

SPORTS EDITOR: DAVE BOEHLER

Phone: 893-6411 ext. 19
Facebook: plymouthreview
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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I used to play sports. Then I realized you can buy trophies. Now I am good at everything."
-Demetri Martin

Downs carries on the tradition

For the 16th straight season, Plymouth had a girl compete in the state cross country meet.

It was freshman Hannah Downs' turn on Saturday.

"I think it's pretty cool," she said.

Downs and her coaches drove to Wisconsin Rapids on Friday, and she had some typical issues that evening.

"It was very hard to fall

asleep because I was super nervous," Downs said.

Waking up, however, was a little better.

"I was still shocked I was going to be running the state cross country meet," she said.

And once they arrived at The Ridges Golf Course?

"There's like a stabbing feeling in my stomach and I was really nervous at that time, like more nervous than I was

PHS CROSS COUNTRY

at night," Downs said.

Downs' freshmen teammates helped her calm down, but admits she got off to kind of a



DOWNNS

slow start because she did not know what to expect.

She says she figured things out eventually, but she was tired at the end and could not finish as hard as she normally would.

Downs was still happy with her time of 20 minutes 40 seconds though.

"I thought taking 41st as a freshman in Division 2, for my first team, was pretty cool,"

Downs said.

However, there wasn't any time to celebrate her performance because Downs had to quickly return home for her Plymouth Hustle club soccer game at night.

"I didn't play as much because I haven't been practicing with the team lately because I didn't want to risk getting injured for sectionals or state," Downs said.

The thrill of victory ... and the agony of defeat



PLYMOUTH'S EQUESTRIAN TEAM, for the first time, was crowned Grand Champion last weekend in the Division B state competition in Madison and includes: (front row) Stella Neitzel; (middle, left to right) Greta Jarr, Cady Ninnemann, Lauren Wagner; (top, left to right): Hollee Kaiser, Ava Marx, Mitchell Krueger, Matthew Brix. - Submitted photo



MATT SHERIDAN (11) comforts Nate Stucke on the turf as Brody Downs looks on, and coach John Lenz hugs Kade Novak after Plymouth's sectional semifinal loss. - Photos by Sara Baltus



PLYMOUTH'S FOOTBALL season came to an end Friday, and Oliver Sheets (62), Ian Struve (23), Mason Meyer (35) and Kellan Mella (7) sing the fight song afterward. - Photo by Tyler Luedtke

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Pewaukee ignores seed, beats PHS

Blame the computer. Or the coin toss. Or maybe Pewaukee was just better.

Whatever the reason, Plymouth's football season came to an end Friday after a 34-0 loss to the Pirates in a Division 3 second-round playoff game.

"We went as hard as we could," Mason Cantwell said. "We might have lost, but this team is very special. It wasn't what we were expecting, but there was nothing else we could've done."

Technology might have been able to.

For the first time, the WIAA used computers to seed the playoffs and Pewaukee was fifth despite losing just two games, including one to the top-ranked team in the state in Division 4 (Waukesha Catholic Memorial). What was not taken into account, however, was the fact the Pirates dealt with COVID-19 issues earlier this season that forced them to practice with about half of the team.

So if the coaches were still voting to seed the teams ...

"You go, 'holy cow, this team's pretty darn good,'" coach Dan Knaus said. "They're probably the three seed or the two seed."



ABOVE: Aaron Veldmann tries to make a tackle in Plymouth's playoff loss to Pewaukee on Friday.

RIGHT: Daviante Funches rushed the quarterback in the Panthers' final game of the season.

PHS finishes with a 10-1 record on the year.

- Photos by Tyler Luedtke



PLYMOUTH FOOTBALL

After eliminating fourth-seeded Grafton, Pewaukee turned their attention to the No. 1 Panthers.

"We just kind of were slept on at the five seed," Pirates' quarterback Carson Hensen said. "We thought that was pretty disrespectful, so we came in and tried to send a message."

