

HEPPNER

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Mustangs win quarterfinal

Moving on to semifinal game



Senior Matt Orem (71) led the way for defense with 11 tackles Saturday. -Photo by Damon Brosnan.

The Heppner Mustang football team won their OSAA 2A State Football Championship quarterfinal game against the Warrenton Warriors by the score of 32-7. The Mustangs now advance to the semi-final round and will take on the Knappa Loggers. The Loggers were the first-place team from the Northwest League. They finished league play with a 6-0 record and were 7-2 during the regular season. The teams shared two common opponents this season and they both beat Grant Union and Warrenton. The Mustangs will play Knappa this Saturday, November 23 at Hillsboro Stadium. Game time has been set for 2:15 p.m.

Every round of the playoffs gets tougher and the game with Warrenton certainly proved to be that for the Mustangs. The Warriors team was big and athletic and it took a while for the Mustangs to take control of the game.

Heppner kicked off to start the game and the teams traded possessions. The Warriors had the ball, Kason Cimmiyotti stepped in front of a pass and intercepted it for the Mustangs. The offense couldn't get anything going after that and had to punt the ball away.

Two Warrenton possessions later, Jace Coe picked off a Warrior pass that gave the Mustangs the ball near midfield. Heppner then went on a long 13 play drive that resulted in a score when Blake Wolters pounded the ball in from three yards out for the touchdown. The Mustangs had the lead 6-0 with five minutes left in the first quarter.

On the next Warrenton drive, Wolters forced the Warrior quarterback to fumble the ball and Hayden Hyatt pounced on it to give the Mustangs possession. Heppner couldn't move the ball and Gavin Hanna-Robinson had to punt it away. The Mustang defense stopped the Warriors and the half ended with the Mustangs in the lead by the score of 6-0.

Heppner got the ball to start the second half but couldn't move it and punted to Warrenton. The Warriors scored on this possession when their quarterback ran the ball in from 13 yards out. The extra point try was good and the Warriors took the lead 7-6 midway through the third quarter.

On the ensuing kickoff, Jackson Lehman caught the ball and sprinted through the Warrenton kickoff team 64 yards for a touchdown. Heppner took the lead back in the game 12-7. This

touchdown seemed to fire the Mustang team up and the rest of the game was controlled by the "Beast of the East", as the Warrenton coach had called the Mustang football team earlier in the week.

Jayden Wilson intercepted a Warrenton pass on their very next possession to give Heppner the ball. The team could not move it and punted it away once again. Warrenton couldn't get anything going as the stout Mustang defense force another three-and-out to give Heppner the ball right back.

The Mustangs would not let another opportunity be missed as they scored on this possession. After a 32-yard run by Mason Lehman and a bruising five-yard gain by Wolters, Wilson took off with the ball and did a tight rope run down the right sideline for a 38-yard touchdown. Wolters scored the 2-pt. conversion to give the Mustangs a 20-7 lead as the third quarter came to an end.

Cimmiyotti intercepted another Warrenton pass attempt on their next possession to give the Mustangs the ball. After Wolters punished the Warrenton defense with runs of 25 and seven yards, Mason Lehman scored on a 28-yard touchdown run. The score

Stolen pick-up truck totaled



A stolen pickup rolled several times near Heppner.

Drion Mark Donner, 30, Heppner, was arrested and lodged at the Umatilla County Jail after stealing and wrecking a pickup near Heppner on November 14.

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office communication center received a call from a local resident advising her pickup had been stolen just after 11 p.m. on the 14th. Deputies on duty in south Morrow County began searching for the vehicle.

Less than an hour later, the subject who was ultimately charged with

stealing the vehicle, called to advise he had been in an accident near Upper Rhea Creek Rd and Lunceford Canyon Rd. The pickup was traveling on Lunceford Canyon Rd when it left the roadway and rolled several times, coming to rest near Upper Rhea Creek Rd.

The driver made his way out of the pickup and walked to a nearby residence where he called the Sheriff's Office. An ambulance transported the driver to Pioneer Memorial Hospital, where he was medically cleared.



Drion Mark Donner

Donner was transported from Heppner to the Umatilla County Jail on charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and driving while under the influence of intoxicants with a bail of \$15,000. He was also cited for driving while suspended violation, fail to drive within lane and refusal to take a breath test.

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Flood evacuation test to be conducted Thursday

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Morrow County Emergency Management will conduct a live siren test of the Heppner flood evacuation warning system on Thursday Nov. 21 at 12 p.m.

Sirens are located at the Columbia Basin Electric Co-Op and at the U.S. Forest Service compound. Residents located near these locations should take precautions (hearing protection) as the siren will be very loud. The siren will sound for approximately 10 seconds. County and federal

officials are conducting the test to ensure the sirens are functional at the two locations within the town of Heppner.

The sirens are part of a basin-wide flood early warning system which collects rainfall and stream data from Balm Fork and Willow Creek above Willow Creek dam as well as Shobe and Hinton Creeks which flow through Heppner downstream of Willow Creek Dam.

Floods can occur at any time of the year but are most likely in the Willow

Creek Basin during spring and summer months. Willow Creek dam maintains flood storage throughout the year to reduce the potential of flooding to communities downstream. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers works closely with the Morrow County Emergency Management to monitor flooding potential in the Willow Creek Basin. Please heed all warnings and evacuation notices from local officials.

For more information contact John A. Bowles at 541-676-5317.

was now 26-7 only three minutes into the fourth quarter.

Jackson Lehman then intercepted a Warrior pass near midfield and ran it all the way down to the 10-yard line. Wolters took over from there and scored on a 10-yard touchdown run on the very next play. That made the score 32-7 with eight minutes left in the game. The teams traded possessions and Warrenton had the ball as time ran out. The Mustangs got the quarterfinal win by the score of 32-7.

Heppner had 276 yards rushing and 14 passing for a total of 290 yards of offense in the game. Warrenton had 233 total yards of offense with 148 rushing yards and 85 yards passing in the game.

Wilson was 2-11 passing in the game for 14 yards. Mason Lehman caught both

of the passes for 14 yards receiving.

Mason Lehman led the team in rushing with 106 yards on 10 carries and scored a touchdown. Wolters ran over Warrenton defenders all game long and finished with 93 yards and two touchdowns on 15 carries. Wilson finished with 53 yards and a score on six carries in the game. Coe finished with 17 yards rushing, Jackson Lehman ran for five and Kannon Wilkins had two.

Leading the way for the defense was Matt Orem with 11 tackles for the Mustangs. Wolters and Jason Rea both finished with nine tackles in the game and Mason Lehman recorded eight. Conor Brosnan stepped up and had seven tackles while Hanna-Robinson and Coe finished with five each. With four tackles each were

Wilson, Cimmiyotti and Jackson Lehman. With two tackles each in the game were Kellen Grant, Kevin Rea and Hyatt. Recording a tackle each for the Mustangs were Evan Kollman, Nate Maret and Roy Collins.

The entire Heppner defense was outstanding once again in this game as they have been all season long. The defensive line and linebackers did an outstanding job of dealing with the size of the Warrenton line and running backs. Heppner also recorded six take-a-ways in this quarterfinal game: one forced fumble by Wolters that was recovered by Hyatt and they also intercepted the Warrenton quarterback five times. Cimmiyotti had two picks in the game and with one each were Wilson, Coe and Jackson Lehman.



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