

Cold, snow don't slow Mustangs in quarterfinals victory



CJ Kindle (#24) braces to catch a pass from quarterback Kaden Clark (#10). Clark was 9-16 passing the ball for 225 yards, while Kindle caught five balls for 131 yards and a touchdown and led the team in rushing. —Photo by Sandy Matthews

The Heppner Mustang football team won their OSAA State Championship Quarterfinal game against the Central Linn Cobras by a score of 45-8.

Large piles of snow could be seen all around Les Payne field on game day. Many local volunteers worked for several hours to blade, rake and blow snow off of the field. Their efforts helped ensure that the teams would be able to safely play on the home turf of the Mustangs.

Central Linn kicked off to start the game and the Mustangs got great field position at midfield. After six hard-fought running plays, Heppner scored on a 25-yard touchdown pass from Kaden Clark to CJ Kindle. Brian Rill ran in the two-point conversion to give Heppner the lead 8-0.

The teams then battled up and down the field but neither of them could score. They traded possessions four times before Heppner would score again. A six-play drive that featured a 31-yard pass play from Clark to Kindle ended when Clark ran the ball in from three yards out for the touchdown. Clark then threw to Logan Grieb for the PAT and the Mustangs led the game 16-0.

On the next Cobra pos-

session, Weston Putman forced a fumble that Patrick Collins recovered at the Central Linn 30-yard line. Just three plays later, Clark would score a touchdown on a run of one yard. He then threw to Jesse Corbin for the two-point conversion to give the Mustangs the lead 24-0. The next Cobra drive was stopped when Corbin intercepted a pass to give the Mustangs the ball back. They could not score on their final drive of the half and went to the locker room with a 24-0 lead.

On the first Cobra possession of the second half, Clark intercepted a pass to give the Mustangs good field position. Putman scored four plays later when he caught a 26-yard pass from Clark. That made the score 30-0 in favor of the Mustangs. After a brief drive by the Cobras, the Heppner defense forced them to punt. On the very first play, Kindle got some great blocking and he ran 74 yards for a score. Grieb caught the two-point conversion pass from Clark to make the score 38-0 with three minutes left in the third quarter. The Mustang defense again held strong and forced another Cobra punt to give the offense the ball at midfield.

On the very next play,

and the first play of the fourth quarter, Heppner scored again. Clark found Grieb open across the middle of the field and hit him in stride. Grieb then outraced a Cobra defender for a 50-yard scoring play. Corbin made the PAT kick to make the score 45-0. As has happened many times this year, the 45-point mercy rule would take over and the clock would run for the rest of the game. Many of the younger Mustang players rotated into the game to gain valuable playoff experience. Central Linn would score their only touchdown on a long run with 11 minutes left in the game. Central Linn would also block a Mustang punt into the end zone. A Heppner player then fell on the ball and the Cobras scored a two-point safety. The teams then traded possessions again. The Heppner offense held the ball as the game ended. The Mustangs had won by the score of 45-8.

The Mustangs had 12 first downs in the game and Central Linn 10. Heppner rushed for 129 yards and the Cobras had 152. The Mustangs had 225 passing yards and Central Linn had 0. Total yards in the game for Heppner was 354 and Central Linn had 152.

Kindle led the team in rushing with 95 yards. Rill, who left early in the game with an ankle injury, was next with 20 yards. Clark ran for 16 and Peyton Lehman had one yard rushing.

Clark was 9-16 passing the ball for 225 yards. Kindle caught five balls for 131 yards and a touchdown. Putman hauled in two passes for 41 yards and a touchdown. Grieb had one catch for 50 yards and a score in the game. Corbin had one catch for three yards.

On the defensive side of the ball, Putman led the team in tackles with 13. Kindle contributed 12 and Tom Gould had eight. Saul Erickson and Kolby Currin had seven tackles each in the game and Ross Cutsforth had six. Collins was next with five tackles and Corbin and Grieb each had four. Next with three tackles on the day were Caden Hedman, Clyde Britt and Tim Jaca. With two tackles each in the game were Clark and John Propeter. Finishing the game with one tackle each were Rill, Jacob Moses and Skyler Palmer.

With the win, the Mustangs now move on to the OSAA State Championship Semifinals, where they will face the Knappa Loggers. The game will be played on Saturday, Nov. 22, at Liberty High School in Hillsboro. Game time is set for noon.

On Friday, Nov. 21, Jim Kindle will escort the players' bus out of town with a fire truck. The boys are expected to depart around 8 a.m.; community members are invited to step outside and see them off on their way to the state semifinals.

Snow, bitter cold doesn't slow down Mustang supporters



Chad Doherty (top) operates a four-wheeler, plowing snow off Les Payne Field in preparation for the football game last Saturday, while Ken Grieb (bottom) shovels snow to make life easier for the fans. These two and many more volunteers helped clear the way for a crushing Mustang victory Saturday afternoon. —Photos by Sandy Matthews

CHRISTMAS IN HEPPNER

—Continued from PAGE ONE some great prizes that have been donated by merchants.

Thursday, Dec. 4, will start Christmas Festivities in Heppner. The Heppner Christmas Activity Committee says it is planning hard already to make this year even better than last year. The day will be filled with a time for the local merchants to show their customer appreciation, with activities going all day long.

At 5:30 p.m., local children will decorate the tree by the post office with their homemade ornaments, and everyone is invited to participate in caroling around the tree.

At 6 p.m., Pioneer Memorial Hospice will hold its

Lights of Hope ceremony at St. Patrick's Senior Center (see story PAGE THREE).

Santa will be set up inside Heppner Family Foods for pictures from 6-7 p.m., so bring your camera and take a picture or two. Heppner Family Foods also will be providing a candy cane and hot chocolate. Shoppers will also want to remember to take advantage of extended evening hours to purchase Christmas gifts and get rewards cards for purchases.

The Celebrate Heppner Christmas community event will be held on Thursday, Dec. 18, starting at 6 p.m. at the Morrow County Fairgrounds. The evening will begin with a

dinner prepared and served by Cornerstone Gallery for purchase for the whole family; pictures with Santa and drawing of the rewards cards, raffle and penny board winners will wrap up the evening. Rumor has it that Scrooge is also planning on stopping by to spend the evening.

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Choice Program will affect veterans in outlying areas

Many veterans now have the option to receive non-VA health care rather than waiting for a VA appointment or traveling to a VA facility.

As of Nov. 5, 2014, the new Choice Program began to cover non-VA care for eligible veterans enrolled in VA healthcare. Every

veteran will receive a letter and a Choice Card in the mail with details about the program. Veterans will be eligible for the program and receive cards in three phases:

- Veterans who may live more than 40 miles from a VA facility;
- Veterans who are cur-

rently waiting for an appointment longer than 30 days;

-All remaining veterans enrolled for VA healthcare who may be eligible for the Choice Program.

To set up an appointment with a non-VA provider, call the VA at 866-606-8198.

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