And that message began with the coin toss, which Pewaukee also won. As a result, Plymouth was forced to punt twice into the wind in the first quarter. Pewaukee capitalized with good field position that led to a 14-0 lead after the opening frame.

"That got us off to a rough start, which it kind of snowballed the rest of the night," Knaus said.

However, the margin was still only 14 when Andru Miller came up with the play of the game for the Panthers.

Pewaukee faced a 4th-down-and-1 and called for a quarterback sneak. Hansen appeared short of the first down and was tangled up at the line of scrimmage. Somehow, he broke free and was headed toward the end zone when Andru Miller

came from behind to punch the ball out.

"I wanted to make a play so we could get back in the game and luckily I just got my hand on the ball," he said. "I'm glad that Marco (Troka) got on top of it so we could get possession of that."

"At that point, I was thinking my teammates can do this," Miller said.

So did the coaching staff. But Plymouth was able to gain just six yards and had to punt again.

"We all talked about it," Knaus said. "That was our opportunity to turn the momentum in our favor, sustain a drive there and get a score. Now it's a whole new ballgame. But we didn't get a first down. We didn't get a first down until a fake punt in the third quarter. It's pretty hard to gain momentum when you can't get a first down."

Plymouth was held to a total of only 105 yards and threw four interceptions in Cantwell's last high school game.

"The people here are special," he said. "This team was great. It was an honor to play for them, and they're the most special people on the planet."

Bummer of a loss for Panthers

Plymouth soccer coach John Lenz says he has not gone into a sectional game as confident as he was for another battle with Green Bay Notre Dame on Oct. 28, but ...

"I've definitely never walked out of a sectional game feeling as bummed out," he said. "When we played Notre Dame in sectionals (in 2019), I knew that it was possible to beat that team. But I came into that game knowing we'd have a lot of work cut out for us. Then when we played Roncalli last year, I kind of felt the same."

"This year I felt very confident about our ability – I still do. That's why this game was especially heartbreaking and I know that our boys were capable."

The No. 2-ranked Tritons beat No. 7 Plymouth, 1-0, in the Division 3 semifinals to end the Panthers' season with a 17-2 record.

Notre Dame won its next

PLYMOUTH SOCCER

game to advance to state with a 19-3-3 mark.

"I'm proud of the guys," Lenz said.

"We fought until the very end. ... Kudos to the boys, they worked crazy hard. And kudos to Notre Dame. They were a tremendous team and I think they have what it takes to make it all the way."

Plymouth had allowed just three goals in winning its previous 12 games, but Emmett Lawton scored in the 26th minute after the Tritons dropped the ball back to their center-back defender.

"He basically kicked the ball, kind of skipped the mid-field, an over-the-top ball that kind of went over our outside back's head and rolled into space," Lenz said. "Their wing just ran onto it for a one-on-one with the goalkeeper. It kind of

caught us off-guard a little bit."

Omar Cendejas-Maldonado finished with four saves, denying Plymouth to get on the scoreboard despite several outstanding chances. Ryan Laut-

enschlaeger's shot looked so good, two teammates already put their arms in the air only to watch the ball barely nick the cross bar.

Nate Stucke also had a de-

cent shot to go with two headers.

"Up until the exact moment that you realize they just missed, we'd prepared for them to go in," Lenz said.



RYAN LAUTENSCHLAEGER kicks the ball away against Notre Dame. - Photo by Sara Baltus

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Seymour answers worth a listen

Plymouth's Adelynn Seymour has some sound advice for cell phone users, and there is even one thing she doesn't like about them.

The senior, about to finish her third season on the varsity swim team and wants to major in biology and pre-med in the fall, takes a turn at answering 20 questions.

Q: What's the one thing – if any – you don't like about cell phones?

A: When people get too caught up in their phones to realize the beauty of what's going on around them, and that my parents can track me.

Q: Besides a phone, what three things would you want if you're stranded on an island?

A: Speakers (I'm obsessed with music), pillow (I'm a picky sleeper), and a hammock (I could swing on it for fun).

