

# Mustangs, TigerScots on course for title clash

EO Media Group

HEPPNER — The Heppner Mustangs turned in another very impressive four quarters for another blowout victory in Columbia Basin Conference play on Friday.

The Mustangs held Irrigon’s vaunted offense to 165 yards and ran up a huge lead by halftime before winning 61-14.

Heppner (8-0, 4-0 CBC) led 41-0 when the two teams headed to the locker rooms, and has outscored the CBC 229-39 this season.

Mustangs coach Greg Grant said the team is doing it the old-fashioned way with solid defense and a strong offensive line, and that continued Friday.

“Defensively we were sound again, and I was pleased again with how the offensive line played. They continue to improve,” he said.

Weston Putman led the defense with 10 tackles and five other players recorded at least five. Logan Grieb had two interceptions and Putman had another.

The offensive line paved the way for 424 rushing yards, of which C.J. Kindle took the lion’s share with 195 on 12 carries. He had a long of 58 and scored two touchdowns.

Grieb added 86 yards on six carries with a touchdown, Tommy Bredfield had 60 yards on eight carries and two scores, and Kaden Clark and Caden Hedman each scored on the ground.

Clark was 1 for 5 passing for 12 yards.

Irrigon (5-3, 1-3) was led on offense by Austin Rice with 48 yards on 13 rushes, with Adrian Gutierrez adding 31 yards and two touchdowns on six car-

ries. Fredy Vera still managed to average 4.67 yards a carry, but was limited to 42 total on nine tries.

Heppner will try to wrap up another CBC title when it travels to Weston-McEwen next week for a 7 p.m. game.

Irrigon will finish the regular season at home against Pilot Rock. They’ll need a win plus a little help to earn a state playoff berth.

**WESTON-MCEWEN 36, CULVER 6** — At Culver, the TigerScots maintained their collision course with Heppner for the league crown with a road win on Friday. Details were not reported.

The TigerScots (6-2, 3-1) have won three in a row and have allowed just 18 points total since opening the CBC season with a 19-14 loss to Stanfield.

The TigerScots host Heppner in the regular season finale next Friday at 7 p.m.

**STANFIELD 62, PILOT ROCK 6** — At Pilot Rock, the Tigers bounced back from their first loss of the season in big way on Friday, and did it without their top offensive weapon.

Thyler Monkus twisted his ankle at the end of a 24-yard run on Stanfield’s first offensive play and didn’t return.

Coach Davy Salas said he’ll be back next week, though.

“We didn’t feel the need to risk it,” he said. “He was limping around pretty good, but it was more of a just a cautionary thing.”

In his absence quarterback Dylan Grogan went off for 114 yards on 15 carries and reached the end

zone three times. He also passed for two touchdowns going 2-of-4 for 54 yards.

Makiah Blankenship added 110 yards on 12 carries with two touchdowns, Justin Shelby chipped in two touchdowns on three carries for 56 yards, and Justin Keeney ran nine times for 32 yards and a score for Stanfield (7-1, 3-1).

“I was a little worried about the hangover from last week,” Salas said of the Tigers’ lopsided loss to Heppner. “But the kids responded well.”

Pilot Rock (0-7, 0-4) was led on defense by Braydon Postma with 12 tackles and Chris Weinke added nine.

Seniors Gunner McCall and Patrick Roe connected for the Rockets’ only touchdown in their last home game with McCall throwing a 55-yard pass to Roe.

Stanfield finishes the regular season by hosting Culver at 7 p.m. next Friday.

The Rockets wrap up their season at Irrigon at 7 p.m.

**UMATILLA 35, RIVERSIDE 24** — At Boardman, the Vikings stormed into Friday’s rivalry matchup and the Pirates were never able to climb out of the hole they dug with four first-half turnovers.

The Pirates finished with 440 yards of offense, but trailed 35-12 at the half and were too inconsistent to come back.

“(Umatilla was) fired up and ready to go and we just let the flood gates open,” Riverside (2-5, 0-2) coach Dave Boor said.

Felipe Olvera led Riverside with 151 total yards and Ricardo Mendoza rushed for 73 yards on 14

carries.

Umatilla (5-3, 1-1) statistics were not available at press time.

The Vikings can secure a playoff berth in next week’s season final against Vale at 7 p.m.

