



A new column for a new sports writer... Coming into a new area for the purpose of covering that area's sports activities is usually a difficult chore at best. The schools to be covered are normally completely strange, the various leagues unknown, the coaches and athletic directors a mystery.



DAVE DIRKSEN... the Owls' 'toe'

Coming into an area in the midst of a sport as popular as football compounds the difficulty.

Still, in returning to the Klamath County area, this challenge is eased somewhat for me.

For in coming to the Herald and News as sports editor, the return is somewhat of a homecoming after many years. Thus the problems which would normally face a person completely unfamiliar with an area are eased considerably.

The fact I attended Merrill High School and lived in this area for some seven years gives me an edge over someone to whom the area would be completely strange.

Of course the schools have grown tremendously, but still the original leagues of 15 years ago are in operation.

Over a period of time people and places change. However, one thing which will never change in the Klamath County area is its vital interest in sports.

Certainly this interest will never dwindle and in a short two weeks it's been obvious to me that this interest has grown.

For the sports writer, this is the desired situation. Few such areas remain in the state of Oregon where the pace of the modern day living has not wiped out the local sports interest.

In addition to the same number of high schools as when last here, Klamath Falls now also boasts a growing college which is each year making its indelible mark on the state's higher education record larger.

It's very quickly apparent to a returnee, that the area has continued to maintain its large number of highly-qualified men and women in the schools.

SPORTS INTEREST KNOWN

My personal satisfaction thus far has been in finding the former high school principal continuing in his chosen administrative field in this area.

This is George Elliott, current principal at Henley High School and in the same capacity at Merrill during my schooling there.

This is a man well-known for his interest in sports statewide. It has been a rare occasion indeed when Mr. Elliott has not attended Oregon's annual winter madness carnival—the state basketball tournament.

It is this man who has often served with the Oregon School Activities Assn. in one capacity or another—a thankless job at best and has always handled his positions fairly to all concerned.

This is just one of many excellent attributes seen in George Elliott during his days as principal at Merrill.

Since returning to Klamath Falls and area, many new faces on the local sports scene have been found. People who are sure to lend additional support in coming years to building the sports interest even higher.

Reference is made to such people as Ron Pfeister and Jim Partlow at Oregon Tech; the Klamath Falls football staff currently battling through a most trying period of losses; the city grade school coaches who teach the young athletes the meaning of fundamentals and of sportsmanship; the county coaches who teach the athletes at the small school and perhaps do not receive as much credit as is due; the people who make up the school booster clubs—vital organizations to the success of any school athletic program.

The area is fortunate indeed to count such people as citizens.

DIFFICULT CHORE FOR KU STAFF

In taking a quick look at the local football picture—both prep and collegiate—an early appraisal gives the county a big chance at a state title and good possibilities in other prep clubs and in the lone college team.

Gene Christensen seemingly has the Merrill Huskies off and running to another state final appearance, with little chance of this machine being slowed en route.

Len Weber has the Henley Hornets buzzing up a storm and were in good shape prior to Friday night's contest with Illinois Valley in Rogue Valley League action. This column, written prior to this game, is knocked out with the assumption the Hornets will add the Cougars to their list of victims.

And the KU Pelicans, currently driving through as trying a period as any team could possibly face—with four consecutive losses prior to Friday night's tilt at Grants Pass—still might arise to the occasion and knock off a favored club in the Southern Conference race.

Certainly, the job for coach Bob Williams and staff is massive. Still the chances of the Pels surprising a few teams is good.

It's easy to win one and lose one. But a larger test for both coach and player is the ability to come back after a series of large jolts (53-0 loss to South Salem, for instance) to win.

There is too much football team at KU to believe the Pels are headed for a winless season.

And in watching the Oregon Tech Owls in action for the first time against Grays Harbor JC last Saturday night, a team with a good offense was seen from the "Mile-High Campus," although also indicating a need for more defense.