Q: What were you for Halloween?

A: A bodybuilder because I love weightlifting and thought it would be a funny unique idea.

Q: Which classmate had the best costume?

A: My friend Taylor went as Pitbull. It was so creative and made everyone laugh.

Q: What is a hidden talent that you have?

A: I fall down almost every bleacher I walk up.

Q: What is the best restaurant in the area?

A: I love Off The Rail in Elkhart Lake because the energy in the restaurant is amazing and everyone is so fun to be around.

Q: You can have dinner there with any three people. Who are they?

A: The Queen of England, Gordon Ramsay because he would make really good food, and Adele.

Q: What haven't you done in high school that you want to before graduation?

A: Senior Prank or Senior Skip Day because I feel like it's such a once-in-a-lifetime memory that I will never forget.

Q: What is your biggest pet peeve?

A: When people chew with their mouth open.

Q: What celebrity do you have a crush on?

A: Tom Ellis or Stephen Amell.

Q: What is the most trouble you've ever gotten into as a child?

A: When I ran away at Disney World because I was mad at my dad; it took me a month to



ADELYNN SEYMOUR has spent three seasons on Plymouth's varsity swim team. - By Sylvia Rose Photography

20 QUESTIONS

recover from that.

Q: What's the funniest thing that has happened at one of your jobs?

A: I dropped a bowl of grapes on my very first day on the job as a busser.

Q: How would you describe your bedroom?

A: Organized, calm, and cold.

Q: What was the most embarrassing moment for you in any sport?

A: When I was in track, like the whole season. I was always the slowest and all the way in the back.

Q: What is your least-favorite school subject?

A: History. You have to memorize everything.

Q: If you could be anything or do anything for a living, what would it be?

A: I would love to be an entrepreneur because I would get to be my own boss and I would never have to get up early.

Q: What scares you the most?

A: People forgetting me or remembering me in a negative way – and snakes.

Q: Favorite movie?

A: I love all the Harry Potters.

Q: What is the one TV show you always have to watch?

A: I'm loving 'You' on Net-

flix because it's so interesting and there's so much depth to it.

Q: What is the song you enjoy the most but are afraid to admit?

A: Hello by Adele. Everyone says that it's annoying but it's just so fun to scream at the top of your lungs.

Fourth-place showing for PHS

PLYMOUTH SWIMMING

Plymouth's swim team finished tied for fourth in the Eastern Wisconsin Conference championship meet, and was led by Adelynn Seymour.

The Panthers, who finished 17 points out of second place in the meet won by Kohler/Lutheran/Falls, watched the senior record two personal-best times at Kiel on Saturday.

She finished as runner-up in the 100-yard freestyle in 1 minute 17 seconds after placed seventh a year ago.

"I was hoping to have a good, clean race, and was not necessarily looking for a certain time or place," Seymour said. "I wanted to just feel good about my progression. ... I felt really proud to be able to represent Plymouth in a positive way. I'm proud of myself for seeing the time drop. I felt satisfied because my race was good. I had a good mindset throughout, which was awesome."

Seymour ended up fifth in the 200 in 2:13.97 after swimming the 50 last year (sixth place).

"That's not my race, so I didn't really have big hopes for that one," she said. "I ended with a three-second PR, which is fantastic. I just wanted to get out of the water after that race feeling I made improvements and stayed strong during the race."

Seymour was on the 200 free relay that placed third (1:51.48) as well, and was joined by senior Connelly Jarr, senior Kernan Jarr and sophomore Cadence Seymour.

Those same four also fin-

ished the 400 free relay in fourth (4:11.31).

In diving, senior Ella Josephs finished first among four girls with a point total of 376.25. Freshman Lauren Cantwell came in fourth (244.60).

Cadence Seymour was fifth in the 100 (1:02.14) and seventh in the 200 (2:18.70).

Senior Kimberly Fisher was also fifth in the 100 backstroke (1:15.72).

