

MUSTANGS #1 IN STATE



Caden Hedman (#18) leads the charge in taking down a Kennedy Trojan during last Saturday's championship game. -Photo by Sandra Putman

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the ball in for the two-point conversion to make the score 42-0.

After another Kennedy punt, the Mustangs fumbled to give the Trojans the ball at the Heppner 21-yard line. This would be quite a test for the Mustang defense to see if they could keep Kennedy from scoring. They passed the test and held Kennedy from even getting a first down. Heppner then took over at

their own 12 yard line. The Mustang offensive line, which blew open holes for the backs all night long, took complete control of the game at this point. A long, time-consuming drive started as Putman ran the ball through a giant hole for a 24-yard gain. Then it was Kindle for seven, Grieb for six, Kindle for six more and then Putman for five. Clark then threw the ball to Kindle for a 15-yard gain

to set up the final Mustang score. Kindle ran a post-route to the end zone and Clark hit him in stride for the touchdown. That made the score 48-0 with just over seven minutes left in the game. The rest of the contest would be played with a running clock because of the 45-point rule.

On the next Kennedy possession, they completed a pass and Clark put a big hit on the receiver. He knocked the ball free and Tommy Bredfield picked it up and returned the ball to the Kennedy 34-yard line. At this point in the game, the Heppner coaches called a time out and took the starters out of the game to loud cheers from the Mustang fans. Many of the younger Heppner players got into the game at this point. They ran several plays to finish out the game. The final score of the game was 48-0.

Heppner controlled the game from start to finish. The Mustangs had 20 first downs and the Trojans only four. Heppner rushed for 201 yards and held Kennedy to 100. The Mustangs passed the ball for 185 yards and Kennedy only had five. Total offense in the game was 386-105.

Putman led the team in rushing with 110 yards

on 15 carries. Grieb followed with 69 yards and one touchdown on 11 carries. Kindle packed the ball 14 times for 60 yards and scored four touchdowns.

Clark was 6-8 passing the ball for 153 yards and two touchdowns. Grieb completed one pass for 32 yards in the game. Grieb caught two passes for 75 yards and one touchdown. Kindle was next with three catches for 71 yards and a score. Putman had two catches for 39 yards.

The Mustang defense was led by Murray with 11 tackles and a fumble recovery. Bredfield finished with 10 tackles and also had a fumble recovery. Putman had nine big tackles and Patrick Collins eight. Wyatt Steagall finished with six and Kindle and Tim Jaca each recorded five. Tre Cimmiyotti and Kolby Currin each had three tackles in the game. Hedman had two and an interception. Clark finished with one tackle and a forced fumble. Grieb had one tackle and an interception for the team.

This game was a tremendous way to finish off a tremendous season. Heppner finished with a record of 13-0 and the title of the "Best of the Best," the champions of 2A football in the state of Oregon.

Heppner Mustangs: A Year in Review

By winning the 2015 OSAA 2A State Football Championship last weekend, the Heppner Mustang football team fulfilled not only their dream, but also the dreams of many in the Heppner community. When this group of young men was playing in junior high school they had the look of champions. Many people predicted that the day would come when this group would bring home a state championship.

kept winning. The strength of your schedule plays a big factor in the poll. By week six the Mustangs had fallen to number 10 in the poll. They started to play some of the better teams on their schedule and they started to climb. By week eight they had risen to number four, and they were second on week nine when the final poll came out.

The team scored the second most points in the state before the playoffs



Logan Grieb runs it into the endzone Saturday in Hermiston. -Photo by Sandra Putman

Most people also know that winning a championship is a hard thing to do. No matter how much skill or talent you may have, there are many outside factors you have to conquer in order to win it all. Last year's team made it to the final game of the season. Injuries to four starters, who played both offense and defense, made it impossible for them to be able to play in the game. So that was really eight positions that had to be filled by someone else. It is nearly impossible to win a title when you are not at full strength. This year's team had no significant injuries to slow them up on their quest. You need to have some luck to reach your final goal. Who you play and where you play are also factors in your success. This year's team worked hard to win the conference and finish in the top four in the OSAA rankings so they would get two home playoff games. That was a significant factor in their playoff run.

with 446. They also gave up the second least amount of points on the year at 92. The Mustangs placed more players on the all-conference team, 19, than any other team in our conference. There will surely be several Heppner players that make it on to the all-state teams.

