



Eluding the rush

Homedale High School senior quarterback Tyler Christofferson, left, stiff-arms Fruitland linebacker Jake Fabricious during the Trojans' season finale Oct. 28 at Deward Bell Stadium. Christofferson also played linebacker and will be one of the few upperclassmen leaving the Homedale program. Photo by Gregg Garrett.

Trojans coaches stoked about football's future

The odds were stacked against the Homedale High School football team heading into the 2005 season.

Head coach Thomas Thomas was working with a bunch of new assistants.

The team would have to rely on a lot of young players.

And the Trojans would have to break in a new quarterback. They wound up using two quarterbacks — senior Tyler Christofferson and junior Trevor Krzesnik.

All that added up to an uphill climb in Thomas' third year as coach.

"I think it took a little while to find ourselves as far as people roles and the new coaching staff," Thomas said. "We had a lot of new coaches."

Of course, it didn't help that Homedale was playing only its second year in the tough 3A Snake River Valley conference — a league that has put two of the strongest teams into the state playoffs this year in unbeaten and top-ranked Weiser and second-place Fruitland.

"Clearly, the SRV is divided between three strong teams and three teams that are trying to get where they're at," Thomas said. "It's not enough to win the bottom half of the league. We will make the next step."

That next step may be a tad eas-

ier next season because the team directly in front of the Trojans in the standings this year — Middleton — is taking its power running game to the 4A level. Homedale was 2-3 and finished fourth in the SRV.

That leaves a five-team league the format of which will give each team a shot at the state playoffs in 2006, Thomas said. There will be a week of state play-in games similar to the mini-tournament the 2A Western Idaho Conference does now. But there is a twist: The SRV teams will play other clubs from around the state in the qualification games rather than an intra-league system like the 2A WIC has.

That new format as well as the maturation of the team has Thomas optimistic about next season.

"We want a winning record," said Thomas, whose Trojans were 4-5 this year to post the school's first back-to-back losing seasons since 1995-96 when teams coached by Leo Mendelson and Stan Hoaglund, respectively, went a combined 4-12.



Thomas Thomas

But history is on Thomas' side.

In 1997, Hoaglund led Homedale to a 12-0 mark and a state championship in the first of five consecutive appearances in the state playoffs.

The key to making a leap like Hoaglund's squad made nearly a decade ago is the young guns on this year's team have to fill the void that will be left by the departure of senior leaders like quarterback-linebacker Christofferson, receiver-defensive back Garrett Sweet, running back-linebacker Luke Carson and lineman Humberto Obregon.

"I just want people around here to be encouraged because we're going to be good next year," Thomas said. "We'll have more kids in the weight room; the numbers have increased from year to year since I've been here."

"And I'm looking forward to working with a lot of the same (coaching) staff members as last year to build some continuity."

Defensive coordinator Dave Hart, who installed a ferocious 3-5 scheme this year, will be back. And he's as optimistic as Thomas about what they call a "bright future" for the Trojans.

"The future bodes well for Homedale," he said. "The key is

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Hoops teams ready to start new season

Motivated Marsing opens with Homedale

If the seeds of success are sown summer camps, the foes of the Marsing High School girls basketball team might be in for a long, hard winter.

"It's probably a lot of my demeanor because we don't have the height, so we've got to be tough," Marsing coach Don Heller said in explaining the program's penchant for scrappy players.

The rough-and-tumble Huskies solidified their man-to-man defense during a summer that included a trip to the prestigious University of California at Santa Barbara basketball camp.

Marsing's first chance to see if that experience will help them improve on a 9-14 2004-05 campaign comes Saturday night against host Homedale.

"For us, this year we're going to press more, and we had to work on

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Experienced Trojans greet new coach

The 2005-06 girls basketball season could be one big reunion tour at Homedale High School.

The Trojans are loaded with senior talent this season, and — although this is only his first season as varsity coach — Mike Greeley is very familiar with the bunch.

He coached many of the athletes when they were freshmen, so the players know what is expected of them.

That puts Greeley in the role of a mechanic for a Homedale machine that sputtered to a 4-18 showing last season under Mark Weekes.



Mike Greeley

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JV, Adrian send teams to State

Three teams from Adrian and Jordan Valley high schools have reached the Oregon state tournaments in their respective sports.

And one — Adrian's football team — hasn't been in the state postseason in 15 years.

The Antelopes (6-3) lost 48-40 to Pine Eagle on Saturday in Baker, Ore., but still qualified for the 1A state playoffs with the third seed out of the Old Oregon League.

Adrian is making its first appearance in the state tournament since 1990 when it lost in the second round to Prairie City 36-24. The Antelopes were winless in eight games a year ago.

The Antelopes, who are in their second year under coach Gene Mills, meet District 3 top seed South Wasco County (6-3) at 2 p.m. MST on Saturday in Maupin.

This is South Wasco's third consecutive trip to the state

playoffs.

The high school volleyball teams from Adrian and Jordan Valley survived the District 4 tournament in John Day, Ore., on Saturday to qualify for the Oregon 1A state tournament.

Both teams will compete in the state tournament at Springfield High School on Friday and Saturday.

