball, giving it back to the Rockets at the 24-yard line.

Mikel Britt recovered a fumble on the next play, but the Mustangs fumbled the ball right back to the Rockets.

The defense held again forcing a punt that was downed at the Heppner 12-yard line. Justin Delveaux ran for 10, Peck picked up seven, Brendan McElligott ran twice for 10 yards and Matthew VanCleave ran for seven yards. VanCleave then hit Kory Paullus who broke free down the sideline for a 58-yard touchdown. The run failed, but the Mustangs led 48-0 with 2:20 left.

Boyer led the defense with 19 defensive points, with Lovgren adding 15 point and Skaggs 14 points. Brian Haguewood had 13 points, Kenny 12 points, Rory Kilkenny 10 points and Elguezabal and Peter Geer each had nine points.

Lovgren finished with 121 yards on 11 carries. Boyer had 97 yards on 14 carries and Walton picked up 49 yards on six carries.

Elguezabal completed six of nine passes for 87 yards, with Boyer having two receptions for 36 yards and Lovgren catching two passes for 16 yards.

The Mustangs will be at Wahtonka on Friday, Oct. 3, beginning at 7 p.m.

Heppner 14 13 7 14-48

Pilot Rock 0 0 0 0-0

First Quarter
Heppner- Aaron Delveaux 12-yard pass from Chuy Elguezabal (Tyler Lovgren kick) 8:25.

Heppner- Lovgren 17-yard run (Lovgren kick).

Second Quarter
Heppner- Lovgren four-yard run (Lovgren kick).

Heppner- Lovgren 17-yard pass from Elguezabal (kick failed) 3:26.

Third Quarter
Heppner- Lovgren 39-yard run (Lovgren kick).

Fourth Quarter
Heppner- Cody Walton four-yard run (Quinn Peck run) 11:44.

Heppner- Kory Paullus 58-yard pass from Matthew VanCleave (run failed) 2:20.

First Downs: Heppner 19, Pilot Rock 5; **Rushes-yards:** Heppner 49-335, Pilot Rock 26-37; **Passing yards:** Heppner 143, Pilot Rock 21; **Passes:** Heppner 7-12-0, Pilot Rock 7-19-2; **Fumbles-lost:** Heppner 2-2, Pilot Rock 3-2; and **Penalties-yards:** Heppner 14-110, Pilot Rock 6-21.

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Heppner- Lovgren 11-121, Tyler Boyer 14-

97, Walton 6-49, Matt Kenny 2-14, Peck 2-12, Brendan McElligott 3-10, A. Delveaux 3-9, Justin Delveaux 1-10, Elguezabal 5-23, and VanCleave 2-10; Pilot Rock- Phillip Perrine 12-57, Josh Wallis 3-2, Phillip King 1-4, Mitch Byrnes 4-(-20), Dan Ellis 3-(-2), Allan Howard 2-(-3), and Michael Krosting 1-(-1).

Passing: Heppner- Elguezabal 6-9-0 87 yards, VanCleave 1-2-0 58 yards and Aaron Griffith 0-1-0-0; Pilot Rock Byrnes 7-19-2 21 yards.

Receiving: Heppner- Boyer 2-36, Lovgren 2-16, Paullus 1-58, Justin Botefuhr 1-21 and A. Delveaux 1-12.

Heppner JVs beat Wahtonka

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustang JV football team improved to 2 and 1 on the year with a 22-0 win over the Wahtonka Eagles on Monday, Sept. 22 in The Dalles.

The Mustangs started the year with a 42-24 loss to the Riverside Pirates on Thursday, Sept. 11 in Boardman. The Mustangs held an 18-14 halftime lead on two touchdown runs by Matthew VanCleave and one by Kory Paullus, but the Pirates rallied with 28 second-half points. The only Mustang score come on a hitch-and-pitch from Kody Lovgren to Paullus for a 70-yard touchdown late in the fourth quarter.

The Mustangs next played the Grant Union Prospectors at home on Thursday, Sept. 18 and took an exciting 14-12 win in the final seconds. The Mustangs scored first as Paullus took an interception from his own five to inside the Prospectors five and Casey Maben took it in for the touchdown. The two-point conversion was good to make it 8-0, but the Prospectors came back to score two touchdowns to take a 12-8 lead late in the fourth quarter. The Mustangs drove down the field and scored on a 25-yard pass from Quinn Peck to Maben with 12 seconds left to give them the win.

At Wahtonka, the Mustangs scored all their points in the first half on a touchdown by Matt Kenny and a touchdown and two-point conversion by Peck and Maben.

The Mustangs will play at Hermiston on Monday, Oct. 6 at 5 p.m. against the freshman.

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Ponies used a stingy defense and turnovers to blank the visiting Pilot Rock Rockets 21-0 on Friday, Sept. 26. The Ponies, now 3 and 0 on the year, will be at Irrigon to play the Columbia Raiders "A" team on Friday, Oct. 3, at 3 p.m.

The Ponies took the opening kick-off and went to work as Matt McCabe ran twice for 13 yards then broke outside on a sweep for 30 yards. McCabe picked up six more yards to the eight-yard line. Spencer Palmer took it to the one, but the Mustangs lost

four yards on the next play, but Palmer took it in for the touchdown. Eric Skaggs kicked the extra point to make it 7-0.

Matt Holland picked off a Rocket pass after the kickoff and returned it 15 yards to the Pilot Rock 27-yard line. On fourth and long McCabe picked up 12 yards to the thirteen, but the Rockets defense stiffened and took over on downs.

The Ponies forced a punt, which Palmer took in at his 40-yard line, broke a tackle and picking up some good blocks took it 60 yards for a touchdown. Skaggs' kick was good to make it 14-0.

The Ponies again forced a punt and went to work again with McCabe picking up seven, Palmer fifteen and Lane Bailey hit McCabe for a 15-yard gain. The Rockets ended the drive with an interception in the end zone that was brought out to the five-yard line.

The defense took over though as Jake Van Doorn rushed in and batted the ball into the air and Taylor Hodges gathered it at the one and took it in the end zone for a touchdown. Skaggs' kick was again good and the Ponies led 21-0 at the half.

The Rockets took the second half kick-off and put together their best drive getting inside the Ponies twenty-five before the defense stiffened. Bailey and Jason Wainwright had quarterback sacks on successive plays and the Ponies took over on downs at their 25-yard line.

Palmer ran three times for 41 yards, but the drive stalled and the Rockets took over on downs.

The teams traded turnovers, then the Ponies fumbled, but Holland came right back with an interception to give them back the ball. Palmer ran twice for 21 yards, but two fumbled shotgun snaps in a row lost 25 yards. Snapper ran for 10 yards, but on the play the Rockets quarterback was injured and the game was called with 2:00 left, giving the Ponies the 21-0 win.

Heppner 7 14 0 21
Pilot Rock 0 0 0 0-0

First Quarter
Heppner- Spencer Palmer five-yard run (Eric Skaggs kick).

Second Quarter
Heppner- Palmer 60-yard punt return (Skaggs kick).
Heppner- Taylor Hodges one-yard interception return (Skaggs kick).

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