

Herald Sports



Special Olympians strike it rich with bowling fundraiser

HERMISTON HERALD

More than 70 athletes participated in the annual bowlathon to raise money for Hermiston/Pendleton Special Olympics Local Program No. 510.

The top fundraiser was Shona Bergo, followed by Jillian Smalley, David Andrews, Rushelle Myers and Mary Ann Wright. The combined efforts of the athletes earned just more than \$6,600.

Money will go toward supporting training and competition in a variety of sports designed for individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities. There is no charge

for athletes to participate.

Head bowling coach Doris Boatright was kept busy handing out more than 150 quarters to athletes who earned either spares or strikes during the event.

The athletes are finishing up the fall sports season. The winter season, which include basketball and snow sports, will begin in January. There is no charge for athletes to participate.

For more information about participating or volunteering, call Stu Bance, local program coordinator, at 541-376-8132.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY KRISTI SMALLEY

Top fundraisers for the annual bowlathon for Hermiston/Pendleton Special Olympics Local Program No. 510 were Rushelle Myers, Jillian Smalley, Mary Ann Wright, David Andrews and Shona Bergo. The Oct. 29 event, which raised more than \$6,600, was held at Desert Lanes in Hermiston.

TIGERS ADVANCE TO TITLE GAME

By **ERIC SINGER**
Staff Writer

For the first time since 1957, the Stanfield Tigers will play for a football state championship.

The No. 2 Tigers beat the No. 3 Kennedy Trojans, 32-13, in the 2A semifinals on Saturday night at Liberty High School in Hillsboro, exacting the revenge they were determined to get following last year's loss to the Trojans also in the semifinals.

"The town of Stanfield has been waiting a long time to get to a state championship and man it feels good to do it," Stanfield coach Davie Salas said with a wide grin. "This is part of the process we've been talking about all season, the kids kept believing and now we held a pretty explosive Kennedy team to just 13 points."

It was clear from the start that Stanfield was the better team on Saturday, as the Tigers defense won the battles in the trenches and the offense was able to move the ball effectively. Stanfield's defense, which had been gashed for more than 400 yards by the Trojans last season, held the Trojans to just 236 total yards — 143 rushing and 93 passing — and contained Kennedy's all-conference running back Bishop Mitchell effectively.

"Defense won the game," Salas said. "I mean 13 points to an explosive team that was dominating everybody putting teams down. I knew we had our work cut out for us but I knew that if we followed our game plan we'd be fine and it went our way."

Mitchell tallied a total of 113 yards on 20 carries and two touchdowns — though 88 of those yards came on one touchdown run in the



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Stanfield's Brody Woods catches the ball for a touchdown in front of Kennedy's Emorej Lynk in the Tigers' 32-13 win against the Trojans on Saturday in Hillsboro.

third quarter. Aside from that, Mitchell gained just 25 yards on 19 carries.

"We played a near perfect game," Salas said. "With Mitchell we had Thylor Monkus spying him the whole time and everybody came together as a unit and the kids executed our game plan."

Along with his defensive excellence, Monkus was a difference maker on offense as he led the team with 138 rushing yards and two touchdowns on 17 carries and also caught seven passes for 46 yards. Monkus' performance earned him Player of the Game recognition by the OSAA.

"Thylor's our guy," Salas said. "He works hard and always wants the ball and even when he's banged up he still wants the ball and makes plays for us. We'll ride the back of that 150-pound kid every day and that's what we did tonight, when ever we needed a big play or a first down we gave the ball to Thylor."

Monkus scored the game's first touchdown late in the first quarter, taking an end-

around handoff on 4th-and-3 at the Kennedy 12 and sped through the Trojan defense for a touchdown and a 7-0 Stanfield lead. Stanfield then scored again late with just 10 seconds left in the half when quarterback Dylan Grogan hit Brody Woods on a 12-yard slant pattern in the end zone to give the Tigers the 14-7 lead going into the half.

In the third quarter, the Trojans got right back in the game on Mitchell's 88-yard score and forced a Stanfield punt on the Tigers ensuing drive to get the ball back looking to take the lead. But on a 3rd-and-10 pass, Kennedy quarterback Brett Traeger floated a pass too much and Stanfield cornerback Justin Keeney read the route perfectly picked off the pass at the Kennedy 40 to flip momentum back in the Tigers' favor.