Jordan Valley won the District 4 Tournament on Saturday in John Day. The Mustangs will play in Pool 1 of the state tournament Friday morning with Umpqua Valley Christian (District 2, No. 2 seed), Crow (District 5, No. 3) and South Wasco County (District 3, No. 3).

Adrian, which lost to Jordan Valley in the first round of the district tournament on Saturday at Grant Union High School, is the third seed from District 4. The Antelopes will play in

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Sports

Jordan Valley rolls to District 4 volleyball title

by Hayley Johnson, JVHS

The Jordan Valley volleyball team entered last weekend's District 4 Tournament with high hopes and expectations and an undefeated season.

The Mustangs, leaders of the Tri-Co League, were rewarded after a long day with the district championship and a position in the 1A Oregon State Tournament, which begins Friday in Springfield, Ore.

Friday afternoon, the team left for John Day, Ore., and spent the night there. The next morning, they went to Grant Union's gym and warmed up. The court was split into two, so that there could be two games going on at once, and games were only best two out of three, instead of the customary best three out of five.

Jordan Valley first played Adrian, the fourth seed from the Old Oregon League.

The Mustangs rebounded from a first-game loss for a 21-25, 27-25, 15-7 victory.

"Adrian has greatly improved from the first time we played them this year, and they have done an excellent job with their program," Jordan Valley coach Jacque Neagle said.

In the Adrian game, Lauren Cuvelier led in kills with 11, followed by Angela Larsen with nine, and Michelle Baltzor and Cassia Trautman with two each. Cuvelier and Larsen also led in blocks with four and two, respectively. Lacey Kershner racked up 12 serving points, Cuvelier 10, and Bailey Kershner 9. Bailey Kershner had 12 assists, and Breann Hipwell contributed 11.

The Antelopes were led by Paige Branstiter, who collected five aces and two kills. Sarah McPeak and Stephenie Hutchings recorded five kills each.

"We played well in the first and second game, but the third game we lost momentum," Adrian coach Aimee Goss said.

"Jordan did a nice job of



Calm before the storm

Jordan Valley High School volleyball players, left to right, Breann Hipwell, Lauren Cuvelier and Michelle Elsner get ready for the serve against Adrian during the first round of the District 4 Tournament on Saturday in John Day, Ore. Adrian setter Kat Sillonis stands at the far left. Photo by Emma Johnson

attacking."

The Mustangs next played Imbler, the third seed from the OOL. Once again, Jordan Valley lost the first game, but beat Imbler 22-25, 25-19, 15-9, to reach the championship match against Powder Valley from North Powder.

During the Imbler game Cuvelier led in kills with 13, followed by Trautman with six, Larsen and Baltzor each had four. Larsen and Cuvelier led blocks with three each. Cuvelier led serving points with eight, backed by Baltzor with seven and Hayley Johnson with five. Hipwell and Bailey Kershner each contributed 15 assists.

For the championship game, the court was returned to its normal state.

For the third time that night, Jordan Valley lost the first game of the match, but redeemed themselves with an intense 13-25, 25-14, 15-11 victory to grab the district's top seed to the state tournament.

When the Mustangs realized they'd won, the entire team went

ballistic, jumping up and down, screaming and hugging each other. Only the crowd, which consisted of more than just Jordan Valley fans, was louder than the team after the win.

The championship game provided the girls an opportunity to showcase their skills. Cuvelier led in kills with 14, followed by Larsen with eight and Trautman with six. Cuvelier led in blocks with three, backed by Larsen with two and Baltzor with one. Cuvelier also led in serving points with 10. Bailey Kershner contributed eight service points and Michelle Elsner had five. Hipwell and Bailey Kershner had 15 and 13 assists, respectively.

"We played really good, but we need to start our games as strong as we end them," said team libero Kelsey Prescott.

Neagle said, "We didn't play well the first game, but the second and third games the girls came alive and it was great to see the kind of teamwork they relied on to beat this team and become the District 4 Champions and stay undefeated on the year."



SRV champions

The Homedale Middle School seventh-grade football team, coached by Doug Anders, poses for a photo to celebrate its Snake River Valley conference championship.

High-flying HMS athletes focus on winter seasons

Homedale Middle School's athletic program is riding high as the Trojans' thoughts turn to basketball and wrestling after bringing home two championships during the fall.

Homedale won Snake River Valley conference championships in seventh-grade football and eighth-grade volleyball.

The first-year cross country team also put a great finish on its season at the SRV cross country championship meet Oct. 12 at Gilbert Lake. The Trojans' boys team finished second in a five-team field as Middleton took home the team title.

"This is outstanding since we started cross country at the middle school (in September)," coach Nick Schamber said.

Schamber said that the Homedale girls team was one athlete shy of having a squad eligible for the team championship, but the girls competed hard as individuals.

"What's even more exciting is the fact that Middleton took first, and they are moving out of our conference next year," Schamber said. "I have a very positive feeling looking at next year's cross country season."

The winter sports season began

last week for the Homedale Middle School girls basketball teams.

Both eighth-grade teams beat Ontario in Homedale. The Trojans' two seventh-grade clubs lost to Ontario on the road.

The seventh-grade teams play their fourth games of the season against McCall at 4:15 p.m. Thursday in Homedale. The eighth-graders are on the road in McCall for 4:15 p.m. games Thursday.

