

Heppner Mustangs tame the Tigers 60-0

The Heppner Mustang football team won their Blue Mountain Conference game against the Stanfield Tigers by the score of 62-0. The Mustangs (5-0,2-0) are the third ranked team in the OSAA State 2A football rankings.

In the game against Stanfield, the Tigers kicked off to the Mustangs to open the game and on the second play of the Heppner possession they scored. Quarterback Mason Orem connected with Nick Wenberg on a 63 yard touchdown pass. Orem then connected on a pass to Keaton Coiner for the 2 pt. conversion to make the score 8-0 just forty seconds into the game.

On the first possession for Stanfield, Orem stepped in front of a pass by the Tiger quarterback and intercepted it. Orem then high stepped his way 24 yards to give the Mustangs the ball at the Stanfield 17 yard line. A 12 yard run by Zach Brown, followed by a 2 yard plunge by Alakae Rodriguez led to Rodriguez scoring from 3 yards out on the next play. Orem found Brown open in the end zone for the 2 pt. conversion to make the score 16-0.

Stanfield was able to put together a short drive that the Mustang defense finally stopped on downs at the Heppner 26 yard line. On the very first play for the Mustangs, Hayden McMahon took the handoff and sprinted 74 yards for a touchdown. Brown ran for the 2 pt. conversion to

make the score 24-0 with four minutes left in the first quarter.

The Heppner defense then forced a Tiger punt that Brown returned 41 yards to give the Mustangs great field position at the Stanfield 20 yard line. A short 1 yard run by Rodriguez led to a 19 yard touchdown blast by Rodriguez. Rodriguez then took a handoff and scored the 2 pt. conversion to now make the score 32-0 as the first quarter ended.

On the next Tiger possession, Wenberg intercepted a pass at the 26 yard line and returned it to the Stanfield 10 yard line. Rodriguez ran the ball for 9 yards and then scored a touchdown from 1 yard out on the next play. That made the score 38-0 early in the second quarter.

Once again the Heppner defense forced a Stanfield punt that Kaden King blocked. Heppner took over at the Tiger 30 yard line. Caylan Proudfoot came into the game at this point to take over as the Mustang quarterback. After an incomplete pass, Rodriguez ran the ball for 22 yards, Proudfoot went for 2 and then Proudfoot threw a pass to Wenberg for a 6 yard touchdown. That made the score of the game 44-0. The teams then traded possessions for the rest of the half and the score at halftime was 44-0.

The second half of the game would be played with a running clock because the Mustangs led by more than 35 points. The Tigers got

the ball first to start the half and the Heppner defense stopped them once again. A loss of 6 yards on a sack by Lane Critchlow forced the Tigers to punt the ball. Heppner took possession at their own 32 yard line and it only took four plays to score again. This drive featured runs by Joseph Albitre of 8 yards and another for 15. Kaden King then ran it for 5 yards and Albitre finished off the drive when he scampered 34 yards for the touchdown. That score made it 50-0 in favor of the Mustangs as the third quarter ended.

Heppner forced a Tiger fumble on their next possession that Jackson Coiner recovered to give the Mustang offense the ball. An eight play drive ended in a touchdown when Proudfoot handed the ball off to Mason Haugen who scored from 3 yards out. The score was now 56-0 with seven minutes left in the game.

The next Stanfield possession ended when Proudfoot intercepted a pass and returned it 14 yards to the Tiger 26 yard line. Haugen ran the ball for a yard and then the Mustangs scored again when Zion Ramos took the hand off and finished the Heppner scoring for the night with a 25 yard touchdown run. That made the final score of the game 62-0.

The Mustangs finished the game with 388 total yards from scrimmage. The Tigers could only manage 108. Heppner ran the ball for 319 yards and had 69

yards passing.

Orem was 1-1 passing the ball for 63 yards and a touchdown. Proudfoot was 1-3 for 6 yards and a score. Wenberg caught 2 passes for 69 total yards and scored 2 touchdowns receiving.

