

SPORTS

WIAA FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS



Kimberly's Caden Pendleton hands the ball to Colin Obermann on a touchdown run against Kaukauna during their Fox Valley Association football game Friday in Kaukauna. WM. GLASHEEN/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN



Packers
Tom Silverstein
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK - WIS.

Barry on the clock to elevate defense

GREEN BAY - Safety Adrian Amos was a rookie when Vic Fangio came to the Chicago Bears to direct their defense.

Within four years, the Bears had one of the best defenses in the NFL.

Now in his seventh year, Amos is on the ground floor of the Green Bay Packers' attempt to become what the Bears were during Fangio's tenure and what they are attempting to be now under Fangio disciple Sean Desai.

"I don't really know like how long it takes," Amos said of getting to that place. "I mean that was the first defense I've ever learned in the NFL. But I don't think it was like a long time to catch on."

"If you're comparing it to us and seeing when we're going catch up, I think we're getting better every game and we're going to continue to get better. I feel like we've played well and there's still way more that we can improve on."

When coach Matt LaFleur hired Joe Barry to replace Mike Pettine as his defensive coordinator after last season, he was looking to replicate what Los Angeles Rams defensive coordinator Brandon Staley had built. Staley and Desai were assistants in Chicago during Fangio's stay and Barry was inside linebackers coach under Staley last season.

All of them employ the same principles Fangio has brought to modern defense, which includes five-man fronts, heavy reliance on aggressive inside linebackers and combination coverages designed to confuse quarterbacks.

The Bears are off to a great start defensively and have one of the best game-wreckers in the league in outside linebacker Khalil Mack, who after seeing some decline in production his two seasons in Chuck Pagano's defense — he had one sack in four games against the Packers — is back causing havoc. He ranks fourth in the NFL in sacks with five and will require Green Bay to play considerable attention to him.

The Packers have improved considerably since their 38-3 debacle in Week

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PACKERS (4-1) AT BEARS (3-2)

WHEN: Noon | **WHERE:** Soldier Field; Chicago | **LINE:** Packers by 5½ | **TV:** Fox, with Joe Davis, Greg Olsen and Pam Oliver | **RADIO:** Packers Radio Network, with Wayne Larrivee and Larry McCarren

Kimberly, Hilbert receive top seeds

Ricardo Arguello
Appleton Post-Crescent
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

The Post-Crescent coverage area has 16 football teams in the WIAA playoffs with pairings released early Saturday.

Kimberly in Division 1 and Hilbert in Division 7 received top seeds in their respective groupings. Menasha (D3) and Freedom (D4) are No. 2 seeds, with Appleton North (D1), Fox Valley Lutheran (D3) and Brillion (D5) getting No. 3 seeds.

Here are the 14 first-round matchups involving Post-Crescent area teams. Teams are separated by divisions.

- Division 1 (Seed, team, record)**
- (7) **Neenah (5-4, 4-3)** at (2) Wausau West (8-1, 6-1)
- (6) Hudson (5-4, 4-3) at (3) **Appleton North (7-2, 6-1)**
- (8) D.C. Everest (5-4, 4-3) at (1) **Kimberly (9-0, 7-0)**
- Division 2**
- (5) **Kaukauna (6-3, 4-3)** at (4) Hartford (6-3, 5-2)
- Division 3**
- (7) Shawano (4-5, 3-4) at (2) **Menasha (7-2, 6-1)**
- (6) Green Bay Notre Dame (5-4, 5-2) at (3) **Fox Valley Lutheran (5-4, 4-3)**
- (5) Portage (5-4, 3-4) at (4) **Waupaca**

- (4-4, 4-3)
 - Division 4**
 - (7) **Winneconne (5-4, 4-3)** at (2) Freedom (7-2, 5-2)
 - (6) **Little Chute (4-4, 3-4)** at (3) Oconto Falls (8-1, 6-1)
 - (5) **Xavier (5-3, 5-2)** at (4) Berlin (6-3, 4-3)
 - (5) Racine St. Catherine's (5-4, 5-2) at (4) **Wrightstown (5-3, 4-3)**
 - Division 5**
 - (8) **Clintonville (5-4, 4-3)** at (1) Amherst (9-0, 7-0)
 - (6) **Chilton (3-6, 3-4)** at (3) **Brillion (8-1, 7-0)**
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WIAA STATE TENNIS

Neenah's Paape, Roth win 2nd doubles championship

Mike Sherry
Appleton Post-Crescent
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

MADISON - The list of state doubles champions in Neenah girls tennis history is long and impressive.

Sophia Paape and Shelby Roth are on that list — twice.

The Neenah duo won their second WIAA Division 1 state championship Saturday, beating Christina Pan and Emily Pan of Muskego 6-4, 6-0 in the title match at Nielsen Tennis Stadium.

It was the second state title in a row for the Rockets duo, who claimed the crown in April during the alternate season.

"We worked so hard and we've heard, you know, alternate season, only 30%, whatever," Roth said. "We stuck with it. We were confident. We went in and we knew we were going to win, in all honesty. I believed 100%. It means everything, and I wouldn't want to do it with anyone else."

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Neenah's Sophia Paape, left, and Shelby Roth celebrate their WIAA Division 1 state doubles championship Saturday at Nielsen Tennis Stadium in Madison. GARY C. KLEIN/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN