

Herald Sports



Lions rally past the Bulldogs

St Helens knocks Hermiston from playoffs

Hermiston Herald

Hermiston led for most of the game, but couldn't stop St. Helens on their home field with the game on the line and fell, 12-7, in the 5A first round to bring their football season to a heartbreaking close on Friday.

A five-yard touchdown pass with 16 seconds remaining lifted No. 7 St. Helens into the state quarterfinals and ending the season for No. 10 Hermiston.

The Bulldogs had gone into the lead on a two-yard run by Peter Earl with 8:24 left in the second quarter, but the No. 7 Lions' defense had plenty of success getting them off the field the rest of the game.

Hermiston finished with just 178 total yards and eight first downs, but didn't turn the ball over and kept St. Helens out of the end zone until the fourth quarter.

The Lions (7-2) broke up the shutout with 9:51 to play in the game on an eight-yard run up the middle by Dylan Brady, but Hermiston (5-5) blocked the extra point to retain a 7-6 lead.

Even with their offense stalled, the Bulldogs had a chance to close out the

Lions on a fourth-and-nine with just over a minute left to play but Lions running back Myles Terry picked up just enough for the first down on a pass from Levin Norton.

St. Helens capped the drive with a five-yard touchdown pass from Norton to Ben Eldred. Hermiston's desperation passes in the closing seconds came up empty.

The Lions finished with 335 yards of offense led by Terry with 18 carries for 96 yards. Norton was 10-of-14 for 107 yards and an interception.

Hermiston quarterback Andrew James was 6-of-14 for 94 yards and Dayshawn Neal caught four passes for 79 yards. James was Hermiston's leading rusher with 47 yards on eight carries.

The Bulldogs were penalized five times for 30 yards while St. Helens drew eight flags for 45 yards.

HHS	0	7	0	0	-	7
SHHS	0	0	0	12	-	12
Scoring plays						
2nd Quarter						
8:24 — HHS, Peter Earl 2 run (Dayshawn Neal kick), 7-0						
4th Quarter						
9:51 — SHHS, Dylan Brady 8 run (Jacob Hawkins kick blocked), 6-7						
0:16 — SHHS, Ben Eldred 5 pass from Levi Norton (pass failed), 12-7						
Individual statistics						
PASSING — Hermiston (6-15-0, 94): Andrew James 6-14-0, 94; Dayshawn Neal 0-1-0. St. Helens: Levi Norton 10-14-1, 107, TD.						
RUSHING — Hermiston (22-84, TD): Andrew James 8-47, Johnathan Hinkle 6-19, Peter Earl 5-18, TD; Dayshawn Neal 3-(-4). St. Helens (48-228, TD): Myles Terry 18-96, Tyler Rea 12-69, Dylan Brady 8-44, TD; Haidon Allen 4-15, Austin Drago 1-2, Jax Ogile 2-0, Levi Norton 3-(-16).						
RECEIVING — Hermiston: Dayshawn Neal 4-79; Tucker Salinas 1-11; Johnathan Hinkle 1-4. St. Helens: Haidon Allen 5-64; Myles Terry 4-38; Ben Eldred 1-5, TD.						



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Stanfield's Thyler Monkus stiff arms Central Linn's Dakota Ruiz in the Tigers' 55-14 win against the Cobras on Friday in Stanfield.

TIGERS BREEZE INTO

QUARTERFINALS

Stanfield thumps Central Linn 55-14 in first round game

By ERIC SINGER
Staff Writer

The Stanfield Tigers played the school's first home playoff game in more than a half-century on Friday night, and the team did not disappoint its faithful fans.

The No. 2 seed Tigers (9-1) totaled more than 600 yards of offense in the game as the team thumped the No. 15 seed Central Linn Cobras 55-14 in front of a big crowd at the Horyna Athletic Complex.

"Not going to lie I was a bit nervous at first," Stanfield senior lineman Hunter Barnes said of the game, "I didn't want to let the town down. But once we settled down halfway through the first quarter it just felt like it flowed real easy for us."

Barnes, Stanfield's starting left tackle, was a big factor for the Tigers offense as he was part of a unit that opened big holes all night for the Tigers offense to run through, picking up 489 of their yards on the ground.



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Stanfield's Thyler Monkus locks up with Central Linn's Mason Sloan in the Tigers' 55-14 win against the Cobras on Friday in Stanfield.

And the line did so against a large Central Linn (3-7) defensive front that featured two players weighing more than 300 pounds.

"We knew we were going to put the team on (our backs) so we just had to step up," Barnes said. "We didn't drive the blocks as much as we could've. We tried a lot more shield blocks instead, but we practiced that all week and just came out and got it done."

"They did great," Stanfield senior Dylan Grogan said of the offensive line. "We knew when we were watching film and saw the (big guys) we just thought

'Well, we'll have to do the best we can' and those guys did it. The holes were huge for us to run through and it was nice."

Grogan benefited the most from the blocking performance, as the quarterback ran for a team-high 223 yards on 16 carries and two touchdowns on the ground, and also threw for 187 yards and two touchdowns through the air.

Running back Thyler Monkus also followed his blockers well, and ran for 166 yards on 16 carries with a pair of touchdowns as well.

