

Mustangs start season strong with last-minute win against Buckaroos



Mustang senior Trevin Horne blocks a Buckaroo to maintain possession of the ball during last Friday's game in St. Paul. -Photo by Kirsti Cason

The Heppner Mustang football team started its 2016 season with a thrilling win at St. Paul. The game was played in the historic rodeo arena and was a back-and-forth affair. The Mustangs scored with only 9.3 seconds left to get the win against the Buckaroos by a score of 22-18.

Logan Grieb kicked off the ball to start the season for the Mustangs. St. Paul then drove the length of the field in five minutes to score a touchdown. Heppner blocked the extra point attempt and trailed in the game 6-0.

The Mustangs, who are starting many new players this year, couldn't get anything going and had to punt the ball away on their first possession. The second time they got the ball, a short drive ended when the team scored their first touchdown of the year as Grieb ran it in from 18 yards out. Grieb then scored the two-point conversion

to give the Mustangs an 8-6 lead.

The teams traded possessions several more times before St. Paul scored another touchdown with one minute left in the half. The extra point attempt was no good and the Mustangs trailed at halftime 12-8.

The Mustangs started the second half with the ball but had to punt it away. That punt pinned the Buckaroos deep in their own territory at the nine-yard line. They then tried a backward pass play that was incomplete and ruled a fumble. Wyatt Steagall jumped on the ball to give Heppner possession at the six-yard line. Three straight running plays got the ball to the three-yard line. On fourth down, the Mustangs scored when quarterback Kevin Smith threw to Kolby Currin for the touchdown. That gave Heppner the lead 14-12.

The teams traded possessions twice more before St. Paul scored again to give

them the lead 18-14.

The next Heppner possession ended near midfield with an interception. The Mustang defense stiffened and forced a punt which gave Heppner the ball at their own 15-yard line with just over one minute left in the game.

With no timeouts left, and 85 yards to go, it did not look good for the Heppner team. A screen pass to Coby Dougherty gained 23 yards, then a 16-yard pass completion to Jake Lindsay got the ball to the St. Paul 46-yard line. Another screen pass to Dougherty picked up 19 more yards to move the ball to the 27-yard line. A roughing the passer penalty on St. Paul moved the ball to the 13-yard line with just over 10 seconds left in the game. On the next play, Smith threw the ball on a quick slant to Beau Wolters for the game-winning touchdown with only 9.3 seconds left in the game. Grieb ran the two-point conversion

in to make the score 22-18.

Grieb then ended the game with a pass interception as time expired off the clock to give the Mustangs a 22-18 victory.

The Mustangs ended the game with 229 yards of total offense. Smith was 8-19 passing for 94 yards. He threw 2 touchdown passes and had 2 interceptions. Dougherty caught 2 passes for 42 yards, Currin had 2 receptions for 14 yards and a touchdown and Grieb caught 2 for 8 yards. Lindsay had 1 catch for 16 yards and Wolters had 1 catch for 13 yards and a touchdown.

Heppner ran the ball for 93 yards in the game. Grieb led the team with 67 yards on 12 carries. Dougherty ran the ball 13 times for 52 yards and Wolters carried it 2 times for 9 yards. Kevin Murray packed the ball 3 times for 8 yards.

On defense, Murray was all over the field and led the team in tackles with 22. Steagall was next with 13 and Currin had 11. Lindsay, Wolters and Tim Jaca each had 8 tackles. Dougherty and Derek Howard both recorded 7 and Grieb had 5. Peyton Lehman had 3 tackles and Trevin Horne, Dakota Howard and Gavin Hanna-Robinson each had 2. Jason Rea saw some time on defense and had 1 tackle in the game.

Before the varsity game, the Mustang JV team played two quarters against the St. Paul JV team and won.

The next game for the Mustangs will be a home contest this Friday night at Les Payne Field. They will play the Grant Union Prospectors at 7 p.m.

Heppner JV brings home a win from St. Paul



Reno Ferguson steps up to the ball during the Mustang junior varsity opening football game last week. It was a close game with a few turnovers, but the Mustangs prevailed, winning the two-quarter game 26-22 over the St. Paul Buckaroos. -Photo by Kirsti Cason

Wheatridge to sponsor booster club steak feed



Brandy Sweeney, president, Heppner Jr./Sr High Booster Club and Becky Kindle, treasurer, holding a check from Wheatridge Wind Energy for corporate sponsorship of the booster club's steak feed. -Contributed photo

Wheatridge Wind Energy has stepped up as corporate sponsor for this year's Heppner Booster Club steak feed dinner.

