

Mustangs stampede through Weston-McEwen on way to 80th straight conference win

By Lonnie Rill

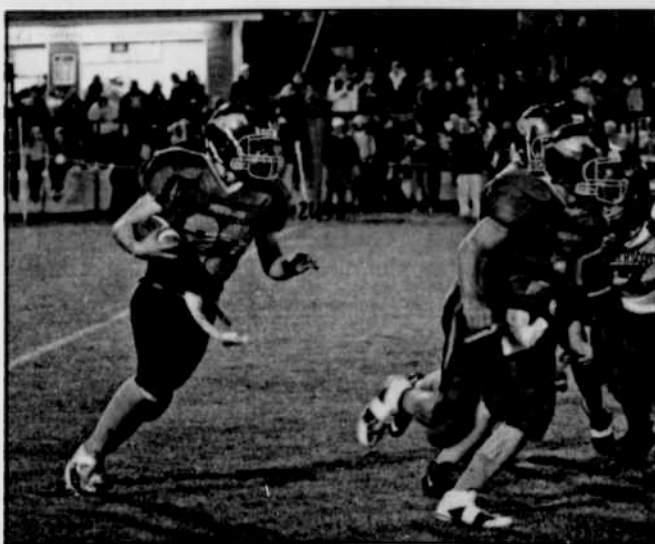
The Heppner Mustangs kept their conference winning streak going on Friday night in Heppner, and they did it in a big way. The Mustangs put final touches on their 80th consecutive conference win in a 46-15 blowout of hyped rival Weston-McEwen.

Heppner Senior offensive lineman Ian Murray said after the game, "I just hope that we give the community back a little of what they have given to us over the years. This was great, we love playing with such a crowd behind us." Murray was speaking of the excessive crowd that gathered for the contest, due to the fact that Heppner celebrated "Senior Night."

It just so happened that the seniors were the players who led the way for the Mustangs. Heppner's running game continued its dominance behind senior offensive lineman such as Murray, Joe Armato, and Jordan Wright. "It's surreal that it's our last home game, we love playing together and the support of the fans here." Armato said after the game.

When Wright was asked to comment on the meaning of being a lineman in the Heppner football program his reply was, "It's everything. We are the skill players here and we know that it all starts with us. If we do our job, then everything else works."

Senior running back Alex Pickles once again did the majority of ball carrying for Heppner and started the scoring barrage on a three yard dance with 5:39 left in the first quarter. Heppner's lead didn't seem like it would hold for long when Weston-McEwen came out in a pro-style offense looking like a smaller version of the Indianapolis Colts. The Tigerscot's lined up in a shotgun formation and ran crossing routes that confused the Heppner defense early and led to a 13 yard touchdown pass which brought the Tigerscots to within a point.



Top Photo: Senior Mustang Alex Pickles proved to be unstoppable against the Weston McEwen defense, making four touchdowns against the TigerScots. Bottom Photo: Heppner Mustang Devin Robinson #2 strips the ball from the Weston-McEwen TigerScots while Jordan Wright #76 charges at the offense for loss of yardage. -Photos by Sandy Matthews

After more monotonous pounding of the ball from the Mustangs, junior back Cam Day forged two yards ahead for a touchdown half way through the second quarter. "Everything kind of worked like I had planned it to. We pounded the ball on them until we wore them down," Heppner coach Greg Grant said after the game. "We put a whole bunch of offense in this week for the game, but only ran about two percent because it worked so well."

Heppner started the third quarter right where they had left off, behind their tough offensive line. Turnovers forced by Devin Robinson on a strip, and a blindside that knocked the ball loose by Pickles both led to Heppner drives and the later to a Pickles seven yard touchdown, giving Heppner a 24-7 lead.