Stanfield wasted no time

in the game to show their offensive prowess, as on the Tigers second play from scrimmage Grogan took the snap and ran to the right, straight through the Cobra defense and down the sideline for a 40 yard gain. And on the next offensive play, Monkus took a sweeping handoff to the left side of the field before making his cut right through the defense and then sprinted 30 yards for the touchdown to give the Tigers a 6-0 lead with just 28 seconds expired off the game clock.

Monkus added his second touchdown on Stanfield's next drive, when he took a sweeping handoff to the right side of the field, broke through a few arm tackles and then bounced back to his left to find the crease and sped 29 yards for the touchdown and the 12-0 Tiger lead.

Central Linn responded to the score with one of its few successful offensive drives in the game, as a drive that started at its own 37 quickly advanced down inside the Stanfield five. And with a little more than five minutes remaining in the first quarter the Cobras

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STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

Mustang running back Colby Dougherty (24) looks for an opening during Saturday's state playoff game in Heppner against Gold Beach.

Heppner runs over Gold Beach

Heppner runs over Gold Beach

By ERIC SINGER
Staff Writer

The Heppner Mustangs knew the road to defend their 2A state championship would not be an easy one in 2016, even if the first playoff game was on their home field.

The Mustangs returned all of four starters on offense and three on defense, and earning a playoff spot is never a given — even for a program as storied as Heppner. But through some ups and downs of the season Heppner showed gradual maturity and still earned a 6-2 record and a No. 4 seed in the state playoffs.

On a cool Saturday afternoon at Les Payne Field, the Mustangs took a big step toward their title defense with a 55-20 victory over the Gold Beach Panthers in the first round playoff game.

"After losing all those guys last year we didn't really know what we were going to be this year but I think we really found our identity this game," Heppner senior Logan Grieb said. "(The young guys) stepped up big, being in their first playoff game.



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

Mustang Beau Wolters snatches a fumble during Saturday's state playoff game in Heppner as Taylor Bright, of Gold Beach, is thwarted.

I'm sure most of them were nervous but you couldn't really tell after that first snap."

"I think if you saw us play in St. Paul (Week 1) and saw us play today you'd have seen two distinctly different teams," Heppner coach Greg Grant added. "I had hoped to have that maturation take place and I think that it says a lot about the kids, they've really worked hard and it's paying off."

Heppner (7-2) dominated every facet of the game on Saturday, and it all started with its play in the trenches. On offense, Heppner ran a mere 14

See MUSTANGS, A9

Pirates strike fast, advance to semifinals

Defense extends shutout streak against Gervais

By MATT ENTRUP
Staff Writer

Riverside jumped out to another early lead in Saturday's boys soccer state quarterfinals against Gervais, and the defense posted its eighth-straight shutout to lift the Pirates to a 2-0 victory.

The Pirates took the lead for good in the second minute when Luis Olvera tracked down a long pass from Alejandro Llamas inside the penalty box and beat Gervais goalkeeper Ivan Borja with the first shot of the game.

"It was a great pass, right behind the defender and I was able to just tap it in," Olvera said.

It was the second straight playoff game in which the Pirates took the early lead after scoring in the fourth minute

of their 5-0 first-round win over Western Menmonite.

"That's definitely a morale booster to get that first goal," said Riverside junior Miscal Madrigal.

The Cougars pushed back and found themselves in front of Riverside's goal several times during the game, but couldn't get off any clean shots as Riverside senior goal keeper Adolfo Bedolla needed just two saves to notch his 11th shutout of the season.

"My defense, they're the best," Bedolla said. "I'm only here when they need me. There's only like a few games where they needed me and I'm OK with that if it gets us the win."

The Pirates (12-3-1) added their insurance goal in the 36th minute when Madrigal out-jumped his defender and headed a corner kick from Quincy Castillo into the back-side corner of the net.

"From the previous corners I had always recognized that Quincy would always send it to the second post,

so I said I'm going to go for the second post and luckily it turned up there," Madrigal said.

Gervais (13-4) came out pushing the tempo in the second half but still couldn't break through Riverside's back line. The Pirates waited them out, then took over in the final 20 minutes when the Cougars began wearing down.

"They have spirit, we could tell they had that fire in them, and (Coach Francisco Velazquez) told us, 'If we let them take advantage of us they're going to score and tie it up,'" Olvera said. "We're constantly running in practice, and our coach just stresses a lot about endurance in the game. The more we run we're going to outrun the other team. ... I guess all those hours in practice and all that sweat paid off in the end."

The Pirates had 30 shots to Gervais' five, and Riverside had chances to extend the lead in the 54th, 56th, 58th and 60th minutes but ei-

ther shot just wide or off the framework each time.

"We can't have those, any chances we get we need to make them," said Madrigal, who had one of the near misses on a rebound.

The No. 4 Pirates will advance to the state semifinals for the second time in four seasons, where they will play No. 1 Catlin Gabel on Tuesday in Portland at 5 p.m.

The teams met earlier this season, which ended in a 0-0 tie on Sept. 10.

"Catlin Gabel's going to be a really tough team, and we've got to capitalize on everything our else they're going to score on us and it'll be the end of us," Olvera said. "It's going to be really difficult getting through their defense, but the slightest mistake, we'll take advantage of it."

GHS	0	0	-	0
RHS	2	0	-	0
Goals				
2' — Luis Olvera (Alejandro Llamas)				
36' — Miscal Madrigal (Quincy Castillo)				
Saves — GHS Ivan Borja 6; RHS Adolfo Bedolla 2				
Yellow Cards — GHS Daniel Gray				