"All teams played hard, but have quite a few areas to improve in as the season progresses," Homedale seventh-grade coach and athletic director Luci Asumendi said. "Both coaches are encouraged by the attitude and effort of the girls."

Kevin Cornwall coaches the eighth-grade teams.

The two-time defending District III champion wrestling team opened the season Monday on the road against Middleton. The Trojans, coached by Toby Johnson, play host to Payette Lakes Middle School of McCall and Weiser in a tri-meet at 4:15 p.m. next Wednesday. There are 28 athletes competing for the wrestling team this season. Johnson also coaches the Homedale High School wrestlers.

Huskies, Trojans nab all-conference honors

Two all-conference teams were unveiled last week with the conclusion of Idaho high school state tournaments in volleyball and girls basketball.

Senior MJ Usabel led a contingent of four Marsing players on the all-league volleyball team for the 2A Western Idaho Conference.

Usabel was a first-teamer from coach Loma Bittick's team.

Another senior, Breeana Chadez, was placed on the second team.

The Huskies' two setters — junior Kortni Scott and senior

Nicole Gelinass — received honorable mention recognition.

Usabel, Gelinass and Chadez all competed for the District III 2A squad in Monday's senior all-star game in Fruitland.

Results weren't available at press time.

Homedale places four on All-SRV girls soccer

Freshman Hannah Johnson, who scored key goals for the Homedale girls soccer team all season, was placed on the first team for the all-Snake River

Valley conference team.

Senior Breann Rodriguez and freshman Anna Maria Salas earned second-team positions.

Sophomore Belen Vega received honorable mention recognition.

Tennly Paul-Bowden from unbeaten 3A state champion Payette was named the conference's most valuable player after scoring 46 points with 26 goals and 20 assists for the powerhouse Pirates.

The all-conference teams for football will be announced at the conclusion of the state playoffs.

√ Football

going to be getting in the weight room so we don't get overpowered at the end of the season."

The young Trojans, who started three sophomores on the defensive line at times this year, were trampled under a stampede of running backs from Weiser, Middleton and Fruitland.

Thomas recognized that Homedale was at a disadvantage as far as physical ability against the seasoned veterans from those three powerhouses.

"I believe Fruitland and Weiser are better than McCall's team last year that went to the state

championship," Thomas said.

So the off-season will be spent bulking up the youngsters, which will only strengthen a defense that

showed great potential midway through the season. "When you're forced to play some young kids on the varsity, it takes a while," Hart said. "Those guys are going to be some hard-core veterans next year, and it's going to be fun."

— JB



Dave Hart

Sports



Defensive drill

Homedale High School wing Whitney Tackett, left, soars toward the hoop with a jump shot while braving the defensive stand of senior post Hailey Hall during practice Thursday.

✓ Trojans

“They know the game of basketball, and we’ve just got to execute,” Greeley said. “We’re trying to get fine-tuned.”

“They know the stuff. We have to get it fine-tuned and get the timing down.”

Greeley said timing is crucial to cut down on the turnovers that plagued the Trojans last season.

But with eight seniors returning from last year’s battles, the coach doesn’t have to plant too many reminders about the team’s weaknesses.

“The strength I’ve got is a veteran group of girls with a lot of court experience,” the coach said.

He’ll also have five post players standing 5-foot-10, including Cheyanne Andrade, Hailey Hall, Sarah Cline and Faith Brasher, all seniors, and Nicole Cahill.

“Height-wise, I think we’re going to be short,” Greeley said. “But strength-wise, I think we’ll be able to muscle people around.”

The coach says Hall and Brasher will be the bruisers for Homedale, and he’s working on making Cline a more aggressive player on both ends of the floor.

Aggression on the court is a primary objective for Greeley. He wants the post players to make the paint their own.

“We want to focus on (Brasher) and Cheyanne to dominate underneath and not let anybody get any rebounds,” Greeley said. “And we want them using their bodies to score in close under the basket.”

That gameplan is all part of a grand design to establish Homedale as a threat in the 3A Snake



Lesson plan

First-year Homedale High School girls basketball coach Mike Greeley explains an on-court situation as Michelle Uria listens.

River Valley conference this season.

“I’ve been working with the posts on their scoring,” Greeley said. “And I’m working with the guards so we don’t have as many turnovers this year.”

“And we’re going to try to create an upbeat tempo during the game.”

Greeley will unleash the Trojans’ sleek and speedy 2005-06 model this weekend with



Faith Brasher



Hailey Hall

a Friday game against New Plymouth and a Saturday home game against Marsing. Both games will be played on the Trojans’ home floor, and the action starts at 4:45 p.m. with freshman games.

“We’ve been playing Marsing almost every year for as long as I can remember,” Greeley said. “They’re always good competition, and always a good game.”

With eight seniors and three girls bringing experience from the junior varsity (wing-post Whitney Tackett; wing Jordan Warwick and post-guard Alisha Marks), Greeley has no concerns about the cohesiveness of the team.

“They work together as a group,” he said.

“Everybody is going to have a role, and once they understand their role, that maturity will come through and go in a positive direction for us.”