The steak feed and auction is the booster club's major annual fundraiser, and is planned for Oct. 8 this year.

Wheatridge's Jerry Rietmann said he was happy to get involved more with the community where they will be siting a portion of their substantial wind project. The company has agreed to cover the meal expenses this year.

Current booster club president Brandy Sweeney

said she is excited about this donation to cover the dinner expenses, as "it leaves more money for us to spend on the kids, which is the whole goal."

Treasurer Becky Kindle also voiced the club's gratitude for long-term contributors.

"We appreciate all of our loyal and local partners who have contributed to this event every single year for generations of kids," Kindle said.

More details on the annual steak feed and auction will be available closer to the event.

Community Bank awards nearly \$16,000 for good grades in 2016

The sixth year of Community Bank's Earn While You Learn Program has set an all-time high in cash awards paid to student-customers for their academic success. For the 2016 pay out period, the Heppner branch awarded \$1,002 to 41 students. Community Bank's student customers earned a total of \$15,910 as 730 students in the Eastern Oregon and Southeast Washington area cashed in on their good grades.

Since the bank's program began in 2011, earnings have steadily increased. In the first year of the Bank's Earn While You Learn Program just five years ago, 190 students were paid \$3,895. A total of \$6,975 was paid to over 275 student-customers in 2012. A big increase occurred the following year with \$11,173 paid out in 2013, and \$11,939 to 531 students in 2014. Last year \$12,581 went to 576 students. This

year nearly \$16,000 brings the program's grand total of academic award money to \$62,473.

The program is designed to encourage students in their academic success by awarding Community Bank Youth Savings accounts customers for their good grades. During the months of June and July, all Community Bank branches accepted end-of-the-year report cards from students in grades one through 12.

For every top grade in a main school subject (A-, A, A+ for middle and high school, and S+, E, etc. for grade school) that appeared on the report card, Community Bank deposited \$1 into their Community Bank Youth Savings Account.

The Earn While You Learn Program is an annual reward of \$1 per top grade, up to \$50 annually per student, with payments given for the whole school year in June and July.

Oregon Health Policy Board seeks feedback on coordinated care organizations

The Oregon Health Policy Board (OHPB), a nine-member group appointed by the governor to oversee health policy at the Oregon Health Authority, will hold a series of com-

munity meetings across the state in September and October to gather public input about Oregon's coordinated care organizations (CCOs) and how they deliver services to Oregon's most

vulnerable citizens.

A listening session is planned in Hermiston Friday, Oct. 7, from noon to 2:30 p.m. at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, 1705 E Airport Rd. Those interested in attending are asked to please RSVP to HealthPolicyBoard.Info@state.or.us.

Oregon's coordinated care model was created in 2011 as part of Oregon's on-

going health system transformation. The 16 coordinated care organizations (CCOs) deliver physical, oral and behavioral health services to nearly 90 percent of Oregon's 1.1 million Medicaid recipients.

More information will be posted on the board's meeting page at <http://www.oregon.gov/oha/OHPB/Pages/cc-future.aspx>.

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ELK'S 19TH ANNUAL NE DISTRICT GOLF TOURNAMENT

Willow Creek Golf Course

September 24, 2016

Registration - 7:45 AM

Shot Gun Start - 9:00 AM Cost - \$40 per Golfer

For registration forms or additional information contact the

Heppner Elk's Lodge at (541) 676-9181, Marvin Brannon (541)

676-5288, Kelly Fox (541) 980-2948 or

Mike Doherty (541) 980-3325

Proceeds go to the Elk's Children's Eye Clinic





Multi-County Veterans Resource Fair & Vietnam Veterans 50th Anniversary Commemoration
Thursday, September 29, 2016 2 pm - 8 pm
Port of Morrow Conference Center 2 Marine Drive, Boardman

Come with your questions about your VA Benefits. Representatives will be on site to support you with information and application for services through local, State and Federal agencies.

Presentations by: Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs, VA Health Care & more!
Veterans Town Hall at 6:30 pm. Spouses, families and loved ones of Veterans are encouraged to attend!

Flu shots available for veterans.
For transportation call 1-844-5667 RSVP 541-922-6420