Riverside closes out the season at Nyssa at 7 p.m. (MT).

**DUFUR 50, IONE 14** — At Ione, the Cardinals (2-5, 1-4 SD4) got quarterback Jason Juarez back from his shoulder injury, but it wasn’t enough against a stout Rangers (6-2, 3-2) defense.

Ione coach Stan Weiper said the Cardinals were looking to mount a comeback and pulled within 36-14 in the fourth with plenty of time to play, but their next drive ended near the end zone on a fumble that Dufur scooped up and returned for a touchdown.

Dufur quarterback Derek Frakes also had a couple big plays, scrambling for a long touchdown and then finding a receiver at the back of the end zone on fourth down.

Juarez scored one of Ione’s touchdowns on an 11-yard run and Alessandro Panozzo had the other with an onside kickoff return, his third of the season.

Ione was also without starting running Henry Padberg (knee) for the second straight week, and won’t get him back for next week’s season finale against South Wasco at 7 p.m. in Ione.

**PINE EAGLE 54, ECHO 6** — At Pine Eagle, the Cougars (2-6, 0-4) limped into the offseason with a lopsided loss in Friday’s Special District 1 fi-

nale.

No details were reported. Echo lost its last five games of the season.

**BAKER 60, MAC-HI 0** — At Milton-Freewater, the Bulldogs (4-4, 2-1) wrapped up second place in the Greater Oregon League in Friday’s regular season finale. Details were not reported.

Mac-Hi (0-8, 0-3) finished fourth and out of playoff contention.

## BOYS SOCCER

The Umatilla boys soccer team rounded out its regular season with a 5-0 win over Irrigon on Saturday.

The Vikings (7-5-1, 6-2-0) finish the year winning four of five matches and losing its first three. Umatilla sits in second place behind fifth-ranked Riverside. Umatilla is 17th.

Douglas Gomez scored a hat trick, and two coming in the first half, both on assists from Diego Saldana. The first, in the 18th minute, bounced off the post and in, and the other was in the 35th. Sandwiched between, Saldana sent a penalty kick home in the 31st.

Elian Armenta got into the scoring party early in the second when he got to a loose ball just outside the 18-yard box and fired it in. Gomez completed the hat trick in the 63 when he chased down a loose ball in the penalty area and scored.

The Vikings wait until Oct. 31 when the OSAA rankings to freeze to know where and who they play. As the No. 2 team in Special District 4, they receive an automatic bid into the 16-team tournament that starts next week.

## RUNNERS:

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in a pack like last year ... It looked just like last year.”

Except that the Eagles had more in the tank down the stretch. All those nagging minor injuries and illnesses sustained by Hermiston had their effect Saturday. Earl just didn’t have the legs down the stretch he normally does, and Angel Castellanos, who hadn’t run a race in nearly three weeks, had the same issue.

The one Bulldog who did kick was sophomore Isaac Sanchez, who finished strong in sixth place. But it wasn’t a bad race for Hermiston by any stretch. Earl was third, Sanchez sixth, Josiah Niederwerfer and Donnell Rome were eighth and ninth, respectively, and Castellanos was 11th.

“All in the last 200 meters was where they passed us,” Blackburn said. “But our guys went out and fought and ran our hearts out. I think next week at state it’s a different race, and if they race the way they did today with a little more legs they should be able to do it.”

The girls side was a disappointment, but Blackburn was disappointed in the effort, just with the result. Senior Sofia Gispert, running what would be her final high school race, started strong with the leaders but faded late. Gispert would finish 12th.

But Blackburn is looking at the point spreads. Two years ago, Hermiston was 20 points out of third place, and last year they were 15 points from third. This season, the Bulldogs were in striking distance from qualifying as a team and even sent a couple girls by themselves.

“We were in the race until the last mile,” Blackburn said. “We were right there for the state race until the last mile.”

To bring the girls up to speed, Blackburn said they need to start training in the summer, the earlier the better.

“We gotta start training in June so we can run well in October,” he said. “It’s a step in the right direction. We have a strong core coming back. If you have a strong core, you can build around it. With that strong core, we’ll be able to build on this year with (girls coach) Crystal (Delgado) and what she’s doing with those girls so next year we can make it to state. That’s our goal now. They’re looking there.”

