

# EVERY time I had a CHANCE to RUN I would give everything I HAD



## Tomah senior looking for fitting career coda as WIAA postseason begins

By MAURICE SAVAGE  
Sports Writer

"No race is a given. Every time I had a chance to run I would give everything I had," said Tomah's Ty Schanhofer about his approach going into every meet this season.

That sentiment has paid dividends for the THS senior this year as he led the charge for the Timberwolves' cross country team all season long, emerging as the team's lead runner and one of the stronger athletes in the sport amongst the Mississippi Valley Conference.

Coming into this season Schanhofer was on a mission to make his final season as member of the Timberwolves' cross country season his best one yet. His preparation for his senior year started right after the season last year. Even though Schanhofer has never run track, this past winter and spring he stepped in and began to train with them to get better. He never went out and competed at the meets but he was there five times a week to put in some extra work in preparation for this final run as a senior.

That final run could be this Saturday at the Division 1 sectional cross country race hosted by Onalaska at Maple Grove Venues in West Salem.

The goal Schanhofer has set for himself is to extend his season one more meet, which would put him among the elite runners in the state as the final week of the racing season is

(SCHANHOFFER) cont. pg 10

Tomah's Ty Schanhofer looks forward to extending his season as the WIAA postseason begins Saturday at the Division 1 sectional at Maple Grove Venues in West Salem. Schanhofer has been the Timberwolves' lead runner this season, finishing 15th at last week's MVC championships.

Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.



**BENZING  
LEADS  
BANGOR TO  
TITLE**  
pg 12

**AREA CROSS  
COUNTRY  
ROUNDUP**  
pg 11

# SPORTS



Sports Editor • sports@monroecountyherald.com

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**BANGOR FOOTBALL**



Bangor's Mathieu Oesterle will help try to guide the Cardinals past Ithaca this Friday. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

## Bangor to host Ithaca in opening round

By ZACH RASTALL  
Sports Writer

When the WIAA releases postseason football brackets for Division 7 each year, it's a safe bet that Bangor and Ithaca will be safely among the field.

For different reasons, that wasn't the case for either team during the pandemic-altered 2020 fall season. Here in 2021, they're both back in that familiar position, ready to square off for what should be a superb first-round matchup.

The third-seeded Cardinals (7-2) are set to welcome in the sixth-seeded Bulldogs (6-3) for a WIAA Division 7 Level 1 showdown Friday, October 22 at 7 p.m. in Bangor.

Each program is quite familiar with the playoffs, as Bangor punched their postseason ticket 12

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**SPARTA SOCCER**

# BRACKET BUSTERS

## Spartans outlast top-seeded Tigers in shootout to advance to regional final

By NICK LEONARDELLI  
Sports Writer

When playoff time rolls around, the high intensity in each game means anything can happen. The Sparta boys soccer team felt that playoff intensity when they went up against the number one seeded New Richmond in the first round of regionals. With needing penalty kicks to decide the winner, Sparta would overcome all odds. The Spartans would go on to upset New Richmond 5-4 in penalty kicks and move on in the playoffs.

The first team to find the back of the net was New Richmond. At 36 minutes, New Richmond went into the half with a 1-0 lead over Sparta.

Come second half, Sparta knew they had to score and score quickly. The Spartan defense forced a fast break and a Caleum Scott pass would find the boot of Matthew Zanon who zips the ball past the goalie to tie the game 1-1. After the 80 minute mark, the match would go into two 10 minutes extra time periods but, that wasn't enough for either team to take the goal advantage. This meant penalty kicks were needed to decide who would walk away as victors.

The first to kick for the Spartans was Alex Andros and he would score, Sparta 1 NR 0. Sparta goalie Matthew Richards would save the first New Richmond penalty kick so Sparta would leave 1-0.

Sparta's Jordan Johnson was next



The Sparta boys soccer team pulled off the unlikely upset Tuesday night in the first round of the WIAA regional tournament as the eighth-seeded Spartans bested the top-seeded New Richmond Tigers in a shootout. Sparta won the game on penalty kicks after outscoring the Tigers 5-4 in the final tiebreaker scenario. Herald photo contributed

to shoot and his shot was saved to keep the score 1-0. New Richmond would go on to score tying it all up at one apiece.

Sparta's Matthew Richards would find the back of the net and Sparta would go back up 2-1. New Richmond followed suit to make it 2-2.

Sparta's Caleum Scott would score and New Richmond would

also score making the 3-3.

Sparta's Alex Cress would miss the fifth shot for Sparta but New Richmond would also miss their shot and the score continued at 3-3.

Matthew Zanon shot next for Sparta and zipped one past the goalie. New Richmond would do the same and tie the score at 4-4.

Sparta's Ben Bickford would walk up to his penalty kick knowing that a

miss or a save could mean the game and the season for his team. With ice in his veins, Bickford would bury the ball in the net to give the Spartans the lead and the potential win if New Richmond missed their next shot.

New Richmond would eventually miss their seventh shot and Sparta would complete the unthinkable and send the number one seed packing as

(BRACKET) cont. pg 11

**CASHTON VOLLEYBALL**

## Eagles down Durand in D3 regional opener

By ZACH RASTALL  
Sports Writer

This year's young Cashton volleyball team took their lumps early in the season, but have found a better recipe for success in recent weeks. That carried over to the first round of the playoffs, where they picked up a convincing win.

