

# Vikings End Mustangs run, 41-6

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustangs great season came to an abrupt end at the hands of the Vale Vikings in the semifinals of the US Bank/Les Schwab OSAA Class 2A football playoffs by a score of 41-6 in Hillsboro on Saturday, Dec. 3. The Mustangs who ended the year with an 11 and 1 record, were led by seniors Kyle Carlson, Matt Kenny, Rory Kilkenny, Peter Geer, Mikel Britt, Matt VanCleave and James Van Liew who ended their high school football careers on the carpet at Hillsboro Stadium.

Things didn't start out bad for the Mustangs as they forced the Vikings to punt on their first possession helped by a quarterback sack from Kilkenny and they took over at the Vale 41 yard line after a 10 yard return by Matt McCabe. The Mustangs were unable to move the ball though and Vale took over at their 18-yard line after a punt.

Quinn Peck then picked off a Vale pass and returned it 25 yards to the Viking 23 yard line and the Mustangs were back in business. The momentum quickly changed however as a fumbled pitch was scooped up by the Vikings Luke Skerjaneec at the twenty-five and ran untouched 75 yards for the games first touchdown. The extra point was good and the Mustangs trailed 7-0 late in the first quarter.

The Mustangs were forced to punt on their next possession with Vale taking over at their 28-yard line to start the second quarter. The Vikings then drove down the field scoring on a Skerjaneec two yard run.

The Vikings got the ball back by forcing a fumble on a quarterback sack and scored two plays later on a Skerjaneec 12 yard run and after the extra point kick was good, Vale held a 21-0 lead with 7:29 left in the first half.

The Mustangs took over at their own 34-yard line after the kick-off and after Kenny picked up six yards and McCabe eight they had their first down of the game at midfield. That was as far as they would get though they were forced to punt with the Vikings taking over at their 19-yard line.

They promptly drove down the field with Skerjaneec scoring his fourth touch down of the first half on a 17 yard pass from Brady Lovell. Will Maupin kicked his fourth extra point and the Vikings held a 28-0 lead late in the second quarter.

The Mustangs were able to pick up another first down as McCabe ran twice for 11 yards but time ran out before they could do anything with it.

The Mustangs were forced to punt on the initial possession of the third



Matt McCabe moves the ball against the Vikings defense

quarter but got the ball back when Nacho Elguezabal jumped on a Viking fumble at their own 16 yard line to end another Vale drive. Casey Maben went for three and Kenny went for eight to give the Mustangs a first down but the drive ended and they were forced to punt.

The Vikings started out at their own 29-yard line and drove down the field capping it with a Kyle Joyce three-yard run. The kick was good and the Vikings now led 35-0 midway through the third.

The Mustangs took over at their 17-yard line with Caleb Maben picking up three; Kenny five and an offside penalty gave them a first down at the 31-yard line. Two sacks later though the Mustangs were forced to punt with the Vikings taking over at the Heppner 44-yard line.

Kenny then jumped on a fumble at the forty-one to give the Mustangs the ball and begin their only scoring drive of the game. Caleb Maben sent for five with a late hit penalty taking the ball to the Viking 39 yard gain to the one. One second down, Peck fumbled the snap but picked it up and snuck in for the touchdown. The two-point conversion pass failed and the Mustangs trailed 35-6 early in the fourth quarter.

The onside kick attempt failed and the Vikings had good position at the Heppner 43-yard line. They took advantage of it driving to their final score on a Brennan Pilon 4 yard run. The kick was no good, but the Vikings had a 41-6 lead.

The Mustangs were forced to punt but got the ball back when Casey Maben jumped on a fumble at the Viking 43 yard line. They gave the ball back though as they were unable to pick up a first down with the Vikings taking over at their 37 yard line.

Kilkenny had another sack for a 7-yard loss forcing a Viking point that the Mustangs took at their 33-yard line. Peck hit Kilkenny for a 37-yard gain

to the Vale 30 yard line. Spencer Palmer went for three, Kenny picked up five, Caleb went for five more and a first down at the seventeen and Peck went for 11 yards to the six when time ran out for the Mustangs on the game and the season.

Kilkenny finished with 17 defensive points including four tackles for loss in his final game in a Mustang uniform with Kenny adding 13 points. Peck has 10 points, Casey Maben 12 points, VanCleave had 11 points and McCabe 9 points all in the first half as he sat out the second half with an injury to his neck.

Kenny ended up with 56 yards rushing on 16 carries with McCabe rushing five times for 24 yards.

Peck completed 2 of 7 passes for 70 yards, both of which went to Kilkenny.

**First Quarter**

Vale-Luke Skerjaneec 75 yard fumble return (Willy Maupin kick) 3:33

**Second Quarter**

Vale- Skerjaneec 2 yard run (Maupin kick) 8:29  
 Vale- Skerjaneec 11 yard run (Maupin kick) 7:49  
 Vale- Skerjaneec 16 yard pass from Brady Lovell (Maupin kick) 1:34

**Third Quarter**

Vale- Kyle Joyce 3 yard run (Maupin kick) 5:08

**Fourth Quarter**

Heppner- Quinn Peck 1 yard run (pass failed) 10:35  
 Vale- Brennan Pilon 4 yard run (kick failed) 8:35