Success generally leads to more success. This year's freshman class finishes the year 13-0. The sophomores have a two year record of 25-1. The junior class of players has a three year record of 36-2. The senior class has a four year record of 43-6. The seniors have hosted eight playoff games. That is unheard of anywhere else around the state. In their high school careers they played in a quarterfinal game, played a semifinal game, played in a state championship game and this year won a state championship. That's quite an accomplishment for this group of young men.

You also need tremendous coaching to bring it all together. This team certainly has that on their side. They have coaches who have been here and helped these boys develop from the time they were in fifth grade. This team was so well prepared for each and every team and game they faced this year. They watch films of the other teams religiously and they know what that team will do and what to expect from them. All of the Heppner coaches contribute in their own way to make the entire program successful.

This year's team started the year ranked number one in the coaches' poll. They fell as low as number four, but were back up to number one on week nine. When the first OSAA poll came out, Heppner was ranked number one. With the formula they use, it didn't matter that the team

The eight seniors on this year's team will certainly be missed in the future. Their leadership, hard play and enthusiasm will be missed by the football program. The seniors are Patrick Collins, CJ Kindle, Weston Putman, Ryan Smith, Kaden Clark, Tommy Bredfield, Saul Erickson and Tre Cimmiyotti. They have helped shape a "Mustang Tradition That Never Graduates." They helped their younger teammates achieve a magical goal this season. They also worked with them every day in practice to make them better players in the future. They treated the younger players with respect and helped make it the best year of their lives for some of them. As great as they are on the football field, they may be an even better group of young men off the field.

There is still a bright future ahead for the Mustang football program next year. Heppner returns eight players who started games at one point or another during the season. Many of them were all-conference selections. In addition, many of the younger players saw significant action in varsity games this year. The JV team had a successful season as well.

While we don't know what the future will hold, we do know this group of coaches and players will spend the off season working hard. They will work hard to achieve the goals they set for themselves and for the team next season. We also know that it will be a season Mustang fans everywhere can be proud of.



The combined efforts of team members and dedicated coaches led the Mustangs to their first football championship since 1992 this year. -Photo by Sandra Putman

SWCD to hold annual meeting

The Morrow SWCD will hold a regular board meeting Tuesday, Dec. 15, at St. Patrick's Parish Hall, 560 Jones Street, Heppner beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Time will be set aside at the beginning of the SWCD meeting to receive comments from the public.

The agenda for the SWCD meeting includes review and approval of the minutes of the Nov. 10 meeting, bank reconciliation for November, budget

report, staff reports and partner reports.

The annual meeting of the district will be held following the regular meeting to receive the financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015.

A board position representing the Irrigon area is currently vacant; anyone interested should contact the SWCD. Meetings of Morrow SWCD are open to the public.

Morrow SWCD, livestock growers to hold joint program

Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District and Morrow County Livestock Growers will co-sponsor an afternoon program on Tuesday, Dec. 15, beginning at 1:15 p.m. at St. Patrick's Parish Hall in Heppner.

The agenda for the afternoon includes information on the Morrow County Weed Control website, an update on invasive annual grasses, and Weed Control Management Plan requirement for lands with "A" list weeds.

Next on the agenda will be Bill Duke, ODFW, with current information on fish screen requirements for irrigation water withdrawals

from streams. Following a break sponsored by Anipro, Beau Reynolds with Northwest Farm Credit Services will present "Protecting Your Hard Earned Dollar," insurance information on Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) and Whole Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP).

Steve Puntteny, District 3 Vice President with Oregon Cattlemen's Association, will have an update, and Mary Corp, Oregon State Extension Service, will have a report on the status of the livestock agent for Umatilla and Morrow Counties and the 4-H Extension position in Morrow County.

The final speaker for the afternoon will be Jake Franke, PhD with Premium Nutrition Network, presenting information on marketing for cattle.

Heppner Gazette Times
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Our Annual Charity Drive Is on Now - December 18th, 2015

Community Bank will match up to \$500 (per branch) at 50¢ on the dollar.

Funds collected at the Heppner branch will be donated to:

The Heppner Neighborhood Center

FOOD BANK

Make your donation go further!
Offer your helping hand by donating at:

Heppner
127 N Main St
541-676-5745

www.communitybanknet.com

Member FDIC



HEPPNER ELKS 358
676-9181 "Where Friends Meet" 142 North Main

Memorial Service & Ladies Night
Thursday, December 3rd
DINNER: STEW AND CORNBREAD AT 6:00 PM
Memorial Service @ 8PM with lodge following

In remembrance of:

Shirlee Sweigart
Robert C. Kelly
Howard Mullins
Alvin Vinson

"The faults of our members we write upon the sand; their virtues upon the tablets of Love & Memory"