— JB

✓ Huskies

the man-to-man defense because we don’t have much height,” said Heller, who is in his 11th year leading the Huskies.

Marsing’s tallest player will be 5-foot-10 post MJ Usabel.

“I don’t think there is a post in our league, if (Usabel) puts her mind to it, that can stop her,” Heller said of one five seniors returning to the fold. “When we played this summer in Santa Barbara, she played some 6-2, 6-3 posts and never backed down.”

“But it’s all going to be up to her. It’s going to be her mindset and how she handles (the situation) when she does have some tough spots.”

Usabel will be joined by fellow seniors Mollee Nielsen (5-1, point guard), Angela Martinez (5-4, guard), Holly Heller (5-7, post) and Tiffany Martinez (5-4, shooting guard).

Usabel, by far, is the tallest Husky on the roster. But don’t let that lack of height fool you.

“It never really has mattered because we press from the start of the game ‘til the end of the game, so we’re coming at ya,” Heller said. “We don’t always have great shooters, so we try to get the ball and shoot layups.”

Heller was bolstered by his team’s 4-3 record at the UCSB camp. The sessions are run by Mark French, who has turned the Gauchos into a perennial Top 25 team in college basketball. Five of the teams that Heller’s clan played hailed from schools that boasted enrollment of more than 2,000 students.

“It was great. We had a super time,” Heller said. The Marsing players also got the chance to watch a WNBA game from a Staples Center luxury suite in Los Angeles.

But the summer’s objective at both UCSB and the Pine Eagle camp in Oregon — installing a stifling man-to-man defense — was achieved.

“By the end of the summer, the girls were running their man really well,” Heller said. “We try to set a goal for the summer, and our No. 1 priority was learning how to play man-to-man defense.”

Angela Martinez will be a key contributor to that defense.

“She will just hound you from the start to the end,” Heller said. “She gets a lot of her points off steals.”

Even the Huskies’ posts — including Heller and newcomer Samantha Wilson (5-6, junior) — will throw down the defense as well as throw their bodies around.

“This summer, I decided we needed a little more toughness inside,” Don Heller said, referring to Wilson. “She probably doesn’t have the post-up skills that she needs, but that’ll come during the season.”

“And she’s one that likes to get in and rought it up, too.”

Just like the coach’s daughter, Holly Heller, whom her father calls “a bruiser.”

“She might only be 5-7, but she plays like she’s 6-foot, and there’s not a person she’ll back down to,” Don Heller said. “The rougher it gets, the more she enjoys it.”

“She’ll be on the floor for any loose ball, and she’ll be a solid bruise at the end of the season.”

And you don’t have to be a post to be a bruiser, either. Heller said Tiffany Martinez and first-year varsity player Elisa Moreno (5-3, soph., guard) are both tenacious on the court, too.

Of course, with such a tough bunch, staying healthy will be critical.

“If we keep from injuries, we’ll be right up there,” said Heller, who guided his 2003-04 team to a state tournament appearance.

“The way I’ve always coached, preseason we’re working on things for league; league we want to improve on every game;

“And, to me, peak time is tournament.”

— JB



Tight defense

Senior MJ Usabel, right, exhibits the man-to-man defense Marsing High School girls basketball coach Don Heller is looking for during practice Thursday against teammate Kallie Roeser.

Sports

Marsing youth football wraps successful year

The Marsing Lions Optimist football program finished the season Oct. 27 with a barbecue and an awards ceremony for all the players and cheerleaders. Forty-six football players turned out to play, and 34 girls participated in the cheerleading program. During the ceremony, all players and cheerleaders received a trophy for their efforts during the year.

All Marsing teams — the Lions, Tigers and Raptors — won their season-ending games on Oct. 22 at the Marsing High School football field.

“This is a great program for our youth and brings awesome opportunities for our children in the community,” cheer coordinator Jai Gardner said.

“The cheer program is the largest in the valley, and it is exciting to see the interest in the program.”

Ken Wilson, the commissioner of Marsing Lions Optimist Football, said, “We had a great year. The teams played some great ball and showed a great amount of improvement. The community has really stepped up to support the Lions Football and cheer program, and the payoff will be in the leaders of tomorrow.”

The Marsing Lions football program is associated with the Boise Optimist Football program, which includes Boise, Meridian, Eagle, Star, Kuna, Nampa, Mountain Home, McCall, Emmett, Horseshoe Bend, Wood River and Glens Ferry.

The program includes flag football for boys and girls ages 7 and 8, and full-contact football for ages 9-12.

Cheerleading is open to ages 4-12.



