

# Hanging up their cleats: Ione football seniors play final game

The final game in the three Ione High School senior football players career played out a little different for all of them.

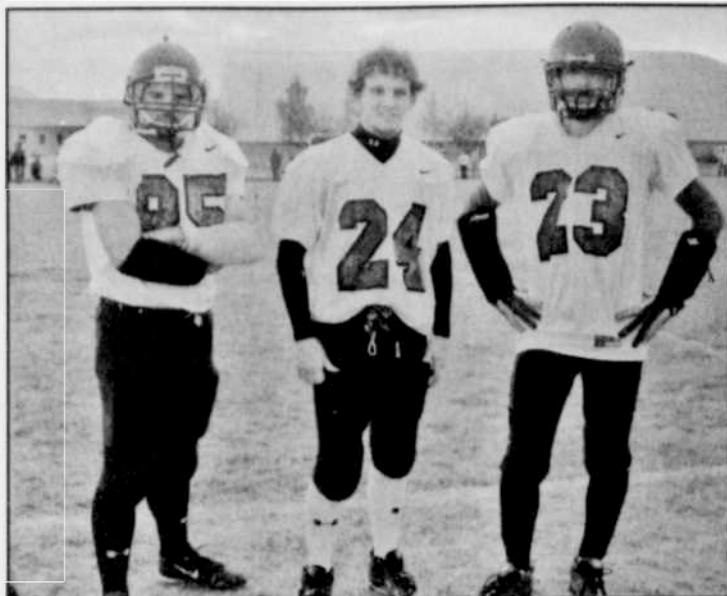
Cory Peterson, looking to cap a breakout season, ended up watching from the sidelines on all but one play due to a collarbone injury sustained that week in practice. Luke Bradfield, an anchor on the line going both ways, finally talked his way into the backfield and got the thrill of carrying the ball to the end zone for the only touchdown of his football career. And Clay Morter, concluded four years of play, three years as a starter, by chasing the wildest fumble you ever saw into the end zone for a score and serving as the kicker, yes the kicker, on Ione's lightly used (make that never used) extra point kicking team.

The Cardinals won that final game, taking a 65-44 win over Nixyaawii in a game that wasn't nearly as close as the score indicates but a game that provided an opportunity for a bit of reflection on a high school career and whole lot of fun.

Cory Peterson's natural speed brought him quite a bit of playing time his freshman year and even a couple of starts. His sophomore season took a turn when he twisted his ankle in the first game of the year. On his first day back at practice from the ankle tweak, disaster struck when he blew out his knee. A year and two knee surgeries later, he returned to the gridiron but played limited minutes and still favored the knee.

But senior year meant now or never and Cory stepped up to provide a steady influence and one heck of an offensive punch to the young Cardinal team. He carried the weight of the Cardinal offense this season, carrying the ball 180 times for 1,133 yards. Before the Cards were able to broaden their offensive attack, Peterson was carrying the pigskin 30-40 times per game. When the Cardinals played Sherman County in September, he carried the ball 40 times for 245 yard, more than then entire Sherman County team.

While it was an effort definitely worth not-



Pictured left to right are Luke Bradfield, Corey Peterson, and Clay Morter. -Contributed Photo

ing, the coaches knew they couldn't keep asking for that kind of production from him. It wasn't like running the ball was all he was doing either. He had 11 catches during the season plus 68 tackles (49 solo) and three quarterback sacks.

A shoulder injury kept him sidelined for the majority of his final game as a Cardinal, a disappointment to say the least. However he put that aside to keep his younger teammates motivated. "I had faith in my team and knew they could pull it out," Peterson said. "It was fun watching the younger kids and seeing how much they've improved."

For his efforts, Peterson was named to the Big Sky second team as a defensive back/linebacker and honorable mention at running back. More importantly, his team voted him MVP of the team.

"People underestimated us," said Peterson of the early season doubters. "But the younger kids stepped up and played well. They will have a good team next year."

When asked if he was happy or sad to see the end of his football days, Luke Bradfield thought a minute and said "I'm not really sure...mainly sad." The pain of sweltering days of daily doubles, the day-after-games, run-over-by-a-truck feeling, and the agony of defeats fade when compared to the loss of football team camaraderie. Bradfield played lightly his freshman year and sat out his sophomore season. His junior year, he played guard and back up center. This year, he moved up to starting guard. Highlights of his playing years

helpful suggestions to the refs and coaches but there is no doubt he loves the game. This season, Clay found success as a defensive end where he was second on the team in tackles with 77 (31 solo) and 11 quarterback sacks.

For his efforts, he was named to the Second Team of the Big Sky in that position. However a bigger thrill was being selected to play in the Oregon Eight-Man All Star Game to be held this summer.

