



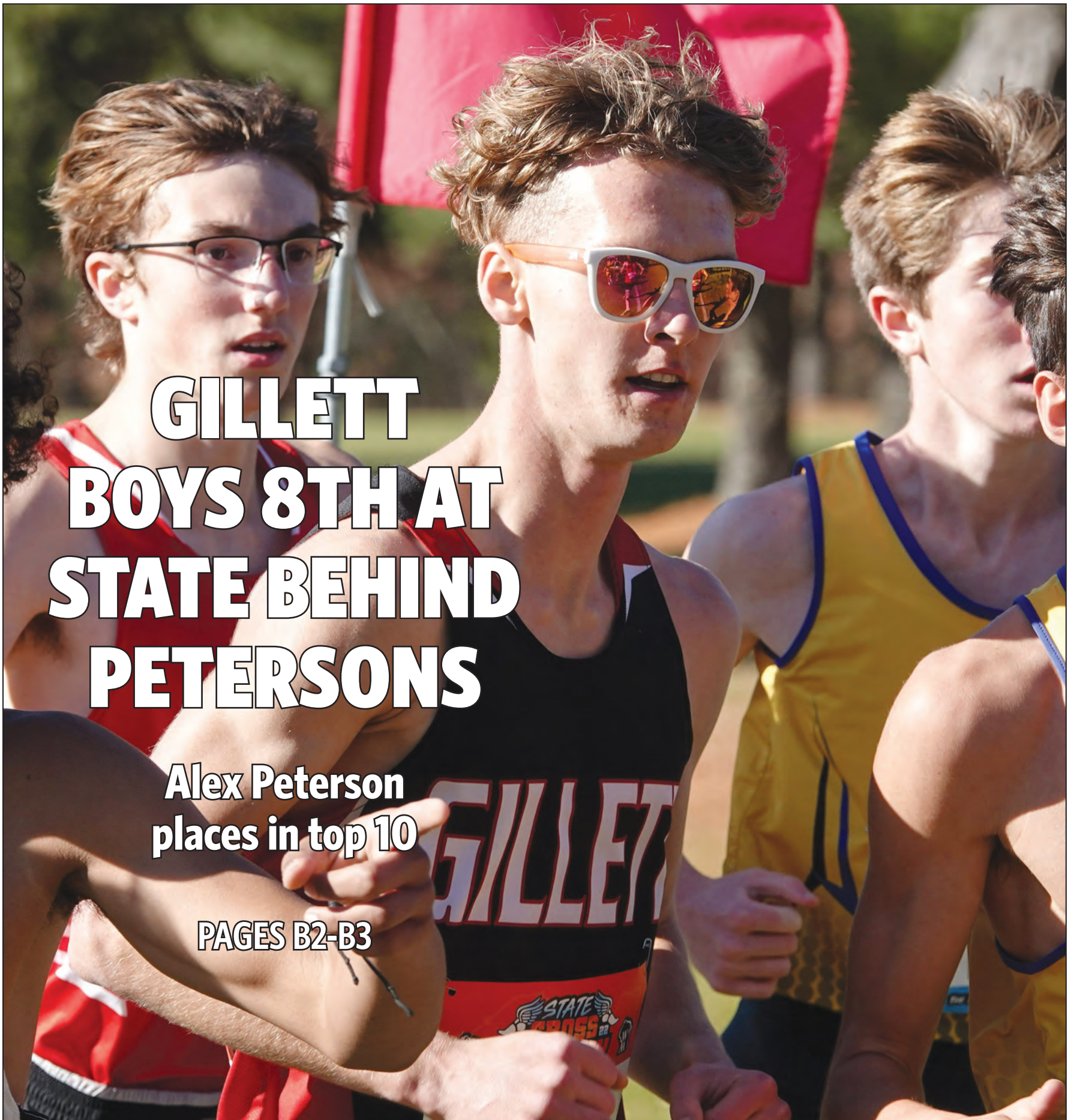
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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2022



GILLETT BOYS 8TH AT STATE BEHIND PETERSONS

Alex Peterson
places in top 10

PAGES B2-B3

Gillett's Evan Peterson, center, navigates the course at the 2022 WIAA State Cross-Country Championships on Oct. 29 at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids.

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PULASKI SOCCER STATE BOUND, B3 • WITT-BIRN VOLLEYBALL MAKES STATE, B4-B5 • SHAWANO GIRLS 6TH AT STATE, B6

HIGH SCHOOL CROSS-COUNTRY

Gillett's Alex Peterson finishes 8th at state championship

Gillett boys claim 8th; Bonduel's O'Brien places 55th

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

Gillett Secondary School's Alex Peterson placed eighth during the Division 3 boys race to help the Tigers also claim eighth at the 2022 WIAA State Cross-Country Championships on Oct. 29 at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids.

Bonduel's Ben O'Brien also competed in the D3 boys race, coming in 55th.

Petersons lead Gillett boys

The Gillett boys earned their eighth-place finish with a mark of 221.

Alex Peterson capped a strong career and huge senior season with an eighth-place finish in 16 minutes, 30.6 seconds.

The senior was in third after a first mile of 5:05 before moving up to second after a second-mile time of 5:25.

"My coach and I came up with a plan to stick right on the leader, no matter what," said Peterson. "So I went out in 5:05 which is pretty normal, but the second mile was fast. I think that cost me a little in the end since I was second going into the 400-meter final stretch. I ended eighth, and that's two spots better than last year, so I'm happy with that for sure."

"Going into the season I knew I had a pretty good chance at placing high, so realizing those thoughts puts all my hard work into reality. Also, medal-ing two years in a row is something I thought might be impossible back in sixth grade when I started running. Doing that, again, makes my mental toughness and perseverance so much more rewarding."

Alex's brother Evan was the next Gillett boys finisher. Evan Peterson completed the course in 17:29.9 to grab 32nd place.

