

SPARTA FOOTBALL

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

Feels Like Home

Sparta tops Mauston; earns first victory at Memorial Field since Week 7 of 2019 campaign

By NICK LEONARDELLI
Sports Writer

Coming off of a tough match up against a good Baldwin-Woodville team, the Spartan football team was looking to catch its first victory of the season in a week two match up against Mauston.

The game was held on Monday after weather conditions postponed the original Friday matchup. The Spartans held a 20-6 lead at the end of the first half and didn't step off the gas, winning the home opener 39-14.

Senior running back, Nick Kent, didn't have the monster game week one like he is used to. Kent scored the first two touchdowns of the game. His first touchdown was a eight yard run late in the first quarter to give the Spartans a 7-0 lead and the only score of the quarter. His second touchdown came in the second quarter after Kent busted out for a 28 yard run for the second score of the game for the Spartans to extend the lead to 14. Running back Nick Kent finished the game with 13 carries, 113 rushing yards and three touchdowns.

The next score for the Spartans was a interception returned to the house by junior defensive back Dain Pitsenberger. The junior defensive back picked off Mauston's Spencer Lehman late in the second quarter for a 22 yard interception return. It was the Spartans second

interception of the year and just one of two interceptions for the game.

The second interception was grabbed by senior defensive back and wide receiver Chris Jacobs. The interception would be Jacob's first of the year. With the defense adding two more interceptions to their season total and a season first defensive touchdown, the Spartan defense secondary now has three interceptions on the year in just two games! The defense has also not allowed more than 20 points in either of the first two games of the season.

Another big performer for the Spartans was the first year starter and sophomore quarterback, Thomas Laufenberg, who recorded his first 200 yard passing game and first touchdown of his varsity career. Laufenberg's only passing touchdown of the game came in

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A LOOK BACK

Friday, Oct. 4, 2019

Sparta defeated La Crosse Central 38-33 in the home finale.

That was the last home win for the Spartans. Sparta went 3-0 at home that season, but failed to claim a victory at Memorial Field last year in games with Eau Claire Memorial and Superior.



RIGHT Sparta's Layden Off is hoisted into the air by Hayden Brueggeman after scoring a touchdown in the third quarter of Monday's nonconference contest. Off scored on a six-yard scamper to put Sparta up 33-6.

LEFT Sparta's Chris Jacobs makes a cut back to shake a tackle attempt by Mauston's Spenser Lehman on the Spartans' opening drive of Monday's game. Herald photos by Nate Beier.



The Tomah volleyball team picked up its first league win of the season after overcoming an 0-2 deficit against Sparta Tuesday night. Tomah will take on MVC frontrunner, Holmen, tonight. Herald photo by Bob Kliebenstein.

Tomah Completes Turbulent Comeback Bid

By MAURICE SAVAGE
Sports Writer

On Tuesday Tomah's high school's girls volleyball team took on the Sparta Spartans in an exciting five-set match.

Sparta opened the

and take that set by a four-point margin, winning 25-21. The momentum from the win carried over into the fourth set where the Timberwolves were able to tie the match at two apiece after edging Sparta 25-22 to send it into a fifth and final set.

The final set was anything but an easy win for Tomah. Both teams battled for position early, but Tomah was able to squeeze out a 15-13 victory in the final set to secure the 3-2 match win over cross-county rival, Sparta.

The comeback by the Timberwolves was led by Lauren North who had 24 kills and 15 digs in this match. Asha Eckelberg contributed with 30 assists and two aces. Hannah Walters contributed with 1 ace and 23 digs as well.

Sparta was lead by Kayla Fabry with 20 kills, 2 aces, 2 blocks, and 12. Anna Blaha was a key contributor with 13 kills and 7 digs. Macy Oswald had 1 kill in the match as well. Abby Schell assisted on 40 assists and 3 Aces in the loss.

Both Sparta and Tomah are 1-1 in league play.

Tomah will face off against MVC title hopeful, Holmen, at home on Thursday at 7. Sparta has Thursday night off and will return to league action next Tuesday when they travel to Holmen.



Tomah's Lauren North squeezes an attack between Sparta's Kayla Fabry (10) and Josie Edwards (4) during Tuesday's match. Herald photo by Nate Beier.



Sparta's Dain Pitsenbarger pulls in an interception from Mauston quarterback Spenser Lehman and returns it for a score late in the second quarter of Monday's nonconference contest. Herald photo by Nate Beier.

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in the middle of the third quarter when Laufenberg threw a 53 yard pass to junior wide receiver Carson Kelsey to increase the Spartan lead to 27-6. The 53 yard pass touchdown was the first touchdown of the second half for both teams.