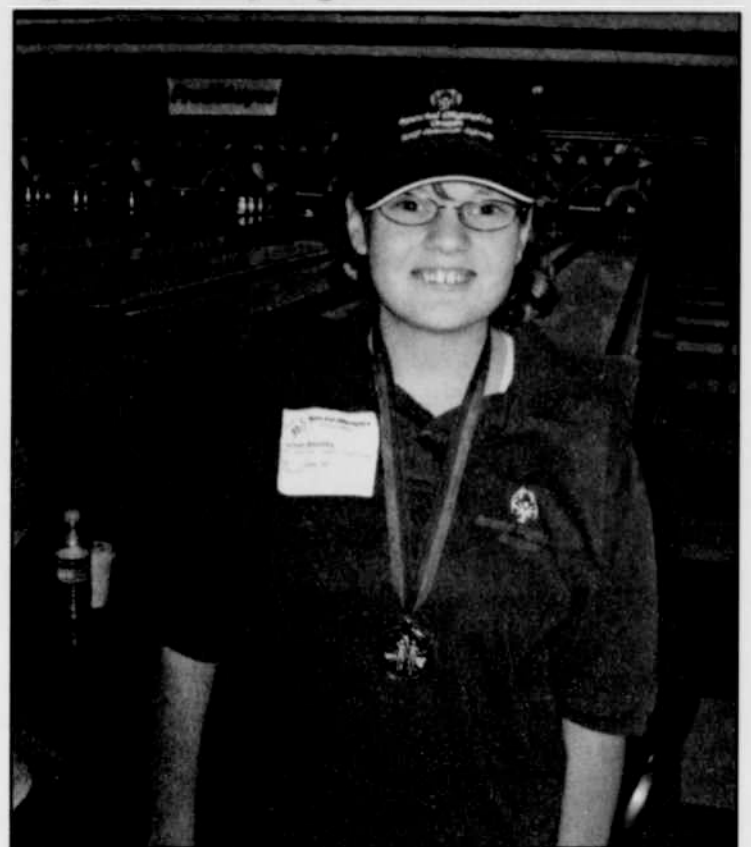
Clay found playing his last game in the Cardinal uniform to be a little sad but "it was good closure. I think we left the program in better shape than we found it. Not that it wasn't like this before, but we had a more team-oriented approach this and were more focused on one goal of winning games." His season highlights were the come-from-behind victory against McKenzie, beating Condon/Wheeler and playing well against Joseph.

"It was a good season for us," said Coach Dennis Stefani. "I enjoyed seeing the kids have fun and they enjoyed the learning process." He credited the seniors for being a big part of making that happen. "Our success this year comes a lot from the senior boys. They gave encouragement and support to the younger players." He noted that the talent on teams like Sherman and Condon/Wheeler were good and those games should have been closer. "It was their belief in the team that made us better."

"What I respect about those kids is that they took every day with a positive attitude and gave so much encouragement to the younger kids," said Stefani. "They came in with an attitude that if we work as a team, we'll do better than people expect. They were great leaders and it showed with the respect they got from the younger kids. The seniors helped make this team what it was."

With last week's win over Nixyaawii, the Cards were unofficially named "the best of the rest" or the top team from the Big Sky that didn't advance to the state playoffs. "Considering where we were picked at the beginning of the season, we didn't do too bad," said Coach Dennis Stefani.

# Smalley wins gold at Oregon Special Olympics State Games



Pictured is Jill Smalley with her gold medal. -Contributed Photo

Jilli Smalley, daughter of Mark and Kristi Smalley of Hermiston, and granddaughter of John and Pat Edmundson of Heppner, won a gold medal at the Special Olympics State Fall Games held in Beaverton and Hillsboro on November 22. Smalley won her gold medal in the bowling competition.

a week of snow training at Copper Mountain, CO, in early December. She is meeting her cross-country skiing team from around the USA for training prior to representing the USA at the World Special Olympic Games at Sun Valley in February, 2009. She is one of 12 Oregon athletes chosen to be on the USA Team.

## Smalley leaves for Heppner High School Basketball Schedule


Following is the Heppner High School basketball schedule for the 08-09 season:

- Tuesday, Dec. 2: vs. Condon JV/Varsity at Condon, 3 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 5: vs. Imbler JV/V at Heppner, 3 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 6: vs. Mac Hi at Heppner, 1 p.m.
- Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 11-13: Columbia River Classic, Varsity at Umatilla, 3 p.m.
- \*Friday, Dec. 19: vs. Irrigon JV/V at Irrigon, 3 p.m.
- \*Saturday, Dec. 20: vs. Stanfield JV/V at Heppner 1 p.m.
- Monday-Tuesday, Dec. 29-30: Heppner Tourney vs. Dufur, Grant Union, Riverside Varsity only at Heppner, 3 p.m.
- Friday, Jan. 2: vs. Imber at Imbler, 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 6: vs. Umatilla JV/V at Heppner 3 p.m.
- \*Friday, Jan. 9: vs. Union JV/V at Union, 3 p.m.

## Ione High School Basketball Schedule

Following is the Ione High School basketball schedule for the 08-09 season:

- Dec. 5-6: Ione Basketball Bonanza JV (1 p.m.) & Varsity (3 p.m.)
- Dec. 9: Pilot Rock, away (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 3 p.m.
- Dec. 12-13: Enterprise Tournament, away, at 3 p.m.
- \*Dec. 19: Nixyaawii, away (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 3 p.m.
- \*Dec. 20: Dufur at home (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 1 p.m.
- Dec. 22: Riverside, away (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 3 p.m.
- Dec. 30: Pilot Rock at home (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 3 p.m.
- Jan. 3: Stanfield, away (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 1 p.m.



## Real Estate

By DAVID SYKES  
REALTOR

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Mortgage life insurance is insurance coverage that will pay off any existing mortgage debts should the homeowner die. The insurance is decreasing term, which means that the monthly payment premium remains constant while the actual amount paid off decreases each month since the mortgage balance decreases each month. Since the cost of coverage is relatively inexpensive, and can often be directly added to your mortgage payments, many homeowners have availed themselves of this insurance.

Is this insurance a must? Many experts feel that this particular kind of coverage is unnecessary - that a homeowner is better prepared by having a comprehensive life policy which would include funds to pay off the mortgage than a separate policy limited strictly to mortgage payoff. The fact that banks graciously agree to accept premium payments without additional costs indicates that they are the actual beneficiaries of this policy.



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