"It feels so good," Evan Peterson said of ending his high school career at state. "To qualify four times, I'm blessed to be able to have this oppor-



Gillett's Alex Peterson runs during the Division 3 boys race at the 2022 WIAA State Cross-Country Championships on Oct. 29 at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids.

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tunity to compete at this meet and on this stage. It's really cool, especially with the team, a bunch of younger

guys too — just getting them here for the first time is really awesome."

He later noted how it was neat for

things to come full circle, after the Peterson brothers were the only freshmen on a state-qualifying team in 2019.

The third Gillett finisher was a freshman, Bradyn Wendorff. He placed 40th in the race with a time of 17:41.5.

The freshman was especially strong later in the race, moving past 17 runners after the opening mile.

"I feel like I did great," said Wendorff, adding having the Peterson brothers leading the team this year helped him out tremendously. "I used the hills, I used the straightaways, I did what we were trained to do. The finish I think I need to work on a little bit, but that's for next year."

Scott Herroux, a sophomore, placed 123rd with a time of 19:51.6, while freshman Chase Anderson was 131st in 20:25.8 to cap the team score.

Freshman Nash Stange (22:04.4) and sophomore Zander Davis (22:21.9) capped the seven-runner team, placing 145th and 146th, respectively.

O'Brien content with state finish

O'Brien earned his 55th-place finish in 17:56.2.

"It was very hard. It was very different with all the guys running," said O'Brien on his first state run. "I

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Full state results can be found at www.wiaawi.org/Portals/0/PDF/Results/Cross_Country/2022/d3bstatereults.pdf. More photos from the D3 boys race can be found on the NEW Media Inc. Sports Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NewMediaIncSports.

felt like I did pretty good, but I was dying toward the end. I think I gave it my all and finished the season off strong."

"It's a very humbling experience. It was a little overwhelming when we started with all the guys, but I just stuck with guys and tried to just keep running as hard as I could.

His first mile was clocked at 5:25 before a second mile of 6:01.

He's hoping the state finish in a junior season that was a strong one helps him keep pushing even more for his final season.

"Just keep pushing as hard as I've been and just set new goals and crush them," said O'Brien. "Hopefully make it back here next year and hopefully with my team."

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Bonduel's Ben O'Brien, right, works his way through the course during the Division 3 boys race at the 2022 WIAA State Cross-Country Championships on Oct. 29 at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids.

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HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

Pulaski boys qualify for state tournament

Red Raiders win 2 tight sectional matches

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The Pulaski High School boys soccer team is headed to state for the second time in school history after winning a Division 2 sectional title last week.

Top-seeded Pulaski edged West De Pere 4-3 in penalty kicks to claim a sectional semifinal win on Oct. 27 in Pulaski and then topped fifth-seeded Tomah 1-0 in an Oct. 29 sectional final in Pulaski to punch its ticket to state.

The team's other state appearance came in 2014, with a number of close calls since. That made qualifying this year extra gratifying, especially for a roster that includes 16 seniors.

"Qualifying for state as a senior this year is definitely something special," said goalie Mason Baker. "Our team was very close last year, but unfortunately we fell short. I think this only made us stronger for this year, however. A lot of our veteran players, including myself, remember how heartbreaking it was to be that close

for a shot at state and lose. Everyone in this game definitely played with a sense of urgency and revenge for last year."

"It's very special; I honestly couldn't ask for anything better," said senior Ryan Drafz. "We lost last year in the sectional finals, so it feels really nice to even the score and advance to state. We were able to win with confidence, passion and playing the full game. We never let up or gave up; we played our hearts out, and that's why we were able to win and advance to state."

Ben Uelmen netted the lone goal against Tomah, scoring unassisted in the 28th minute.

Baker and the team's defense handled things from there, shutting out Tomah. Baker was credited with six saves in the contest.

"I certainly think that last year's experience being the 1 seed and coming up short in the sectional final provided ample motivation," said Pulaski coach Jeff Schneider. "We had 14 guys returning who either played in that game or were present on the bench. Aside from that, I think it was clear early on that we had the ingredients needed to get to this point. We had a very good start

to the season and at one point cracked the top 10 in state rankings (first time in program history), so it really helped get our mindset focused on getting the job done this year."

Pulaski was handed a No. 4 seed for the Division 2 state tournament. The Red Raiders will battle No. 1 Whitefish Bay at 11 a.m. Nov. 3 at Kohler Engines Stadium at Uihlein Soccer Park in Milwaukee.

A win would send Pulaski to the state title match against either No. 2 Oregon or No. 3 Waukesha West at 11 a.m. Nov. 5.

"We haven't discussed any goals yet for state because we should really only have one, and that's to win," said senior Chase Ambrosius.

"One team goal we have is to win. Another goal is to work as a team, no matter what. We can't give up because anything can happen in 80 minutes," said Drafz.

In the sectional semifinal against West De Pere, Drafz scored off an Ambrosius assist in the 50th minute to put the hosts ahead. West De Pere scored four minutes later to knot the game at one, and it remained that way through regulation and two overtime periods.

In the penalty kick shootout, Baker

made two saves, which allowed the team a chance to win it. Ambrosius had the match-sealing kick.

"It's definitely a great feeling for the players, the school and the community," said Schneider on making state again. "We've been so close for so long, going back to even 2015 when we were in the sectional final that year as well. Since then, there's been several years in between where we had a high playoff seed and endured some really tough playoff defeats.

"So the concept and opportunity of getting through to state is not foreign to the players in our program, and every year that concept gets passed down from group to group, and through those past experiences we learn more about what it takes," Schneider continued. "But we are here now, and it's really about what this team and these players have and can achieve. It's going to be a special experience for them, but our focus is competing at the highest level and representing our school and community in a positive and respectable manner — and, of course, winning these next two games."

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HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

Chargers make state for 1st time

Witt-Birn tops Edgar in sectional final

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School volleyball team has enjoyed sustained success over the past several seasons, with Central Wisconsin Conference-East Division titles, plenty of player and coach accolades, and big number of wins along the way.

