

### Bulldogs end 62-year football drought against Bucks in 1984

By **SAM BARBEE**  
Staff Writer

The banner said all that needed to be said: "It is finished!"

In October 1984, the Hermiston Bulldogs football team ended its 62-year long losing streak of futility to the Pendleton Buckaroos with a 27-14 road win.

As the Herald wrote, Hermiston's success in the

series had been as barren as Siberia.

After the Bulldogs scored with 4:22 on the clock, then-head coach Reid Segal was imploring his players, "Don't celebrate yet, don't celebrate yet." But, as the article in the Oct. 4 issue, stated, no one was listening.

The winless streak lasted since 1922, a 19-18 Hermiston win in the first game played between the two schools in the start of a 90-plus-year rivalry. Hermiston managed to tie Pendleton once, in 1941. But the winless streak continued.

World War II, Korean and Vietnam would come and go, plus another decade for good measure before the Bulldogs' winless streak was broken with no doubt.

The Oct. 4 issue of the Herald said Hermiston was obviously the better team, using a strong rushing attack and "some serious hitting" on defense to take control.

Longtime Pendleton coach Don Requa, who coached the Bucks to 33 straight wins in the series dating to 1951, said, "Even as bad as we got beat," it was fun to be "in the mid-

dle of something like this" Requa is tied for fifth on the Oregon all-time career wins list with 273 wins, 153 losses and 5 ties in 36 seasons at Pendleton High School. He also coached a few years in Idaho, taking his career record to 301 wins.

Current Hermiston baseball coach Lance Hawkins scored two touchdowns on the ground, one in the second quarter and one in the fourth, to pace the Bulldogs offensively.

Pendleton took a 7-0 lead in the first quarter when quarterback Rick Thomp-

son raced 82 yards following a Hermiston fumble. The Bulldogs equalized soon after when a Hermiston defensive end leveled Thompson, popping the ball into the air and into the arms of senior Dan Walchli, who scampered 34 yards for the tying score.

"That definitely was a pivotal play," Segal said. "We needed to get back in the ballgame."

Hermiston scored three more times, runs by Sam Carpenter and Hawkins, and the Bucks added a 1-yard scoring plunge that proved

to be inconsequential.

After the game, with fans and students mingling on the Round-up Grounds turf, long-suffering Hermiston alums 'Rod' Rodriguez, Frank Harkenrider and Joe Burns popped a bottle of champagne at midfield.

"I hope they enjoyed it," Requa said. "They've been waiting a long time for it."

Requa retired two years later after the 1986 season. When he died in August 1987 at 68 he was the winningest coach in state prep football history, but never won a state title.



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