The Tigerscots turned to a ground game that went nowhere against the stubborn Heppner de-

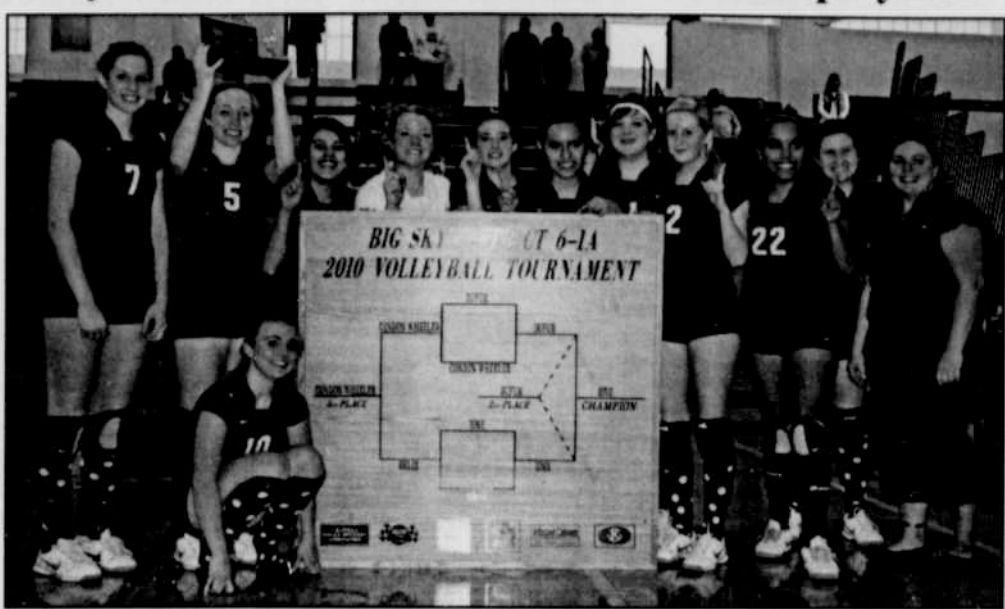
fense. The only offensive production that Weston-McEwen seemed to have was in their shotgun formation or running the quarterback option.

Pickles took on another Heppner score with a 15 yard jaunt to paydirt, before Weston snuck behind Heppner's secondary and scored again on a 52 yard bomb with 5:46 left in the game. Weston's onside kick attempt failed which gave Heppner a short field and Pickles another 15 yard touchdown run.

The Tigerscots completed only one more pass during the game, but it was a pick-six that Cam Day snagged away from a receiver and took back for the final nail in the coffin giving Heppner their 46-15 victory.

Heppner will travel to Irrigon on Friday night to finish Columbia Basin Conference play with the Knights at 7 p.m.

Lady Cards to host second round of state playoffs



Top Photo: The Lone Lady Cardinals were the district champions on Saturday at the Big Sky District Volleyball Tournament in Umatilla. Makenna Ramos, Joanna Patton and Shadow Kendrick were named to the Big Sky East 1st Team All-Stars. Beth Morter was honorable mention. Right Photo: Shadow Kendrick goes up for the kill. -Contributed Photos



The Lone Lady Cardinals brought home a volleyball title board for the first time since 1998 with two winning performances at the Big Sky District Volleyball Tournament, held Saturday, October 30, at Umatilla High School. As the undisputed owners of the Big Sky title, the Lady Cards earned the luxury of a bye in the first round of state playoffs and will host a game at Cardinal Court in the second round, set for Saturday, November 6, with a time to be announced.

Game one of the tourney pitted the Cards against Helix, a team with one league win but a team that improved at season's end to fight its way into the tourney. The first game gave the team and the crowd the idea that the Grizzlies were pushovers as the Lone ladies won 25-10. Joanna Patton had six kills in the game and Makenna Ramos had four aces. But then along came the second game. Serving errors and mistakes not seen since early in the season plagued the Lady Cardinals while Helix took advantage of the lapse to play one of their better games. The game was last tied at 16 but Lone was never able to get the lead stretched out to more than four points. When push came to shove though, Lone pulled through to win 25-22, finishing the game with back-to-back kills by Joanna Patton.

Beth Morter who had been sitting out for the last three weeks with a sprained ankle, returned to action in that game and the Cardinals reverted to a lineup that they hadn't been able to use since September for game three. The team jumped out to an 11-1 lead and rolled to a 25-9 win to wrap up the match.

Joanna Patton tallied 18 kills in the match with three blocks. Collette Cason added four kills. Shadow Kendrick kept up her perfect serving streak, serving 15-15 with two aces. Makenna Ramos tallied 10 aces.

That win assured the Lady Cards that they would be advancing to the state playoffs but there was no time to rest with Dufur, the number one seed from the Big Sky West waiting in the Championship game.