OWLS IN FIRST GOOF OF SEASON

The Owls played the Portland State Vikings last night and if a win was recorded or even a close loss went into the books, Oregon Tech will be heard from more this year than since the first grid club was fielded.

A guy by the name of Pfeister came to Oregon Tech last year and his is a history of winners—either as player or coach. He's a good one.

In speaking of Oregon Tech and covering my first contest with this club a week ago, it naturally happened:

A large sized goof!

The Owls were off and running and in the second period almost scoring at will.

After each touchdown No. 72 came off the bench to send the important extra point through the uprights via his kicks.

In keeping a running account of the contest the notes might read: "72 PAT kick good."

For ease and speed in keeping notes, the numbers are used rather than names, with a copy of the program consulted following the game in writing the story.

The program informed all that No. 72 was Bob Bonner, a 231-pound tackle from Canby, Calif.

Seems the Owls had issued a No. 72 to Dave Kirksen of Troutdale, and Reynolds High School, also.

And it was his sure footwork accounting for a four-out-five night in the PAT department.

FORTUNATELY MOTHERS REMEMBER

This goof also prompted the first letter received since my arrival and I have never been corrected in a nicer fashion:

"DEAR SIR:

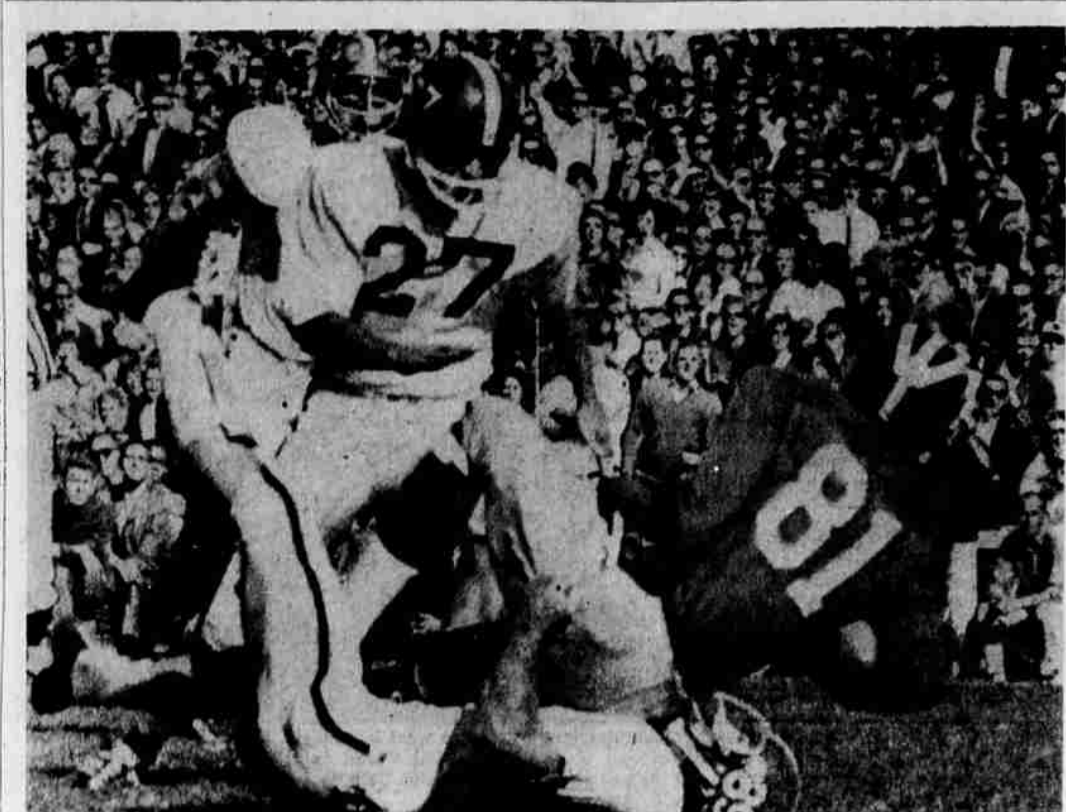
"The past two weekends we have traveled to your city for one reason—to see the OTI Owl football games and to show particular interest to our son who plays a small part in each game.

