

Mustangs trample Warriors

Heppner defeats Oakridge 55-29 to advance in state

After a tight back-and-forth in the first half of their Nov. 10 playoff game against the Oakridge Warrior, the Mustangs took control in the second half, beating the visitors 55-29. This advances the Mustangs to the quarterfinals; they will match up against Portland Christian in another home game this Saturday, Nov. 17, at 2 p.m. at the Morrow County Fairgrounds.

The Warriors game out of the gate strong, scoring two touchdowns in the first quarter before the Mustangs took back the ball. Quarterback Stephen Thompson (#7) handed the ball to Aidan Wright (#24) at the 17, and Wright ran the ball in for a 14 yard gain and the touchdown, putting the 'Stangs on the board before the end of the first quarter.

The Warriors came back at the beginning of the second quarter, snagging another touchdown before Heppner took back the game for the rest of the first half. Wright ran in a touchdown for a 50-yard gain, and #28 Brian Rill then ran the ball from the 50 for another touchdown and a 69-yard gain. Mustang Jesse Corbin (#44) topped off the touchdown with a two-point conversion to end the first half 28-21 to the Mustangs.

The Mustangs dominated the third quarter, with another touchdown by Wright and the two-point



Top: Mustang Senior Aidan Wright (#24) fights off a tackle and takes control of the ball during the Heppner versus Oakridge playoff game last Saturday. The Mustangs' 55-29 win advances them to the quarterfinals of the state playoffs. Bottom: Senior Mustang Stephen Thompson (#7) hands off the ball to Senior Earl Propher (#26). —Photos by Sandy Matthews

PAT by Garrett Robinson, followed by another 40 yards and a touchdown by #42 Tommy Bredfield.

The final quarter looked like another shutout for the Mustangs, with touchdowns by Earl Propher (#26)

and Jared Lemmon (#3). Oakridge surged toward the end, putting eight more points on the board before the end of the game, but it wasn't enough to stop the stampeding Mustangs in their 55-29 victory.

Mustang volleyball takes fifth in state

Girls pound down the Warriors but fall to Bulldogs, Braves

On Nov. 9-10 at the OSAA 2 A state volleyball tournament in Redmond, OR, the Mustangs found their game early by beating the North Douglas Warriors (Mountain View Conference #2, 8th ranked team, 17-5 overall) in three sets, 25-10, 25-21, 25-17. The Mustangs played good together as a team, and their confidence was high as they entered into the semifinals in an 8:30 p.m. game that same night, facing the Culver Bulldogs.

The Mustangs had beaten the Bulldogs early in the season in non-league play. Culver plays in the Tri-River Conference and finished #1 in that league with a 23-5 overall record, ranked fourth coming into the state tournament. The Mustangs didn't repeat their early-season victory, losing the match in four sets. Culver sophomore Shealene Little had 28 kills in the match, with four in a row

in the fourth set. The first set went to Culver 25-20. The second set saw Heppner fight back to take the win 25-19, with some great play from Alana Wilson to even the score. In the third set, tied at 13 at one point, the Bulldogs gained momentum and took the win. A heartbreaker fourth set ended 29-27 to the Bulldogs. Mustang Emma Osmin had been pounding down serves on the Bulldogs, but the serves were picked up and sent back by Little.

The loss ended the Mustangs' run for finals but didn't end their season as they had to turn around and face the Reedsport Braves (20-6, ranked second in state) in a 2:15 p.m. Saturday fight over third and fifth place.

This game seemed a repeat of last year's tournament, where these same two teams faced off. It

wasn't in the cards for the Mustangs this year, as they lost the match in four sets, 25-22, 15-25, 25-22 and 25-23. Size was a factor; Reedsport's front was big, with three players at six feet tall.

The Mustangs played hard throughout the match, with some good play in the fourth set from Maddie Lindsay to spark the Mustangs. Wilson and Osmin served three aces apiece. Baily Bennett had a team high of 21 kills for the Mustangs, and Wilson had 10.

The loss ended a great season for the Mustangs, who took home the fifth-place trophy with a 27-8 overall record. Spectators can't begin to say how much fun it's been watching these kids play; they didn't quite reach their goal of state champions but their season can be counted a success as many other goals were accomplished.