Game one was intense. The score was tied 9-9 before the Lady Cardinals fell behind, trailing by as many as four points. The Cards were down by four with the score 17-21 and again 18-22. As Lone started a rally, Dufur got rattled, first missing a serve and then hitting the ball out. Joanna Patton came up with a big block followed by an important kill to tie the score at 22 and the Cards felt the momentum shift. Beth Morter served back-to-back aces to move Lone to game point. A muffed Lone hit at the net gave Dufur some momentary hope but they returned the favor with a bad hit of their own and the Cardinals took game one 25-23.

With Dufur's spirit a little banged up, Lone jumped out to a 8-3 lead in game two and though Dufur was able to tie the score at 11, the Cardinals never let the Ranger have a lead as the Cardinals notched game two, 25-17. Joanna Patton had five kills and Beth Morter continued to regain her confidence and timing with three kills.

Sensing a sweep in the works, the Lady Cards jumped out to a 7-1 lead and this time, never let the

Rangers get close. Joanna Patton had another five kills and the team had three aces courtesy of Siren Endresen, Beth Morter and Joanna Patton. The team celebrated the district championship when Beth Morter tipped over the 25th point into a nice empty spot on the floor.

Joanna Patton had another super effort at the net with 15 kills and three blocks. Beth Morter worked the kinks out after the layoff with five kills, two blocks, perfect 7-7 serving and two aces. Shadow Kendrick served 13-13 with two aces and Makenna Ramos was 12-12 at the service line with one ace.

"Winning district was a goal all season for these girls," said Coach Dawn Eynetich. "We have had a few hurdles this season but everyone stepped up when they needed to."

"I'm really proud of these girls and their determination this season," said Coach Eynetich. "They are very focused on coming out of next Saturday with a win and advancing to Forest Grove."

The Cardinals now wait for the winner of a round one playoff which will determine their Saturday opponent. Portland Lutheran, the number two team from the Valley 10 will play Falls City, the number three from the Casco league on Wednesday evening. Saturday's game time will be determined on Thursday.

The Big Sky East All Stars were announced at the tournament. Joanna Patton, Makenna Ramos and Shadow Kendrick were named to the First Team. Beth Morter was named Honorable Mention.

American Legion and Auxiliary to hold annual Thanksgiving dinner

The American Legion and Auxiliary will be holding their annual Thanksgiving dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m. on November 9 at the Methodist Church. Turkey and trimmings will be provided. Members are asked to bring a salad or a hot dish. This dinner is for all Legionnaires, spouses, and immediate family.

HHS Drama Department to perform fall play

The Heppner High School Drama Department will perform "Return of the Maniac," a dramatic thriller, November 4 and 7 in the HHS cafeteria.


The performance on November 4 will be held at 7 p.m. The performance on November 7 will be held at 2 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased and Sweet Productions or at the door for \$5. Reserved seating is available.



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Murray, Rietmann named state finalists for Wendy's High School Heisman

As the competition narrows for the 2010 Wendy's High School Heisman Award program, 20 of Oregon's top scholar-athletes were recently announced as state finalists for the prestigious award. Among those were Ian Murray of Heppner and Tanner Rietmann of Lone

Created in 1994 by Wendy's and the Heisman Memorial Trust, the Wendy's High School Heisman Award recognizes outstanding high-school seniors nationwide who excel in athletics, academics and in the community. Students can nominate themselves

for the award online, in addition to being recommended by principals, teachers, guidance counselors and coaches. The most exceptional students are then selected to advance during extensive judging processes conducted at both state and national levels.

On November 5, 2010, one male and one female from each state will be named state winners, and of those state winners 12 will be chosen as national finalists and will go on to compete for the national winner title in New York City on December 10. National finalists will be featured dur-

ing a televised ceremony on an ESPN network, and will receive a gold medal and \$2,000 award for their high schools. One male and one female national Winner will receive a Wendy's High School Heisman trophy and Wendy's will donate \$10,000 to each winner's respective high school. Additionally, the winners will be recognized during the collegiate Heisman Trophy broadcast on ESPN U, December 11. For more information about the High School Heisman program and to view all the state finalists, visit www.WendysHeisman.com.

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