

# Six-man football debuts

Hornets sting Cougars in opener

By **BRETT KANE**  
STAFF WRITER

Friday night marked the first six-man football played in Oregon since 1948, and it made a heated return.

Opening with a coin toss delivered by Kaye McAtee, who played in Echo's last six-man game in 1948, the reduced number of players on the field resulted in a fast-paced match between the Echo Cougars and Harper Hornets. The Hornets emerged victorious with a final score of 38-13.

Harper running back Corbin Palmer started the night off strong, rushing the ball 27 yards to the 14-yard line. Chris Williams completed the run and put his team on the scoreboard first with 8:33 left on the clock.

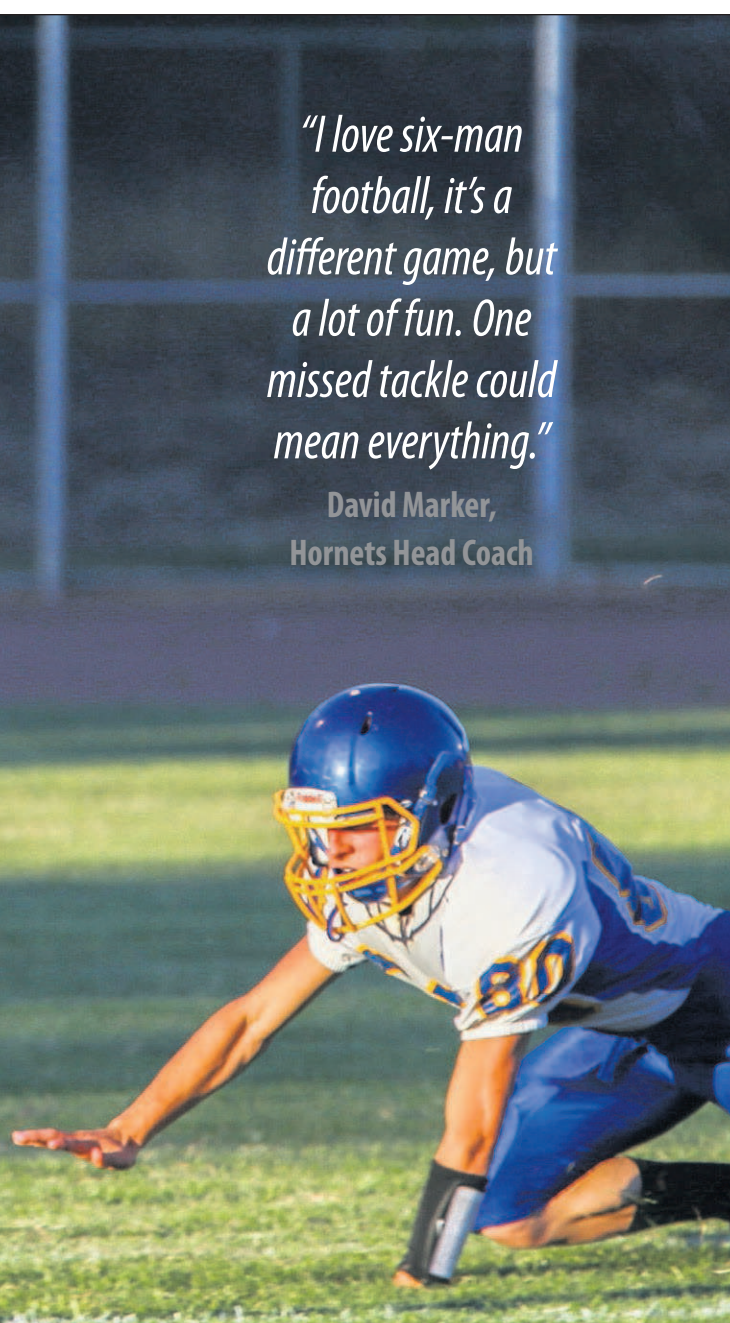
Echo quarterback Devan Craig and running back Mason Smith shone bright on the field, making several strong attempts to score against Harper. Smith rushed for 21 yards, and Craig gained 30 yards in one play. He was also able to run the ball 37 yards, nearly scoring, but received a penalty for stepping out of bounds.

