

Vale cruises in Viking battle

Hermiston Herald

UMATILLA — Missed opportunities and turnovers plagued the Umatilla Vikings on Friday night, as the defending 3A state champion Vale Vikings left town with the dominant 41-7 victory.

“We just didn’t show up mentally,” Umatilla coach Dan Durfey said. “The execution was there, the plays we ran were good, but mentally we just didn’t show up.”

Durfey cited a pair of dropped touchdown passes in the first half as a back-breaking turn of events for his team.

“If we get those touchdowns it’s probably a whole different game,” he said.

Umatilla’s lone touchdown came in the third quarter when quarterback Kaden Webb connected with Trent Durfey on a 34-yard pass with 36 seconds left. Webb finished with 160 passing yards on 17-34 completions with three interceptions, while Durfey led the team with 50 yards rushing on 12 carries and added 35 receiving yards on three catches.

Umatilla will now get ready to make the short trip west to Irrigon Friday night.

VHS (4-3, 3-0) 14 13 7 - 41
UHS (5-2, 1-2) 0 7 0 - 7
Stats
 PASSING — K. Webb 17-34-3, 160, TD
 RUSHING — T. Durfey 12-50; C. Samson 12-38; K. Webb 9-20
 RECEIVING — C. Samson 5-34; S. Miller 4-60; J. Maret 4-25; T. Durfey 3-35, TD; D. Soto 1-6.

HEPPNER 22, CULVER 2 — At Culver, the Heppner Mustangs clinched a playoff spot for the 20th straight season with a win over Culver on Friday night.

“It says that these kids have grown up a lot,” Heppner coach Greg Grant said after the game. “They thought they could, and thought they might, and with hard enough work they did it.”

The Mustangs (6-1, 3-0 CBC) had to overcome what

Grant called “one of the sloppiest first quarters of football I’ve ever seen.” In the quarter, Heppner ran a mere two offensive plays with the first one resulting in a lost fumble and the second one a safety that gave Culver a 2-0 lead.

But once the quarter changed over, the Mustangs got it together and started to show why they were the better team. With 9:38 remaining in the second quarter, Heppner finally put points on the board when Logan Grieb sprinted past the defense for a 32 yard touchdown run. Following a successful two-point conversion, Heppner held an 8-2 lead.

A little more than four minutes later, Heppner found the end zone again when Kevin Smith connected with Grieb for an 18 yard touchdown pass to put the Mustangs up 14-2. The pass from Smith was Heppner’s only completion of the game, with Smith finishing 1-2.

In the second half, Grieb found the end zone for the third time on a 38 yard touchdown run to put the Mustangs up 22-2. Grieb led the team with 168 yards on the ground.

“I did like the way we responded,” Grant added. “The kids were disappointed and frustrated with themselves, but they stepped up and got it done.”

Heppner will now prepare for its season finale with Stanfield Friday, with the CBC title on the line.

HHS (6-1, 3-0) 14 8 0 - 22
CHS (1-5, 0-2) 0 0 0 - 2
Stats
 PASSING — K. Smith 1-2, 18, TD
 RUSHING — L. Grieb 12-186, 2 TD; C. Daugherty 13-44; B. Walters 6-27; G. Hanna 3-23; K. Smith 2-6
 RECEIVING — L. Grieb 1-18, TD.

NYSSA 41, IRRIGON 26 — At Irrigon, the Knights just didn’t have enough in the tank to pull out a victory on Friday night, as the Nyssa Bulldogs left town with the 41-26 victory.

“We just came up short,” Irrigon coach Steve Sheller said. “I’m proud of the guys for battling the whole game,

and the kids really worked hard.”

Carlos Zacarias led the Knights (2-5, 1-2 EOL) offense with 171 rushing yards and two touchdowns on 12 carries and Josh Aguilera picked up 106 yards and two touchdowns on 15 carries. Lino Covarrubia also added 63 yards rushing on 18 carries.

The game played out like a back-and-forth tennis match, with Nyssa (3-3, 2-1) taking a 12-0 lead after the first quarter before Irrigon battled back to take a 20-18 lead into halftime.

But then in the second half, it was all Nyssa as the Bulldogs outscored the Knights 23-6 to grab the victory. It was the second-straight game that Irrigon let slip away after losing to Vale in overtime, and Sheller says the differences in these games all stem from a weight room.

