

Mustangs dropped by Bulldogs in championship

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustangs could not overcome a 10-0 deficit in the third quarter as they lost to the Culver Bulldogs 10-6 on Saturday, December 1, in the U.S. Bank/Les Schwab Tire OSAA Class 2A state championship game. The Mustangs, who ended a very successful year at 10-3, had three costly turnovers that led to all 10 points for the Bulldogs, who did not have any turnovers.

The Mustangs also said goodbye to seniors Lane Bailey, Sean Murray, Andre Rauch, Nacho Elguezabal, Jake VanDoorn, Dennis Kenny, Taylor Hodges, and Nathan Van Cleave, who played their final game in the blue and gold.

The teams traded punts in their first two possessions. Culver then drove inside the Mustang 10 before the defense stiffened and they took over on downs at the 17 yard line. Spencer Palmer ran for five yards and then Bailey ran twice for 11 yards and a first down at the 33 yard line. After a false start, a fumble was recovered by the Bulldogs at the 25 yard line as the first quarter came to an end.

The Bulldogs moved to the Mustang five yard line but Sam King had a sack for a five yard loss and Culver had to settle for a 28 yard field goal by Nevin Lewis.

The teams then traded punts the rest of the quarter as both defenses wouldn't budge and yards were hard to come by.

The Mustangs took the second half kick-off at the 33 yard line and looked to get their offense going. Bailey ran for seven yards and after a loss of one, Brent



Brent Eckman runs the ball in for a touchdown in Saturday's state championship game. -Photo by Sandy Matthews.



A Heppner Mustang pushes past a Culver player. -Photo by Sandy Matthews

Eckman ran for four and a first down. After a short run by Bailey, Palmer took an option pitch 12 yards and a first down to the Culver 41 yard line. That's when the wheels came off as a fumble was picked up by a Bulldog at midfield and took it to the one where Wacy Coil ran him down from behind. Lewis then ran it in and kicked the extra point for a 10-0 lead with 7:58 left in the third quarter.

The teams then traded punts with the Mustangs taking over in good field position at the Culver 40 after a short punt. After an incomplete pass, Eckman ran for six yards then Bailey picked up eight more and a first down at the 26 yard line. Eckman then dropped back to pass and finding no one open scrambled around the right end and, getting blocks from Kenny and Coil, took

it all the way to the endzone for the touchdown. The pass attempt on the two point conversion fell incomplete but the Mustangs had cut the lead to 10-6 with 2:29 left in the third.

The defense held forcing a punt with the Mustangs taking over at their own 46 as the third quarter came to an end. Eckman ran twice for seven yards then Bailey ran twice for seven yards and a first down at the Culver 40. The drive ended, however, as a pass was intercepted and was brought back to the Culver 45 yard line.

The defense held forcing a punt with the Mustangs taking over at their own 20 yard line. Eckman ran for six yards then on third down ran for six more and a first down at the 32 yard line. Bailey ran for nine yards and Eckman went for six more but a holding penalty brought it back to the 31 yard line. After two short gains facing a fourth and 12 they had to go for it but a long pass was batted down

and the Bulldogs took over with 3:21 left and were able to run out the clock to secure the championship.

Bailey led all rushes with 69 yards on 21 carries with Eckman rushing 14 times for 49 yards.

The defense was led by Rauch with 16 defensive points, Bailey having 13 points and VanDoorn and Coil having 12 points each. King had 11 points, Elguezabal and Kenny each had nine points, and Jordan Hatfield had eight points.

Heppner 0 0 6 0-6
Culver 0 3 7 0-10
Second Quarter
Culver - Nevin Lewis, 28 yard field goal 9:14.

Third Quarter
Culver - Lewis, one yard run (Lewis kick) 7:58.
Heppner - Brent Eckman, 26 yard run (pass failed) 2:29.

Team Statistics
Heppner: seven first downs; 40-133 rushes-yards; 0 passing yards; 133 total yards; 0-3-1 passes; 4-2 fumbles-lost; 4-25 penalties-yards; 23:00, time of possession; 4-11 third down conversions; 1-2 fourth down conversions.

Culver: seven first downs; 38-107 rushes-yards; 16 passing yards; 123 total yards; 3-10-0 passes; 1-0 fumbles-lost; 4-42 penalties-yards; 25:00, time of possession; 0-11 third down conversions; 3-4 fourth down conversions.

Individual Statistics
Rushing: Heppner - Lane Bailey 21-69, Eckman 14-49, Spencer Palmer 5-15. Culver - Paul Krueger 9-46, Austin Alley 12-34, Lewis 14-24, Kyle Mancini 3-6, Team 1-(-3).

Passing: Heppner - Eckman 0-3-1, 0 yards. Culver - Lewis 3-10-0, 16 yards.

Receiving: Culver: Krueger 1-17, Tyler Warren 1-3, Alley 1-(-4).

2007-2008 Mustang Basketball

December 7 - Weston Mc JV at Athena, 3 p.m.