The seventh-seeded Eagles emphatically swept away No. 10 seed Durand 25-9, 25-11, 25-17 in a WIAA Division 3 regional quarterfinal matchup Tuesday, October 19 in Cashton.

"I think we prepared a really effective gameplan against them," said Cashton head coach Luke Lukaszewski. "It was unfortunate for Durand that they were missing their best outside hitter, so they had to move some pieces around to be able to stay competitive. Give Durand a lot of credit for playing as hard as they did."

Despite the Panthers missing one of their top players due to a sprained ankle, it was still a stellar performance from Cashton and in line with the solid brand of volleyball the team has been playing lately.

The Eagles recently enjoyed a four-match winning streak, defeating Necedah and Royall in four while sweeping both New Lisbon and Brookwood. They did end the regular season with a five-set loss to Royall and a four-set loss to Hillsboro, but still have won 7 of their last 11 matches after the sweep of Durand.

Cashton will need to be at its absolute best to keep its season alive into the weekend. The Eagles next face a La Crosse Aquinas squad that

(CASHTON) cont. pg 12

(SCHANHOFER)  
cont. from pg 9

WIAA state championships at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids.

This weekend he will be in the biggest meet of his career, fighting for a spot in the state meet. "(It) means a whole lot," said Schanhofer. "I love this sport. This is a chance to keep going."

At this point in the season, Ty has a mindset that he wants the chance to keep going and remain with his teammates and coaches for a little while longer. Although this could be his last meet, Schanhofer said he will continue to run and practice with his teammates and coaches. This sport and team have played a large part in his life over the past three years and he said multiple times he would never lose the bonds he's made through cross country.

Going into summer of 2021 he never stopped working on his craft. Whereas most teenagers in the summer would take the weekend off to do something with their friends, the senior harrier was out doing long runs of 7-10 miles every weekend. During the week, Schanhofer followed workout plans devised by his coach, Jon Heesch. His runs on average for weekdays were at least 3-4 miles. His coach was also able to throw in some speed work in there with some shorter distances.

Schanhofer came into the season with two goals in mind; break his personal best and land on the All-Mississippi Valley Conference team.

The first of which he was able to do in the middle of the season by dropping his time by four seconds, his new best is 17:54.

His second goal was to be named All-Conference in the Mississippi Valley Conference, which he was able to be included in as an honorable mention after finishing 15th in the conference meet last week at Maple Grove Venues.

The senior, who led the Tomah boys in nearly every race this season, said has never taken his opportunity to run for granted. He holds his teammates and coaches in high regard, and every time he steps on the course his expectation is to leave it all out there and be there to enjoy every moment he has among the running community.

Schanhofer's mindset for Saturday's race in West Salem reflects his appreciation and gratitude for what the sport has



offered him these past four years. "I will leave it all on the course and make sure I have nothing left in the tank."

This season will be the last competitive cross country Schanhofer will run as he does not plan on running in college. He plans on attending UW-Madison to do legal studies and enter law school after his four-year degree.

"I will consider joining a club and running, but no college running," is what the senior leader had to say about his future in the sport.

However, it wouldn't be surprising for Schanhofer to find his way back onto the raceway. After all, it's hard to run away from a sport you've ran towards for so long and with as much success as the senior has.

**SECTIONALS**

Tomah will compete at Saturday's Division 1 sectional cross country race held at Maple Grove Venues in West Salem.

The other MVC schools participating Saturday include Holmen, La Crosse Central, Onalaska and Sparta. The Big Rivers Conference will be represented by Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire North and Memorial, Hudson, Menomonie, New Richmond, River Falls and Superior.

Chippewa Falls' Lukas Wagner won last week's BRC meet with a time of 15:56.2. Hudson won the boys meet with a score of 64 and an average time of 17:09.4.

Onalaska, the MVC boys champion, average finish was in 16:28.9. Runner-up, Holmen, averaged a finish of 17:49.

Menomonie's Isabella Jacobson won the girls BRC title with a time of 17:32.1. The Mustangs went on to win the girls team title with a score of 46 and an average finishing time of 19:19.9.

MVC champ, Holmen, averaged a race time of 21:08.5. The boys are set to race at noon on Saturday with the girls race kicking off at 12:45.

**Schanhofer accomplished two major goals this year - setting a new PR and making it on to the MVC All-Conference team. The former he set at 17:54 and the latter he achieved with a 15th place finish, good enough for earn All-MVC honorable mention honors. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.**



I will leave it all on the course and make sure I have nothing left in the tank.

**TY SCHANHOFER**  
TOMAH CROSS COUNTRY

# ONALASKA D1 SECTIONAL



Sparta's Boston Miller. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

**MEET INFO**

Maple Grove Venues  
(West Salem)  
Boys run at 12:00 p.m.  
Girls run at 12:45 p.m.