Quarterback Thomas Laufenberg finished the game with 12 completions on 15 pass attempts, 200 passing yards, one touchdown and two interceptions. Laufenberg also added 11 rushing attempts and 61 rushing yards. After a shaky first game where Laufenberg only got to pass the ball eight times and completed just two of those passes, the young quarterback seemed confident when the coach Adam Dow put the ball in his hands and he delivered for his team. Laufenberg's performance should not go unnoticed. Even though he had a couple mishaps with two interceptions, he seemed to have taken in the coaching from last week and had his best game of his young varsity career.

The Spartans scored 19 points in the second half and allowed just 8 more points to the Mauston offense. In a bounce-back game and a dominating performance from both sides of the ball, the Sparta football team grabbed its first win of the 2021 season in dominating fashion.

WEEK 3 PREVIEW

Conference play begins for the team this Friday as the Spartans will be welcoming the La Crosse Logan Rangers to Memorial Field for their second home game in a row.

Since Adam Dow took over as the head coach, the Spartans are 2-1 against the Rangers over the past 3



Sparta's Tyler Schendel works to shed a block by Mauston's Dalton Hoehn during the first half of Monday's contest. Herald photo by Nate Beier.

seasons.

The Spartans hope to continue the winning streak with a Logan team that suffered a tough loss to Eau Claire North last week. North held a 14-0 lead late in the first half of the game and went on to claim a 20-14 victory to end a 51-game losing streak - the longest active losing streak in the state.

Logan has seen most of its success on the ground as the Rangers have

recorded 321 rushing yards in their first two games of the season.

The Spartans will have to execute another dominating performance from both sides of the ball coming into its first game of conference play. No conference opponent is easy and Friday's MVC opener will go a long way in keeping early playoff dreams alive. Despite being a short week of preparation, Sparta is expected to put forth its best effort Friday.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

Four goals enough for Tomah to upend Sparta



Tomah's Jared Rubenzer works to keep control of the ball as Sparta's Emilio Ramirez challenges for possession during Tuesday's game. Herald photo by Bob Kliebenstein.

By MAURICE SAVAGE
Sports Writer

Tomah boys soccer was able to secure a 4 to 0 win against Sparta on Tuesday, August 31.

In the first half, Tomah jumped out to an early lead with a goal by Carter Hableman in the 39th minute. Haakon Garvin was the one who assisted on the goal. At the end of the first half, Tomah was up 1 to 0 on the Spartans.

The Timberwolves were able to score back-to-back goals at the 43rd minute by Gavin Richer, assisted by Carter Hableman. Gavin Richer assisted on s on Jonah Nick's goal in the 44th minute. Close to the end of the game, Ty Richer scored a goal at the 72nd minute of the game to put the timberwolves up 4-0 and seal the game.

Tomah goalie Trevin Johnson had 3 saves vs 3 shots on the day. Sparta goalie Matthew Richards had 12 saves vs 16 shots on the day.

The win moves the Timberwolves to 3-0 and will take on Holmen at home on Thursday at 4:15.

SPARTA TENNIS

Central girls blank Sparta

By NICK LEONARDELLI
Sports Writer

The Sparta girls tennis team traveled to La Crosse Central to take on its conference foe on the road. La Crosse Central dominated the Lady Spartans after sweeping both singles and doubles matches. The Spartans just couldn't find their groove as they got swept in all seven matches.

In the singles category, Olivia Blazek for Sparta kept the match close as she lost to Central's Allison Culp 6-4, 6-2. The other Lady Spartans didn't see much luck either as each of the four Spartans all lost their matches.

The losing continued as the Lady Spartans were swept by Central's doubles teams. The Spartans only managed to win just four sets in the three doubles matches that were played.

Central is a tough conference foe and conference matches are never easy. The Sparta girls tennis team looks to bounce back this Thursday as they travel to Logan in another conference bout.

TOMAH FOOTBALL



Carter Habek and the Timberwolves' defense allowed just a single touchdown last week after giving up 46 points in a Week 1 loss. Herald photo by Nate Beier.

T-Wolves ready for Wildcats

By MAURICE SAVAGE
Sports Writer

On Friday night the Tomah high school football team will travel to River Falls to take on the Wildcats.

The Timberwolves are entering the game 0-2 after a 12-7 loss against Prairie Du Chien. Tomah was limited to just 30 passing yards and their top receiver Drew Brookman was held without a catch on the day.

When the Timberwolves are able to get their passing attack going, they are capable of stringing together an impressive game, as they showed against Mauston when quarterback Tom Hesse threw for 180 yards and 3 touchdowns. However, coach Joe Protz and company know that there will be some growing pains and consistency issues with a new quarterback and a new roster of receivers this fall. Friday's game with the Wildcats is just another opportunity for the THS offense to build on their experience.

River Falls has a solid passing attack as well and multiple targets that can catch fire at any time. This game is going to be decided on the defensive side, mostly on the secondary. These are two solid passing attacks that may have to mix it up a bit to come out victorious Friday night.