Marsing Lions, 11- to 12-year-olds

Players, coaches cheerleaders identified left to right. Front row: Kendra Wilson, DD Gardner. Second row: Audra Kendall, Payden Dingman, Mackay Hall, Bud Hall, Jesus Lino, Ismeal Corrales, Tawnie Price, Ashley Hirschi. Third row: Asia Shippy, Janet Gardner, Grayson Kendall, Miguel Leon, Ismeal Hinojosa, Tanner Price, Angel Loera, Randy Moore. Fourth row: Hailey Prater, Becky Carter, Ray Hinojosa, Chanze Raffaelli, Cody Barnes, Jason Galligan, Ken Wilson, Garbriella Van Es, Annie Finley, Janet Gardner, Shannon Malmberg. Submitted photo



Marsing Raptors, 9- to 10-year-olds

Players, coaches cheerleaders identified left to right. Front row: Karina Gomez, Britney Knudson, Kaitlyn Malmberg, Hailey Robison, Diane Quebrado, Giselle Gomez. Second row: Hayleigh Green, Hudson Sauer, Charlie Galvez, Zakk Freeman, Kourtney Welch, Jasmin Salinas. Third row: Gabby Chadwick, Zach Amelia, Adrian Romero, Josh Sullivan, Emmanuel Lagunas, Corbin Moyer, Saul Flores, Kathlyn Welch. Fourth row: Abbi Vigil, Hector Quebrado, Ricky Sullivan, Arnaldo Gonzalez, Brayden Glenn, P.J. Even, Tristen Jacobi, Tyler Malmberg, Kaylee Brucker. Fifth row: Sarah Vigil, Chris Even, Brian Dunn, Rick Sullivan, Clay Sauer. Submitted photo



Defensive determination

Marsing Optimist Youth Football player Michael Bennion pulls the flag off a Fairview Falcons player during the season finale at Marsing High School on Oct. 22. John Collett, left, assisted on the play. Marsing's three youth football teams — the Lions, Raptors and Tigers — won their final games. Submitted photo.

State

Pool 2 Friday morning against District 3 champion Dufur, District 5 No. 2 seed Alsea and District 1 No. 2 Damascus Christian.

Jordan Valley's pool schedule begins at 9 a.m. MST on Court 2 against Crow. Adrian starts the tournament at 10 a.m. MST on Court 1 against Alsea.

Other pool games for Jordan Valley, which is coached by Jacque Naegle, come at 11 a.m. (versus South Wasco, Court 1) and 1 p.m. (versus Alsea, Court 2).

This is Jordan Valley's first trip to the state tournament since losing the championship match to Lone 15-8, 15-11 in 1999 at Lane Community College.

The remainder of Adrian's pool schedule includes: defending state champion Dufur, Court 1, noon, and Damascus Christian, Court 1, 2 p.m.

Adrian, coached by Aimee Goss, last appeared in the state tournament in 2000 and was knocked out of the double-elimination event after losses to Condon and Butte Falls.

The top two teams from each pool will be seeded in an elimination bracket on Saturday with the first games beginning at 10 a.m.



Aimee Goss



Marsing Tigers flag team

Players, coaches cheerleaders identified left to right. Front row: Katie Villarreal, Briana Dunn. Second row: Shaylann Elumbaugh, Angela Draper, Abigail Rice, Regan Dunn, Chyanne Allen, Katie Renz, Emylee Collett. Third row: Kelly Wilson, Jacob Larsen, Cooper Folwell, Marshall Dunn, Matthew Park, Esai Martinez, John Collett. Fourth row: Matt Renz, Aaron Draper, Hayden Dines, Casey Yiengst, Garret Briggs, Michael Benion, Justin Huitt. Fifth row: Coaches Aaron Benion, Dan Collett, Melinda Collett, Bryan Yiengst, Jim Briggs. Submitted photo

Sports

Huskies haunted by what might have been

The 2005 season for the Marsing High School football team was a perfect example of how frustrating the sport can be.

The Huskies opened the season on a high note with a strong debut against Payette and a good showing against Nyssa, a 2A Oregon team that was 8-0 heading into Friday's regular-season finale against Grant Union.

"And then the injuries hit, and from there 'til the end of the season we didn't have the same lineup (for any game)," Huskies coach Don Heller said.

The injuries robbed Marsing of some of its most talented skill players, including running backs Perry Gibson (foot) and Jamison Price (shoulder and back), quarterback Miguel Quebrado (knee ligament) and junior Aaron Salvas (shoulder).

"There were three or four games there where we were just moving guys, and guys were playing out of position," Heller said. "I mean, it was tough every week in practice because we had to move guys."

There was some silver lining to all the injuries. With Price and Gibson both absent for a non-league road game against Valley, Heller's staff rediscovered junior Shea McClellin's potential at fullback. He chewed up the Valley defense for 306 yards in a 44-28 victory that snapped a 10-game losing streak for the program.

"Our line did a great job with blocking," Heller said of the Sept. 9 game.

McClellin, who was moved from tight end into the backfield to fill the hole, rolled up 292 yards against Nampa Christian and

another 172 against Melba to finish the season with a team-high 1,022 yards on 164 carries. He was the team's leading scorer with 13 touchdowns, including 11 on the ground.

"It's coaching," Heller said when asked why McClellin didn't start the year in the backfield. "We probably should have put Shea in there from the start, but we had promised Perry as a sophomore when he was a quarterback, which he really didn't want to do."

Heller said Gibson was given the starting fullback job because of his sacrifice as a sophomore, and with the arrival of Quebrado to be quarterback for the 2005 season, the senior was able to return to the fullback position.

Heller said McClellin will be fullback for the 2006 season.

As for Quebrado's return, Heller said the junior should know today whether his injured knee will require surgery. If there is an operation, recovery will take between six and nine months.

"If he gets (the surgery) done in November, around May he's going to be ready to go," Heller said.