Heppner High news

By Jordan Jones

The Mustang football boys won against the Oakridge Warriors in the first round of state playoffs. The Mustang football boys will be playing in the quarterfinals here at home; they will be playing against Portland Christian at 2 p.m. on November 17.

The volleyball girls also had a great volleyball season, getting fifth in state.

One of our seniors this week is Austin Bill Roberts; his parents are Bob and

Cindi Roberts and he has one sibling, Tanner Roberts. Roberts likes bright colors, and any good food. Roberts is the ASB president, and he also participates in FBLA. In his spare time he enjoys hanging with friends and staying productive. After high school, Roberts wants to attend the business program at the University of Oregon.

Our other senior is Elizabeth Ninon Rill. Her parents are Dean and Patty Rill, and she has three sib-

lings, Heather, Stephanie and Bryan Rill. Rill's favorite food is mashed potatoes and her favorite color is purple. Rill has participated in HHS softball for the past four years and, in her spare time, she enjoys hanging with friends, going hunting, fishing and snowmobiling with her family. After high school, Rill wants to attend the Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls so she can obtain a degree for an ultrasound technician.

HHS honors vets

Last Thursday, Nov. 8, Heppner High School hosted a Veteran's Day Celebration Assembly. The public was invited to the program, which recognized servicemen and women for their service to our country.

"The students and faculty did an amazing job of honoring the current veterans in the community as well as those who have passed," said one attendee. "It is always so encouraging to see what our small community and school can do."

It was a jam-packed program, with the school band, the choir singing the military songs, Legion Hall members to present the colors, a slide show of the military photos of many, many current vets from the community, and a roll call of all those present with their service, dates of service, military jobs and

where they served. Heppner had a good representation of all branches of the service, majors, colonels and retired military. Approximately six to eight World War II veterans also were in the audience, including Bud Batty, in uniform at 95 years old and saluting the flag every time it was moved.

Prior to the program there were two active military members, as well as some of the current veterans, who visited classrooms and spoke with the students.

During the program, the speaker, active member

of the military and purple star recipient Sergeant First Class (SFC) Misipati "Semi" Bird, spoke about America to the world. He got the students involved; the students said they really liked his comparison of America as Disneyland to the rest of the world. Bird then told the assembly that he was going on a special assignment in the next week—but couldn't say where, only that America had not been there for many, many years.

Of course, the program closed with a stirring performance of taps to honor those who had passed.

Community lunch menu

St. Patrick's Catholic Parish members will be serving lunch on Wednesday, Nov. 21, at St. Patrick's Senior Center. The meal will include turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy, candied yams, cranberry sauce, hot rolls and pumpkin pie. Milk is served at each meal.

Suggested donation is \$3.50 per meal. Menu is subject to change.

Basketball program plans fun night

The women's and men's Heppner High School basketball programs are having a joint fun night for the HHS teams and spectators Nov. 27 with dinner from 5-7 p.m. and activities to start at 6 p.m. Dinner and entry cost \$7, with \$2 for entry only. Raffle tickets will be priced separately.

"It is a united fundraiser for both of our programs, meant to be family-fun event. It will be a chance for HHS fans to preview the HHS teams and let some of our players execute their

skills in a contest format," said boys' head basketball coach Jeremy Rosenbalm.

The night, themed Blue and Gold Madness, will include scrimmages between HHS varsity and JV-level players, a demonstration of skills through organized contests within the HHS Mustang players, three-point contests and more. A skills contest themed around some crowd-member participation is also planned, with students, fans and alumni involvement offered for one event.

The programs will hold a raffle, including items from Nike balls to Gatorade water bottles, Mustang wear and other donated items from big names like Nike and Under Armour. The raffle items will be awarded during the evening. Participants must be present to win.

The night will include a pasta dinner with salad, bread and dessert from 5-7 p.m.

For questions, contact Jeremy Rosenbalm at Heppner High School.

HEPPNER LES SCHWAB CONGRATULATES HEPPNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

The Character trait for October was healthy body & mind



Top (L-R): Hayden Hyatt, Evan Kollman, Olivia Schmidt, Marlee Mitchell, Keegan Gibbs, Claire Grieb and Cody Fletcher. Bottom (L-R): Kylie Boor, Trevor Nichols, Katie Wilson, Caden George, Zandra Masterson, Jackson Coiner and Keeley Nairns.

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