Hayden McMahon led the Mustangs in rushing with 82 yards on 2 attempts. He also scored a rushing touchdown. Albitre was next with 76 yards on 5 carries and a score. Rodriguez finished with 57 yards and scored 3 touchdowns in the game while Ramos rushed for 44 yards and a score. Kaden King ran for 30 yards, Brown went for 12, Wenberg had 10, Mason Haugen 5 yards with a score and Proudfoot finished with 3 yards rushing.

On the defensive side of the ball, Critchlow led the Mustangs with 6 tackles. Next were Kaden King and Rodriguez with 5 tackles each. Brown finished the game with 4 tackles and with 3 tackles each were Jaime Cavan, Ryan Haugen and Owen Guerra. Finishing the game with 2 tackles each were John Lindsay, Landon McMahon, Keaton Coiner and Albitre. Having 1 tackle each in the game were Wenberg, Jackson Coiner, Kooper Miller, Brodie McDaniel, Andrew Lindsay and Darby Spivey.

The Mustangs have a home game this week as they take on the Weston-McEwen Tigerscots on Friday night at Les Payne Field. Game time is 7 PM.



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Circuit Court Annex in Boardman Board of Commissioners

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Doherty concluded his lengthy presentation with an appeal to the commitment and hours invested by numerous city staff and community members, lobbying for ongoing support for the project to be located in Heppner, which he claimed would best serve the judiciary and community needs alike.

Commissioner Sykes addressed concerns about possible private decision-making by the board. He emphasized that the BOC has conducted only one executive session related to the courthouse project, with the remaining deliberations made public online. "Every time we've talked about it, we've gone through this process, and our minutes are posted, the meetings are on Zoom, our agenda is posted," Sykes assured the gathering. He then invited County Administrator Jensen to confirm these statements, who echoed Sykes' sentiments regarding the transparency of the board's actions.

The topic under discussion was whether to reopen discussions regarding the location of the new courthouse. Commissioner Sykes, openly supporting Heppner as the location for the courthouse, recused himself from leading further dialogue on the topic due to his bias.

Commissioner Drago responded to what he described as misrepresentation of his statements at a previous forum. "So I've been called out, and honestly some of the statements are taken out of context," Drago expressed. He clarified his position from the candidate's forum in April, emphasizing that his preference for the courthouse to be in the southern end of the county was not a firm promise but a nod to the difficult decisions that might need to be made. "I didn't promise anything, I said 'personally

I want the courthouse in the south end of the county, but if I'm going to do the work of the people and do what's best there are some choices that might be pretty hard to swallow in the north end," Drago stated recounting what he said at the forum.

He also addressed a misunderstood comment about the courthouse being near a food processing plant, explaining it was more a question raised by DLR (a consulting firm) than a statement made by him.

Commissioner Wenholz emphasized the importance of considering the interests of the majority in the county. He clarified that the decision made to move the building to Boardman would not affect court jobs in Heppner. Wenholz pointed out that there was little support for the fairground's location and mentioned a petition from a resident, Jeanie Collins, backed by 87 registered voters, made it clear that they opposed

the fairgrounds as a site. "At the town halls, the prevailing opinion was clearly against the fairgrounds, except for one person and the city of Heppner," Wenholz stated.

Commissioner Drago reiterated his decision-making approach, which is based on logic rather than emotion. Citing Boardman's rapid growth in comparison to Heppner, Drago argued that it makes more logical sense to build the courthouse in an expanding area. "My personal belief is that placing a courthouse here isn't going to change the growth dynamics," he added.

Both commissioners also expressed their trust in the judgment of the judiciary. "I will take the word of the Judge and the Chief Justice that the building can be put in Boardman," Wenholz shared. Drago concurred and confidently said, "I will stand on the vote that I've already taken."

The decision to lo-

cate the new courthouse in Boardman, as made in the September 4th BOC meeting, remains unchanged.

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Reversing Diabetes Workshop
6 Session Seminar Starting Monday, October 14th 6:00 - 8:00 PM
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