With the loss of so many players during the crucial team-building portion of the season before the teeth of the 2A Western Idaho Conference season showed up, Heller was left to wonder what might have been.

Marsing was winless in four



Shea McClellin

league games and finished the season 1-7.

The coach is convinced the team would have fared better in league and possibly made it into the year-end tournament for the 2A WIC's state playoff berths.

"I think we would have most definitely (had a better season)," Heller said. "We would have beat Parma (a 28-15 loss on Sept. 23)."

Marsing's final two games against Nampa Christian (a 44-20 loss on Oct. 14) and Melba (a 47-20 defeat on Oct. 7) showed the potential that the Huskies had this season.

"After we got everything kind of organized back and got some guys set and started learning their positions, then our last two games of our season we played pretty well," Heller said.

"We lost both of them, but we gave Melba and Nampa Christian both a run for their money."

The final score against the unbeaten Trojans is a little misleading in Heller's eyes, who said it belies the enormous progress Marsing made in stopping opposing offenses this season.

"Our defense was 100 times better than last year," the ninth-year coach said. "Nampa Christian, it was three plays in the second half. Speed is one thing we don't have a lot of."

But the way the season ended also has the prospective returners champing at the bit.

"To come back and play as well as they did at Melba, they got some confidence back again," Heller said.

— JB

Young Raiders are on the right path

Jim Clark and his Rimrock High School football players had different expectations during his first year as coach.

Clark wanted to win. The Raiders merely wanted to get respectful.

"I expected more wins, and we should have had more wins," Clark said. "But it's a learning experience."

"I talked to the kids after the final game, and it sounds like they weren't expecting anything."

The Raiders beat Tri-Valley 14-6 on Sept. 30 to end an 11-game losing streak, but that was the only time Rimrock's eight-man football team would taste victory in a 1-7 season.

The Raiders finished 1-4 in 1A, Division I.

"The season went really well, and the kids learned a lot," Clark said. "I would have liked more wins."

Despite the disappointing win total, Clark said his players learned every step of the way, and that will lay the groundwork for next season. Preparations began on Halloween, when Clark opened the Rimrock weight room for off-season training three days a week.

"We have to be get stronger and we have to get faster, and the kids saw that," Clark said. "We did some great things, and some bad things happened to us because of our (lack of) strength and our (lack of) speed."

Clark said many drives were stalled because of crucial fumbles. He estimated that nearly every fumble the Raiders lost came as senior quarterback Anthony Hofer was leading the team down the field.

"We actually had situations where the defenders would take the ball away from us," Clark said. "I definitely think (fumbling is) a physical thing. The body gets tired."

"We were the king of the fumble. I think we ended up with over 10 fumbles for the year, and everyone of them was in a situation where we were driving."

Hofer is one of three seniors who will leave the team. All

three departing players are in skill positions: Hofer, tailback Wes Aquiso and receiver Blake Welsh.

"Senior leadership is always a big part of a season, and we didn't have that many seniors," Clark said. "But the ones we had were quality kids and they learned a lot, too."

The senior leadership helped the offense hit its stride on Oct. 24 in a 40-22 loss to Idaho City. Idaho City won a three-way playoff on Oct. 31 to qualify for the state playoffs. The Mustangs played Raft River on the road Saturday in the first round.

"We finally got where I wanted to be probably against Idaho City," Clark said.

The Raiders lost three fumbles in that game, but never had to punt. Idaho City led by only a touchdown, 20-14, at halftime.

Looking to 2006, Clark said one of the biggest holes to fill will be at quarterback. Freshman T.J. Snyder showed flashes of brilliance the times he ran behind a young offensive line that will lose no players.

"We were pretty fortunate this year because the system that we run is fairly complex," Clark said. "But we had a quarterback that mentally could handle it."

The coach said he is scouring the Rimrock landscape for an athlete to replace Hofer at the helm, but most other areas are solid. Anthony's younger brother Nate, a sophomore who played center this year, has played the position in the past.

Hofer anchored a young line that has Clark optimistic about the future. The tight end was 6-foot-2, 170-pound freshman Sam Richardson, and the rest of the line consisted of sophomore guards Carlos Salinas, Freddie Juarez and Bobby Jackson. Juarez and Jackson split time on their side of the line.

"We have a nucleus of decent size and pretty decent athletes," Clark said. "Our line was sophomores with one freshman. The biggest area we have to work on is our blocking."

— JB

Selflessness earns two Marsing seniors Shrine all-star selections

One look at the athletes who will be representing Marsing High School at the Shrine All-Star football game this month, and one thing is clear.

Huskies coach Don Heller believes in commitment and loyalty.

Defensive back Perry Gibson and wide receiver Chris Covey will represent Marsing in the Nov. 25 senior all-star game at Bishop Kelly High School in Boise.

Heller put the 5-foot-10, 165-pound Gibson on his wish list from which coaches picked the teams because of his leadership and his sacrifice.

"It's unfortunate he missed a few games," Heller said, referring to Gibson's absence because

of a nagging foot injury. "But he's a leader, not so much vocally but by how hard he works."

Heller said Gibson's willingness to step in as quarterback in his sophomore season, even when he wanted to remain as fullback, showed a unselfishness that deserved to be rewarded.