The Chargers accomplished something this past week that's never been done in school history, though. Witt-Birn swept Weyauwega-Fremont (25-17, 25-12, 25-17) in a sectional semi-final match in Wittenberg and then rallied past Edgar (25-20, 19-25, 12-25, 25-19, 15-13) in a sectional title match in Auburndale to qualify for state for the first time.

"When you play high school sports, you dream as a little kid to make it to state, and you don't know how hard it really is until you're a coach," said Witt-Birn coach Becky Rew. "These girls did it. It's so hard, it's so hard to be the first ones ... Nothing is better than being the first one. It's great anytime, but being the first ones, that's awesome."

Qualifying for state looked bleak after the Chargers fell behind against Edgar after dropping sets two and three. Witt-Birn controlled the fourth set to extend the match and then did just enough in set five to advance.

London Metropulos was serving to start the fifth set, and after a couple Edgar errors, kill from Reese Rogowski and block, the Chargers were up 4-0. Edgar rallied and tied the match at five, forcing a Witt-Birn timeout.

After splitting the next two points, freshman Melaina Granquist delivered a big kill to put the Chargers back ahead. An Edgar attack error was followed by a Wildcat kill to make it an 8-7 Charger lead.

Metropulos continued her huge match with back-to-back kills, and after another Edgar error, Witt-Birn was up four and only four points from advancing.

The match was far from over though, as Edgar won three straight points to get within a point, 11-10. Two Metropulos kills sandwiched a Charger error, making it 13-11.



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's London Metropulos, center, reaches up to hit the ball during the team's Division 3 sectional final against Edgar on Oct. 29 in Auburndale.

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After an Edgar timeout, Metropulos went back to serve. The serve was long and was ruled out of bounds, with the Charger faithful begging for an Edgar touch to no avail. Edgar then delivered a kill to tie the match at 13 and force the final Witt-Birn timeout.

Rogowski had an attack kill to give the Chargers a one-point advantage and then got her hand on an Edgar tip attempt to block the ball down to the floor and send Witt-Birn to state for the first time ever.

"It's so surreal, I can't even believe

it's happening," said Rogowski on making state. "I never would have imagined something like this when I was a freshman."

"It's crazy," said Lilly Betry, another senior on a roster that has six. "It's so nice that it's our last year, too."

This is the way we're going to go out. It's just amazing."

"Literally everything, it's crazy," said senior Kiara Deruchowski. "Our team has worked so hard for this, and to be a senior and go to state is absolutely amazing."

Witt-Birn received a No. 4 seed for the state tournament and will take on No. 1 seed Howards Grove on Nov. 4 at the Resch Center in Green Bay. No. 2 St. Croix Falls and No. 3 Randolph make up the rest of the Division 3 bracket.

The moments after Rogowski delivered the match-sealing point was a bag of mixed emotions for the Chargers. After initial screams and yells of joy, some players broke down in tears. Others were smiling ear-to-ear, while some were simply in shock.

"This team here this year is super close," said Metropulos. "We're super good friends at school, so it really helps bring that into volleyball. The seniors have been playing volleyball their entire lives, we just want to do our best for them so we can see them happy and successful."

The team's strong bond and connection was evident at the start of the match against Edgar, as the team was able to overcome a few mistakes and go on a run during the middle of the set.

Metropulos, Rogowski, Granquist and senior Payton Foster all recorded kills when the Chargers turned a tied match at 8 into a 16-11 lead. After Edgar tied it back up, Rogowski caught fire late to help the Chargers take the set.

Set two started in a similar fashion to set one before things went off the rails for Witt-Birn. Edgar used a 9-0 run to grab a 17-10 lead. Witt-Birn got things going a bit more late in the set, but it was too little, too late at that point.

Set three began with Edgar winning seven of the first eight points and

eventually going up 16-4. The Chargers split the final 16 points of the set, creating some momentum to build off of.

The Chargers continued to play better in set four, and had a 9-5 lead after kills from Granquist and Metropulos. Edgar got back within a point before the Chargers rattled off a 9-1 run to seize control. Rogowski led the team on the spurt, with Foster and junior Layla Huffman adding in timely kills.

Edgar tried to rally late but points from Foster, Huffman and Rogowski finished things off.

"In the second and third sets, we weren't talking as much, we were letting balls drop. We had to take time, take a deep breath, pick ourselves up and stop being so down," said Foster.

"Many of us knew this could be the last game, so we're like, 'OK, if this is going to be the last game, go out and play our best that we possibly can so we can continue or not,'" said Betry. "Either/or, we just needed to finish strong."

Finish strong the Chargers did, and now the team — with seniors Rogowski, Foster, Betry, Deruchowski, Allison Linke and Halle Beversdorf — will get at least one more match together.

Minutes after the match ended, Rew and the players didn't really have any specific goals laid out for state.

"We'll figure that out later on, we're just happy we made it," said Rogowski while laughing.

Rew simply wants to team to soak it all in and enjoy it all.

The team's sectional semifinal match against CWC-East foe Weyauwega-Fremont was a lot less stressful than the match against Edgar.

Witt-Birn dominated from pretty much start to finish. Everything was clicking for the Chargers, and they left little doubt on their way to a sweep.

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Witt-Birn's Payton Foster attacks the ball during a Division 3 sectional final win over Edgar on Oct. 29 in Auburndale.

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HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

Panthers eliminated in sectional semifinal

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The Oconto Falls High School volleyball team saw its fall season come to a close after a Division 2 sectional semifinal loss to Tomahawk on Oct. 27 in Tomahawk.

The hosts prevailed by scores of 25-15, 25-17, 22-25, 25-20.

As has been the case all season, it was a balanced effort in the

match for Oconto Falls.

Amber Otto led the team with 18 attack kills, while Brailyn St. Louis had 16. Keira Cole and Morgan Kluth chipped in three attack kills each.

Otto served three of the team's eight aces, with Kyndra Staidl serving up two aces. Cole led the Panthers with three total blocks.