Craig suffered a minor elbow injury in the second quarter, sitting out for several minutes to recuperate. Meanwhile, Smith scored the Cougars' first touchdown after rushing for 21 yards and scoring on the next play.

Palmer scored the Hornets' next touchdown, only for Craig to return to the field to give Echo a slight lead after a touchdown and a successful one-point conversion. Echo's lead didn't last long, however — Palmer scored the final touchdown of the first half,



TOP: Mason Smith (32) of Echo carries the ball into the endzone during Friday's game against the Harper Hornets. BOTTOM: Echo's Caden Fisher (4) tackles Corbin Palmer (8), of Harper.



*"I love six-man football, it's a different game, but a lot of fun. One missed tackle could mean everything."*

David Marker,  
Hornets Head Coach

STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

giving his team the lead with a score of 18-13.

Corbin continued his streak in the third quarter, scoring and bringing Harper's score up to 24-13.

Echo suffered a critical blow when Craig and Smith were both injured and benched for the remainder of the game.

Williams and Nano DeSantiago finished Harper's night off with a bang, rushing the ball 44 and 72 yards respectively, and scor-

ing the last two touchdowns of the night.

"The boys worked hard," said Hornets head coach David Marker. "They put everything we had into this game. I love six-man football, it's a different game, but a lot of fun. One missed tackle could mean everything."

Echo head coach Rick Thew says his team will need more time to adjust to six-man football.

"We came in a little

over-confident," he said. "We played these guys last year and beat them pretty good, but this time they came out ready to play, and we came out flat. Two of our best players ended up on the bench. But we can only go up from here. There's always gonna be failure — it's how you respond that matters."

Echo will travel to Monument High School on Friday, while Harper will travel to Prairie City.



# Bulldogs lose opener



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT KANE

Hermiston's Giselle Cisneros fights for the ball against Hanford's Claire Nguyen on Saturday afternoon.

By **BRETT KANE**  
STAFF WRITER

The Lady Bulldogs put up a fight against Hanford during their Saturday afternoon season opener in Richland, but ultimately lost a tough game with a score of 4-1.

The first half was action-packed, and saw Hermiston getting on the scoreboard first after wing defender Elizabeth Hernandez made her free kick just two minutes into the game.

It wasn't long until the Falcons caught up, however. Hanford forward Emily Sondag and midfielder Spencer Seabaugh scored back-to-back goals, and defender Rylee Matheny went for a third, but was intercepted by Hermiston defender Giselle Cisneros.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT KANE

Hermiston's Amanda Nygard races for the ball against Hanford's Claire Nguyen.

Hanford scored its third goal when forward Marinn Nelson made a header past Hermiston's goalie Lanie Gomez. Nelson set up another goal, passing it to Ellie Harlow who scored the final goal of the game, ending the first half with a score of 4-1.

Defense was strong all around during the second half, as both teams kept each other at bay, not allowing a single goal to be made. "I think we won the sec-

ond half," said Hermiston head coach Freddy Guizar after the game. "The girls kept their heads up and kept fighting. They kept their composure and put a lot of effort into the second half."

This was Hermiston's first girls' soccer game as a member of the WIAA and the Mid-Columbia Conference. Guizar says he feels good about his team's progress, but feels there's still a lot to learn.

"I was a little aggressive out there," said Hermiston midfielder Amanda Nygard. "We have to play not as a team, but as a family."

"The biggest difference [in the WIAA] is the pressure our opponents set," Guizar said. "They put a lot of time and effort in. We're gonna be up there with them."

## ROUNDUP

### Umatilla, Heppner lose football openers

**UMATILLA** — The Umatilla Vikings had a tough opener Friday with one of the top five teams in the state as Rainier left town with a 58-6 victory.

"They just went ground and pound against us," Umatilla coach Dan Durfey said.