Mississippi Valley Champs  
Boys: ONALASKA  
Girls: HOLMEN

Big Rivers Champs  
Boys: HUDSON  
Girls: MENOMONIE

**PARTICIPATING TEAMS**

- CHIPPEWA FALLS
- EAU CLAIRE MEMORIAL
- EAU CLAIRE NORTH
- HOLMEN
- HUDSON
- LA CROSSE CENTRAL
- MENOMONIE
- NEW RICHMOND
- ONALASKA
- RIVER FALLS
- SPARTA
- TOMAH

## THROUGH MY LENS

# We Let The Robots Do The Work

By NATE BEIER  
Sports Reporter

Each Friday night for the past nine weeks I've enjoyed a little taste of Christmas.



I look forward to scrolling through football scores on the Wisconsin Sports Network feed on Twitter. It's, by far, the best hub for football scores in the state and coaches actually actively engage with the folks at wissports.net to make sure their scores are reported - something that a number of local media outlets can't get from their local teams.

Last Friday night, though, was a different Christmas as it was the eve of the WIAA playoff bracket reveal. For the first time in state history, the WIAA relied on computer-based seeding to determine who was ranked higher in each eight-team grouping.

Coaches couldn't make an emotional or well-thought appeal to move up a seed once the software crunched the numbers like they used to be able to.

Conversely, coaches couldn't tank an opposing school just because they didn't like the matchup or the school for whatever reason.

The question that will linger on from Friday's bracketing is this - did the computer get it right?

The politically correct answer is probably, "well, it's okay, but it's a new system and there'll be flaws in it."

My answer is it should have been better.

Yes, it is a new system, but I thought we were supposed to use it last year - albeit the COVID issues that altered the course of 2020 were in play, but was there any reason not to run some sort of scenarios to see how it'd actually work? Perhaps even comparing it alongside the coaches' votes for a year to work out the kinks in the system.

Now, there are still certain factors that the computer uses in order to find the correct place for each team in their respective brackets. Overall records, conference records, conference championships and so on are some of those factors. Coaches used to be able to argue strength of schedule or conference, but I'm not sure how the artificial intelligence factors that in, if it does at all.

Teams that shared a league title with another school had that tie broken by the computer so only one school counted as a conference champ within their criteria - again, a new wrinkle in the system compared to past seasons.

In any case, the computer had the final word, for all intents and purposes, this year, and there were a number of questionable decisions across all eight divisions of football.

The two most local teams to qualify for the WIAA postseason, Bangor and Cashton, ended up being grouped with a pretty decorated lot of teams in their Division 7 bracket.

Of the eight schools in the grouping, five were conference champions. Highland went unscathed through the Ridge and Valley Conference, Bangor and Cashton shared the Scenic Bluffs and Potosi/Cassville shared the Six Rivers title with River Ridge and Black Hawk - the latter of which is playing in a different bracket for the postseason and wouldn't see the others until a state semifinal game.

If we look around the area, I would point at Luther and Necedah benefiting greatly from whatever algorithm is in place in this new system.

In Division 6, Luther is a two seed, despite being just 5-4 on the year. Also in that bracket is a 7-2 Cuba City team that tied for second within the Southwest Wisconsin Activities League - a league full of true Division 6 schools.

So how does a 5-4 Luther team with a 4-3 mark in playoff-qualifying games get awarded a two-seed? Of the four playoff-qualifying games they won, only none were against Division 6 opponents, whereas Cuba City played a schedule that almost

(BEIER) cont. pg 12

WEEK #7	Nate Beier	Ryan Deno	Aaron Arnold	Kyle Evans	Guest
Washington @ Packers	GGGGG	GGGGG	GGGGG	GGGGG	GGGGG
Panthers @ Giants					TLU
Chiefs @ Titans					
Broncos @ Browns					
Colts @ 49ers					
Falcons @ Dolphins					
Saints @ Seahawks					
Texans @ Cardinals					
Jets @ Patriots					JETS
Bengals @ Ravens					
Bears @ Buccs					
Eagles @ Raiders					
Lions @ Rams					
Last Week's Record	6-8	9-5	9-5	8-6	11-3
Overall Record	55-39	54-40	65-29	52-42	60-34

**SMC OWNER plays NFL Pick'Ems**

**Steve Corder, owner of SMC Outdoor Services is this weeks guest.**

Steve, retired Army National Guard was in the military for 24 years. Currently he is a part of Sparta VFW Post 2112 Honor Guard, on the firing squad for military funerals. When you see him out and about, thank him for his service. Steve also is a Bingo caller by trade, he calls Bingo on Wednesday nights at the Zone.

Corder does all kinds of yard services from mowing grass, trimming, edging, fall cleanup of leaves, & snow plowing in the Winter. Right now is the best time to get your Fall leaves cleaned up, give Steve a call and he will even take the leaves with him.

Corder, a Packers fan, picked the Pack to win this week over the Washington Football Team and also he picked the rest of the NFC North teams to lose. We will see how his picks turn out.

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# WESTBY D3 SECTIONAL

## CROSS COUNTRY SPECIAL

### MEET INFO

Westby High School  
(Westby)  
Boys run at 12:15 p.m.  
Girls run at 1:00 p.m.