Staidl had a team-leading 18 digs for the Panthers. Otto was credited

with nine digs, while Madison Uelmen and Hanna Krejcarek had eight each. Morgan Moynihan contributed six digs.

Krejcarek posted a team-high 21 assists in the match, with Moynihan tallying 14 assists.

Oconto Falls wrapped up the season with a 27-16 overall record, which included a 5-4 mark in the tough North Eastern Conference.

The Panthers received a No. 2

seed for the postseason and swept No. 10 Antigo and No. 3 Mosinee before falling to No. 1 Tomahawk.

Oconto Falls will need to replace Uelmen, Krejcarek, St. Louis, Morgan Kluth and Tess Maggio heading into next fall after those five graduate in the spring. Outside of Otto, a sophomore, the rest of the roster was made up of juniors this fall.

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HIGH SCHOOL CROSS-COUNTRY

Shawano girls finish 6th at state

Guenther, Hendricks guide Hawks

By MORGAN RODE
Sports Editor

The Shawano Community High School girls cross-country team earned its best-ever finish at state after placing sixth during the Division 2 race Oct. 29 at the 2022 WIAA State Cross-Country Championships at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids.

The Hawks earned the strong finish with a score of 186. Shawano was making its third-ever state appearance, having placed 15th in 1981 and 13th in 2021.

Like they had all season, Lily Guenther and Bailey Hendricks led Shawano at state.

Guenther placed 20th with a time of 20 minutes, 7.1 seconds. After a first mile of 6:10 had her in 30th, she worked up to 25th by the 2-mile marker. She passed an additional five girls in the final mile-plus.

"The race has a lot of people, so it was kind of hard to figure out your pacing," said Guenther, a junior.

"The only person I could see the whole time was Bailey, so I was just pacing off Bailey and I knew if I was by Bailey, I was OK. And a couple girls from other teams I'd remember, some of the Freedom girls. I knew if I was by them, I was in a good spot. In the last mile, I just gave it whatever I had left."

Hendricks, a freshman, completed the course in 20:16.1 and moved past three runners after the opening mile.

"It was just really exciting, just like everybody cheering you on, running with a whole bunch of people that are like one second in front of you, one second behind you to push you even more," said Hendricks on her first state run. "I thought I did good. It was a really tough course, hot day. But I thought I did pretty good."

Junior Grace Chelberg was the next Hawk across the finish line, taking 64th in 21:04.6. Freshman Maci Beyer turned in an 83rd-place finish in 21:23.9.

Sophomore Adalyn Barkley capped the team score by taking



Shawano's Lily Guenther, left, and Bailey Hendricks run alongside each other during the Division 2 girls race on Oct. 29 at the 2022 WIAA State Cross-Country Championships at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids.

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More photos from the D2 girls race can be found on the NEW Media Inc. Sports Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NewMediaIncSports.

120th in 22:16.1.

Freshmen Anabelle Schroeder (22:55.5) and Lauren Harkey

(23:15.3) capped the seven-runner team, placing 135th and 143rd, respectively.

"With our second time (qualifying in a row) we were definitely excited, but our encouragement and confidence went up," said Chelberg. "So now that we know that all these

runners are returning — and possibly some new ones — we know that in the summer time and offseason we can put more work in, knowing we can come back maybe possibly a third year in a row."

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HIGH SCHOOL CROSS-COUNTRY

Chargers' Salvesen finishes 24th at state

Bonduel girls 7th as team; Kaczmarek places 43rd

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School freshman Rory Salvesen capped a big freshman year with a 24th-place finish in the Division 3 girls race on Oct. 29 at the 2022 WIAA State Cross-Country Championships at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids.

In the same race, the Bonduel girls team earned a seventh-place finish, while Gillett's Carleigh Kaczmarek capped her high school career with a 43rd-place finish.

Salvesen finishes 24th

Salvesen turned in a time of 20 minutes, 30.1 seconds to earn her 24th-place finish.

The freshman was in 31st after a first mile time of 6:16 and moved up to 29th when she reached the 2-mile marker at 12:58. She passed five more girls in the last mile and change.

"The race itself was good; I ran a great race. I left everything out there that I had for the last race of the season," said Salvesen.

"I'm overwhelmed by the support and love of all the people here and all of the other amazing athletes I got to compete against today. They were so nice and welcoming and helping out for it being my first time here."

Salvesen was the fourth-fastest freshman in the race. Nine of the girls who placed ahead of her will graduate after this school year.

The freshman is hoping the strong finish to her first season is just the start of big things to come.

"I can't wait; I'm super excited to go into next season," said Salvesen. "I'm just going to keep working hard and trying to give it everything I got. From there, I guess they fall where they fall."

In determining what she wants to improve on going forward, Salvesen said she enjoys hills on courses but wants to get faster in the non-hilly spots to keep shaving seconds off her time.

Bonduel girls come in seventh

The Bonduel girls turned in a team



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Rory Salvesen (13) and Gillett's Carleigh Kaczmarek (12) work their way around the course during the Division 3 girls race on Oct. 29 at the 2022 WIAA State Cross-Country Championships at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids.

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score of 188 to come in seventh. That mark is tied for the team's best mark ever at state, matching the seventh-place finish from 2017.

Ashlyn Kurey the team's top finisher, placing 42nd in 20:56.9. The junior moved up 11 spots after passing the 1-mile marker.

"I knew this course was harder. I told myself to go out there and give it my all — this is the last race of the season," said Kurey. "We just had to go out and run our best."

Freshman Mariah Wondra was next across the finish line, taking 55th in

21:21.9. She moved up 12 spots after the first mile.

Sophomore Teagan Engel claimed 68th place in 21:37.9. She moved past 14 runners after the first mile.

Kendra Troxel, the team's lone senior, capped her career with a 71st-place finish in 21:40.8. Like her teammates, she did a good job of moving past runners after the opening mile, working past 10.

