

## Ione Cardinals take 53-33 win over Nixyawii

The Ione Cardinals got their first win of the season last Friday night, November 3, against the visiting Nixyawii Golden Eagles. Taking command from the opening kickoff, the Cardinals blasted out to a 26-0 lead in the first quarter on the way to a 53-33 win.

Junior Paul Hants, got things started with a 13-yard touchdown run in the early going, the first of his five TDs on the night. Hants ran for three scores and caught passes for the other two. The Cardinals had four touchdowns on the board by the time Nixyawii got to the end zone for the first time at the end of the first period, making the score 26-0. The teams traded scores in the second quarter making the score at halftime 32-16.

Stormy Kendrick returned the opening kickoff of the second half 75 yards for a score followed closely by another Paul Hants' touchdown run. Notable on the point after was that center, Kip Krebs, caught a pass on a center eligible play to score the two points. The Golden Eagles scored again, followed by yet another Paul Hants score. This time, the Cardinals' Matt Coleman successfully booted the extra point, the first kicking extra point scored by Ione in several years.

The game finished out with two Nixyawii scores in the fourth and the Cardinals celebrated their first win.

Paul I faros led the rushing attack with 162 yards on 14 carries. Also assisting was Montana Marlatt (10-61), Justin Archer (2-32), Clay Morter (2-41), Eric Masterson (4-31) and Stormy Kendrick (1-13.) The Cards racked up 340 rushing yards compared to just 101 for Nixyawii.

The Golden Eagles passed for the majority of their yardage, tallying 272 yards. For Ione, Justin Archer was 9 of 18 for 115 yards in passing with no interceptions and three touchdowns.

Paul Hants was the leading receiver, catching three passes for 49 yards and two scores. He was followed by Morter (2-30), Marlatt (1-24), Mark Davidson (2-9) and one TD) and Kip Krebs (1-3.)

The Cards totaled

455 yards of total offense while Nixyawii had a respectable 373.

Defensively, Montana Marlatt led the way for Ione with 15 tackles, six of those: unassisted. Kevin Fowler had 10 (four unassisted) and Eric Jepsen had eight (three unassisted).

"It was really good to get the win," said coach Dennis Stefani, "especially for the younger kids. They needed a victory. They want to carry this on into next year. This should be a confidence builder."

"The kids played very well. I have been very impressed, especially with the freshman and sophomores. They are starting to understand the fundamentals and learn the game," said Stefani. "You hate to have a losing season but on the positive side, the kids learned lot about football. Throughout the season, we saw a lot of good things. We played a lot of good halves and three quarters of football. We played a lot of teams close but just didn't finish the game with a win."

1<sup>st</sup> quarter: Ione—Hants 13-yard run, run failed. Archer, 30-yard run, Morter pass from Archer. Hants 26 yard pass from Archer, pass failed. Hants, 11-yard pass from Archer, kick failed. Nix—Foster, 57-yard pass from Kobzeff, Kobzeff run.

2<sup>nd</sup> quarter: Ione—Davidson. 11-yard pass from Archer, kick failed. Nix—Foster, 7-yard pass from Case, Foster run.

3<sup>rd</sup> quarter: Ione—Kendrick, 75-yard kickoff return, pass failed. Hants, 8-yard run, Krebs pass from Archer. Nix—Kobzeff 1 yard run, run failed. Ione—Hants 22 yard run—Coleman kick

4<sup>th</sup> quarter: Nix—Foster 8-yard pass from Kobzeff, run failed. Nix—Sherman 54-yard run, Kobzeff run

Rushing: P. Hants 14-162 Marlatt 10-61 Morter 2-41 Archer 2-32 Masterson 4-31 Kendrick 1-13 Jepsen 1-0

Passing: Archer 9-18-1 15, 3 TD Hants 0-1 Ramos 0-1

Receiving: Hants 3-49 Morter 2-30 Marlatt 1-24 Davidson 2-9 Krebs 1-3

## Mustangs run to the BMC title



Heppner Mustang senior players and their first-place district plaque. Photo by Sandy Matthews.



Senior players' mothers entertained the crowd during half time of the Mustang football game. Photo by Sandy Matthews.



No. 23 Matt McCabe and No. 24 Casey Maben head for the goal line during Friday night's game against Elgin. Photo by Sandy Matthews.

By Rick Paullus

In rushing for 359 yards with senior Casey Maben gaining 185 of those yards on 24 carries, the Heppner Mustangs beat the visiting Elgin Huskies, 42-14, on Friday, Nov. 3, to claim the inaugural Blue Mountain Conference title with a perfect 7-0 record. The Mustangs, 8-2 overall, won their eighth straight conference title, the first seven in the old Columbia Basin Conference. They will have a home game in the first round of the State Class 2A playoffs with Lost River, the third seed out of the Southern Cascade League, for the second year in a row.

The Huskies took the opening kickoff but couldn't move the ball. The Mustangs took over at their own 23-yard line following the punt. They then went on a 15-play, 77 yard drive, overcoming two false start penalties, for their first touchdown. Casey Maben went for three, Colton Hanson recovered a fumbled snap to set up a third and five, and after a false start, Lane Bailey hit Dennis Kenny for a 26-yard gain and a first down at the 49-yard

line. Bailey ran twice for six, Maben ran for two, and on fourth and inches, he went for two more and the first down. After an incomplete pass, Matt McCabe caught a six-yard pass from Quinn Peck, Maben picked up three, and on fourth down he went for seen more and a first down at the 24-yard line. Maben ran twice for four yards and Bailey went for four. After a false start, Maben went for 22 yards to the end zone. Tim Hauer booted the extra point to make it 7-0 late in the first quarter.