The 200 medley relay – Fisher, Connelly Jarr, junior Kaelei Olig and junior Kaitlyn Levens – turned in a sixth-place time (2:12.55).

Olig tallied a seventh-place showing in the 100 butterfly (1:20.14) to go with a 10th-place result in the 500 (7:18.02).

Kernan Jarr's seventh-place finish came in the 100 (1:03.59) and she was ninth in the 50 (28.60).

Seventh also went to Connelly Jarr in the 50 (28.41) and Fisher in the 200 individual medley (2:58.83).

Ninth-place endings were turned in by junior Natalie Johnson in the 500 free (6:57.97) and by Levens in the 100 fly (1:26.77). Levens was also 12th in the 50 (29.78).

Junior Breanna Flores came in 10th in the 100 breaststroke (1:31.59) and was 17th in the 50 (31.81).

"We swam well as a team and I am very proud of our girls," coach Dave Coley said.

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HOWARDS GROVE

Ranked No. 1 in state, but not at state

■ **Tigers seeded second in tourney despite being first in coaches' poll**



HOWARDS GROVE won its third straight sectional championship Saturday in Williams Bay. - Photo by Dave Boehler

If Howards Grove's volleyball team becomes the first at the school to win three straight state championships in any sport, it's going to have to do it as a No. 2 seed – despite being ranked No. 1 in the state coaches' poll all year.

Second-ranked Lake Country Lutheran received the top seed in the Division 3 tournament, which begins Friday in Green Bay, thanks to its victory over the Tigers earlier this year. "The voting basically went off one match versus the entire year," coach Brett Damrow said. "We lost to Lake Country Lutheran by two points at their site and people thought that was more important. ... It just comes down to that."

Two-time defending state champion Howards Grove is also ranked higher than the

Thunder in another poll that lumps all teams together regardless of division.

The two teams have six common opponents this year, and the Tigers are 12-3 in those sets with a 76-point margin. Lutheran is 5-7 and was outscored by four points.

The voting actually ended in a tie, but the Thunder ended up No. 1 after more discussion.

"Seeding is just defined how the tournament starts, it doesn't show how it's going to finish," Damrow said.

Howards Grove takes on third-seeded Oconto and Lutheran battles fourth-seeded Unity in semifinal action at 11:30 a.m. Friday. The winners meet at 11:30 a.m. Saturday.

"I've watched film on all of



these teams," Damrow said. "This is a very deep tournament and an even playing field. It's going to be an exciting tournament. We're going to be prepared. We have a lot of information. We have a lot of data. That's one thing I can tell you 100% is we're going to be prepared."

"We'll see what happens, win or lose. But if we get beat, it's not going to be because we were not prepared."

DON'T GET LOST

Last year, state was held at Wausau West because the WIAA held the four divisions in a separate location because of the pandemic.

This year, the tournament has returned to the Resch Center, located just outside of Lambeau Field.

"It's phenomenal," Damrow said. "It's probably understating. It's just a different environment. ... It's awesome. These athletes work so hard, not just during the season, but in the summer and all the other stuff for moments like this."

"Now they're going to play in front of 3,000 fans. It's a fun experience and to be back at the Resch Center, it's priceless. It really is."

LOWDOWN

Division 3 Schedule Semifinals

11:30 a.m. Friday

2 Howards Grove vs. 3

Oconto

1 Lake Country Lutheran vs.

4 Unity

Final

11:30 a.m. Saturday

Tigers/Blue Devils winner

vs. Thunder/Eagles winner

Howards Grove Tigers

Record: 37-5

Winning streak: 10

Final state rank: 1

State tournaments: 6th

Last appearance: 2020

State titles: 4 (2020, '19, '16,

'76)