"However, each Sunday morning we have been just a little frustrated when we bought a paper and in each instance found credit had been given to someone else for a task our son, Dave Dirksen, had performed. That of kicking PATs.

"In Dave's case it is especially important as he went to OTI at the beginning of football season hoping to make the team. However, an operation on both feet while still in high school stopped the grueling work and running needed in college level football. He had bilateral operations for the correction of muscle imbalance.

(Continued on Page 3-C)

Merrill Huskies Blast Mustangs, 44-7



TOUCHDOWN AERIAL — Michigan end John Henderson (81) falls into the end zone for a touchdown after taking a pass on the five-yard line from Bob Chandler during the first quarter of the Michigan-Michigan State game Saturday. Trying to stop Henderson are Michigan State guard Hubert Benson (89) and fullback Lou Bobich (27). —UPI Telephoto

Ken Smith Paces Fifth Scoring Marathon For Merrill Eleven

By BILL GOULD
Herald and News Sports Editor

MERRILL — His name is Ken Smith and he's as deadly a back to be found in any class ball.

He's a 175-pound senior fullback for Gene Christianson's Merrill Huskies and he's deadly as a runner, passer, kicker, defensive man and blocker.

To the Malin Mustangs, his name was death here Friday night.

All this bundle of football talent did in the Klamath County B League contest player here is: —Score three touchdowns on runs of five, 36 and 40 yards.

—Add two extra points, one on a kick and one on a run.

—Amass the overwhelming total of 228 yards in 15 carries, the Huskies overall total of 335 yards and add 54 additional yards via aeriels.

—Added his assistance to the Huskies' stout defense in the first half of play which allowed the Mustangs just 14 yards net.

Smith's work and the overall teamwork of the Merrill eleven added up to a 44-7 victory for the Huskies. It was their third straight in counting action and the fifth of the season.

From the opening kickoff, there was little doubt in the minds of the onlookers which team would win.

The only question was by what margin.

The Huskies took just three and one half minutes to light their side of the scoreboard as the rout began.

Taking the opening kickoff it was Smith, Dale Kurtz and Bob Moore alternating in the drive which started on the Merrill 43.

The first play of the series gave an indication of what was to follow as Smith traveled 19 yards to the Malin 38 for the initial first down of the game.

Six plays later Moore carried over from the 22 for the score and Smith added the PAT on a run for a 7-0 advantage.

The Merrill defense forced the first punt of the fray by the Mustangs after two plays had netted no yardage.

The Huskies immediately started another drive and in five plays had scored, with Smith hitting over from the 12 for the score attempt via a kick failed and it was a 13-0 score with 3:42 left in the opening period.

It was a recovered fumble on the Malin 38 setting up the next Merrill score.

And the player recovering, and rambling the 86 yards to pay dirt.

The next score came on a punt return by Jim Moore who picked the shallow Mustang punt out of the air on the Merrill 40 and went down the sidelines for the score and it was a 38-0 game for the Huskies.

The Mustangs finally lighted their side of the scoreboard with 5:51 left as Dale Parrish capped a 77-yard drive by going over from the nine. Chuck Henderson added the PAT on a run.

Merrill closed out the scoring marathon with just 2:34 left and required just two plays.

Moore took the kickoff and returned 26 yards to the Merrill 44. He added a 16-yard gainer to the Malin 49 and a first down and then Smith, on the next play, exploded around the left side the 40 yards to pay dirt.

The Huskies racked up a total of 420 yards, while the Mustangs came on in the second half to raise their final total to 206.

Merrill now rests next weekend before returning to action Saturday, Oct. 26, hosting Bonanza.

Scoring (by quarters):
Merrill 13 6 13 12—44
Malin 0 0 0 7—7

Merrill TDs: Smith 3 (5, 36 and 40-yard runs); Roller (15-yard pass from Kurtz); Barnes (39-yard pass from Kurtz); J. Moore (60-yard run). PATs: Smith 2 (run) (kick).

