

Hermiston Lions shutout Eagles for title

Allowed just 7 points all season

The Hermiston Lions completed the perfect season Oct. 24, downing the Eagles 25-0 in the championship game at Kennison Stadium to earn its second straight

league title. Head coach Kelly Allen said the game was closer than the score indicated, and a big second half propelled the Lions after taking a 7-0 lead into the half.

The Lions started the season with three straight shutouts, topping Umatilla, 20-0 before downing the Vikings,

47-0, and the Redskins, 35-0. The Lions allowed their first points the next week against the Cowboys in a 41-7 win, then shutout the Eagles 25-0 before winning the title by the same score.

Fourth-grader Landon Shilhanek quarterbacked the Lions this season and last, leading both teams to Grid Kids titles.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY MELISSA PURSWELL AND LISA MCELROY

Isaac Corey (3) looks for running room behind teammates Bradley Hotman (13), Landon Shilhanek (15) and Jack Thomas during the Lions 25-0 championship win over the Eagles on Oct. 24.

Fish and Wildlife to remove carp to improve waterfowl habitat

Starting today, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will start removing carp to begin a waterfowl habitat improvement project for Curlew Pond on the Peninsula Unit of McNary National Wildlife Refuge.

The carp will be eliminated using a chemical that only affects fish called Rotenone.

The FWS said in a news release that people using the area, which are primarily waterfowl hunters this time of the year, will see dead carp littering the pond for the next 2-3 months, but Rotenone dissipates quickly and the water is safe for people, dogs and other wildlife.

"While hunting may be impacted this year, in the long run the number of waterfowl using Curlew Pond will increase dramatically," said Lamont Glass, McNary

National Wildlife refuge manager. "Without carp, aquatic vegetation will grow back, and ducks, geese and swans will have a dependable food supply."

This winter, large numbers of fish-eating birds can be expected to congregate in the area.

"The seagulls and bald eagles are showing up for a free meal," said Dan Haas, Visitor Services Manager for the refuges. "All the dead carp provide birds all they can eat with no effort wasted on hunting. We expect good opportunities for the public to see large numbers of birds at Curlew Pond for the next couple of months."

For more information on the project, the public can contact the FWS at 509-546-8333 or mcriver@fws.gov.

BULLDOGS:

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ected much better. I think our kids just showed a lot of guts defensively in the second half."

On the offensive side for Pendleton (3-6, 1-2 CRC), the Buckaroos could not get much going. The Buckaroos had just 68 yards of offense in the first half, and quarterback Kai Quinn only completed six of his 19 pass attempts as the Bulldogs defense was constantly putting pressure on the Bucks' QB.

"That was one of our big keys of the game was to make him uncomfortable in the pocket," said Faaeteete. "He completed a fair share though and kudos to him."

Quinn finished the game 14-36 for 113 yards with two interceptions and one touchdown. The lone Buckaroo touchdown came on a four-yard pass from Quinn to Nick Lani with just 17 seconds remaining in the game to get the score to the 28-12 final.

"I've always been confident that we could put some points on the board, and we just weren't able to do that until the last-second," said Davis.

The only other Buckaroos score came early in the second quarter, when Bucks' linebacker Marcus Taylor intercepted a pass from Hunsaker and ran it back 64-yards for a touchdown — Taylor's second pick-six of the season. The extra point was no good, which put the score at 7-6 in favor of the Bulldogs.

It appeared the interception might be a momentum changer for the Buckaroos, but the Bulldogs quickly answered with an eight-play, 80-yard drive in 3:34 of game time, capped off with a 36-yard play-action touchdown pass from Hunsaker to Tucker Salinas to put the Bulldogs on top, 14-6.

Then after forcing a three-and-out from the Bucks, the Bulldogs struck quickly again as Hunsaker ran a quarterback draw up



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

The Hermiston Bulldogs defeat the Pendleton Bucks 28-12 on Friday in Pendleton.



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Hermiston's Hayden Simon dives through the line Friday in the Bulldogs' 28-12 win against the Bucks in Pendleton.



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The Hermiston Bulldogs defeat the Pendleton Bucks 28-12 on Friday in Pendleton.

the middle and scampered 74 yards for a touchdown to put Hermiston on top 21-6 with just under six minutes left in the second quarter.