Like Gibson, Covey is a four-year veteran of the Marsing football program.

"Chris grew up a ton this year,"



Chris Covey

Heller said. "As the season went on, he caught a few balls and got some confidence."

"He made some great catches in both the Nampa Christian and Melba games that kept us in the ball games."

The 6-3, 166-pound Covey caught 10 passes for 159 yards this season, including four receptions for 56 yards and his only touchdown against Melba.

— JB



Perry Gibson

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Sports

FINAL PREP FOOTBALL STATISTICS

Homedale offense							
Passing	Comp.	Att.	Int.	Pct.	Yards	YPG	TDs
Krzesnik	35	98	11	.357	515	57.2	5
Christofferson	25	62	9	.403	316	35.1	3
Lootens	0	1	1	.000	0	0.0	0
Totals	60	161	21	.373	831	92.3	8
Rushing							
	G	Att.	Yards	YPC	YPG	TDs	
R. Johnson	9	104	459	4.4	51.0	4	
Carson	8	123	430	3.5	53.8	3	
Martinat	7	20	158	7.9	22.6	4	
Christofferson	9	49	59	1.2	6.6	3	
Vance	1	1	36	36.0	36.0	1	
Miyasako	2	2	29	14.5	14.5	1	
G. Obregon	5	10	29	2.9	5.8	0	
Lootens	4	6	6	1.5	1.5	0	
Jolley	1	3	-33	-11.0	-33.0	0	
Krzesnik	7	14	-67	-4.8	-9.6	0	
Totals	9	332	1,106	3.3	122.9	16	
Receiving							
	G	Rec.	Yards	YPR	YPG	TDs	
Sweet	9	23	437	19.0	42.1	7	
Martinat	6	10	147	14.7	25.2	1	
Lootens	4	6	110	18.3	27.5	0	
Gonzalez	4	4	50	12.5	14.3	0	
Carson	5	6	30	5.0	6.0	0	
R. Johnson	4	4	27	6.8	6.8	0	
Wass	5	5	23	4.6	4.6	0	
G. Obregon	1	1	5	5.0	5.0	0	
Krzesnik	1	1	2	2.0	2.0	0	
Totals	9	60	831	13.9	92.3	8	
Scoring							
	G	TD	FG	PAT	2-PAT	Total	Avg.
Sweet	7	7	0	0	0	42	6.0
R. Johnson	6	4	2	11	0	41	6.8
Carson	6	4	0	0	3	30	5.0
Martinat	4	5	0	0	0	30	7.5
Christofferson	5	3	0	2	0	20	4.0
Brockett	1	1	0	0	0	6	6.0
Miyasako	1	1	0	0	0	6	6.0
Vance	1	1	0	0	0	6	6.0
Totals	9	26	2	12	3	181	20.1

Rimrock offense							
Passing	Comp.	Att.	Int.	Pct.	Yards	YPG	TDs
A. Hofer	31	78	4	.397	432	72.0	1
Aquiso	2	4	0	.500	68	11.3	0
Totals	33	82	4	.402	500	83.3	1
Rushing							
	G	Att.	Yards	YPC	YPG	TDs	
Aquiso	8	106	740	6.9	92.5	7	
A. Hofer	8	107	282	2.6	35.3	3	
C. Hipwell	8	68	280	4.1	35.0	0	
Snyder	8	23	99	4.3	12.4	2	
Totals	8	304	1,401	4.6	175.1	12	
Receiving							
	G	Rec.	Yards	YPR	YPG	TDs	
Aquiso	6	12	190	15.8	31.7	1	
Welsh	6	9	106	11.8	17.7	0	
Jacobo	1	3	27	9.0	27.0	0	
Richardson	2	2	26	13.0	13.0	0	
Salinas	3	3	110	36.7	36.7	0	
C. Hipwell	3	4	41	10.3	13.7	0	
Totals	6	33	500	15.2	83.3	1	
Scoring							
	G	TD	FG	PAT	2-PAT	Total	Avg.
Aquiso	6	8	0	0	3	54	9.0
A. Hofer	4	3	0	0	2	22	5.5
Welsh	2	1	0	0	1	8	4.0
N. Hofer	2	0	0	0	2	4	2.0
Snyder	2	1	0	0	1	8	4.0
Totals	8	13	0	0	10	96	12.0

PREP STANDINGS					Homedale	2	3	4	5
Football					McCall	1	4	2	6
3A SRV	Conf.	All			Payette	0	5	3	5
Final	W	L	W	L	x — League champion; District III top seed to State				
x-Weiser	5	0	10	0	y — District III No. 2 seed to State				
y-Fruitland	4	1	9	1	State				
Middleton	3	2	4	5					