Malin TD: D. Parrish (9-yard run); PAT: D. Parrish (run).

Honkers Fall To Alturas

The Tulelake Honkers saw a 6-6 deadlock which had existed for just a quarter completely wiped out in the final chapter at Alturas Friday as the Modoc Braves passed for three additional scores to take a 27-6 win.

After the Modoc Braves had intercepted a Honker pass in the first period on the Tulelake 10 and ran it in for the first score, the Honkers followed suit in the third period.

It was Kurt Thomas grabbing an Alturas aerial on the six-yard and scoring to deadlock the game at 6-6.

But in the final chapter Bud Starr unlimbered his passing arm to hurt three touchdown strikes and put the game on ice for the host team.

Rick Kreizenbeck was cited by coach Darrell LuRue of the Honkers for outstanding defensive play as the Honker linebacker collected 15 tackles and received credit for six assists.

The Honkers return to action next Friday night at home hosting Macdoel.

Scoring (by quarters):
Tulelake 0 0 6 0—6
Alturas 6 0 0 21—27

Tulelake TD: Kurt Thomas (67-yard pass interception).

GETS NFL RIGHTS

NEW YORK (UPI) — A Philadelphia firm has been granted exclusive rights to make official movies of the 1963 and 1964 National Football League championship games. NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle gave the rights to Blair Motion Pictures Inc.

Grants Pass Speed Proves Fatal To Pels As 19-0 Decision Lost

The Klamath Falls Pelicans did it again.

They gave onlookers and their opponent a sound lesson in defense before succumbing in the second half to be handed another setback.

It was the Grants Pass Cavemen who found the going difficult against an inspired Pelican team at Grants Pass, Friday night before breaking away to post a 19-0 Southern Conference triumph.

It was a scoreless battle between the two clubs throughout the first period and half of the second which was somewhat of a mental triumph for the Pels against the highly-rated Cavemen.

However, the Cavemen speed finally began to take its toll as, with 4:29 left in the second quarter and the Grants Pass club with the ball on the Caveman 20, Tom Sparlin hit speedster Terry Isabell with a screen pass.

The sprinter gathered the ball in and raced 80 yards to the initial score of the contest.

As the teams headed into the third period it was more of the same as the clubs battled back and forth before a final exchange of punts was turned into another Caveman score.

The Pels kicked the Caveman 29 where the ball was ruled dead.

On the first play from scrimmage Terry Vankoten picked up six yards to the 35. On the next play, Sparlin ran the option pitch back to trailer man Isabell and he raced the 65 yards to pay dirt.

The Cavemen added the extra point via a pass from Sparlin to Marty Bauer and it was a 13-0 game, with 8:10 left in the third stanza.

The Pels, still not down and out, came back and drove to the Grants Pass 14 before the drive faltered and died.

The Cavemen took advantage of pass interception by Don Summers in the third period and moved the ball to the Klamath Falls one before a fumble stopped the threat.

Finally, a partially blocked Pelican punt set up the final score of the game as the Cavemen took the ball on the Klamath Falls 16 and moved to the 10 with time running out.

With 20 seconds left, Sparlin tried an aerial which was incomplete.

This set up one of the weirdest plays to be seen.

Sparlin handed off to Isabell on the 10 and he in turn pitched back to Sparlin as the two Cavemen played basketball back to the 30.

From the 30, Sparlin spotted Jerry McCormick in the end zone and threw the payoff aerial good for the final six points as the horn sounded.

Mike Kitching was the big gainer for the Pelicans with a net yardage of 55 yards in 12 carries for a 4.6 average. John Parisotto connected on five of 15 aeriels for 70 yards in the KU total offense of 160 yards.

Now the Pelicans return to counting action next weekend at Medford facing a Tornado which was badly frightened by the Crater Comets Friday night before winning, 6-0.