December 6,7,8 - Col River Classic at Umatilla, TBA.

December 14 - Pilot Rock at Heppner, 3 p.m.

December 15 - Union at Union, 1 p.m.

December 21, 22 - Joseph Tourney, 3 p.m.

December 27 - Riverside at Heppner, 1 p.m.

December 28, 29 - Heppner Tourney, TBA.

January 4 - Enterprise at Heppner, 3 p.m.

January 5 - Elgin at Heppner, 1 p.m.

January 11 - Stanfield at Heppner, 3 p.m.

January 12 - Irrigon at Irrigon, 1 p.m.

January 18 - Pilot Rock at Pilot Rock, 3 p.m.

January 19 - Weston McEwen at Heppner, 1 p.m.

January 25 - Enterprise at Enterprise, 3 p.m.

January 26 - Elgin at Elgin, 1 p.m.

February 1 - Union at Heppner, 3 p.m.

February 2 - Weston McEwen at Athena, 1 p.m.

February 5 - Irrigon at Heppner, 3 p.m.

February 8 - Stanfield at Stanfield, 3 p.m.

February 15, 16 - District at Pendleton, TBA.

Ione boys win one, lose one



An Ione player looks for someone to pass the basketball off to during one of their recent games. -Photo by Theresa Crawford

The Ione Boys' varsity split their games at the Ione Basketball Bonanza November 30 and December 1, dropping a close one to Riverside on Friday and running away from Enterprise on Saturday.

The Cardinals matched the 3A Pirates score for score in the first half, leading 12-11 at the end of one and 27-26 at the half. But a four-point third quarter let Riverside start to slip away and get away for good when they connected on 10 of 12 free throws in the fourth quarter to win 55-45. The Cards pulled within four in the late going but could never get closer.

Bryce Doherty of Riverside led all scorers with 21 points. Paul Hams led the Cardinals in scoring with 13 points including two three pointers. Matt Hams added 11, also knocking down two treys. The Cards were out-rebounded 32-41 by the taller Pirates. Kip Krebs led the effort under the basket with eleven. Paul Hams led the team with five assists and Paul and Matt Hams both had three steals.

The Cards were a little rusty in the shooting department, hitting 18 of 71 from the field and just 4 of 12 from the line. The Pirates hit 13 of 17 from the free throw line and 18 of 47 from the floor.

"I thought the kids played well for the first game of the season. Take away our poor third quarter and the game was ours to win," said Coach Dennis Stefani. "All in all, I was pleased with our performance against a school that is two classifications above us."

On Saturday afternoon, the Cardinals struggled through an error and foul-plagued first half against Enterprise before getting it together for a 72-50 win. Twenty first half turnovers and a six point first quarter could have spelled disaster for the Cards but despite the scattered play on the floor, Ione scored 25 points in the second quarter and scrapped to a 31-30 halftime lead. The team started to roll in the

third quarter. Cory Peterson came off the bench to hit a big three followed by two more buckets to ignite the team. They Cards stretched out to a 53-42 lead and cruised to the win.

Sixty-three free throws were shot between the two teams with Enterprise going to the line 39 times. They connected on 21 while Ione hit 11 of their 24 attempts. Five Cardinals finished the game with four fouls.

Matt Hams led all scorers with 15 points followed by Kip Krebs with 12. Seven more Cardinals got in the scorebook. Justin Archer added nine while Kevin Fowler and Paul Hams had eight each. Clay Morter and Cory Peterson had seven each while Alan Rietmann and Matt Coleman each had three.

The Cards out-rebounded the Outlaws by the same margin they were outdone the night before, 41-32. Clay Morter led the charge with 11 boards followed by Kip Krebs with nine. The Cards racked up 14 assists led by Paul Hams with six, Alan Rietmann with five and Justin Archer with four.

"We started out slow but finally started to look like the team I expect to see in the second half," said Coach Stefani. "Cory Peterson came into the game in the third quarter and gave us a lot of energy. In return, the whole team responded." He also noted that Alan Rietmann did a great job of running the offense when Paul Hams got into foul trouble. "This was a good game to start to build from."

The Cardinals travel to the Enterprise this weekend.

Heppner Junior High Boys/Girls Basketball Schedule

December 7, 8 - Mount Vernon at 9 a.m.

December 10 - Pilot Rock at Heppner (B-A/B) at 5 p.m.

December 13 - at Sunridge (B-A/B) at 4 p.m.

December 15 - Heppner Tourney (B-A/B) at 9 a.m.

January 4 - Pilot Rock at Pilot Rock (G-A/B) at 5 p.m.

January 5 - Condon Tourney (G/B-A/B) at 9 a.m.

January 10 - The Dalles at Heppner (G-A/B) at 4 p.m.

January 11 - Echo Girls (Cove also) at Echo (G-A/B) at 9 a.m.

January 12 - Ione Tournament (B/G-A/B) at 9 a.m.

January 12 - Ione, Sherman at Heppner (B-A/B) at 9 a.m.

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