

Mustangs stifle Huskies to win BMC crown

By: Rick Paullus

A stifling Heppner Mustang defense held a potent Elgin offense in check all night as the Mustangs beat the Huskies 48-0 to take first place in the Blue Mountain Conference on Friday, November 2, in Elgin. The Mustangs, 7-0 in the BMC and 7-2 overall, didn't allow a point in conference play all season pitching their seventh straight shutout.

The Mustangs will be at home in the first round of the OSAA 2A US Bank/Les Schwab Tires state playoffs against the Scio Loggers on Saturday, November 10, at 1 p.m.

The Huskies took the opening kick-off and after picking up a first down were forced to punt with the Mustangs taking over at their 40 yard line. After an offside penalty, Lane Bailey ran for three yards, then Brent Eckman went for 18 yards and a first down. Bailey went for five and after another offside penalty, Dennis Kenny caught a tipped pass on third down for 13 yards and a first down at the 12. Bailey went for seven and then on fourth down took it in from five yards out for the touchdown. Bailey ran in the two point conversion to make it 8-0 midway through the first quarter.

The Mustangs' defense held again as they took over at their own 24 after the punt. Bailey ran twice for six yards, Eckman hit Spencer Palmer for five and a first down, and Bailey ran three times for 16 yards and a first down at the Elgin 49 as the first quarter ended. Eckman went for three then hit Bryan Holland for a 40 yard gain to the nine. After an illegal motion penalty, Palmer went for nine yards. Bailey then took it in from the five for his second touchdown of the night. The conversion pass failed but the Mustangs led 14-0 early in the second quarter.

The defense held again but the Mustangs gave it right back on a pass interception at the Elgin 24 yard line. The Huskies then drove inside the Heppner 15 but the Mustangs backed them up, eventually taking over on downs at the 29 yard line. Bailey went for 13 yards but a false start penalty and an Eckman sack lost another seven. Eckman then went for 23 yards and Bailey broke free for another 26 yards. Eckman went for nine and after a three yard loss Bailey took it in from 15 yards out for the touchdown. Eckman hit Palmer for the two point conversion to make it 22-0



Freshman Jordan Wright #36 of the JV Mustangs runs with the ball against the Elgin Huskies. The Mustangs beat the Huskies in their last game 34-8. The JV's completed their season undefeated against league competition. —Photo by Sandy Matthews

at the half. The Mustangs took the second half kick-off and went back to work taking over at their 35 yard line. Palmer went for nine and after Bailey lost a yard, he broke free for 41 yards deep into Husky territory. Bailey ran twice for four yards and then Eckman hit Holland from 12 yards out for a touchdown. The two point conversion run failed but the Mustangs led 28-0 early in the third.

The kick pinned the Huskies deep at their 10 yard line but they put together a drive into Heppner territory. Taylor Hodges shot through the line, making a tackle for a seven yard loss of fourth down. The Mustangs took over at their own 41 and went back to work as Palmer picked up 14 yards and after a false start Bailey went for two. He then took a screen pass from Eckman 37 yards to the 11. Bailey took it in from there for his fourth touchdown for the game and Palmer ran in the conversion to make it 36-0 with 3:01 left in the third quarter.

The defense held again and the Mustangs took over at their 28 yard line. Palmer ran for eight and on fourth and one, Bailey went for 10 and first down at the 47 yard line. After a four yard loss, Eckman went for three and then hit Palmer for a 47 yard gain to the eight yard line. Eckman then took it in for the touchdown to make it 42-0 with 8:16 left in the fourth.

The Mustangs got the ball back one more time at their own 20 after an Elgin punt and wasted little time in scoring their final touchdown. Eckman ran for 23 and Bailey went for 16 yards. Eckman then broke free for a 41 yard touchdown run. The two point conversions failed but the 48-0 score kicked in the running clock and the game ended shortly.

Bailey finished with 184 yards on 25 carries and

four touchdowns. Eckman rushed 11 times for 124 yards and two touchdowns and hit six of seven passes for 152 yards and a touchdown.

Palmer caught two passes for 52 yards and Holland had two receptions for 50 yards.

The defense was led by Andre Rauch with 23 defensive points. Hodges had 18 points, Wacy Coil 16 points, Kenny 14 points, and Nacho Elguezabal nine points.

Heppner 8 14 14 12-48

Elgin 0 0 0 0-0

First Quarter

Heppner - Lane Bailey, five yard run (Bailey run) 5:28.

Second Quarter

Heppner - Bailey, five yard run (pass failed) 11:01; Bailey, 15 yard run (Spencer Palmer pass from Brent Eckman) 1:49.

Third Quarter

Heppner - Bryan Holland, 12 yard pass from Eckman (run failed) 9:06; Bailey, 11 yard run (Palmer run) 3:01.

Fourth Quarter

Heppner - Eckman, eight yard run (run failed) 8:16; Eckman, 41 yard run (run failed) 2:56.

Team Statistics

Heppner: 16 first downs, 42-341 rushes-yards, 152 passing yards, 6-7-1 passes, 2-0 fumbles-lost, 6-35 penalties-yards.

Elgin: seven first downs, 42-120 rushes-yards, 22 passing yards, 4-15-0 passes, 1-0 fumbles-lost, 4-20 penalties-yards.