### WHAT TO KNOW

There are a half dozen conference championship teams participating in Saturday's sectional at Westby. The Scenic Bluffs champs, Bangor (boys) and Brookwood (girls) will need to produce on the 5 kilometer course if either hope to contend for one of two state bids in their respective gender's races. The Dairyland Conference boys individual champion, Wesley Pronschinske, will help lead his Pirates - also team champs - Saturday. The C-FC girls were the runner-up at last week's Dairyland meet, but were without one of their top runners, Reese Ehrat. Durand won the Dunn-St. Croix girls cross country title at Mondovi last week and were a state qualifier last year. The Kickapoo/La Farge boys and girls teams swept the Ridge and Valley titles last week. The boys scored 24 points and the girls 19. The Predator girls' lead runner, Annelise Egge has emerged as one of the strongest runners in



Brookwood's Margarita Silva, Amelia Muellenberg  
Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

the Coulee Region and will try to finish her career by capturing a team sectional title. The Aquinas boys will contend for a sectional title as they hope to have a chance to win a fourth-straight state title. Last year the Blugolds won the D2 title. Individually, Royall's Marah

Gruen will try to make a second-straight state appearance after finishing 14th a year ago. Brookwood's Dylan Powell and Necedah's Ethan David will make a push for an individual berth as well as Westby's Taylor Thunstedt and Eli Larrington.

### HOW THEY DID IT

#### SHOOTOUT

- Alex Andros.....goal  
New Richmond...miss
- Jordan Johnson...miss  
New Richmond...goal
- Matthew Richards...goal  
New Richmond...goal
- Caleum Scott...goal  
New Richmond...goal
- Alex Cress...miss  
New Richmond...miss
- Matthew Zanon...goal  
New Richmond...goal
- Ben Bickford...goal  
New Richmond...miss

(BRACKET)  
cont. from pg 9



Sparta's Ben Bickford scored the final, decisive goal during Tuesday's shootout at New Richmond. Bickford's goal, and the defense by goalkeeper Matthew Richards on the Tiger's final kick helped SHS upset the top-seeded team in their Division 2 regional bracket. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

## The Bracket Aftermath

By NATE BEIER  
Sports Writer

Sparta's upset win at New Richmond opens the door for a new contender to claim a WIAA Division 2 regional title. Sparta will travel to face La Crosse Central Saturday evening for a chance to win its first regional title of the decade. The Riverhawks topped Tomah 1-0 Tuesday to move on to Saturday's final.

On the other side of the sectional grouping, River Falls turned back Holmen 6-2 and Onalaska overwhelmed Menomonie 7-0. The winner of the River Falls/Onalaska game will face the winner of the Central/Sparta contest on Thursday, October 28.

### AROUND THE AREA

Mauston defeated Jefferson 4-2 in a Division 3 regional quarterfinal. La Crosse Logan defeated Black River Falls/Melrose-Mindoro 10-1. West Salem will travel to McFarland Thursday for a D3 quarterfinal. In D4, top-seeded and defending sectional champion, Arcadia, will open tournament play Thursday against Nekoosa.

Aquinas will host Amherst Thursday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. Coulee Christian will host Stevens Point Pacelli Thursday at 4 also.

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## CROSS COUNTRY SPECIAL

## Cardinals return to top of SBC after 25-year absence

By ZACH RASTALL  
Sports Writer

Bangor junior Gavin Benzing was at his best at this year's conference meet, taking home an individual conference title as part of the Bangor boys' first-place effort.

Benzing posted a time of 17 minutes, 6 seconds to leave the competition in the dust and win the boys' 5,000-meter race at the 2021 Scenic Bluffs Cross Country Conference Meet Saturday, October 16 in New Lisbon.

The Bangor boys would sprint away with the team conference title as well, accruing 43 points that left them well ahead of second-place Brookwood and their 69 points. Cashton was just barely behind in third with 70 points, Hillsboro was fourth with 97 and Necedah came in fifth at 101.

The triumph would be the second conference title in Bangor cross country history, and the program's first since 1996.

"It means a lot to the team to end the drought and get some well-deserved recognition," said Bangor head coach Deb Craig, who has coached the Cardinals at the high school varsity level since 2012. "We've had some outstanding runners in my tenure but to put it all together was difficult. So, it's even more rewarding now after so long."

Scoring runners for the Cardinals in addition to Benzing included freshman Traevon Delaney (18:56) in sixth, sophomore Nolan Langrehr in seventh, sophomore Aryn Lochen (19:48) in 11th and freshman Cian Buchholz (20:29) in 18th. Freshman Evan Buchholz (21:32) ran as well for Bangor.

Brookwood junior Dylan Powell (17:33) followed Benzing in second in the individual standings, ahead of Hillsboro senior Jordan Erickson (17:51) in third.

Other Falcons runners were sophomore Wyatt Maurhoff (19:46) in 10th, freshman Caston Gosda (19:52) in 12th, junior Jonathan Hock (20:00) in 13th and senior Paul Shock (24:55) in 32nd.

Cashton sophomore Dylan Kaduc (18:21) led the way for the Eagles with a fifth-place showing and was joined in the scoring by freshman Luke Clements (20:09) in 14th, sophomore Colton Lee (20:10) in 15th, freshman Sean Lukaszewski (20:14) in 17th and sophomore Gabe Von Ruden (20:30) in 19th. Cashton junior Jeremiah Woolhouse (20:49) also ran in the race.

Bangor junior Gavin Benzing made history for the Cardinals last Saturday by winning the Scenic Bluffs Conference cross country race and helping BHS claim its first league title since 1996. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.