SPARTA CROSS COUNTRY

Siekert, Intihar pace Sparta

By NICK LEONARDELLI
Sports Writer

Sparta cross country ran in the Gale Johnson Kick-Off this past weekend. The event was held at the Maple Grove Venues in West Salem Wisconsin. The Sparta boys cross country team finished 9th and the Sparta girls cross country team finished in 10th.

For the boys, only one runner cracked the top 40. Brayden Siekert finished in 34th place with a time of 20:18.9. Boston Miller finished in 44th place with a time of 20:40.6. Jaden Kondor finished in 72nd with a time of 22:31. Christian Perez finished in 81st with a time of 23:15.7. Sam Parent finished in 97th place with a time of 24:24.9. Team finished with 251 team points. Onalaska took the gold in this event with the four places being held by Onalaska runners. They finished with 18 team points.

On the girls side, the team compiled a score of 257. Only one girl finished in the top 40. Morgan Intihar finished in 35th place with a time of 24:41.8. Emma Blackdeer finished in 50th with a time of 25:52.5. Chloe Allen finished not too far behind in 54th place with a time of 26:18.9. Leah Modjeski finished in 57th place with a time of 26:29.7. Serena Swanson finished in 61st place with a time of 28:23.3. Boscobel won the event with a team score of 54 and three top 10 finishers.

The next event for the Cross Country team will be this Thursday at Vernon County Fairgrounds in Viroqua, WI.

WEEK 3 FOOTBALL PREVIEW

Brookwood, Cashton set to race off in SBC rivalry clash

By BOB KLIEBENSTEIN
Sports Writer

The Brookwood Falcons and the Cashton Eagles have each won their first two games of the 2021 season. They now will meet in a rivalry game that features major stakes in deciding playoff bids and the race for the Scenic Bluffs title.

The two teams will take the field in what will be both of their conference openers Friday, September 3 at 7 p.m. in Ontario.

Cashton (2-0) is off to just the start it was hoping for coming off a highly successful spring campaign.

The Eagles went 6-1 during the spring alternate season and only a last-minute 34-28 loss to Bangor kept them from a conference title. Though they weren't able to enjoy a playoff berth then, they did make the postseason in 2019 for the first time since 2015.

Cashton opened the season by snapping a seven-game losing streak to rival Ithaca with a 19-14 win and then followed it up by walloping Hillsboro 53-8 last Saturday.

Junior Colin O'Neil is setting the pace out of the backfield for the Eagles with 247 yards and three touchdowns on 33 carries, while sophomore Bret Hemmersbach has piled up 104 yards and a touchdown on only 12 rushes.

Brookwood (2-0) went 3-4 back in the spring, but had made the playoffs in the five years prior. That spring record did include a pair of close



ABOVE Sparta's Nick Kent rushed for 113 yards in a Week 2 win over Mauston Monday afternoon. RIGHT Cashton's Henry Brueggen bursts across the line of scrimmage while on defense in Saturday's game with Hillsboro. Herald photo by Nate Beier.

losses, including a razor-thin 7-6 defeat at the hands of Cashton in the season opener.

The experienced Falcons are looking to avenge that loss after defeating Cochrane-Fountain City 34-14 and Viroqua 14-7 on the road so far in non-conference play.

Brookwood is led by a three-headed monster of seniors in its rushing attack: Franklin Wildes (178 yards on 26 carries), Austin Frye (153 yards and two touchdowns on 32 carries) and Dan Peterson (110

yards and two touchdowns on 25 carries).

Bangor at Hillsboro

After a one-week reprieve due to COVID-19 issues within its program, Bangor is back on track to return to action in Week 3.

The Cardinals (1-0) cruised past Melrose-Mindoro 30-7 in their season opener two weeks ago, only to see their scheduled Week 2 contest against Pepin/Alma cancelled due to COVID.

They now return with a non-

conference road game against former Scenic Bluffs member Hillsboro (0-2) Friday, September 3 at 7 p.m.

Sophomore Isaiah Stokes is the Tigers' leading rusher with 132 yards on 22 carries and junior Josiah Thyne has contributed 94 yards and two touchdowns on 21 rushes.

La Crosse Logan at Sparta

Coming off a delayed win over Mauston, Sparta (1-1) heads into its conference opener on a quick turnaround.



The Spartans' home opener was delayed last Friday and wasn't completed until Monday, August 30, where Sparta secured a 39-14 victory. The team now welcomes in La Crosse Logan (1-1) in its first crack at Mississippi Valley competition Friday, September 3 at 7 p.m.

The Rangers blanked Eau Claire Memorial 13-0 in their season and home opener before falling on the road to Eau Claire North 20-14 on a late touchdown.