

Huskies Head For Maupin And Semis Showdown Fray

By BILL GOULD

Herald and News Sports Editor

"It's the best team I've seen all year."

"Our defense will be the big question."

"If our offense goes, I feel we'll be okay."

Pre-game thoughts of Merrill head man Gene Christensen

prior to the departure of the Huskies for Maupin and the state semifinal battle with the Wasco Reddies.

The role of the favorite must be accorded the host Reddies

—but only by the smallest of margins.

Many factors must be considered as the Reddies assure

the dubious role of the favorite team.

—An undefeated record over a season of 10 tough football games.

—A backfield composed of the fastest backs the Huskies have faced all season.

—A crunching ground attack which has accounted for an average of 29.4 yards per game.

—A pair of backs who have combined against stiff opposition to pile up 1,631 yards between them.

—And that indefinable something known as playing on home grounds.

They can all be considered in taking a long look at the Reddies.

Still, the Huskies narrow the margin of the underdog with a number of facts of the game riding on their side:

—An equally impressive set of backs with impressive statistics to match.

—A forward wall not huge, but large enough to move the opposite number with regularity and possessing a key factor—quickness.

—An undefeated record in eight grid contests.

—Two backs who have piled up a total between them of 1,816 yards in just eight contests and a quarterback who has hit his mark on better than 50 per cent of the aerial attempts for another 767 yards and 16 touchdowns.

—The experience of going the playoff route last year.

—And a big offense which has stacked up 3,103 yards in those eight games.

Thus the Huskies narrow the margin by which the Reddies are favored considerably.

Much has been said regarding the offensive ability of the two teams.

And both teams respect the offense of the other to the state where defense has been the prime concern for both during

the week's workouts.

The two teams have recorded impressive defensive records in moving into the semifinals, also.

The Reddies have scored 294 points in 10 outings for their 29.4 per game scoring average, while allowing the opposition a 55-point total or a 5.5 per game scoring mark.

The largest score against the Reddies was in the first game of the season against A-2 John Day, when the Wasco eleven posted a 13-12 victory.

However, the Reddies have been scored upon at least once all the other games except two.

The Huskies have limited the opponents to 62 points in eight games for an average of 7.7, while scoring 275 points for a

34.3 points per game average.

In yardage figures, the Huskies have held their foes to a total of 1,232 yards, while amassing their 3,103 total.

The Huskies will hold a slight weight advantage over the Reddies, with an offensive line average of 173 pounds per man and a backfield mark of 158.7 pounds.

For the Reddies, the listed offensive line will average 161.3 and the backfield 132.6.

The Huskies will be faced with the speedy work of left-half Joe Miller, a 140-pound speedster; right halfback Dale Hammer, another scooter weighing in at 135 pounds and the fullback rushes of Jud Buswell, a 190-pound junior.

The passing attack is handled by 135-pound, 6-1 string-bean John Neely, who has hit for seven touchdown aeri-

als.

The Huskies counter with their own brand of speed and deception in the persons of left-half Ken Smith and right half-back Bob Moore.

And in the aerial game, the Huskies will use the passing wizardry of southpaw Dale Kurtz.

The Reddies have used a variety of successful running plays from their wing-T, balanced line offense, with much success found in running the tackles, the ends and reverses.

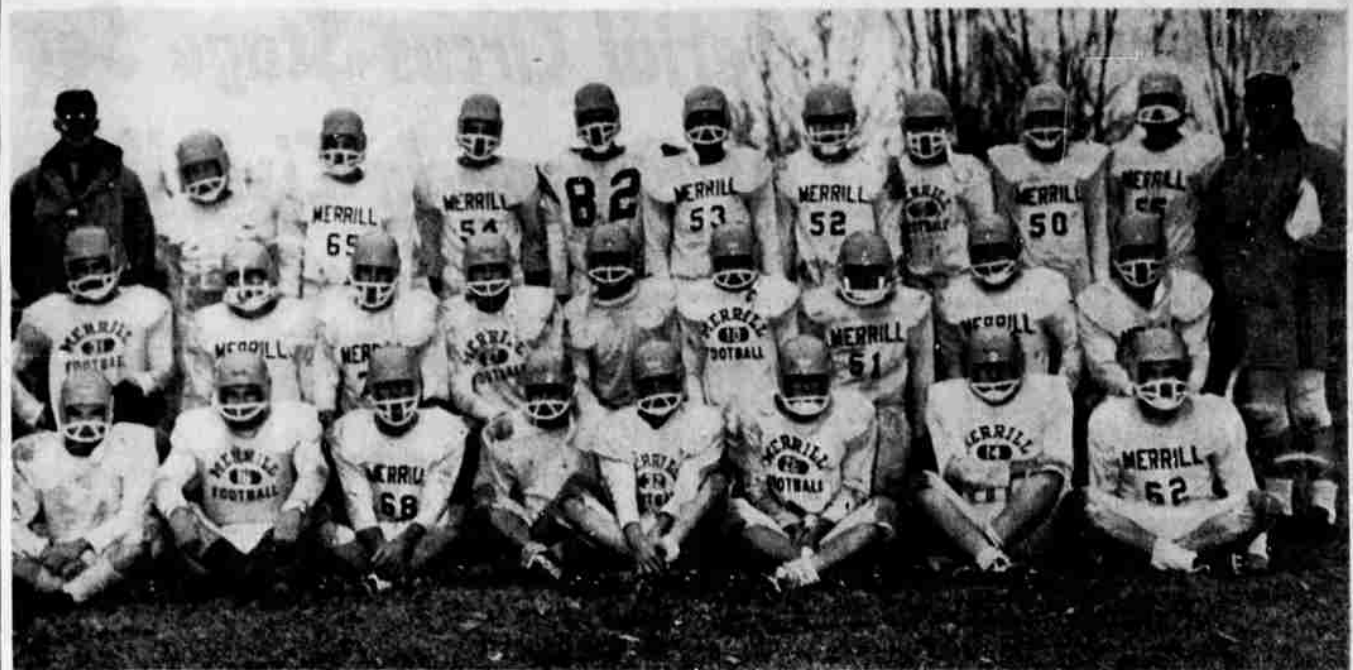
In this respect the teams are similar, with the Huskies using all of these and adding other variations plus the passing threat of Kurtz.

This is the picture as two fine teams head into the state semifinals Saturday afternoon at Maupin.

The Huskies left via bus this morning at 11 a.m., with an overnight stay and a short workout slated at Madras before traveling on into Maupin Saturday morning.

Both teams were reported at full strength for the important encounter.

Kickoff time is 1:30 p.m., with the winner ticketed for the state finals next weekend against the winner of the Yoncalla-Jefferson contest.



READY FOR REDSIDES — The Merrill Huskies, winners of the Klamath County B League title for the second consecutive year, attempt to win a berth in the state Class B finals at Maupin Saturday as they face the undefeated Maupin Reddies. Both teams have been impressive in building up undefeated skeins this year. Game time for the important contest is 1:30 p.m.

THE COACHES

CHUCK STAPLETON

Chuck Stapleton is in his second year as head football coach of the Wasco Reddies at Maupin.

Of special interest to Oregon State fans is the fact Chuck is the brother of former Beaver football assistant, Clay Stapleton.

The popular Clay Stapleton left Oregon State's ranks for the head coaching spot at Iowa State.

Chuck is the younger brother of the former Oregon State coach, and as he says, "About 15 years younger."

Chuck Stapleton attended college at Wyoming and following graduation moved to Virginia where he was assistant prep coach four years.

He and his wife visited Oregon on vacation during the summer three years ago and liked the country and decided to return.

Stapleton first came to Maupin last year and the Reddies have posted a record for the two years of 12-6.

The first year was none too successful for him as a 2-6 record went into the books, but this year the Reddies have moved along steadily to a semifinals berth with an undefeated 10-0 record.

GENE CHRISTENSEN

In his third year as head man of the Huskies, Gene Christensen joined the Merrill staff in 1961 after one year teaching and coaching at Bly.

Christensen attended high school at Lead, S.D., and following graduation attended Black Hills Teachers College at Spearfish, S.D.

There Christensen played his collegiate football as a fullback in the South Dakota Intercollegiate Conference which is comparable to the Oregon Collegiate Conference in size of schools and size of league.

"We didn't have particularly good teams, principally because there wasn't much of an athletic program and no recruiting at all."

"But, I understand now the program has improved considerably," Christensen comments.

Both Christensen and Merrill basketball coach Jerry Groeneveld looked to positions in Oregon following college. Both had attended Lead High School and Groeneveld joined the Merrill staff two years before Christensen came to Bly.

The two old high school mates now assist each other in the two sports.

Christensen takes a 17-9 overall record in the state semis, with a 2-6 mark posted the first year at Merrill.

The Huskies came on for a 7-3 mark and a state finals berth last year in this second term and this year currently own an 8-0 record.

Herald and News SPORTS

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THE LINEUPS

MERRILL			WASCO		
No.	Player	Yr. Pos.	No.	Player	Yr. Pos.
50	Ted Roller	Sr. 160 LE	135	Ken Courtin	88
44	Bill Geraghty	Sr. 180 LT	160	Chuck Ritchie	71
55	Dwight Wither	Sr. 165 LG	150	Al Vaughn	69
45	Earl Danosky	Sr. 185 C	155	Bud Chittick	55
40	Doug Woods	Sr. 180 RG	160	Jr. Larry Ward	66
41	Lynn Long	Sr. 180 RT	190	Sr. Dave Anderson	77
23	Larry Connor	Jr. 165 RE	150	Jr. Steve Wing	89
21	Dale Kurtz	Sr. 160 QB	140	Sr. John Neely	11
20	Ken Smith	Sr. 175 LH	135	Sr. Dale Hammer	29
24	Bob Moore	Sr. 160 RH	145	Sr. Dale Hammer	29
27	Gary Orem	Jr. 140 FB	190	Jr. Jud Buswell	32

THE RECORDS

MERRILL (8-0)		WASCO (10-0)	
Tulelake	39-0	John Day	13-12
Bonanza	40-21	Corbett	19-6
Butte Valley	45-0	White Salmon	31-6
Chiloquin	25-14	Burns	12-6
Malin	44-7	Umatilla	6-0
Bonanza	20-0	Condon	31-6
Chiloquin	24-7	Sherman	58-0
Malin	38-13	Stanfield	58-7
		McEwan	15-6
		Joseph	51-6

Two Playoff Tilts Slated For Tonight

By United Press International

Semifinal games in the Oregon class A-1 high school football playoffs will be played tonight at Salem and Roseburg, but all action in other classes is scheduled for Saturday.

Metro League champion Beaverton takes on North Salem, the Valley League titlist at McCulloch Stadium in Salem, while Roseburg, the Midwestern League co-champion is host to Grant, which won the Portland title. Both games start at 8 p.m.

Roseburg edged defending state champion Medford 7-6 in the quarterfinals last weekend on a hotly-disputed blocked extra point. Medford officials said movies showed the Roseburg line was offside when the kick was blocked.

Grant blanked west Linn 18-0, North Salem edged Pendleton 14-9 and Beaverton topped Parkrose 19-7 in other quarterfinals.

Action in Class A-2 Saturday sends North Catholic of Portland against Siuslaw at Florence and Phoenix against Vale at Vale.

Class B semifinals have Jefferson playing Yoncalla at Sutherlin and Merrill meeting Wasco County at Maupin. Camas Valley is at Dufur in an eight man game. The winner meets Eagle Valley for the title.

Mauro Mina Sub Fight Underdog

NEW YORK (UPI) — Light heavyweight contender Allen Thomas of Chicago is favored at 5-1 to whip Brooklyn's unbeaten Johnny Persol at Madison Square Garden tonight, and ex-champion Archie Moore says:

"That's about the right odds for Thomas against anybody he fights."

In that statement, co-manager Moore avoids mentioning the fact that Thomas' opponent, Persol — although unbeaten—is going into tonight's nationally televised fight as a substitute, engaging in his first 19-round.

Moore, 49, is prejudiced in favor of mustachioed Thomas because he is one of Thomas' four managers, who include comedians Phil Foster and Buddy Hackett.

Substitute Persol, 22, won nine straight bouts since he turned professional in January. On Tuesday he was named the replacement for third-ranking contender Mauro Mina of Peru against Thomas.

Mina was banned from tonight's bout by the New York State Athletic Commission because of previous secret eye-retina surgery.

Synthetic quinine was produced from coal-tar products for the first time in 1944.

TO MISS GAME

MONTREAL (UPI) — Right winger Bill Hicke of the Montreal Canadiens will miss Sunday's National Hockey League game in Chicago because of a badly twisted knee. Hicke flew home to Toronto Thursday for treatment.

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