# Timely anniversary Comeback

## THROUGH MY LENS

## Rivalry Thriller The Epitome Of High School Football's Brilliance

By ZACH RASTALL  
Sports Writer

If you were looking for a captivating high school football game last Friday in Wisconsin, there weren't many places



better to be than Cashton.

Last week's showdown between the Cashton Eagles and the Bangor Cardinals had just about everything you could hope for in high school football: an intense rivalry, a conference championship changing in the balance, two programs with wildly divergent recent pasts enjoying successful seasons, immaculate autumn weather, a buzzing atmosphere and a memorable finish that will be discussed for years to come.

It was the sport at this level boiled down to its most appealing essence, and a breath of normalcy that we can no longer take for granted in the age of COVID-19.

Ultimately, both Bangor and Cashton got to play football last spring during the alternate season, and there were gratifying moments that came along with that. Both those teams performed well and met in a



The Cashton sideline was full of life during Friday's game with Bangor. Fans lined up along the entire 100-yard stretch of field to watch their hometown team take on their rivals with a chance at sealing up an outright conference title. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

thrilling game that carried important conference title implications, but it simply wasn't the same.

The novelty of football in the spring instead of the fall naturally felt bizarre, atmospheres were subdued due to limited attendance and there was no reward of postseason play at the end of the road. Even for those teams that did play in the fall of 2020, the circumstances were dramatically different and the playoffs they got still didn't crown a state champion.

The absence of normal sports obviously doesn't rank all that highly on the most important things

lost due to COVID. Yet high school sports are still a crucial component to the fabric of many communities and something that was deeply missed when it was gone entirely during the pandemic.

Friday night in Cashton was a reminder of just how special it can be.

These were two teams that came into the year with high expectations, and everyone — fans, players, coaches, journalists — had this rivalry clash in Week 9 circled on their calendars long before the season's first snaps were taken.

Each team more or less met their preseason expectations throughout the fall, only heightening the hype going into the regular-season finale. That alone was going to make the night special with an electric atmosphere from a sizable crowd. Things only got better once it became clear this game was going to meet those lofty expectations.

The first half was a brilliant display of the sort of bruising, smashmouth running football that is the bedrock foundation to so many high school offenses at this level. The second half saw two skilled

defenses buckling down and forcing timely stops and turnovers.

In the end, Bangor pulled out the win, ensuring that its conference title streak and winning streak over its archrival would live on. Cashton winning to claim the Scenic Bluffs championship outright and finally exorcise its Bangor demons would have been one hell of a story.

But the storyline of the conference's reigning powerhouse program going on the road — down a key player in Tanner Jones and their backs against the wall — and digging just deep enough to remind everyone why they've been on top of the mountain for so long was every bit as compelling.

It is, of course, unfortunate that the ending of the game was tainted by a referee's inadvertent whistle that kept Bangor's game-sealing drive alive. Though, on the other hand, what's a big-time game without a good old-fashioned officiating controversy?

From a neutral observer's perspective, it was all just about as good as it gets under the Friday night lights.

And the best part? We may soon get to do it again.

If both Bangor and Cashton win their first-round games this Friday, they'll meet for a colossal Level 2 matchup the following week. Replace the conference title implications with the pressurized nature of the postseason, sprinkle

(BEIER)

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exclusively pitted them against Division 6 and 5 talent.

Necedah is 6-3 after dropping last week's game to rival New Lisbon, but is only 4-3 in playoff-qualifying games play. Typically the playoff qualifying games weigh heavily on the bracket builders and are supposed to hold the most weight as opposed to the out-of-conference contests.

In the Dairyland Conference, Melrose-Mindoro (5-4, 5-2) gets to host Mondovi (5-4, 4-3). Those numbers seem to add up, until you look at the strength of the two leagues. The Cloverbelt, which Mondovi plays in, features the likes of Eau Claire Regis and Durand — both of which are expected to make deep playoff runs. Regis, which has been ranked number one in D6 most of the year, is now playing in Division 7 for the playoffs.

So, did the computer get it right? Time will tell.

One benefit of some of the skewed seeding is that we're going to have a few more interesting early round games.

Honestly, Cashton and Bangor are lucky as heck to end up as the second and third seed in their grouping.

I hold the football programs of the traditional Six Rivers Conference schools in high regard, as many people do. That conference has earned the right to get the benefit of the doubt as it is one of the toughest leagues to win among all small school conferences in Wisconsin.

If this year's seeding meeting was held in traditional fashion, I highly doubt a Potosi/Cassville team that's 8-1 overall (6-1 in the 6RC) would have ended up as a fifth seed, on the road, playing a team they beat earlier this year.

I would expect River Ridge to move up as well based on the strength of their wins.

In fact, we probably should be treated to a Bangor/Cashton meeting for a second-straight week. Bangor, based on its head-to-head win against the Eagles, probably would have hosted and maybe continued to keep CHS from fully realizing their destiny as as one of the better area teams.

Instead, we get the rookie season of computer seeding. There are some head-scratching placements of squads, but I'll take some of that in stride for now. Maybe we avoid the 48-6 blowouts that the first round is known for. Maybe we lose a true state semifinalist in the opening round. I guess that's what we get when we trust the robots to do things we maybe should have a say in.