"They were in spread and we were locked up at the time so I had to stay on my guy," Keeney said of the play, "and then when he turned back I saw the ball go up and just made the play. I wanted to make sure I didn't drop it and then just wanted

to start running but then I got tackled."

"Justin Keeney is a special kid," Salas added. "He's one of the most polite kids you'll ever meet but he is one heck of a football player. He just comes through with big plays. Last year he had some miscues as a sophomore but he learned from that, he's growing and this year he's come out and had one heck of a game."

Stanfield cashed in on the field position when Grogan barreled his way for a 2-yard touchdown to put the Tigers up 20-13 with just over four minutes left in the third quarter. From that point on it was all Stanfield, as the offense scored on each of its final three possessions and the defense kept the Trojans at bay.

The win sets up a championship with the Tigers and the No. 1 seed Regis Rams on Saturday at 4 p.m. at Ken-nison Field in Hermiston. It will be a rematch from Week 2 of the regular season when the Tigers beat the Rams, 20-14, in Stanfield.

"No disrespect to anybody else, but I felt the whole season once we played Regis that we were the two best teams in the state and we're ready to go at it again," Salas said.

	KHS	7	6	0	13
SHS	0	7	6	0	13
SHS	7	7	6	12	32

Statistics
PASSING — KHS (7-20-1, 93 yds) B. Traeger 7-20-1, 93 yds, B. Mitchell 0-1. SHS: D. Grogan 11-17, 119 yds, TD.
RUSHING — KHS (29-143, 2 TD) B. Mitchell 20-113, 2 TD; B. Traeger 6-19; E. Lynk 2-6; J. Suing 1-5. SHS (45-254, 4TD) T. Monkus 17-138, 2 TD; D. Grogan 14-65; TD: A. Renner 6-22; J. Keeney 3-14, TD; M. Blankenship 4-13; B. Woods 1-2.
RECEIVING — KHS: S. Bizon 3-58; B. Mitchell 2-29; D. Moreno 1-6; J. Suing 1-0. SHS: T. Monkus 7-46; B. Woods 2-24, TD; A. Renner 1-27; J. Shelby 1-22.
FIRST DOWNS — KHS 11, SHS 20.
TIME OF POSSESSION — KHS 18:58, SHS 29:02.

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Heppner comes up short in semifinal showdown

Mustangs fall to the Regis Rams

By **ERIC SINGER**
Staff Writer

In 27 years as a head coach, Heppner's Greg Grant has never had a team give up two kickoff return touchdowns in a game — until Saturday afternoon.

The Regis Rams used two kickoff return touchdowns to swing momentum in their favor before pulling away for a 27-6 victory over Heppner in the 2A state semifinals on Saturday at Liberty High School. It was also revenge for the Rams, who fell 26-3 to Heppner in the 2015 semifinals.

The loss ended Heppner's bid to attempt to repeat as state champions.

"Every time you kick off you have the momentum, it's either the start of the game, start of the half, or you just scored," Grant said after the game, "and to give up two big plays I mean, man. I'm going to lose a lot of sleep over that because that's something we've never ever done, and I just detest. But I can't blame my kids so much as they had just had too many athletes in space."

The first return came in the second quarter right after Heppner scored its only touchdown of the game, a 6-yard pass from Kevin Smith to Beau Wolters. On the kickoff, Logan Grieb squibbed it to the near sideline where Regis' Brandon Piette corralled the bouncing kick at his own 20, made a few moves and outran a pair of Heppner defenders down the sideline for the touchdown.

The sequence was frustrating for Grant because it was the Rams that went to halftime with the lead 10-6,

despite having just 61 yards of offense on 19 plays as well as one turnover in the half because of a tremendous effort by the Mustangs defense.

"It kind of makes me sick that we played that good of defense and we played that hard to just have a couple letdowns on special teams," Grant said.

The second return came on the opening kickoff of the second half, as Grieb kicked it deep down the middle of the field. Regis' Brendon Woodcock picked up the rolling kick at his own 14 and stayed patient behind his blockers before finding a gap and again outrunning Heppner defenders down the near sideline to put Regis up 17-6 in the third quarter.