Scoring (by quarters):
Klamath Falls 0 0 0 0—0
Grants Pass 6 7 6—19

Grants Pass TDs: Isabell 2 (80-yard run pass from Sparlin), (65-yard run); McCormick (10-yard pass from Sparlin); PAT: Bauer (pass from Sparlin).

Scoring (by quarters):
Klamath Falls 0 0 0 0—0
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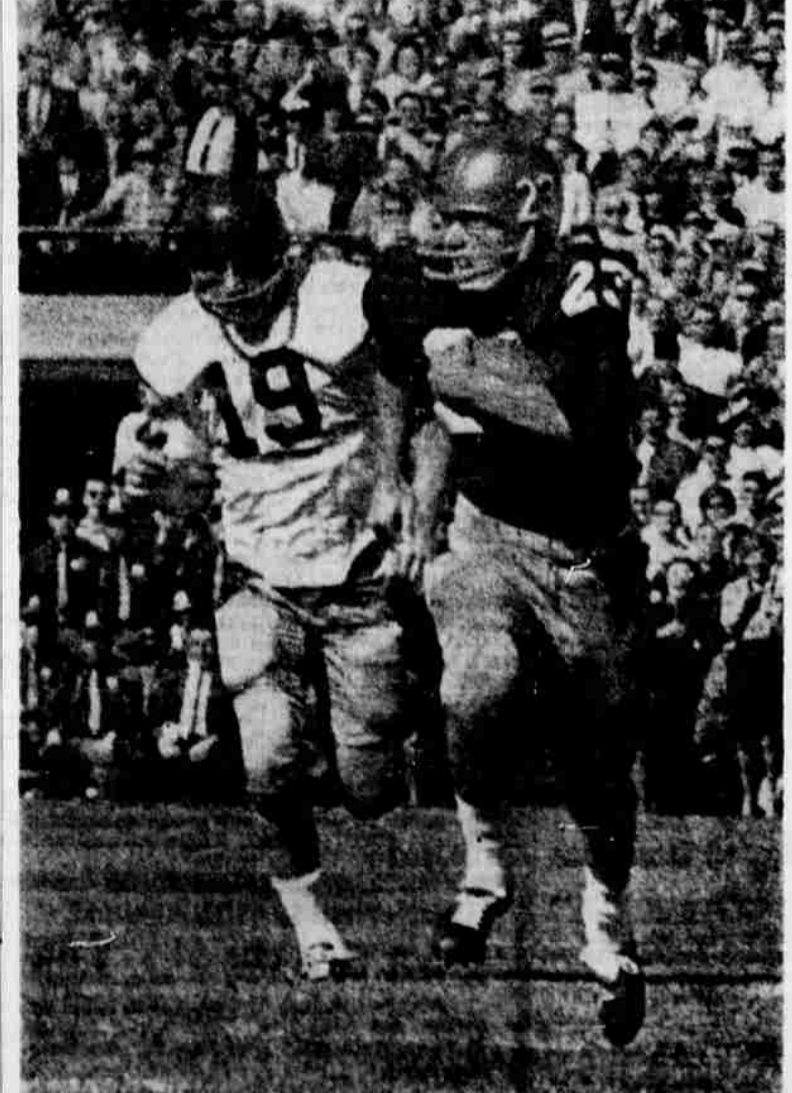
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Grants Pass 6 7 6—19



THE INTERCEPTION — Tom MacDonald, Notre Dame halfback, races downfield ahead of USC's Hal Bedsole (19) after intercepting a pass thrown by Pete Beathard in the first quarter of the Irish-Trojan game. MacDonald ran 65 yards on the interception to score the first touchdown. —UPI Telephoto

Owl Rooters Set Meeting

The Oregon Tech Booster Club, the Owl Hoots, will hold its regular meeting Monday night at 6:30 at the Broiler.

Owl coaches will discuss past games played by the Oregon Tech club and games upcoming.

All fans are invited to attend the meeting.

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