(CASHTON)  
cont. from pg 9

## BROOKWOOD VOLLEYBALL

# Falcons fall in regional opener

By ZACH RASTALL  
Sports Writer

Wins were hard to come by for Brookwood during the 2021 volleyball season, but the youthful Falcon squad is hopeful they've laid the groundwork for more successful days ahead.

Further progress and improvement will now have to wait for the offseason and then 2022, as the Falcons saw their season come to a close in the first round of this year's playoffs.

No. 2 seed Hillsboro swept No. 7 seed Brookwood 25-14, 25-22, 25-20 in a WIAA Division 4 regional quarterfinal matchup between the Scenic Bluffs counterparts Tuesday, October 19 in Hillsboro.

The Tigers previously defeated the Falcons 27-25, 25-21, 25-17 in their season opener in Ontario back on September 2, followed by a 25-12, 25-18, 25-17 victory in the regular-season rematch October 9 in Hillsboro.

Following a tough first set Tuesday night, Brookwood came back strong and pushed the Tigers to their limit in the following two sets, even though the Falcons couldn't quite break through and avoid the sweep.

For Brookwood on the night, Cora Brandau notched 10 kills on a hitting percentage of .259 and 2 blocks, Vanessa Anderson recorded 6 kills with a .263 hitting percentage to go along with 9 digs, 2 aces and 2 blocks, Maggie

Muehlenkamp fired in 3 aces, Kristin Berg had 11 digs and Emily Cunitz and Kylie Powell dished out 8 assists each.

For all the struggles this season, the Falcons did enjoy a notable highlight earlier this month: taking down Necedah 16-25, 25-20, 25-23, 25-21 to snap a 28-match losing streak in Scenic Bluffs play.

"We had a lot of excitement going on that night. Momentum is a big thing in volleyball, and we had it that night. It felt good," said Brookwood head coach Dawn Waddell. "We played all of the teams in the conference to extra points except for Wonewoc. We are able to play with them, we're just working on our consistency and being able to sustain it for the whole match. We're going to get it. I know we are."

Brookwood loses libero and co-captain Kristin Berg to graduation this spring. While that is a tough loss for the team, the Falcons are set to bring everyone else back from this season's squad in 2022, where they hope the foundations have been set for further improvement.

"The best thing about this team is that they never give up," Waddell said. "They keep coming back night after night for practice. They keep coming into all these games with the belief that they can beat the team they're playing. That is the best thing about this team — their resilience and their tenacity."

Brookwood ends the season with a 1-11 mark in the Scenic Bluffs with the lone win coming against Necedah near the end of the season.

CROSS COUNTRY SPECIAL

# Brookwood girls hold off Cashton to top SBC standings

Cashton's Mateya Kaduc was one of four freshmen that finished in the top 10 of the Scenic Bluffs Conference race last week. Kaduc led Cashton with a fifth place finish. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.



The Scenic Bluffs Conference girls' race saw Royall sophomore Marah Gruen (20:10) claim the individual conference crown for the second year in a row and the Brookwood girls reigning supreme for a team Scenic Bluffs championship.

As has often been the case this season, Brookwood senior Kimberlee Downing (20:52) and junior Margarita Silva (21:03) were right next to each other on the leaderboard, placing third and fourth, respectively.

Other scoring Falcon runners included sophomore Amelia Muellenberg (23:16) in 11th, senior Lainey Teynor (23:28) in 12th and sophomore Alexis Lacy (23:55) in 13th. Junior Katie Gruen (24:01), freshman Alice Wiedmeyer (24:58) and freshman Deanna Wallace all also ran for Brookwood.

The Falcons finished atop the standings with 43 team points, narrowly edging out second-place Cashton's 48. Bangor (64) was third and Hillsboro (104) followed in fourth.

Cashton freshman Mateya Kaduc (21:25) made her conference meet debut with a fifth-place finish for the Eagles, who also had junior Chelsie Paulsen (22:32) in eighth, freshman Isabell Korn (22:33) in ninth, sophomore Kate Gronemus (22:43) in 10th and freshman Makayla Gooselaw (24:19) in 16th.

Freshman Aubrey Peterson (25:23) and sophomore Marayah Morrison (27:56) also competed in the race for Cashton.

Bangor freshman Anna Fronk posted a time of 20 minutes, 18 seconds in her first conference meet to place second overall in the girls' 5,000-meter race. Other Bangor runners were freshman Bliss Knox (22:03) in sixth, senior Molly Bachmann (24:16) in 15th, freshman Marissa Eckland (25:16) in 18th and sophomore Ella Hansen (26:25) in 23rd.

Bangor, Brookwood and Cashton runners will all next compete at the Division 3 Westby sectional Saturday, October 23 at the Westby School Grounds. The boys' race will begin at 12:15 p.m. with the girls' race to follow at 1



Brookwood's Kimberlee Downing led the Falcons with a third place finish at last weekend's conference meet. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

p.m. Team and individual qualifiers then advance to the 2021 WIAA State Boys & Girls Cross Country Championships Saturday, October 30 at Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids.

The Cardinals are hopeful for a strong showing at sectionals that will yield some representation at state the following weekend.

The boys' team is shooting for a top 4 or 5 placing at sectionals behind some tough competition in Aquinas, Westby and Kickapoo," Craig said. "Individually, Gavin Benzing should finish high in the standings with a chance to go to state depending on how the two qualifying teams shake out. On the girls' team we are looking to set personal records at sectionals. Anna Fronk has been running quite well and has a very good chance to run at state."