Seniors: 4

Kill percentage: .292

Kills per set: 12.7

Assists per set: 12.2

Oconto Blue Devils

Record: 32-2

Winning streak: 15

Final state rank: 4

State tournaments: 3rd

Last appearance: 2012

State titles: 0

Seniors: 8

Kill percentage: .308

Kills per set: 11.4

Assists per set: 9.8

Lutheran Thunder

Record: 32-7

Winning streak: 14

Final state rank: 2

State tournaments: 4th

Last appearance: 2018

State titles: 2 (2018, '17)

Seniors: 4

Kill percentage: .268

Kills per set: 11.4

Assists per set: 10.1

Unity Eagles

Record: 32-1

Winning streak: 28

Final state rank: 5

State tournaments: 1st

Seniors: 4

Kill percentage: .309

Kills per set: 15.0

Tigers make it look too easy

As expected, Howards Grove had little trouble qualifying for another state volleyball tournament. The Tigers defeated Kenosha Christian Life, 3-0, in a sectional final in Williams Bay on Saturday.

Howards Grove was seeded first in its playoff bracket and Christian Life was fifth.

The Tigers won, 25-17, 25-13, 25-12, but did not take their opponent lightly.

"I think you have to treat every game the same," Jacqueline Yancy said.

"Every team is going to come at you with the same energy; it's the sectional final."

In Game 1, Howards Grove's lead was just 14-12 when it scored the next six points and cruised from there.

"I think we were just really nervous," Mallory Gozdziwski said. "But once we got our energy down and nerves down, we just came together and really played well."

The Tigers jumped out to an

8-2 lead in Game 2 and used an 11-4 run for a 19-6 advantage.

In Game 3, Howards Grove scored 18 of the first 20 points.

After receiving their sectional championship plaque and posing for numerous pictures, the Tigers hopped on their bus for the drive home that took almost twice as long as the match against Christian Life.

At least on their way to the game, the girls got to stop for Jimmy John's and enjoy the scenery in Lake Geneva.

"We made it a fun drive," Myka Roethel said. "We watched Racing Stripes and our old state games. Listened to music. Got pumped up. We made it fun. It was all worth it."

For the junior Yancy, this is her third trip to the tourney in as many years.

"It's really crazy," she said. "My teammates are always pushing me and I'm just constantly learning more. And it's really such a blessing to have the opportunity to go this far

every year."

For the sophomore Gozdziwski, she will make her state debut after playing on the junior varsity last year.

"I really love the energy and the culture this team has, so it's really a good experience to actually be a part of it," she said. "And it's really fun to be around all the good people on are team."

ANOTHER MILESTONE

Saige Damrow recently surpassed 1,000 digs in high school.

"Pretty cool that she achieved it as a junior after a short COVID season and as an outside attacker, not libero, her coach/father said. "She is only digging half the time."

SAIGE DAMROW (right) stands with teammate Josie Larson after getting 1,000 digs. - Submitted photo



TIGERS' FANS McKenna Kuhfuss (left) and Meghan Zielinski show their school spirit. - Photo by Dave Boehler



ELKHART LAKE-GLEN.

O'Neil, Bunke are honored twice

Six Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah football players made all-conference, including two who were honored on offense and defense.

Junior Kean O'Neil landed on the All-Southern second team as a defensive back thanks to four interceptions (including a 102-yard touchdown), and he also received honorable mention as a wide receiver.

"He's good at reading the quarterback," coach Josh Bardon said. "He had two interceptions with his help defense – when it was thrown to a different receiver – and he came over. He's aware of his surroundings."

The Resorters' other second-team selection was senior quarterback Brady Hassinger, who got honorable mention a year ago.

The third-year starter completed 70 passes for 874 yards with 10 touchdowns, and had a team-high 452 yards rushing with seven TDs as well.

"He's just a do-it-all kind of a guy," Bardon said. "He can run the ball and has good vision on the field. ..."

"He's just a guy who gets yards. He can run it inside, outside, and is a good, accurate passer."

