



MOUNT VERNON HIGH SCHOOL MUSTANG FOOTBALL

Newsletter – October 2020 – Issue #34

From the Desk of Head Coach Lance Pedersen

Good Evening,

It is State Tournament time and the Mustangs finished round one with a victory! It is great to be 1-0 this past week and we are looking forward to this week and round two of the state tournament.

A couple of highlights from Friday's game. Our defense was able to force one turnover on the night and continue to do whatever it takes to keep the opponent out of the endzone. Our bend but don't break philosophy has paid off for us all season and it was evident again this past Friday. We lost the statistical battle but won the game. And that is the most important stat!

Our offense had a nice balanced attack again this week. The Ketchum/Swantz passing combination was again a huge success. Trenton Pitlik also had another night as a plus 100 yard rusher.

Our special teams was led by Logan Griebel. Coming off a knee injury Logan performed very well. Finalizing the game with a field goal.

Going into halftime down 9-7 our players and coaches did a real nice job with halftime adjustments. I was also really impressed this week with the new fresh/soph players we brought up. They brought a lot of energy to practice and a couple of players were able to contribute in the game on Friday night as well.

This week we play West Liberty at home at 7:00. West Liberty comes into the game 4-2. Missing two weeks of games this season. West Liberty has wins over West Branch, Mediapolis, Lisbon, and Maquoketa. Their two losses come to Maquoketa and Camanche.

The Comets feature a very elusive back in Galvan who has rushed for over 1,200 yards this season. Last week against Maquoketa, West Liberty had several huge plays to open up the game. One of several keys this week for us is to limit the big plays. Galvan is a great back and we will not be able to keep him from gaining yards. We will work hard to contain him and try to keep him from making the big play.

Attendance-

This week is the second week of the state tournament. Our team is currently ranked in the top 10 in the state of Iowa and has a 7-1 record. I want to challenge each and every one of you to encourage members of our community to come out and support our players. It was pretty disappointing to see Vinton-Shellsburg with a larger crowd than us this past week. I know West Liberty will travel.

The convenience of the stream is nice but our kids deserve a home field advantage and that comes with a great atmosphere. The student section was loud and proud this past week and we look forward to having them there to support us again this week. Now it is time for our community to step up as well and come out and support our players for what will likely be our last home game of the season.

There were 100's of tickets still available last week. These young men have put in a lot of time, have overcome a lot of adversity and deserve and need your support! Thank you

Pizza- Thank you for the post game meal. The guys loved driving up to the school and having food and parents sitting there for them. We appreciate your support.



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Tickets

This Friday there will be 1,000 tickets available on a first come first serve basis. At this time I will not be passing out the tickets like in previous weeks. If this changes I will let you know.

MEALS: The varsity team meals are served each week and cost \$10.00. Please make sure to make a \$70.00 payment for team meals or send \$10.00 each week.

Closing

This week our theme for the week is **chemistry**. Team chemistry is a huge key to success. The best teams beat the best individuals in team sports most of the time. Our goal this week is to continue to work on team chemistry and teamwork to make our dreams work. Our goals and dreams for this week are: to get better, be 1-0 and survive and advance to the third round of the state tournament.

How is the team chemistry in your house. We all have our own teams at home. Is everyone working together, is everyone doing their part. Are you doing your part. In a team it is always easy to point our fingers at someone else. It is so easy to push the blame onto others. But every team needs a leader. A leader is someone who takes more than his/her share of the blame and takes less than his/her share of the credit. Are you someone people can look to and say "I want to follow that person. They are on the right path."

Always remember the leader is not the loudest person on the team, a leader is someone who makes those around him/her better.

Last night I reflected upon the last year. The ups and downs of being a coach, a parent, a husband and a son. I reflected upon the good things I think I have done and the things I know I learned from and can do better.

I also took the time last night to thank my staff for all they have done for our football program and most importantly your kids. It is amazing how much time and effort they have put into this season beginning last December.

We currently have 12 coaches on staff for our football program. This keeps the player to coach ratio very low making for a much more valuable and safe experience for our players. These coaches are not in it for the money,(if they were they are not financially very smart as most are volunteers and lose money every season) instead they are in it for all the right reasons to make the football experience the best that it can be for your son. If you get a chance let one of these coaches know how much you appreciate them.

Matt Haddy, Brad Meester, Ben Knake, Dan Ketchum, Preston Pedersen, Jason Nosek, Matt Appleton, Vance Ellison, Lance Schoff, Logan Rickard, Colton Clark.

It is a great day to be a Mustang!

- Head Coach Lance Pedersen

Upcoming Dates [Online Football Calendar Link](#)

October 16 First Round of Playoffs- Vinton-Shellsburg HOME

October 23 Second Round of Playoffs- West Liberty HOME

October 30 Third Round of Playoffs-

November 6 Fourth Round of Playoffs-



MOUNT VERNON HIGH SCHOOL MUSTANG FOOTBALL

Player of the Week

Players of the Week

Week 7



OFFENSE

Trenton Pitlik



DEFENSE

Leo Appleton



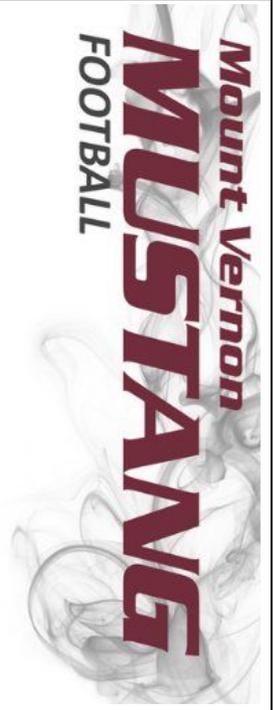
SPECIAL TEAMS

Jake Coon



SCOUT

Cooper Schoff



#GBT