

SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL KIMBERLY 26, APPLETON NORTH 20



Kimberly's Caden Pendleton (9) runs against Appleton North's Brecken Murphy during their football game Friday in Kimberly. WM. GLASHEEN/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

Pendleton's arm, legs help lift Papermakers to victory

Ricardo Arguello

Appleton Post-Crescent
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

KIMBERLY – Caden Pendleton's decision-making and arm have made him one of the top quarterbacks in the state.

Turns out the 6-foot-6 senior can also run – and run well – when he has to.

Pendleton converted on a third-and-3 and a third-and-4 in the fourth quarter in Kimberly's 26-20 victory over Appleton North in a Fox Valley Association game Friday at Papermaker Stadium. The former extended a drive that led to the Papermakers' final touchdown and the latter helped run out the clock in the final minutes.

"(Kimberly head coach Steve Jones) said since the beginning of the year that I would need to run in some crucial moments and this was one of the

crucial moments when I had to run," Pendleton said.

That doesn't mean Pendleton didn't have his moments throwing the ball, too.

Pendleton hit receiver Owen Pawlikowski on a 48-yard deep strike in the first quarter and his second touchdown pass of the game – a 14-yard swing pass to Isaac Dechant – gave the Papermakers a 19-14 lead in the third quarter.

Pendleton also had a sensational 38-yard pass play in the third quarter to Pawlikowski in which he took a big hit from a blitzing North defender up the middle. Pawlikowski finished with 136 yards on five catches.

"I thought Caden showed a lot of toughness," Jones said. "He got knocked around a little bit but he kept getting up and he delivered some great balls under pressure and then we ran him enough where he's able to pick up

some big yards for us and some critical first downs on the ground."

Pendleton said he has chemistry with both of his primary receivers, Pawlikowski and Cam Wnek.

"I'm very confident in my arm and my receivers, especially with Cam and Owen out there," he said. "They're going to get open some shape or form. I just have to put it in the right place and they'll catch it."

Kimberly (4-0 overall, 2-0 Fox Valley Association) had to withstand a late charge by North and Jones said his defense played "outstanding."

"That's a really talented offense they have over there with tons of weapons and a huge offensive line," Jones said of the Lightning. "And I thought our defense just continued to compete snap after snap and I'm just really proud of them. All three phases

See FOOTBALL, Page 5C



Pete Dougherty

Columnist

USA TODAY NETWORK - WIS.

All pieces in place for Packers' 'last dance'

GREEN BAY - If this is Aaron Rodgers' last dance with the Green Bay Packers, he couldn't have asked for a better shot at taking his leave on top.

Yes, this is the most talented Packers team in what has been a decade of close championship calls.

The last time the Packers' prospects looked this promising going into Week 1 was 2011, when they went 15-1 only to flame out in the divisional round of the playoffs.

That was also the season Rodgers emerged as a playmaker extraordinaire. He won his first MVP and started a 10-year run in which the Packers had the second-most wins in the NFL but failed to bring home another Lombardi trophy. This is looking very much like the last chance for Rodgers and the Packers to get that done.

I'd put the odds on Rodgers playing elsewhere next year in the 80-20, 90-10 range. He's very likely gone. But never say never in the NFL, where seasons are like dog years. Who knows what might happen over the next six months to change his mind? For that matter, contrary to a national report last month, the Packers haven't promised to trade him next year if he asks. They've only agreed to revisit the issue, though if he still wants out that might be their most attractive option anyway.

Regardless, for all the carping at general manager Brian Gutekunst for the Rodgers rupture, there's no denying he's putting a quality team on the field. Seven players in ESPN's top-100 list, six in NFL Network's. Only Tampa Bay had more on either list, with eight on both.

These Packers' chances are as good as anybody's. Their odds for winning the Super Bowl (12-to-1, according to FanDuel) tie them with Buffalo for third-best, behind only Kansas City (5-to-1) and Tampa Bay (11-to-2).

For all the handwringing from April through July, the Packers' offseason Rodgers crisis did not carry over into training camp, and for one reason above all: He showed up on time. That one I didn't see coming. I thought he'd skip at least a couple of days, if not more, despite the hefty mandatory fines (\$50,000 a day). Drive home his point and try to rework his contract to cover the cost.

"I was shocked by that," said a front-office executive for another team. "My thought was this guy can't hem and haw all offseason and then show up on time like it's all for nothing. And he did."

Not exactly for nothing. Rodgers did get the Packers to shave a year off his deal, which makes 2022 his final season on paper. That improves the odds of a reckoning next February or March. The Packers won't have to trade him if he asks, but short of a Rodgers contract extension Gutekunst will have to decide whether to get as much as he can in a trade, or hold on for a final run in '22 and then lose Rodgers in free agency for only a compensatory third-round pick.

Either way, Rodgers' on-time arrival defused everything, at least up to now. The guess here is if he'd shown up late, fan sentiment would have been against him. But that first day there was nary a boo or catcall at the quarterback from the stands, and that's the way it stayed all camp. For now, everyone seems to be honoring a truce.

You never know what's going on

See DOUGHERTY, Page 8C

PACKERS (0-0) AT SAINTS (0-0)

WHEN: 3:25 p.m. | **WHERE:** TIAA Bank Field; Jacksonville, Fla. | **LINE:** Packers by 31/2 | **TV:** Fox, with Joe Buck, Troy Aikman, Erin Andrews and Tom Rinaldi | **RADIO:** Packers Radio Network, with Wayne Larrivee and Larry McCarren

Struggling worse than ever, Hiura remains concern for Brewers



Brewers

Tom Haudricourt
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK - WIS.

CLEVELAND – It almost seems like a dream that Keston Hiura began the 2021 season as the Milwaukee Brewers' starting first baseman, doesn't it?

Actually, the year has been more like a nightmare for Hiura, who seemingly forgot how to hit, at least at the major-league level. Now, sadly, those offensive woes have resurfaced in the minors, where he is struggling worse than ever.

Such a notion once seemed absurd, at least before the pandemic-shortened 2020 season, when cracks began to appear in the armor of the former first-round draft pick's offensive game. But many players across the game looked out of sorts during that bizarre 60-game schedule, so the slate was considered to be wiped clean when the Brewers reassembled in Phoenix in February for a new, full season that



The Brewers' Keston Hiura walks back to the dugout after striking out against the Miami Marlins on April 26. JEFF HANISCH/USA TODAY SPORTS

See HAUDRICOURT, Page 8C