"It really means a lot, especially with how much work me and my team have put in over the years," said Troxel of getting to cap her career at

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Full state results can be found at www.wiaawi.org/Portals/0/PDF/Results/Cross_Country/2022/d3gstateresults.pdf. More photos from the D3 girls race can be found on the NEW Media Inc. Sports Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NewMediaIncSports.

state.

"It was definitely a journey. You can see how much you've grown as a person, like especially with your times. Throughout the years, you see how you develop and it's actually really cool."

Junior Joselyn Bohm capped off the team score for the Bears with a 102nd-place finish in 22:39.3. Not to be outdone by her teammates, Bohm moved past nine runners after the opening mile.

"It's amazing," said Bohm on getting to cap the season at state. "Our team every day at practice continues to push each other and try and be the best that we can. We knew we just had to come in here, run as a family, run as a team and really push ourselves to be better."

Sophomore Hailey Berg and freshman Cierra Schnell capped off the seven-runner team. Berg placed 117th in 23:17.5, while Schnell was 124th in 23:34.9.

Kaczmarek places 43rd

Kaczmarek turned in a time of 20:57.8 to earn her 43rd-place finish at state.

"I think I raced better than last year (at state) for sure," said Kaczmarek. "I didn't feel my best, but I gave it my all, and that's all I could ask for."

The senior was in 35th after a first mile of 6:17 before dropping back to 44th by the 2-mile mark. She was able to work past one runner in the final mile-plus.

In her three years racing at state, she placed in the 40s on each occasion.

"Very special, obviously," said Kaczmarek on getting to cap her career at state. "Unreal, actually. I've been here three times in my career, so I'm just grateful for it."

Kaczmarek joined the Gillett team as a sophomore after spending her freshman year at Oconto Falls, a change that paid off for the athlete.

"It's been really special," she said. "I'm glad I made the switch. There's nothing I could ask for a greater team than this. It's been a very fun time with them."

HIGH SCHOOL CROSS-COUNTRY

Shawano boys 13th at state behind Chelbergs, Onesti

Oconto Falls' Adams takes 78th

By MORGAN RODE
Sports Editor

The Shawano Community High School boys cross-country team placed 13th at state after competing in the Division 2 race at the 2022 WIAA State Cross-Country Championships on Oct. 29 at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids.

Oconto Falls' Ben Adams also participated in the D2 boys race, taking 78th place.

Shawano boys led by Chelbergs, Onesti

Shawano earned a team score of 251 to come in 13th at state.

Will Chelberg and Ethan Onesti were the first two Hawks across the finish line.

Chelberg, a junior, placed 11th in 16 minutes, 35.6 seconds. Onesti, another junior, was 15th in 16:44.1.

"I honestly just tried to conserve the first mile or more, because I knew there was a lot more hills on the back side," said Chelberg of his race. "I tried to just get a comfortable pace that first mile or so and then attack the next 1½ miles about."

Chelberg was in 18th after a mile and was up to 14th by the 2-mile marker before getting past a few more runners the last mile-plus.

"This year I did a better job of getting out ahead right away and maintaining a good, solid pace, which helped me in the long run to finish better than what I did last year," said Onesti on his race.

Junior Andon Chelberg was the next Hawk to finish, taking 90th in 17:59.8. Senior Aidan Preston capped his career with a 131st-place finish in 19:13.2, while junior Connor Chelberg capped the team score with a 134th-place finish in 19:17.7.

Senior Jaymin Boivin also got to end his high school career at state, finishing 149th in 20:18.2. Sophomore Quinn Olson capped the seven-runner team with a 152nd-place finish in 22:40.5.

"It's always nice to have the stress on everyone's shoulders, instead of just one person," said Andon Chelberg of getting to race with the rest of the team at state. "We're all kind of like brothers. We've known each other for a really, really long time — we've ran



Oconto Falls' Ben Adams (178) nears the finish line during the Division 2 boys race at the 2022 WIAA State Cross-Country Championships on Oct. 29 at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids.

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More photos from the D3 girls race can be found on the NEW Media Inc. Sports Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NewMediaIncSports.

with each other for many years.

"It's going to be sad to see the seniors go, but it's nice to know each other so well. We know each other's routines, we can get each other's stress out and just talk about the race so it's not just built up inside."

Adams happy with state run

Adams capped his sophomore year by taking 78th at state with a time of 17:53.7.

"I think it went well," said Adams of his race. "It was a hard course, the hills really. It's what stopped me from going further."

"The atmosphere was great, I was surprised with how many people were here and how much cheering was going on. Every corner I turned, I heard more fans."

Adams also was in 78th after a first mile of 5:24. He dropped back to 81st after a second mile of 6:02, but passed a few guys in the last stretch to move back to 78th.

"Train on more hills during the summer. Get better at the hills to improve my place and time here at state," Adams said on what he wants to work on before next season.



Shawano's Will Chelberg, left, and Ethan Onesti run near each other during the Division 2 boys race at the 2022 WIAA State Cross-Country Championships on Oct. 29 at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids.

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HIGH SCHOOL CROSS-COUNTRY

Pulaski's Opolka 88th at state championships

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

Pulaski senior Angela Opolka capped her high school cross-country career by placing 88th during the Division 1 girls race at the 2022 WIAA State Cross Country Championships on Oct. 29 at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids.

Opolka completed the course in 20 minute, 50.9 seconds.

"It's definitely a tough course," said Opolka. "The first mile is pretty easy, but after that, it's just hills and hills. But I just tried to use the hills to my advantage. I just tried to keep it going the whole time."

Opolka completed the first mile in 6:21 and was in 87th place at the time. She had a mark of 6:56 at the 2-mile marker, when she was in 88th place. She had a mark of 7:36 on the final

ONLINE

More photos from the D1 girls race can be found on the NEW Media Inc. Sports Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NewMediaIncSports.

mile-plus to maintain that spot.

"It was amazing; I'm so happy I was able to come," said Opolka on making state as a senior. "I feel like I've worked really hard for this, and it's really been a journey since freshman year — and even before then, middle school. I'm just happy that this could be my last race. It was really an amazing experience."