After forcing another Pendleton punt on the next possession, the Bulldogs offense made quick work yet again in the quarter, drawing up a five-play, 66 yard drive in

just 1:14 of game time that was capped off by a four-yard read-option keeper by Hunsaker for his third rushing touchdown of the half to increase the Bulldogs' lead to 28-6.

In that quarter, the Hermiston offense had a pretty balanced attack of QB keepers, base runs, and play-action passes. Hunsaker says that balance will be crucial for the Bulldogs in the playoffs.

"We have to be able to run the ball and get the play-action pass," he said. "We did that tonight and got some pretty big plays out of it."

But even with the win, Faaeteete said the game ended with a little bit of a sour taste in his mouth.

"I think we shot ourselves in the foot in the second half," he said. "We didn't come out as energized as the first half. We have to finish better. We didn't tonight, and it showed."

RUNNERS:

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of the race."

The course was wet and muddy in places, slowing down the times overall. That didn't affect Cardenas much, who ran his best time in three tries on the LCC course. During that first mile, Cardenas pulled away from the leading pack of Ibrahim, Scott and several others. But Cardenas' second-mile split increased from the first, and the gap between he and Ibrahim and Scott just kept expanding. Cardenas had no trouble maintaining his pace with nobody on his tail.

"This year, I'm better at that because I've been running more mileage than I did last year," he said.

Cardenas is expecting to run collegiately, though he is yet to commit to a school.

"I'd like to thank my family for supporting me," Cardenas said, gold medal around his neck. "Sadly, they couldn't be here today, but they've been supporting me all season. They gave me what I need, and I'm thankful for that."

Bulldog boys leave Eugene disappointed

Expectations were high entering the 2015 cross country season for the



PHOTO BY JOSHUA BESSEX/EO MEDIA GROUP

Hermiston senior Josiah Niederwerfer climbs a berm during the 5A boys race of the OSAA cross country championships Saturday at Lane Community College in Eugene. As a team, Hermiston finished 5th.

Hermiston boys. The Bulldogs lost just one runner from last season's third place team, and seemed prime and ready to return to Hermiston as the top boys cross country team in the state.

The season didn't go Hermiston's way, and neither did Saturday's 5A Oregon State Championships at Lane Community College in Eugene. Hermiston finished fifth as a team with 142 points.

Summit took the team title after a very close race with Crater. The Comets had the first-, third- and fifth-place runners, though came up short to Summit who finished second-, sixth-, seventh-, eighth- and ninth-place runners. The only top-10 runner not from Summit or Crater was Bend's Caleb Hoffman, who finished fourth. For Hermiston, Josiah

Niederwerfer entered the track and the final 100 meters in ninth, but Summit's Jett Ballantyne and Marist's Jerik Embleton kicked past him to push him off the podium. The next Hermiston runner to come across was Donnell Rome, who placed 25th in 16:57.

"We did come in expecting better performances from everyone, but during the race I passed some teammates and they just weren't feeling good. It's not our best. We didn't run like Hermiston at all."

Last year's stalwart, Hayden Earl, struggled all season with nagging issues that prevented him from duplicating his junior season results. He finished 31st in 17:06. Angel Castellanos finished 45th in 17:26; and Isaac Sanchez crossed in 17:32, good for 49th.

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when Ayden Prewitt found Rodriguez, who controlled and easily flicked it past Olbrich in the 24th.

But despite the strong offensive performance in the first half, Hermiston was content to play keep-away and win 3-1 in the second half.

Its defense, which aside from the early goal was stout all night, became suffocating as Crescent Valley only had three shots in the second

half and one good look. Numerous shots were blocked, either creating a run out opportunity or resetting Crescent Valley's attack.

"Definitely the old adage 'defense wins championships' was true tonight," Harshberger said. "All credit to my defense. That's definitely the one area I'm not disappointed in. They did a fantastic job. We talked about guarding the through ball, and they stepped up and did everything perfectly."

But that seemingly contentedness in the sec-

ond half is slightly worrisome for Harshberger. He wanted to put the Raiders away in the second half with a fourth instead of contentedly playing for the 3-1 win. He said it'll take two halves and 80 minutes to win going forward.

"No easy games left," Harshberger said. "One at a time, we're focused on Saturday — nothing beyond Saturday. It's just going to get harder. We need to be able to go out and impose ourselves and play our game if we're going to be successful."

EAST OREGONIAN **Hermiston Herald**

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