But from that point on in the second half it was all Regis. The Rams found success in the passing game on offense completing 8-12 passes for 143 yards, as well as using a stout defensive front to hold Heppner to just 90 total yards in the half on 30 plays — an average of just three yards per play.

For most of the game Heppner's offense couldn't quite get going. The Mustangs were gifted great field position early in the first quarter, when Regis fumbled the ball and Heppner recovered at the Rams' 26. It was an opportunity for the Mustangs to take control of the game right away and set the tone, but instead Heppner could only muster three yards on the possession and turned it over on downs.

"That would have been nice if we cashed in on that," Grant said. "It would have got us going, but we just misfired early."

The Mustangs were also affected when senior running back and defensive back Logan Grieb went down with a



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Heppner's Coby Dougherty is wrapped up by a host of Regis defenders in the Mustangs' 27-6 loss to the Rams on Saturday in Hillsboro.



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Heppner's Logan Grieb breaks through the Regis line with a block from Trevin Home on Brandon Piette (11) in the Mustangs' 27-6 loss to the Rams on Saturday in Hillsboro.

knee injury early in the third quarter. Grieb gained four yards on his only carry in the half, but took a helmet from a Regis defender to his left knee and stayed down for several minutes in obvious pain. Grieb iced the knee for the rest of the quarter and then came back in the game in the fourth but re-injured it two series later trying to deflect a pass on defense, causing him to miss the rest of the

game. "It's just too bad," Grieb said of the injury. "It was really tough not to be out there with them but it's just something you can't do anything about."

One area where Heppner dominated in the game though was with its defensive front seven, holding Regis to just 37 rushing yards on 26 attempts. Senior linebacker Kevin Murray led the

team with 7.5 tackles, and senior Tim Jaca picked up a big quarterback sack, but it was senior lineman Trevin Home that stood out, racking up 4.5 tackles for loss, one sack, one forced fumble and four quarterback pressures in the game.

"I was just really aggressive and just went for it on every play," Home said, "and it just worked out for me I guess."

Murray said he was happy to see Home, who transferred to Heppner from Pendleton for his senior season, cap off his season with his best game of the year.

"We were coaching him along all year and he really stepped up today," Murray said. "It's like a whole new player from his first game and it was awesome to see."

But even in the loss, none of the Mustangs hung their heads after the game and Grant emphasized in the postgame huddle how proud he was of the team and the effort put forth.

"I don't think they (Regis) outplayed us by any stretch of the imagination, but they just had more athletes and were able to make a few more plays," Grant said. "And if Logan doesn't get hurt, if they don't return that first kickoff, maybe it's different, but guess what? Oh well. On this day that's what happened, they had enough athletes and we couldn't quite do it."

SENIOR SEND OFF

It also marked the final game for seniors Grieb, Murray, Jaca, Home, Jake Lindsey, and Kolby Currin, who depart the program with a 44-5 career record.

"It's really special to be part of this group," Grieb said. "The seniors are really close and it'll be really tough not playing football with those guys but what we've accomplished it's really incredible."

Grant said it's always hard to compare senior classes, but he knows that the current group was solid all the way around.

"Look they've been a part of eight home playoff victories, 44-5 over four years, four semifinals, two finals trips," Grant said, "but the character of them and the type of kids they were they really great. They'll be missed, but they ... did a great job of showing everybody what it's like to be a Mustang and to do things the right way."

	HHS	0	6	0	0	6
RHS	0	10	14	3	27	

Stats
PASSING — HHS (4-24, 82 yds, TD) K. Smith 7-16, 91 yds, TD; L. Grieb 0-2. RHS Bry. Piette 13-19, 183 yds.
RUSHING — HHS (34-96 yds) L. Grieb 14-57; C. Dougherty 8-28; B. Wolters 4-17; G. Hanna-Robinson 7-0; K. Smith 1-6. RHS (26-37, 1 TD). Bra. Piette 16-37, TD; A. Pelayo 3-13; E. Gustin 4-13; Bry. Piette 3-26.
RECEIVING — HHS B. Wolters 4-43, TD; J. Lindsey 3-33; C. Dougherty 2-11. RHS A. Wittsey 4-38; C. Gescher 3-70; E. Gustin 3-55; B. Woodcock 1-12; Bra. Piette 2-10.

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