"It means everything. I don't think anything could have gone more perfect. When my coach told me after sectionals that I made it to state, we were just jumping around. It was the most perfect ending to any experience."

sports@newmedia-wi.com



Pulaski's Angela Opolka navigates the course during the Division 1 girls race at the 2022 WIAA State Cross Country Championships on Oct. 29 at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

HIGH SCHOOL SWIM

Witt-Birn snags 4th at Bay Conference Championships

Shawano/Bonduel finishes 7th; Pulaski's Schmidt earns FRCC honor

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School girls swim team accumulated 246 points to earn a fourth-place finish at the Bay Conference Championships on Oct. 27 in Clintonville.

Shawano/Bonduel came in seventh with 84 points.

The Chargers earned three second-place finishes on the night, with one coming from the 200-yard freestyle relay team.

Faith Resch, Annika Resch, Claire Timm and Reese Dickman teamed up on the relay team and posted a time of 1 minute, 50.13 seconds.

Individually, Dickman placed sec-



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Annika Resch swims the 200 IM during the Bay Conference Championships on Oct. 27 in Clintonville. Resch lost her goggles early in the event but still swam to a fifth-place finish.

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ond in the 50 freestyle (25.81), while Faith Resch was second in the 100 freestyle (58.55).

Andrea Powell joined Dickman, Annika Resch and Faith Resch on the third-place finishing 400 freestyle relay (4:11.98).

Faith Resch placed fourth in the 50 freestyle (25.86), while Dickman was fourth in the 100 breaststroke (1:14.03). Annika Resch was fifth in the 200 IM (2:33.53).

Alli Brown had Shawano/Bondu-

el's top individual finish on the night, taking fifth in the 100 backstroke. She completed the event in 1:10.79.

Witt-Birn will next compete in the Division 2 Merrill Sectional on Nov. 5.

Brown joined Breanna Anderson, Tela Hopfensperger and Lila Melchior on the seventh-place finishing 200 freestyle relay (2:10.07).

Shawano/Bonduel will next compete in the Division 1 Neenah Sectional on Nov. 5.

Schmidt leads Pulaski at FRCC Championships

Pulaski senior Taya Schmidt was tabbed the Fox River Classic Conference Diver of the Year after the conference championships were held Oct. 29 in Ashwaubenon.

Schmidt won the conference's diving event with a score of 452.25. The second-place finisher had a mark of 278.25.

The Pulaski girls took fifth as a team with a score of 198.

Schmidt also placed fourth in the 50 freestyle (26.01) and was on the fourth-place finishing 200 freestyle relay team (1:51.84).

Angelina Fulgione, Brynn Rybicki and Grace Duffrin filled out the 200 freestyle relay team. The same quartet placed sixth in the 200 medley relay (2:05.45).

Individually, Duffrin claimed fourth in the 200 IM (2:22.72) and fifth in the 100 butterfly (1:06.87).

Pulaski will next compete in the Division 1 Neenah Sectional on Nov. 5, with divers competing Nov. 4.

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Lena/STAA upended by Wabeno/Laona

Titans limited to 1 offensive score

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas Academy football co-op had its season come to a close in a similar fashion to a year ago.

The fourth-seeded Titans were toppled 20-8 by third-seeded Wabeno/Laona on Oct. 28 in Wabeno. The Rebels are also the team that eliminated the Titans in 2021.

In this year's battle between the teams, Lena/STAA scored first and had a halftime lead before Wabeno/Laona scored twice in the third quarter to take the lead and then tacked on an additional score late to seal the game.

The game began with two turnovers in a three-play span.

Lena/STAA received the opening kickoff before fumbling the ball away after two plays. Wabeno/Laona threw a deep pass on its first play, only to have Sam Marquardt intercept the ball in the end zone to get Lena/STAA the ball right back.

The Titans then put together a 11-play drive that got down to the Wabeno/Laona 30 before another fumble ended the threat.

"The two turnovers we had, maybe we could have scored on," said Marquardt of how the early giveaways were big in the final outcome.

Wabeno/Laona then looked to be on its way to the game's first score, but Lena/STAA's defense held strong inside its 10-yard line and stopped third- and fourth-down plays from the 1-yard line to end the drive.

Lena/STAA's offense then put together a 21-play, 99-yard scoring drive that chewed up the last couple minutes of the first quarter and first eight minutes of the second quarter.

Marquardt, Logan Graef, Tyler Shallow and Josh Kristof split the team's 21 rushing attempts on the series. Marquardt eventually scored on a 5-yard run on a third-and-3 play.

Each team punted once more in the half before the clock hit zeros.

After holding Wabeno/Laona out of the end zone all first half, the Lena/STAA defense couldn't accomplish the feat much in the second half.

The hosts worked 68 yards down the field on their first offensive series



Lena/STAA's Sam Marquardt runs with the ball as several teammates block for him during a playoff game against Wabeno/Laona on Oct. 28 in Wabeno.

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and scored to tie the game at six.

Marquardt returned the ensuing kickoff to the Wabeno/Laona 45-yard line, but the Titans weren't able to cash in, stalling inside the Wabeno/Laona 10.

"They were playing the ball good and in the second half they really flowed to the ball perfect," said Marquardt on Wabeno/Laona's defense. "They stopped our big plays and our 10-yard-at-a-time plays to like 2 yards and we couldn't move the ball anymore."

Stalling was a moot point though as Lena/STAA's defense got a safety to take an 8-6 lead. Jake Belongia and Sidney Sylvester teamed up for the tackle that led to the safety.

With a chance to break the game open and potentially go up two scores, Lena/STAA's offense had a rare three-and-out.

Wabeno/Laona took advantage, with a couple big chunk plays on its way to a touchdown that gave the hosts a 12-8 lead as the third quarter clock expired.

"They got a great quarterback. He's shifty," said Kristof of how Wabeno/Laona's offense was able to produce some big plays. "We were killing them when they were running the ball straight up the middle, so they spread it out."