Marsing offense							
Passing	Comp.	Att.	Int.	Pct.	Yards	YPG	TDs
M. Quebrado	19	55	6	.346	439	23.1	4
B. Smith	3	18	5	.167	35	11.7	0
Finley	0	2	2	.000	0	0.0	0
Gibson	11	36	2	.306	166	55.3	1
McClellin	0	2	1	.000	0	0.0	0
Totals	33	113	16	.292	640	80.0	5
Rushing							
	G	Att.	Yards	YPC	YPG	TDs	
McClellin	7	164	1,022	6.2	146.0	11	
Gibson	6	81	297	3.7	49.5	1	
Sauer	8	53	224	4.2	28.0	2	
Price	4	27	39	1.4	9.8	0	
Marcial	2	9	17	1.9	8.5	0	
Mantujano	1	1	1	1.0	1.0	0	
B. Smith	2	2	-12	-6.0	-6.0	0	
Branin	1	1	-9	-9.0	-9.0	0	
M. Quebrado	5	32	-66	-2.1	-13.2	0	
Tuckness	1	1	18	18.0	18.0	0	
Totals	8	371	1,531	4.1	191.3	14	
Receiving							
	G	Rec.	Yards	YPR	YPG	TDs	
McClellin	2	7	170	24.3	85.0	2	
Salvas	2	4	122	30.5	61.0	1	
Price	2	2	52	26.0	26.0	1	
Covey	6	10	159	15.9	26.5	1	
Branin	1	2	36	18.0	18.0	0	
Smith	2	3	48	16.0	24.0	0	
Marcial	1	1	13	13.0	13.0	0	
S. Quebrado	1	1	5	5.0	5.0	0	
Sauer	3	3	35	11.7	11.7	0	
Totals	8	33	640	19.4	80.0	5	
Scoring							
	G	TD	FG	PAT	2-PAT	Total	Avg.
McClellin	8	13	0	0	6	90	11.3
Sauer	6	2	0	0	0	12	2.0
Price	4	1	0	0	1	8	2.0
Gibson	5	1	0	0	1	8	1.6
Salvas	5	1	0	0	0	6	1.2
Mantujano	2	0	0	1	0	1	0.5
Covey	1	1	0	0	0	6	6.0
Totals	8	19	0	1	8	131	16.4

This week’s games (State semifinals, Saturday)					West Side 20, West Jefferson 8				
Fruitland at Weiser, 1 p.m.					1A, Div. I				
Snake River vs. Shelley, Holt Arena, Pocatello, 2 p.m.					Final	W	L	W	L
					x- Garden Villy	5	0	9	0
					y-Idaho City	3	2	5	5
					Council	3	2	4	4
					Cascade	3	2	5	4
					Rimrock	1	4	1	7
					Tri-Valley	0	5	0	9
					x — League champion; District III top seed to State				
					y — Won three-way playoff for District III No. 2 seed to State				
					This week’s games (State semifinals, Saturday)				
					Raft River at Garden Valley, 1 p.m.				
					Troy vs. Genessee, Lewiston H.S., 1 p.m.				
					Last week’s scores (State quarterfinals)				
					Garden Valley 56, Castleford 12				
					Raft River 54, Idaho City 8				
					Genessee 38, Lewis County 18				
					Troy 34, Wallace 20				
					Tri-Co				
					Final	W	L	W	L
					x-Crane	6	0	8	0
					y-Prairie City	5	1	5	2
					y-Burnt River	3	3	3	4
					Hunt.-Harp.	3	3	3	6
					Jordan Valley	2	4	3	5
					Day-Mnt-Mitch	2	4	3	4
					Spray	0	6	0	6
					x — League champion; top				

JV Colts complete perfect season

by Shantel Gleason, JVHS

The Jordan Valley Middle School varsity football team capped an awesome season Friday with a 28-8 victory over the Willowcreek Warriors.

The Colts ended the year with a perfect 4-0 record.

Dusty Easterday led in tackles with 12 and had eight carries for 116 rushing yards. Brandon Mackenzie had 11 carries for 59 rushing yards. Elias Cline kicked in two carries for seven yards.

Brandon Mackenzie had five tackles. Tad Jones collected an interception to go with four tackles and a sack. Bryce Kershner got three tackles and one sack. Garret Williams had seven tackles. Cline had six tackles against the Warriors, and Josh Deen had four. Taylor Lucas tackled three. Sonny Mackenzie had two tackles. Lizzie Bowen, Nathan Easterday and Isaac Bowen each contributed a tackle apiece. Kaine Baptist also had a sack.

Easterday scored two touchdowns. Brandon Mackenzie and Jones scored one TD each.

“The key to our success this season was Dusty and the other eighth-graders who led the team to victory,” Baptist said.

seed to state playoffs

y — Earned state playoff berths

This week’s games (State playoffs, first round)				
Triangle Lake at Crane				
Burnt River at Wallowa				
Prairie City at Durfur				

Old Oregon	Conf.	All		
Final	W	L	W	L
x-Wallowa	6	0	8	1
y-Joseph	5	1	8	1
y-Adrian	3	3	6	3
Powder Villy	3	3	4	5
Imbler	2	3	4	4
Pine Eagle	2	4	5	4
Cove	0	6	3	6

x — League champion; top seed to state playoffs

y — Earned state playoff berths

This week’s games (State playoffs, first round)				
Adrian at South Wasco (Maupin, Ore.), 2 p.m. MST				
Burnt River at Wallowa				
Joseph at St. Paul				

Last week’s scores	
Powder Valley 46, Imbler 36	
Wallowa 50, Cove 0	
Pine Eagle 48, Adrian 40	

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