CCCS barbecues Pigs

Montana Standard, June 27, 2010

A good percentage of the 500 or so fans that showed up at the inaugural Pig Bowl Saturday afternoon at Alumni Coliseum did so to watch Mike "Bonesy" Thatcher kick for the Community, Counseling and Correctional Services team.

They were also treated to a lot better football game than they probably anticipated.

In a hard-hitting battle that was anything but a comedy of errors, the CCCS team turned back the Butte Police Athletic League team 20-14.

The biggest winners, though, were Mariah's Challenge and the Montana Special Olympics, the beneficiaries of the minimum \$2 donation for admission.

Skippy Sims, fresh off a stellar linebacking career at Montana Tech, scored two touchdowns that proved to be the differences for CCCS.

Sims scored on runs of 3 and 5 yards.

Quarterback Mark Dennehy, who directed the tripleoption and ran for 84 yards on 12 carries, added a 1-yard TD run.

Sims' second touchdown came latein the third quarter. His 5-yard burst up the middle capped an eight-play, 66-yard drive.

Terry LeProwse bulldozed his way up the middle for the 2-point conversion to make it 20-7.

CCCS went for two because Thatcher, the company's CEO and straight-on kicker, missed two extra points.

"It was a lot easier in practice," Thatcher said after missing his first extra point. Montana Tech coach Bob Green told public address announcer Jeremy Bishop "He missed short, right and left."

Thatcher's second kick hit a lineman in the back.

"That was even worse," Thatcher said. "Pinochle and backgammon are my strong suits."

Thatcher was relieved that the two kicks didn't make a difference after Scott Mansanti made a nice play to break up a fourth-down pass from Jaison Carriger to Kyle Barsness on BPAL's last play.

"They got a good exhibition of ol' Charley Brown, at any rate," he said.

Thatcher also played several downs on the defensive line and was in on a tackle.

Dennehy started the scoring, taking the ball in on a 1-yard quarterback sneak on the seventh play from scrimmage.

The score came five plays after Brian Hettick picked off a Russ Robertson pass and returned it about 15 yards to the BPAL 32.

The Cops answered three plays later when Carriger, a ringer who played at Utah State and the University of Montana, rolled right and hit Anthony Jurenic with a perfect spiral for a 56-yard touchdown.

Jerrett Branson, a soccer-style kicker, drilled the extra point.

Sims' first touchdown came after two plays after Nick Jeffery hauled in a 38-yard pass from Dennehy, who also played for the Grizzlies.

That score gave CCCS a 12-7 lead at halftime.

After Sims' second TD, the Cops responded with a 13-play, 79-yard drive.

Kevin Maloughney capped the possession by making a nice move to catch a bullet from Carriger with 6 minutes, 47 seconds left in the game.

The Cops got the ball back with a chance to win thanks to a nice play by John O'Brien, who snuffed out a bootleg and stopped Dennehy for a 7-yard loss on fourth down.

With heavy pressure from Travis Hettick, the player-coach who played the second half with what appeared to be a broken thumb, the drive went only eight yards.

Tim McMahon grabbed an 8-yard Carriger pass only to be rudely greeted by by Mansanti, who looked like the same hard-hitting player Montana Tech fans remember from 2002.

Two plays later, Mansanti's breakup ended the game.

Mansanti had the three hardest hits of the game.

The most violent collision stopped a scrambling Robertson for no gain in the first half.

Robertson popped right up and congratulated Mansanti.

"That felt good," Mansanti said as teammates joked Mansanti will be pulled over on his way home from the game.

"He can still run and hit like a truck," BPAL player-coach Kyle Barsness said of Mansanti, who also ran for 43 yards on seven carries.

Sims, who ran for 28 yards on five carries, was also a big presence on the CCCS defense.

"Skippy Sims helped them a ton," Barsness said.

Former Montana Western star Jake Larson ran for 68 yards on eight carries. He also caught a pass for 16 yards.

Bob Olson, a 6-foot-10 former Montana Grizzly basketball player, caught an 18-yard pass for CCCS.

Dennehy passed for 72 yards for CCCS, which out gained the Cops 283 to 128.

Carriger completed 4 of 11 passes for 89 yards to lead BPAL.

Ryan Hardy caught one pass for 14 yards.

The Cops were held to 39 yards rushing on 15 attempts.

Barsness led the way with 15 yards on four carries. Jurenic added 14 yards on six runs.

Josh Stearns, who ran for eight yards on three carries, had a big game on defense.

"Stearns is a beast," Barsness said. "He's like a little missile. You can't stop him."

Linebacker Brian Sullivan and lineman Richie O'Brien also stood out for BPAL.

"I'm proud of our guys," said Barsness, who was instrumental in making the Pig Bowl a reality. "They did a great job. I know exactly how Coach Green feels after every game."

Robertson predicted that Pig Bowl II will be a reality.

The game appeared to be free of major injuries, with only a few minor bumps and bruises.

"My prediction is there will be some sore fellas tomorrow," Green said. "But they're going to take on a little lubrication tonight at the East Side."

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BPAL 7 0 0 7 - 14

First Quarter

CCCS — Mark Dennehy 1 run (kick failed)

BPAL — Anthony Jurenic 56 pass from Jaison Carriger (Jerrett Branson kick)

Second Quarter

CCCS — Skippy Sims 3 run (kick failed)

Third Quarter

CCCS — Sims 5 run (Terry LeProwse run)

Fourth Quarter

BPAL — Kevin Maloughney 11 pass from Carriger (Branson kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — CCCS, Dennehy 12-84, Jake Larson 8-68, Scott Mansanti 7-43, Sims 5-28, Team 2-(-12). BPAL, Jurenic 6-14, Kyle Barsness 4-15, Josh Stearns 3-8, Carriger 1-2, Russ Robertson 1-0.

PASSING — CCCS, Dennehy 3-6-0-72. BPAL, Carriger 4-11-0-89, Robertson 0-3-1-0.

RECEIVING — CCCS, Nick Jeffery 1-38, Bob Olson 1-18, Larson 1-16. BPAL, Jurenic 1-56, Ryan Hardy 1-14, Maloughney 1-11, Tim McMahon 1-8.