**SOMETHING familiar, something NEW**

CASHTON FOOTBALL

Eagle gridiron gang ready to...

# PROVE IT IN THE PLAYOFFS

By ZACH RASTALL  
Sports Writer

The Cashton football team has accomplished a whole lot during this memorable 2021 season, including their first conference championship in 23 years. Next on the agenda: ending a winless drought in the playoffs that dates back to last century.

After a strong regular season, the Eagles (7-2) earned a No. 2 seed for their region in the WIAA Division 7 playoffs. They kick things off with a Level 1 matchup against No. 7 seed De Soto (6-3) Friday, October 22 at 7 p.m.

Cashton isn't exactly a stranger to the postseason but hasn't advanced past the first round since 1999. This marks the Eagles' eighth playoff appearance since the turn of the century, but they are 0-7 and have been outscored 224-41 in their previous seven postseason trips.

Even though Cashton was the home team in three of those seven losses, things are a little different this time around. The Eagles boast a better seed than they did at any time previously during this postseason losing skid. They are heavy favorites against a De Soto program that's been a familiar foe for this time of year.

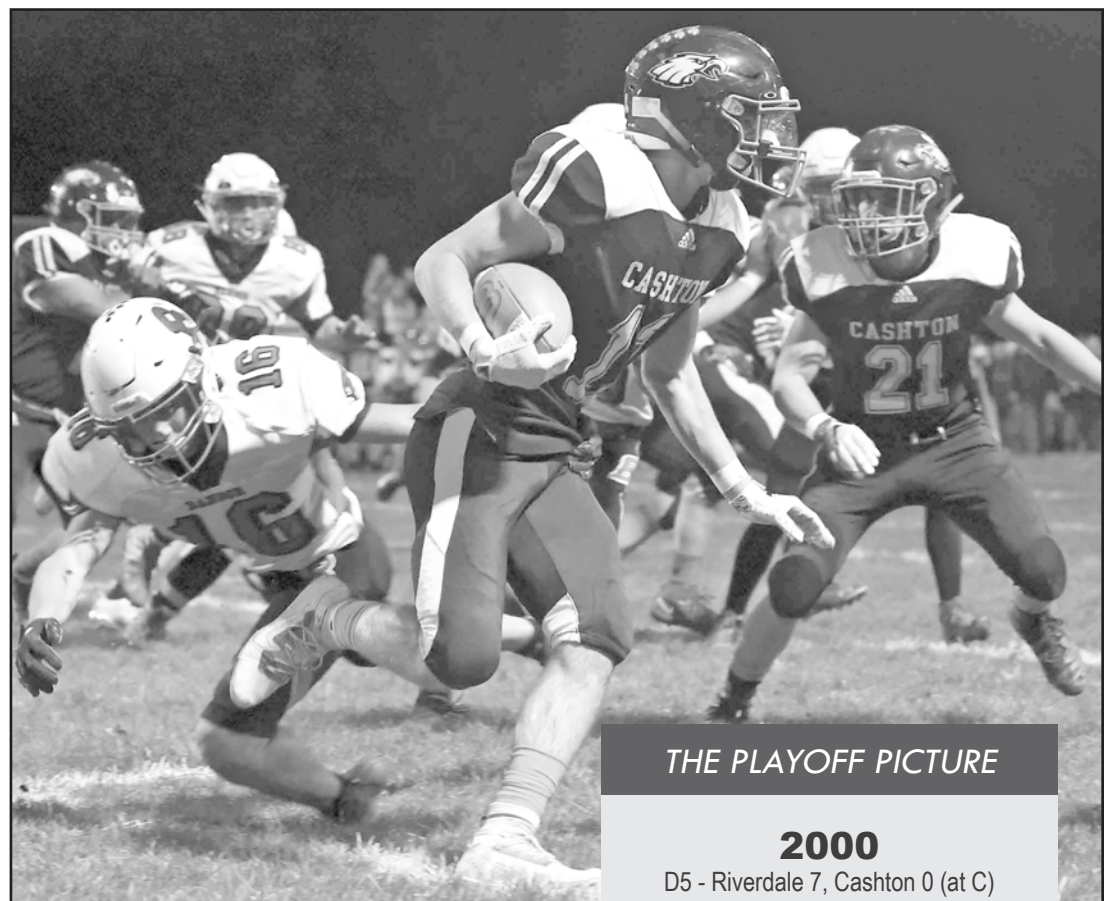
Cashton and De Soto met in the first round in back-to-back years in 2010 and 2011, with the Eagles hosting for the first meeting and the Pirates returning the favor the following season. De Soto won both matchups, defeating Cashton 24-8 in 2010 and 24-6 in 2011.

The Eagles are hopeful they have the firepower to reverse that result a decade later.

The Pirates are coming off a regular season that saw them go 6-3 overall and finish third in the Ridge & Valley standings with a 4-2 record in conference play. They faced two Scenic Bluffs opponents, falling 40-0 to New Lisbon in Week 2 and edging out Royall 12-6 to close out the regular season.

For comparison, Cashton blanked the Rockets 42-0 and rolled past the Panthers 47-8.