The state meet is next Saturday at Lane Community College in Eugene. The girls race starts at 1:15 p.m. and the boys race at 1:50 p.m.

**RESULTS:**  
Team Scores:  
Boys: 1. Hood River Valley (32) 2. Hermiston (37) 3. Pendleton (63) 4. The Dalles (87)  
Girls: 1. The Dalles (47) 2. Hood River Valley (52) 3. Pendleton (53) 4. Hermiston (69)  
Individual results:  
Boys:  
3. Hayden Earl (17:09)  
6. Isaac Sanchez (17:11)  
8. Josiah Niederwerfer (17:14)  
9. Donnell Rome (17:15)  
11. Angel Castellanos (17:23)  
19. Emmanuel Ibarra (18:18)  
22. Graydon Fritz (18:36)  
Girls:  
5. Melany Solorio (21:23)\*  
7. Morgan Hancock (21:44)\*  
12. Sofia Gispert (22:08)  
22. Sidney Lovey (22:57)  
23. Laura Zepeda (23:07)  
24. Hannah Earl (23:26)  
27. Heidi Fuentes (23:56)  
\*Denotes qualified for state as an individual

# Kodie Arnold named homecoming queen

By **SAM BARBEE**

Staff Writer

The balloons rose from the paper-covered boxes on the track at Kennison Field last Friday and a cheer rose. The purple and gold balloons reserved for the homecoming king and queen went skyward in front of senior Kodie Arnold and her father.

As the balloons rose in front of her, Arnold’s father bent to whisper in her ear that she had won.

Immediately her face lit up and she jumped, smiling. Then the emotion came as the sash was laid over her shoulder and the tiara placed on her head. Arnold’s escort, Bob Coleman, was the in locker room for halftime.

Arnold is blind, but one wouldn’t know it at first glance. Arnold, with the help of her father, has worked her way into a routine, knowing when and where, for instance, her father will pick her up

from school. He’s got a spot and is almost always in that spot at the prescribed time.

So one day, he wasn’t in that spot for one reason or another, but a car back from it. Arnold exited the building and made her way to the usual spot, and casually opened the door and sat down. The driver, who clearly didn’t know Arnold, looked through the rear windshield at her father, who chuckled and walked around the

passenger side.

Once there, he said hello, and Arnold responded. After a pause she said, “I’m in the wrong car, aren’t I?”

When those balloons were revealed and Arnold named queen, the Hermiston student section and stands erupted. Fellow court members smiled and hugged the newly-crowned queen as fireworks popped and fizzled in the background.

## POPLARS:

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drew Bourque had the idea for A Very Poplar Run five years ago, the event has grown from a relatively small 200-person event into a nationally known event hosting upwards of 600. On the Run’s official website, more than 1,000 participants registered, 65 percent of them female.

“I don’t know if we could handle many more,” he said.

But the race isn’t for the runners alone. Campers are lit near the finish line to keep spectators warm. It’s a remnant from the first couple of races which were held in mid-November, when the

winter begins to bite. There are also hot dogs available.

“It’s a way to bring the families out,” Bourque said. “Bring the families out, come see the Hermiston-Boardman area. Maybe we need to tie it in with a two-day event with a winery somewhere.”

The course, though, isn’t for the feint of heart. The soft mixture of sand and dirt was noted as treacherous by several runners, and one or two rolled an ankle.

“If your legs aren’t strong, if your ankles aren’t strong, you can turn an ankle at the wrong spot,” Papenfuss said. “It’s like trail running, you’re on trails and its a little bit treacherous, but that’s what makes it fun, too.”

A Very Poplar run raises money for Hermiston Agape House, a local social services organization.

Board member Doug Alvarez couldn’t be happier with how the race has grown in the last five years, saying it’s far exceeded Agape House’s expectations.

“It’s been terrific for us,” Alvarez said. “It’s amazing how it’s grown. That first year, we didn’t know what to expect and we had maybe 100, 150 people. But then when they saw the venue, people come across the finish line saying, ‘I can’t wait to tell my friends about this.’ It’s just amazing the way this place has grown.”



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

**James Neeway, of Richland, nears the end of the 15-kilometer course Saturday during A Very Poplar Run at the Boardman Tree Farm. Neeway won the race with a time of one hour, 45 seconds.**

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