Andrew Earl led the Vikings (0-1) offense going 8 for 18 passing with 138 yards and one touchdown, which came on a five-yard pass to Ryan Larence. Ramiro Alvarez was Umatilla's leading rusher with 52 yards on four carries, while Izayah Rodarte added 45 yards on five carries.

Umatilla will host Clatskanie on Friday. **CLATSKANIE 46,**

**HEPPNER 0** — At Clatskanie, the Heppner Mustangs were shut out in their season opener for the second straight time, losing 46-0 to the Class 3A Clatskanie Tigers on Friday night.

The Mustangs (0-1) had only 108 yards of total offense in the game, with Jayden Wilson throwing for 64 yards on 7 of 13 passes and Mason Lehman leading the team with 24 rushing yards on six carries.

Clatskanie (1-0) compiled 357 yards — 221 through the air and 136 on the ground. The Tigers scored on six of their nine possessions.

Heppner will host Santiam on Friday.

## SCOREBOARD

### FOOTBALL

#### Thursday

Powder Valley 34, Lone 6  
Irrigon 34, Stanfield 8

#### Friday

Hermiston 45, Pasco 0  
Clatskanie 46, Heppner 0  
Rainier 58, Umatilla 6  
Harper Charter 38, Echo 13

#### Thursday

Lone at Enterprise, 6 p.m.

#### Friday

Echo at Dayville/Monument, 1 p.m.  
Hermiston at Richland, 7 p.m.  
Weston-McEwen at Irrigon, 7 p.m.  
Clatskanie at Umatilla, 7 p.m.  
Stanfield at Central Linn, 7 p.m.  
Santiam at Heppner, 7 p.m.  
Riverside at Portland Christian, 7 p.m.

### PREP VOLLEYBALL

#### Saturday

Joseph 2, Lone 0  
Lyle, Wash. 2, Lone 0

### Prairie City Tournament

Imbler 1, Echo 1  
Echo 1, Harper Charter 0  
Echo 1, Dayville/Monument 1  
Echo 2, Adrian 1  
Echo 2, Enterprise 0  
Echo 2, Pilot Rock 0

### Heppner Tournament

Crane 3, Heppner 2  
Portland Christian 3, Heppner 0  
Vernonia 3, Heppner 2

#### Wednesday

Riverside at Helix, 4 p.m.  
Pilot Rock vs. Riverside (at Helix), 5:30 p.m.

Stanfield vs. Prescott (WA), 6 p.m.  
Hermiston at Chiawana, 7 p.m.

### Thursday

Mac-Hi at Umatilla, 4 p.m.  
Irrigon at Condon/Wheeler, 5 p.m.  
Lone at South Wasco, 5 p.m.

### Saturday

Riverside at Helix, 9 a.m.  
Lone at Condon/Wheeler, 9 a.m.  
Lone vs. Union (at Condon), 11 a.m.  
Pasco at Hermiston, 12:30 p.m.  
Lone vs. Prairie City (at Condon), 2 p.m.  
Lone vs. Stanfield (at Condon), 4 p.m.  
Stanfield at Condon/Wheeler, 6 p.m.  
Heppner at Helix, 7 p.m.

### PREP BOYS SOCCER

#### Saturday

Oregon Episcopal 4, Riverside 1

### Tuesday

#### Saturday

Riverside at Catlin Gabel, 3 p.m.  
Irrigon at Trout Lake (WA), 4 p.m.

### PREP GIRLS SOCCER

#### Saturday

Riverside 13, Stevenson, Wash. 0  
Hanford 4, Hermiston 1

### Tuesday

Umatilla X, Mac-Hi X  
Southridge at Hermiston, late

### Wednesday

Hermiston at Chiawana, 7 p.m.

### Saturday

Riverside at Catlin Gabel, 1 p.m.  
Pasco at Hermiston, 2 p.m.

### PREP CROSS COUNTRY

#### Saturday

Mac-Hi, Heppner, Helix, Stanfield, Umatilla, Hermiston at Hermiston Runner  
Soul XC Fest