Lena/STAA's offense had another promising drive going early in the fourth quarter, but again had it break down before the team could reach the end zone.

Wabeno/Laona drained a good

portion of the remaining 5 minutes of game clock with its next offensive drive and delivered the dagger with a 30-yard touchdown pass. The pass came on a broken play with the hosts facing fourth-and-19.

Lena/STAA had one more offensive possession, but wasn't able to pick up any first downs, allowing Wabeno/Laona to kneel out the remaining seconds of the contest.

Despite the outcome, Lena/STAA coaches were still happy of the team's efforts this season, noting how they were one of just eight teams still playing in the 8-player football playoffs.

After helping turn the program around, the co-op will need to replace a strong core of senior players, including Kristof, Marquardt, Belongia and Sylvester among others.

"It's so surreal, it's crazy. Our freshman year, we were just hoping to get a touchdown every game," said Kristof while laughing. "Our whole offense changed drastically — new coach, new gameplans. New leaders stepped up, more in the weight room and we just evolved. It got better every year."

"Our senior class really got big in the weight room and that definitely helped us," said Marquardt. "We played as a team. Nobody needed the ball every time — it was let's just get some yards and a touchdown. We had a great group of guys that got along perfect and never fought."

Lena/STAA 0 6 2 0 — 8

Wabeno/Laona 0 0 12 8 — 20

Second quarter

LS: Sam Marquardt 5-yard run (run failed), 4:00



Lena/STAA's Jake Belongia motions for a safety after teaming up with Sidney Sylvester for a tackle in the end zone during the team's playoff game against Wabeno/Laona on Oct. 28 in Wabeno.

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Third quarter

WL: Carter Janesch 43-yard run (run failed), 9:04

LS: Safety (sack in end zone), 4:22

WL: Janesch 23-yard run, 0:00

Fourth quarter

WL: Brady Shepard 30-yard pass from Janesch (Adam Seeber pass from Janesch), 1:48

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Bonduel's season ends against St. Mary's Springs

Bears shut out in second round of playoffs

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

A 21-0 loss to the St. Mary's Springs Ledgers ended the Bonduel Bears' football season in the second round of the Division 6 playoffs on Oct. 28 in Fond du Lac.

The Bears enjoyed a somewhat unexpected playoff run, as they knocked off third-seeded Crivitz the week prior. In this game though, the Ledgers' defense was the story. They held Bonduel junior quarterback Noah Weier to just 7-of-21 passing on the day, including one interception.

"This whole season has been a grind with these guys, with a lot of seniors in this program," said Weier, recapping his thoughts on the year. "It's just special — the game of football. You don't get this out of any other sport. It is just a great time playing with these guys."

As its passing game struggled to get going, Bonduel's rush game was just as stagnant. The team totaled only 63 yards on the ground, as opposed to the Ledgers' 183 rushing yards, with Levi Huempfer leading the way with 118 rushing yards.

While Bonduel did give up just short of 200 yards on the ground, the defense was better than the score showed. Bonduel started the game by forcing St. Mary's Springs into a turnover on downs after three straight rushes were stuffed. On Bonduel's subsequent drive, three different Bears recorded carries before a reverse passing play was intercepted by St. Mary's Springs.

St. Mary's Springs then marched down the field, highlighted by a 15-yard rush from Huempfer. The 62-yard drive eventually ended with a Huempfer 10-yard rushing touchdown.

Bonduel took back over minutes before the first quarter ended, only to go three-and-out before punting on the first play of the second quarter.

The next drive for each team ended in a punt, before St. Mary's Springs took over on its own 39-yard line. A fumble recovery from Bonduel on the second play of the drive set the Bears up for a scoring opportunity, as it took over on the Ledgers' 45-yard line.

The drive eventually stalled, as two straight incompletions on second and third downs forced Bonduel to punt. Weier, who punts for Bonduel, downed the Ledgers at their own 2-yard line.

From there, St. Mary's Springs once again worked down the field methodically, eventually making it to Bonduel's 35-yard line. A false start pushed the Ledgers back, and then Bears senior linebacker Tyson Bogacz recorded an 8-yard sack, forcing St. Mary's Springs to punt.

Getting the ball back before half-time, Bonduel senior Gaven Vance got heavily involved, recording a rush of 13 yards, a reception of 5 yards and a pass completion of 18 yards. In what became a theme of the game, Bonduel once again stalled, with Weier's last two pass attempts falling incomplete.

Much like St. Mary's Springs' first drive, Bonduel turned the ball over on downs to open the half. St. Mary's Springs built its lead as the subsequent drive ended with a 3-yard Huempfer touchdown rush.

A three-and-out forced Bonduel to punt — one that St. Mary's Springs could not handle. The ball was recovered by Bonduel. The muffed punt seemed to revitalize the Bears as the recovery was almost immediately followed by 12-yard reception from Vance to sophomore Cade Johnson. Once again, two incomplete passes ended Bonduel's drive.

"We thought that we were in this game all week," said Weier, on whether the muffed punt inspired any hope of winning. "That is the thing especially about this team — there is no negativity. It is just, 'Forget about the last play.' And to see us play hard



Bonduel senior running back Louis Hrabik runs and looks for an opening during Bonduel's loss to St. Mary's Springs on Oct. 28 in Fond du Lac.

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all game, I couldn't be more proud."

St. Mary's Springs eventual punt led to Weier throwing a interception to St. Mary's Springs' Sam Lucas. Bonduel's chances stayed alive though, as a missed field goal gave the ball back to the Bears at their own 20-yard line.

Those chances to stay alive quickly diminished as the Bears were forced to punt, leading to 22-yard rushing touchdown from Jacob Holmes.

Bonduel could not recover, eventually turning the ball over on downs and ending the game.

"Every team that we have lost to this year is still playing," said Weier, wrapping up the season. "We fought every game. This score does not show how hard we played this game, and I think that you look back and don't look at the losses, but at how you grinded every single practice."

Even though the season did not finish how Bonduel wanted, senior running back Louis Hrabik said that

this was the most fun that he has playing football.

