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STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY  
Viking running back Jesus Ramirez (2) scampers downfield as Logan Weinke (4), of Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii, works to make a tackle Friday in Umatilla.



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY  
Viking running back Trent Durfey (34) makes long yardage during Friday's game against Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii in Umatilla.

## Bengals run over Bulldogs

Hermiston remains winless on the season

Hermiston Herald

Hermiston headed home on Friday night still in search of its first win as the Lewiston (Idaho) Bengals blew out the Bulldogs, 38-13. Lewiston (3-0) tore the Bulldogs defense apart with its passing game, as quarterback Colton Richardson completed 27-37 (73 percent) passes for 344 yards and three touchdowns, while the leading rusher had just 26 yards.

For Hermiston (0-2), sophomore quarterback Andrew James on Friday completed 16-29 passes (55 percent) for 194 yards with one touchdown and two interceptions, while adding a team-best 67 rushing yards on 13 carries.

Tucker Salinas was the top receiver for Hermiston with 108 yards and a touchdown off of four total receptions.

Receiver Dayshawn Neal had three catches for 47 yards.

Hermiston will return home this week to host Mountain View of Bend at 7 p.m. for its first league game of the season.

## VIKINGS DEFENSE KEEPS ROCKETS GROUNDED

Umatilla shuts out Pilot Rock to stay undefeated

By MATT ENTRUP  
Staff Writer

The Umatilla Vikings defense turned in a dominant performance to beat the Pilot Rock Rockets 20-0 in an inter-classification football match-up on Friday.

Umatilla's defense set the tone right away by forcing Pilot Rock to go three-and-out on the game's opening drive when Elijah Pine crashed through

the line and dragged down Chris Weinke for a sack on third down.

The Vikings (2-0) held the Rockets (0-2) to just 90 total yards of offense and gave up only four first downs. The Rockets were 1-for-9 on third down.

"I think we did what we needed to do to stop them," said Umatilla linebacker/running back Trent Durfey. "It was a good win."

"It could have been better, but shutouts are pretty good too," said Umatilla running back Jesus Ramirez. "We haven't had one of those in awhile."

The Vikings' last shutout was five seasons ago when

they did it twice, the second time a 9-0 win over Vale on Oct. 21, 2011.

Umatilla's first drive on offense would be telling for what fans could expect to see the rest of the way.

Durfey kept the Vikings on schedule with strong running between the tackles, Ramirez added a change-of-pace out of the backfield, and Umatilla was able to rely on its speed on the outside to put the ball in the end zone despite a costly penalty.

The Vikings were flagged nine times for 80 yards, and picked up their first of the game when Pine was called for a blindside

block to nullify Kaden Webb's defense-splitting scramble that would have been a 26-yard touchdown.

It didn't take Umatilla long to recover, though, and two plays later Webb found wide receiver Diego Soto open on a post route for a 36-yard score. Leonel Corona converted the extra point.

A fumbled hand-off was recovered by Pilot Rock's Logan Weinke to end Umatilla's next drive. It was the first of four turnovers (three on fumbles).

Pilot Rock responded with its best drive of the game, moving the ball to

See VIKINGS, B2

## Echo Cougars rally over rival Ione

By WILL DENNER  
For the Hermiston Herald

Echo stayed true to its season mantra in defeating rival Ione, 34-28, at home — finish strong.

"We've adopted that in all our sports and they did it," head coach Rick Thew said. "... We kept playing hard. Let them back in it a little bit but stayed strong."

The Cougars (1-1) held a 22-8 lead at halftime over the Cardinals (0-2) in front of their fans, but went quiet as they came back out in the third quarter.

Echo received the second half kickoff and put together a drive that burned nearly 10 minutes of clock, it stalled in the red zone. Quarterback Devan Craig led Ty Mulder on a 4th and 18 pass, but the sure-handed tight end dropped what could've been a touchdown.

The next Echo drive

ended in a fumble, and Ione took advantage. Cardinals running back Cord Flynn, who rushed for two touchdowns and passed for another on a designed trick play, bulled his way through the Echo defense from 10 yards out and took a 22-20 lead on his two-point conversion run.

"I gotta give it up to Cord, he played one heck of a game," Echo senior linebacker Klay Jensen said. "That kid is an animal. He's a tank. It's impossible to take him down unless you hit him low."

Echo battled back in the fourth quarter, however. After getting a punt blocked, the Echo defense, which Thew said the team focused on cleaning up after giving up 42 points to Siletz Valley last week, stood tall in key moments.

The Cougars stopped the Cardinals on fourth down,

before Cougars running back Noah Scott broke runs of 53 and 25 yards. Scott only rushed six times, but racked up 136 yards and a touchdown in his limited touches. Thew also credited guard Ian Faulkner, who pulled around on all of Scott's big runs to provide him space.

"It's our play for him to get in the open field and take care of business," Thew said.

Scott's runs set up full-back Ethan Hobson's one-yard touchdown up the gut. Echo reclaimed a 28-22 lead, but not for long.

Ione tied the game up at 28 on the next drive, but when Cardinals quarterback Dan Doherty tried a two-point conversion run up the middle, Jensen tackled him behind the line of scrimmage.

With 1:16 remaining, game tied, Echo quarter-

back Devan Craig flipped an option run to Zach Gehrke, who found the right edge and took it 45 yards to the end zone. A walk-

See ECHO, B2

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