**Team Statistics**

	Vale	Heppner
First Downs	19	10
Rushing yards	41-200	49-106
Passing yards	114	70
Total yards	314	176
Compl. att. int.	6-11-1	2-7-0
Fumbles-lost	3-3	2-2
Penalties-lost	5-35	2-20
Punts-yards	2-62	7-195
Punt returns-yards	3-27	2-10
Kick off returns yards	1-10	6-95
3 <sup>rd</sup> down conversions	4-8	3-13
Red Zone scoring	5-6	1-3
Possession time	20:33	27:27

**Individual Statistics**

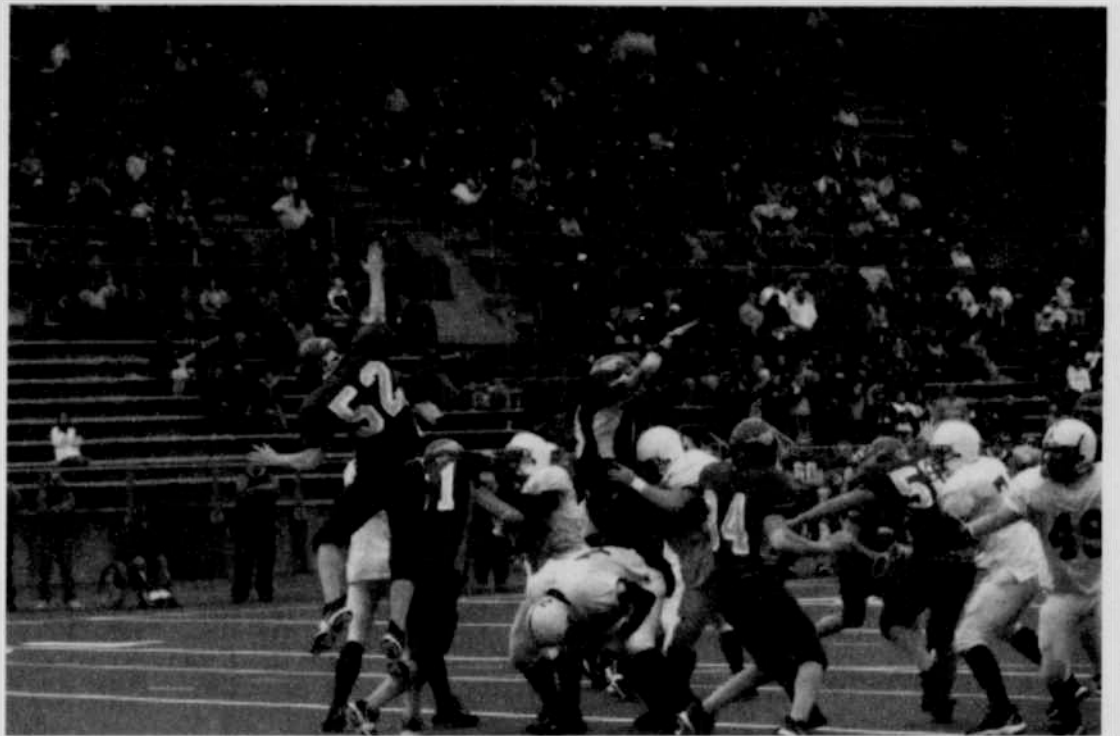
**Rushing-** Vale: Pilon 11-71, Skerjaneec 11-51, Lovell 8-47, Joyce 6-20, Hevner 1-17, Wilson 2-2, Zemmer 2-(-8).  
 Heppner: Matt Kenny 16-56, Matt McCabe 5-24, Caleb Maben 7-17, Casey Maben 7-13, Justin Delveaux 2-7, Spencer Palmer 2-7-0 70 yards.  
**Receiving-** Vale: Erickson 2:53, Skerjaneec 2-40, Shira 1-12, Noland 1-9.  
 Heppner: Rory Kilkenny 2-70.

## Heppner Little League meeting canceled

There will be no Heppner Little League meeting in December. The next meeting will be January 19, 7 p.m. at the Pettyjohn Building.



The Mustang Cheerleaders tried to keep the spirit high in Hillsboro



#52 Kyle Carlson tries for the block against a Viking field goal.

## Light Parade winners announced



One of the entries in the Light Parade

The winners of the 2005 Light Parade contest have been announced. They are as follows:

Commercial winner is the Morrow County Grain Growers. They will give their \$75 to the Oregon Trail Rodeo Court.

Community winner is the Pathfinders & Adventurers.

School winner is the Junior Class at Heppner High School.

Individual entry winner is Jack Milligan of Creekside Ranch.

Santa's Favorite is the pony cart with Makenzie Hughes and Macie Gibbs as riders.

Morrow County Grain Growers, Windwave, Columbia Basin Electric and Centuritel contribute to the prizes. Each of the winners is awarded \$75 with Santa's favorite earning \$50.

# 4.25%

APY\*

## 13-month CD

**Bank of Eastern Oregon**  
Member FDIC

\*APY (Annual Percentage Yield).  
 Minimum opening deposit and balance to receive disclosed APY is \$5,000.  
 Offer good December 1, 2005, through January 13, 2006.  
 Penalty for early withdrawal.  
 Cannot be combined with any other offer.

*Loftus Jewelers*

Is Your Christmas Gift Headquarters

The Harvest Wheat Pin has arrived at Loftus Jewelers!

Order your Wheat Pin for the one you love.

- Sterling Silver
- Gold Plate
- 14 kt. Gold

*Loftus*

6 months same as cash OAC

257 S. Main • Pendleton, OR  
 276-3715 • 1-800-585-3715

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM • Sat 10 AM - 5 PM • Sun. 12 PM - 4 PM

Loftus Jewelers Pendleton's oldest fine jewelry store.