"It was a lot of fun; I had a good time with all of the guys," said Hrabik. "It was definitely good memories, and we played hard all year."

Finally, Hrabik said he learned how to be a leader from playing football in Bonduel for four years. In his leadership position, Hrabik gave a word of advice to those who will play for the team next year.

"Definitely keep coming up, don't give up and keep working hard," said Hrabik. "Do what you can."

Bonduel 0 0 0 0 — 0

St. Mary's Springs 7 0 7 7 — 21

First quarter

S: Levi Huempfer 10-yard run (Cole Rottman kick), 2:05

Third quarter

S: Huempfer 3-yard run (Rottman kick), 7:57

Fourth quarter

S: Jacob Holmes 22-yard run (Rottman kick), 5:29

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HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

Lena falls to Wabeno/Laona in three sets

Wildcats' season comes to end in sectional semifinal

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

The Lena High School girls volleyball season came to end Oct. 27 after the Wildcats lost in three sets to the Wabeno/Laona Rebels in the sectional semifinal round of the Division 4 tournament.

Lena came into this game with plenty of momentum and three straight playoff wins under its belt, including wins over first-seeded Suring and second-seeded Gresham. Lena's run came to end though against Wabeno/Laona, as the Rebels took down the Wildcats 25-17, 25-11, 25-6 in Shawano.

While the season did not end the way that Lena players and coaches had hoped, senior Natalie McNurlen spoke on what her experience was like with the team in the playoffs.

"Going through regionals, we just had that team connection to beat the first seed and second seed," said McNurlen. She added it felt amazing to defeat top-seeded Suring. "We haven't been the regional champs in 32 years, so it was really cool bringing that back."

"We communicated. We all had fun, and no one had attitudes," said senior Makynna Herald, when recaping the postseason.

Being the first Lena volleyball team to make it to sectionals in 32 years was a major accomplishment, Herald said.

"We feel very proud that we came this far," said Herald. "It is sad that it has to end this way, but we came this far and it was super fun."

Wabeno/Laona got out to a quick start, mostly on the back of Allison Albrecht, who scored the first three points for the Rebels. Down 3-1 in the first set of the match, Lena sophomore Peyton Dorow scored the first ace. Scoring kept coming for Wabeno/Laona, as the team eventually built a 9-4 lead, before Lena junior Alabama Lambert recorded the Wildcats' second ace of the set.

The Rebels immediately responded, recording their first ace of the match by way of freshman



Lena senior Claire Brooks loads up for a big spike during Lena's postseason loss to Wabeno/Laona on Oct. 27 in Shawano.

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Lily Terry. That ace put Wabeno/Laona up 11-5. Lena closed in on that lead, scoring four out of the next six points, with senior Claire Brooks leading the way with a kill.

But 13-10 was as close as Lena got, with the Rebels going on a 5-0 run, with five different players scoring. Dorow stopped the flurry of points, scoring to bring the score to 18-11. The Rebels built the lead up to 21-10, before McNurlen and junior Mackenzie Vorpahl scored back-to-back points as part of a three-point run.

The Rebels scored four of the next six points, including an ace from Ava Cleereman to win the set.

"We talked about how talking would be a big thing — communication. And honestly, where we went wrong was just talking," said Herald. "We played slower than we usually have in our other regional games. In our other regional games, we played by talking, not having attitudes and as a whole team. And as a team in this game, I feel like we were individual."

The Wildcats began in a hole to start the second set, as Wabeno/Laona opened the set on an 8-0 run, headlined by three straight aces from

Cleereman. Brooks brought Lena back into the set, as she recorded two points in response to the 8-0 run, including a kill.

The Rebels built the lead back up to 10, scoring the next four points. The second set got worse for Lena before it got better, as the team eventually found themselves down 16-4.

McNurlen was not ready for the set to end though, as she led a three-point run for Lena, with two points coming by way of aces. Wabeno/Laona shut the door on the comeback, scoring six out of the next seven points and seven out of the next 11 points to win the set.

The teams traded points to open the third set. Then, as was the theme of this match, Wabeno/Laona went on another huge run, this time scoring eight straight points.

A single Lena point, due to serve out of bounds, bridged the gap between the Rebels' eight-point run and another four-point run.

Down 13-3, McNurlen got Lena back into the scoring column. McNurlen and sophomore Eva Brooks could only muster three more points, as Wabeno/Laona scored

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13 more points over the course of 16-point span to win the set and ultimately the match.

"We definitely did not have that energy that we wanted," said McNurlen. "We weren't getting that team connection that we had the rest of the regional or season, but I am happy we made it as far as we had."

With this being her last game in a Lena uniform, McNurlen said that becoming a leader has been something that she has learned to do.

"You have to have the one person on the team that has to feed the energy, otherwise it's not there," McNurlen said. "I have definitely learned to be that person."

On top of learning to be a leader, Herald said that she has learned how important communication can be.

"It might seem silly in volleyball because you have to move around, but communication is the biggest thing," said Herald.



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Fussie Cat - Even the Fussiest of Cats Can't Resist. Visit with Rep on Tues. Nov. 15th from 10-3pm.

Signature - Your Pet's Signature Dish for Life. Wholesome, Complete, and Balanced. Visit with Rep on Tues. Nov. 15th from 10-3pm.

Earthborn - Whole Food Nutrition - Born From the Earth. Visit with Rep on Wed. Nov. 16th from 10-3pm.

Unrefined - Go With the Grain with Ancient Grains. Visit with Rep on Wed. Nov. 16th from 10-3pm.

Chicken Soup for the Soul - Holistic For Health - Where Healthy Begins. Visit with Rep on Thurs. Nov. 17th from 10-3pm.

Blue Buffalo - Natural, Healthy Cat and Dog Food. Finest Natural Ingredients, True Blue Promise. Visit with Rep on Fri. Nov. 18th from 10-3pm.

* Specials are also Available at the Pulaski Warehouse location on corresponding dates.