On the Huskies' next possession, Maben had a quarterback sack for an eight-yard loss to force a punt. The Mustangs took over on their 12-yard line. Bailey went for three, McCabe picked up four, Maben ran three times for 21 yards, McCabe went for three more and Peck went for nine and a first down at the 50-yard line. After a short gain by Bailey, Peck hit Kenny for 26 yards and a first down at the 22-yard line. The drive stalled there as a sack; two incompletions and a delay of game penalty forced a punt which was downed at the three-yard line.

The Huskies then put together their best drive of the half, but Nacho Elguezabal forced a fumble that Maben jumped on at the Mustangs' 27-yard line. The half ended with the Mustangs holding onto their 7-0 lead.

The Mustangs came out on fire to start the second half, taking over at their own 24 after the kickoff. Maben went for 10, and, after an offside penalty on Elgin,

broke free for 18 yards to the 43-yard line. McCabe went for 24 yards, Bailey went twice for seven yards, then McCabe took it to the end zone from 12 yards out for the touchdown. Hauer's kick was perfect to make it 14-0 early in the third quarter.

The defense was just as good as the offense as they forced a punt by the Huskies, which, after a personal foul penalty on Elgin, the Mustangs went back to work at their 39-yard line. McCabe went for 12 yards, Bailey for 20 yards to the 29-yard line, and after an incomplete pass, Peck went for three and McCabe picked up seven yards and a first down. After a short gain by Maben, Kenny made a diving catch from Peck for an 18-yard touchdown. Maben ran in the two-point conversion for a 22-0 lead with 4:35 left in the third quarter.

The Huskies then put together a drive and scored on a 10 yard pass on fourth and goal from the seven-yard line on the first play of the fourth quarter. The two-point conversion pass was good and they had cut the Mustangs' lead to 22-8.

The Mustangs went to work starting at their 34-yard line following the kickoff. Maben ran for seven, then after a false start penalty, gained eight more for a first down. McCabe went for six, and, after a holding penalty brought it back to the 39, Peck went for 25 and a first down at the 36-yard line. Bailey went for 14 yards, Maben went for three, then peck hit R.J. Farrens in the end zone from 20 yards out for a touchdown. Hauer's kick was good to make it 29-8 with 7:26 left in the fourth quarter.

The Huskies responded with an 81-yard drive, capped off with a 12-yard pass for the touchdown. After the two-point conversion failed, they had cut the Mustangs' lead to 29-14 with 4:09 left.

The Mustangs took over at the Huskies' 33-yard line after the onside kickoff was returned 30 yards by Bailey. Maben broke free on first down and went all the way to the end zone for the touchdown. Hauer's kick was just wide, but the Mustangs led 35-14 with 3:48 left in the game.

Hauer atoned for the missed extra point by booting the kickoff out of the endzone. The Huskies fumbled on first down, and, after the ball was batted around by seven players, Justin Delveaux finally fell on it in the end zone for a touchdown. Hauer's kick was perfect for a 42-14 Mustang lead.

The Huskies took over at their 15-yard line after another deep kickoff, and their last drive was ended by a fumble recovered by Aaron Allstott at the Elgin 40-yard line. Caleb Maben ran twice for 14 yards, Casey Maben went for 17 yards, and Caleb took it to the five yard line as time ran out.

Casey Maben led the defensive effort with 20 points, with Delveaux adding 15 points and Allstott, 10 points. Peck had nine defensive points, with Kenny and Spenser Palmer each adding eight points.

Along with Casey Maben's 185 yards, McCabe picked up 68 yards on seven carries and Bailey gained 57 yards on nine carries.

Peck was 4 of 8 passing for 70 yards and two touchdowns.

Elgin 0 0 14 - 14  
Heppner 7 0 15 20

- 42

### First Quarter

Heppner-Casey Maben 22 yard run (Tim Hauer kick), 2:05.

### Third Quarter

Heppner-Matt McCabe 12 yard run (Hauer kick), 9:27; Dennis Kenny 18 yard pass from Quinn Peck (Casey Maben run), 4:35.

### Fourth Quarter

Elgin-Will Burgess 10 yard pass from Travis Ludwig (Burgess pass from Ludwig), 11:52; Heppner-R.J. Farrens 20 yard pass from Peck (Hauer kick), 7:26; Elgin-Tommy Church 12 yard pass from Ludwig (pass failed), 4:09; Heppner-Casey Maben 33 yard run (kick failed), 3:48; Justin Delveaux recovered fumble in endzone (Hauer kick), 3:39.

### Team Statistics:

First downs-Elgin 13, Heppner 19. Rushes yards-Elgin 22-112, Heppner 49-359. Passing yards-Elgin 217, Heppner 96. Total yards-Elgin 329, Heppner 455. Passes-Elgin 17-23-0, Heppner 5-9-0. Fumbles lost-Elgin 4-2, Heppner 2-0. Penalties yards-Elgin 10-91, Heppner 7-55.

### Individual Statistics


Rushing: Elgin-GD Clark 7-52, Ludwig 8-42, Kole Guentert 4-4, Jake Kennedy 2-5. Clint Predmore 1-9. Heppner-Casey Maben 24-185, McCabe 7-68, Lane Bailey 9-57, Peck 5-29, Caleb Maben 4-18, Colton Hansen 1-2.

Passing: Elgin-Ludwig 17-23-0 217 yards. Heppner-Peck 4-8-0 70 yards, Bailey 1-1-0 26 yards.

Receiving: Elgin-Burgess 4-52, Clark 4-36, Dillon Moore 3-41, Kennedy 2-19, Church 2-20, Guentert 2-27. Heppner-Kenny 3-70, Farrens 1-20, McCabe 1-6.


## WCLL annual meeting to be held

The Willow Creek Little League will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 28, at 6:30 p.m. at the Heppner Neighborhood Center. All members and interested persons are invited to attend.



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