“I think a lack of summer weight training is really showing up,” Sheller said. “We went to football camp but then when we came back, the weight room was the loneliest place in Irrigon, which was frustrating for those of us that were there.”

“We are right there where we want to be, right there, but it’s just that little bit of work that we’re missing.”

Irrigon will look to rebound at home Friday when it hosts Umatilla.

LA CENTER (WA) 28, STANFIELD 6 — At La Center, Washington, a stout opposing defense and some sloppy field conditions contributed to the Stanfield Tigers first loss of the season on Friday night.

“La Center is a very good football team, and they were able to stop our run game,” Stanfield coach Davie Salas said. “It was just one of those days.”

Stanfield (6-1, 2-0 CBC) had its lowest offensive yardage output of the season, totaling 131 yards rushing and 101 yards passing. Adrian Renner was the team’s

leading rusher with 39 yards on two carries, and Dylan Grogan threw for 101 yards on 11-28 passing. Thylor Monkus scored Stanfield’s only touchdown with 5:15 left to play in the first quarter on a two-yard plunge, and finished the game with a mere 21 yards on three carries.

Stanfield will now prepare for what is effectively the CBC title game Friday when they travel to Heppner.

“We’ll have to be more solid with our blocking,” Salas said. “If our run game can’t get going, then we’ll struggle.”

SHS (6-1, 2-0) 0 0 0 - 6
LAC (6-1) 0 21 0 7 - 28
Stats
 PASSING — D. Grogan 11-28, 101
 RUSHING — A. Renner 2-39; M. Blankenship 2-36; D. Grogan 8-35; T. Monkus 3-21, TD
 RECEIVING — B. Woods 5-46; A. Renner 4-37.

VOLLEYBALL

HOOD RIVER 3, HERMISTON 1 — At Hermiston, the Bulldogs lost for the fourth straight game as Hood River left town with a 25-23, 13-25, 18-25, 6-15 victory on Thursday night.

Stat leaders for Hermiston (6-12, 2-6 CRC) included Kynzee Padilla with nine kills and 16 digs, Clarissa Nitz with 21 assists and five aces, and Ebony Wilson added two blocks.

Hermiston finished the regular season on Tuesday night hosting Pendleton at 6:30 p.m.

ECHO 3, JOSEPH 2 — At Joseph, the Echo Cougars earned the season sweep of the Eagles with a hard-fought 19-25, 25-19, 16-25, 29-27, 15-9 victory on Friday afternoon.

The win solidified Echo (22-6, 11-3 OOL) into the No. 2 seed for the Old Oregon League district tournament which begins this week.

BULLDOGS:

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eration from the backfield and hits the holes his offensive line opens up at great speed, and has learned to use his 185-pound frame well once he reaches the defensive lines, bullying through arm tackles for

extra yardage. He will be counted on again on Friday night to keep the Bulldogs rolling and keep the pressure off James.

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STAFF PHOTO BY TAMMY MALGESINI

Participants in Saturday’s Columbia River “Best Dam” Power Run head across the access road on top of McNary Lock and Dam near Umatilla.

RUN:

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5K - Female:
 Mary Renteria Castellanos (Hermiston) 26:32; Alaina Lemmon (Heppner) 26:46; Hailey Dalton, 12, (Boardman) 33:43; Sandy Renteria Castellanos (Hermiston) 34:08; Gina Phillips (Hermiston) 38:40; Katie Henckel (Kennewick) 39:13; Lynne Uitto (Hermiston) 46:22; Marlene Prather (Hermiston) 1:01:29; Lori Abbott (Hermiston) 1:01:29; Ibbet Radant (Hermiston) 1:05:21

Family Fun Walk:
 Roberto Huato, 9, (Umatilla) 1:18:09; Nancy Stice (Umatilla) 1:18:10

People can still register for Saturday’s A Very Poplar Run, also a fundraiser for Agape House. Held at the tree farm at Greenwood Resources near Boardman, it’s the final time the popular event will be held as the property has been sold.

“This is the last time people can run through the poplar trees,” Hughes said. “It’s just a great fall event.”

On-site registration is Saturday from 7-9:45 a.m. at the tree farm, 7720 Poleline Road, Boardman. The kids’ race begins at 9:45 a.m., the 15K at 10:30 a.m., 10K at 10:45 a.m. and 5K at 11:15 a.m.

Agape House is a faith-based organization that seeks to assist those in need with basic services. For more information or to volunteer for a 2-hour shift at Saturday’s race, call 541-567-8774.

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