The two teams have a trio of common opponents from the Ridge & Valley as well. The Eagles upended Ithaca 19-14, steamrolled Hillsboro 53-8



Cashton's Brady Hemmersbach escapes a tackle attempt by Bangor's Clayton Lyga during a run in the first drive of the second half of last week's game. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

and lost 27-20 to Highland. De Soto defeated Hillsboro 38-6 and lost to both Highland and Ithaca by scores of 42-2 and 35-0, respectively.

The Pirates are led on offense by senior Aiden Brosinski, who compiled 917 yards and 9 touchdowns while averaging 6.3 yards per carry. He's also hauled in 15 catches for 216 yards and a touchdown.

On paper, Cashton is certainly the favorite to win Friday night. If the Eagles can live up to those expectations, they will finally give their fans the chance to party like it's 1999.

THE PLAYOFF PICTURE

2000

D5 - Riverdale 7, Cashton 0 (at C)

2006

D7 - Elmwood 48, Cashton 0 (at E)

2010

D7 - De Soto 24, Cashton 8 (at C)

2011

D7 - De Soto 24, Cashton 6 (at DS)

2014

D7 - New Lisbon 34, Cashton 12 (at C)

2015

D7 - Ithaca 32, Cashton 7 (at I)

2019

D7 - Black Hawk/Warren (IL) 55, Cashton 8 (at BH/W)



Bangor's Sam Horstman tries to fire up the fans as the Cardinals close in on the final whistle during last week's regular season finale in Cashton. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

(BANGOR)  
cont. from pg 9

common opponents during the regular season. Bangor topped Hillsboro 48-6 and Cashton 17-13 while falling to Onalaska Luther 20-13. The Bulldogs defeated Hillsboro 46-18 and Luther 36-18 while losing to Cashton 19-14 back in Week 1.

If that mixed bag of results is any indication, fans could be in for a highly competitive contest when these two meet on the gridiron Friday night.



Bangor's Jonah Larson trots back to the sideline. Larson is one of several junior linemen that will be key in this year's postseason run. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

years from 2008 to 2019 and Ithaca made 13 consecutive playoff trips from 2007 to 2019. Over those spans, the Cardinals went 28-10 in the postseason — winning state titles in 2015 and 2017 — and the Bulldogs owned an 8-13 record.

The lone time Ithaca made it past the second round during that run in 2015, it bumped into Bangor for a Level 3 meeting. The top-seeded Cardinals rolled past No. 2 seed Ithaca 32-8 en route to a state championship.

However, neither team was part of the postseason proceedings last fall. Bangor didn't play until the spring alternate season (where there were no playoffs) and COVID cancellations limited the Bulldogs to four games in the fall and prevented them from participating in the abbreviated playoffs.

As one might have expected, these playoff mainstays made sure their fans would be treated to postseason football yet again here in 2021.

Ithaca senior Jed Scallon hits his team out of the backfield with 995 yards and 11 touchdowns on 5.7 yards per carry. In the passing game, senior Benji Clary is completing 55.8 percent of his passes for 1,157 yards, 15 touchdowns and 4 interceptions while senior Chase Keller has reeled in 33 receptions for 791 yards and 8 touchdowns.

The two teams shared a trio of

BANGOR VOLLEYBALL

# Brigson's brigade blasts Gilmanton in D4 opener

By ZACH RASTALL  
Sports Writer

The top-seeded Bangor volleyball team has machinations of a deep postseason run. While a high-seeded team could possibly get caught looking ahead early in the playoffs, that certainly didn't appear to be the case with the Cardinals in their opening match.

No. 1 seed Bangor made quick work of No. 8 seed Gilmanton in their WIAA Division 4 regional quarterfinal matchup, sweeping the Panthers 25-10, 25-16, 25-14 Tuesday, October 19 in Bangor.

Aliyah Langrehr doled out 24 assists and fired in 3 aces. Madisyn Herman had 8 kills and Taylor Jacobson recorded 16 digs to lead the way for the

Cardinals in the straight-set victory.

It was exactly the kind of start Bangor was hoping for heading into this postseason. The Cardinals are coming off a regular season that saw them capture a share of the Scenic Bluffs championship alongside Wonewoc-Center.

A pair of losses to the Wolves and Hillsboro at a double dual during the regular season's final week prevented Bangor from capturing the conference title outright and could have put a sour damper on things as the playoffs came around, but the team responded with a sweep of New Lisbon and now the sweep of Gilmanton to get things right back on track.

"Thrilled to have made some great memories and hopefully we're going make a few more,"

said Bangor head coach Brent Brigson.

Bangor was one of five SBC schools to win in Tuesday's regional opener. Cashton, Hillsboro, Royall and Wonewoc-Center each advanced to Thursday's semifinal round.

The Cardinals, who are slotted in at No. 10 in Division 4 in the latest Wisconsin Volleyball Coaches' Association (WVCA) rankings, next host No. 4 seed Blair-Taylor in the regional semifinals Thursday, October 21 at 7 p.m. at Bangor High School.

If Bangor defeats the Wildcats, Saturday's regional finals await. The Cardinals would welcome in either No. 2 seed Alma/Pepin or No. 3 seed Elva-Strum in a regional final matchup Saturday, October 23 at 7 p.m. in Bangor.