

# Mustang football ends regular season with a win



Kevin Smith leaps above the competition in the game against the Corbett Cardinals.-Photo by Kirsti Cason

The Heppner Mustang football team ended their regular season with a 48-6 victory over the Corbett Cardinals. Heppner ends their regular season as the Columbia Basin Conference champions with a record of 3-0 in conference and 5-3 overall. They finished the regular season ranked ninth in the state.

Heppner kicked off to start the game with Corbett. On the Cardinals third play of the night, Gavin Hanna Robinson intercepted a pass and took it back 35 yards for a touchdown. The conversion attempt was no good and the Mustangs quickly led 6-0.

Corbett was forced to punt on their next possession and again it didn't take the Mustangs long to score

again. It took just four plays for quarterback Jayden Wilson to hit Logan Burright with a 22-yard touchdown pass. Burright made a tough catch with two Cardinal defenders draped all over him. Kevin Smith kicked the extra point to give Heppner a 13-0 lead.

Again the tough Mustang defense forced another Cardinal punt and the offense quickly scored again. It took just five plays for Wilson to connect with Smith on a 4-yard touchdown pass. The extra point was missed and the Mustangs led 19-0 as the first quarter ended.

The teams traded possessions several times in the second quarter until Heppner scored again. A six play drive ended when

Beau Wolters punched the ball in from one yard out for another touchdown. Wolters then carried the ball in for the two-point conversion to give the Mustangs a 27-0 lead.

Heppner then got the ball back with just over one minute left in the first half. A ten play drive ended with another score when Wolters caught a 29 yard touchdown pass. Hanna Robinson caught a pass from Wilson for the two-point conversion to give the Mustangs a 35-0 lead at the half.

Corbett kicked off to start the second half. Heppner marched down the field for another score. A ten play drive ended with a touchdown when Wilson completed a four yard pass

to Wolters. The conversion try failed and Heppner now led 41-0.

The teams traded possessions again and then the Mustangs scored as the fourth quarter began. Coby Dougherty carried the ball in for a touchdown from six yards out. Smith kicked the extra point to give the Mustangs a 48-0 lead with just over ten minutes left in the game.

The point difference would now mean that the clock would continue to run for the rest of the game. The Heppner coaches substituted freely with the younger players on the team at this point. Corbett scored their only touchdown of the game at this time. The Mustangs ran the clock out and took a knee to end the game and get the 48-6 win.

The Mustangs finished with 491 yards of total offense, 363 rushing and 128 passing. Corbett was held to 98 yards of total offense.

Dougherty led the team in rushing with 181 yards and a score on 20 attempts. Beau Wolters had 54 yards rushing and a touchdown on eight carries. Hanna Robinson ran for 38 yards and Blake Wolters finished the game with 37 yards rushing. Wilson ran for 28 yards while Jackson Lehman had 18 and Kannon Wilkins ten.

Wilson had an outstanding game at quarterback. He was 11-18 passing the ball for 128 yards and four touchdowns. He also had a pass intercepted. Beau Wolters caught three passes for 51 yards and two touchdowns. Smith had three catches for 31 yards and a score. Dougherty also caught three passes for 18 yards and Burright had a catch for 22 yards and a touchdown. Hanna Robinson had one catch for a six yard gain.

Once again, Jason Rea led the defense with a total of 11 tackles. Dougherty was next with eight, Hanna Robinson and Wyatt Steagall finished with three each. Derek and Dakota Howard both had two tackles as did Burright and Blake Wolters. Finishing with one tackle each in the game were Beau Wolters, Peyton Lehman, Tyler Carter, Charles Cason, Nate Maret and Kellen Grant.

The Mustangs will host a first-round playoff game against the Neah-Kah-Nie Pirates. The Pirates are the number two team from the Northwest League and have a 7-1 season record.

# Mustang volleyball wins first round state playoff match



Jacee Currin, Morgan Correa, Madison Combe and Sophie Grant lead their team to victory in Reedsport last week. -Photo by Staci Osmin

The Heppner Mustang volleyball team won their first round state playoff match to qualify for the OSAA 2A State Volleyball Championship Tournament. The Mustangs (19-8) traveled to Reedsport and defeated the Braves 27-25, 25-21, 25-20. With the win, the Mustangs will next play on Friday, Nov. 3 at 8 a.m. against conference rival Culver Bulldogs in the opening match of the state tournament. The OSAA 2A State Championship Tournament final is being held in Redmond at Ridgeview High School on Nov. 3 and 4.

The Mustangs were the only visiting team to win an opening round playoff match. A small, but enthusiastic group of Heppner fans made the long road trip to Reedsport and they cheered loudly for the Mustangs.

The first set was close all the way and was tied 14 times. Reedsport was on the verge of winning the set at 25-24, but the Mustangs fought back and moved ahead by the score of 26-25. Jacee Currin finished the set off with a serve that the Braves couldn't handle and that gave the Mustangs the win 27-25.

Reedsport started off strong in the second set by scoring the first three points. Heppner came back to take the lead and stayed ahead for most of the rest of

the way, but only by a couple of points. The Braves did tie the score at 19-19 but then the Mustangs scored the next five points to take command of the set and get the win 25-21.

Another close set in the third, saw Reedsport lead by as much as three at 15-12. Heppner then fought back and reversed a 16-14 Reedsport lead with a five point run that gave the Mustangs the lead for good. The 25-20 win in the set gave the Mustangs the match 3-0.

Serving was key for the Mustangs and Madison Combe was perfect on the day going 13-13. Currin and Sophie Grant did not miss as well and were 10-10 each. Claire Grieb came in and was 3-3 from the service line. Morgan Correa finished 13-15 and Sydney Wilson 7-11.

Wilson led the team defense with 31 digs. Correa was next with 14 while Grant and Currin finished with seven each. Currin led the team with 18 assists, Grant had eight and Wilson five.

Correa led the offense and recorded ten kills at the net. Grant and Nicole Propher both had seven kills. Currin and Jenna McCullough finished with five kills each. Correa also had two blocks while Grant and McCullough recorded one each.

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