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Heppner - Bailey 25-184; Eckman 11-124; Palmer 5-36; Dennis Kenny 1-(-3). Elgin - Kennedy 14-60; Ludwig 14-14; Predmore 9-39; Clark 4-(-7); Moore 1-14.

Passing: Heppner - Eckman 6-7-1, 152 yards. Elgin - Ludwig 4-15-0, 22 yards.

Receiving: Heppner - Palmer 2-52; Holland 2-50; Bailey 1-37; Kenny 1-13. Elgin - Clark 4-22.

Cardinals finish season with one more win

The lone Cardinals finished their 2007 campaign on a high note, defeating Sherman County in Moro last Friday night 50-18. The win positioned the Cards in 4th place in the Big Sky League with a 4-3 record and gave lone a winning season with a 6-4 record overall.

Both teams came into the contest with identical league records and with no playoff spot on the line; they could have phoned this one in. But there was just a little bit of pride on the line and the determination to finish with a winning record.

Sherman kicked off and immediately recovered their own onside kick. However, the fired up Cardinal defense pushed them back three times in a row and forced the Huskies to punt. The reconfigured lone offense then took the field and proved they were ready to go themselves. With Paul Hams out with a concussion, Justin Archer moved from the quarterback spot to tailback and RJ Ramos took over at quarterback. The first two touches resulted in first downs and then RJ Ramos connected with Clay Morter on a nice pass to put the Cards on the nine yard line. Justin Archer punched in from nine yards out for his first of three touchdowns on the night with just under five minutes gone in the first quarter.

Sherman responded in short order, moving down the field with a long runback on the kickoff. An inopportune pass interference call helped them further along and with 4:10 left in the first quarter, they connected for a touchdown pass, tying the score at 6-6. Kevin Fowler was ready for the next onside kick, scooping it up and scooting to the Husky 35 before being brought down. On the first play in that series, again Justin Archer got loose for a 35 yard touchdown run and followed up by catching a pass from RJ Ramos for the two point conversion, putting lone up 14-6.

On the Cardinals kickoff, Sherman bobbled the kickoff, chasing it down inside the 10 yard line. Unfortunately for the Huskies, Clay Morter arrived at the same time and recovered the loose ball on the four yard line. Just 25 seconds after the previous score, the Cards were in the endzone again, this time courtesy of Alan Rietmann on a four yard scamper.

Again lone kicked off and Sherman juggled the return. Sherman picked the ball up and looked like he might get away when



lone beat Sherman County to take 4th place in the Big Sky League. —Photo by Teresa Crawford



RJ Ramos runs the ball while lone defense blocks. —Photo by Teresa Crawford

the Cards knocked the ball loose. And again, the Cardinals recovered. A late hit penalty on the Huskies got the Cardinals 15 yards closer to the goal line, starting this drive on the Sherman 22 yard line. That drive was capped with a five yard RJ Ramos to Clay Morter TD pass with 2:29 remaining in the first quarter. Ramos and Matt Hams connected for the extra point, putting the Cardinals in front 28-6.

The ball changed hands a couple of times in the second quarter before lone hit pay dirt once again. Starting on their own 26, the Cards drove downfield and with 1:59 remaining in the half, Alan Rietmann scored on a nine yard run, his second of three touchdowns in the outing. The Cards led 34-6 at the half.

In the third, Sherman ran almost six minutes off the clock before finishing up the drive with a 22 yard touchdown run. But the Cardinals responded with touchdowns on their next two possessions to put the game completely out of reach. Alan Rietmann ran in from 36 yards out and Justin Archer followed up with a 63 yard score. Sherman scored once more in the fourth quarter for the final margin, 50-18.

The Cards chalked up 358 yards of total offense, 294 on the ground and 64 in the air. Justin Archer departed the Cardinal football team in grand style,

carrying the ball 16 times for 160 yards. Alan Rietmann also had a fine effort, gaining 119 yards on just eight carries. RJ Ramos was calm and controlled in the quarterback position completing eight of 13 attempts for 64 yards, one interception and one touchdown. Clay Morter caught four passes for 50 yards and Matt Hams had 19 yards on two carries.

Defensively, Kip Krebs had a monster game with 23 tackles including 10 solo, one tackle for a loss and two quarterback sacks. Matt Coleman gave the Sherman offense fits, with 16 tackles including six solo, three tackles for losses and two quarterback sacks. Other big tacklers were Alan Rietmann with 13 (two solo) and Eric Jepsen with 11 (two solo.) "Kip had an amazing game—he was all over the field," said Coach Stefani. "He also got the rest of the defense fired up. Everyone was flying around making good hits and creating fumbles."

"I was pleased with the way we came out to play. We wanted to go out with a victory," said Coach Dennis Stefani. "It was one our better defensive and offensive games of the season." He also noted that the season was a vast improvement over last year where the Cardinals managed just one win. "Overall I was happy with what the kids did this season. The excitement's there for next year."

Mt. Hood Community College to hold softball hitting clinic in Heppner

Coach Meadow McWhorter from Mt. Hood Community College and coaching staff will be coming to Heppner Sunday, November 18, to instruct a softball hitting clinic.

A session will be held for 3-7th graders from 9:30 a.m. to noon and will cost \$20. An afternoon session from 1-4 p.m. for 8-12th graders and will cost \$25. Checks should be made payable to Meadow McWhorter. Those attending are asked to bring your own bats if you have one.

For more information contact Petra Payne at 676-9138 or paynep@morrow.k12.or.us.

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