ALL-CONFERENCE FOOTBALL

Second team

| | | |
|-----------------|----|----|
| Brady Hassinger | Sr | QB |
| Kean O'Neil | Jr | DB |

Honorable mention

| | | |
|--------------------|----|--------|
| O'Neil | | WR |
| Thomas Michaels Jr | | OL |
| Jack Bunke | Sr | OL, DL |
| Forrest Figueroa | So | DL |
| Kyle Jens | Sr | DB |

Senior Jack Bunke is the other two-way all-league player, as he earned honorable mention as an offensive and defensive lineman. He made first team last year on the defense.

Others who got honorable mention are senior defensive back Kyle Jens (first team last year), junior offensive lineman Thomas Michaels and sophomore defensive lineman Forrest Figueroa.

RECAP

Season record: 2-5

ELG won its first two games but then lost the next five. Only four seniors will have to be replaced, but the quarterback is one of them.

"It was a good group of kids," Bardon said. "They all worked hard. I never had to question their effort, and as a coach that's all you can ask for."



ABOVE: Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah defensive linemen Forrest Figueroa (20) and Jack Bunke (32) made All-Southern Conference honorable mention.

LEFT: Kyle Jens was also selected to the league's honorable mention squad for his defense.

- Photos by Les Tension

Four Resorters get all-conference in soccer

■ Kesler finishes runner-up in player of year voting

Four New Holstein/Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah soccer players made all-conference, and they are all Resorters.

Three made first-team all-Packerland-Eastern Conference, including senior Levi Kesler, who finish second in player of the year voting. The goalkeeper appeared in 15 games and averaged 15.3 saves per outing.

Even after a loss to Green Bay Notre Dame in the playoffs, the Tritons' public address announcer told the crowd to give a special round of applause for Kesler's outstanding performance.

"On numerous occasions, the goals he saves aren't just pick up the ball because there was a shot at the goal," coach John Moore said. "He's making highlight saves all season long. He did just that (against Notre Dame). Probably in the four years I've coached Levi at the high school level, it was the fifth or sixth time an official, coach or spectator cites him after the game."

NH/ELG's two other first-team selections are seniors Hayden Schultz and Jonathan

ALL-CONFERENCE SOCCER

First team

| | | |
|--------------------|----|----|
| Hayden Schultz | Sr | MF |
| Jonathan Kalbacken | Sr | D |
| Levi Kesler | Sr | GK |

Honorable mention

| | | |
|-------------|----|---|
| Yuki Sesoko | Sr | D |
|-------------|----|---|

Kalbacken.

Schultz, a midfielder, also made the first team last season after earning second-team status his first two years. This season, he led his team with eight goals to go with five assists.

"He's a guy, who simply put, slows the game down for us," Moore said. "He sees the field well and played every minute of every contest this year."

Kalbacken, a defender who also earned first-team honors a year ago, totaled three goals and four assists. He had to play midfielder and even up top as a striker at times, but returned to the defense toward the end of the season.

"The last two years, if he has been marking up somebody on defense, he's never been scored on," his coach said. "He's a phenomenal defensive player."

Receiving honorable men-

tion was senior defender Yuki Sesoko, who started playing in seventh grade despite not knowing anything about the sport.

"I've been his coach since and he showed continued improvement year after year," Moore said.

"He's not a scorer, he's not an offensive threat, but he's a guy that makes runs out of the defense position. He's been one of our top defenders for many years now."

RECAP

Season record: 4-14-2

The co-op squad, 3-5-1 in conference play, had low numbers this season and had to play with as few as 10 boys in a game. Still, seven of their losses were by two goals or fewer.

"It wasn't until we hit basically the last week of the season before regionals where he had an actual full roster," Moore said. "I believe if we would've had better numbers the entire season, our record could have been better."

Nine seniors will have to be replaced, however, including the four who made all-conference.



YUKI SESOKO (21) is one of four Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah soccer players to get all-conference. - Photo by Les Tension

Those were the days: Mueller was dominant

Plymouth senior Nick Mueller, the heart and soul of the Eastern Wisconsin Conference champion Plymouth football team, was voted by the league coaches as the Offensive and Defensive Player of the Year in 1996.



MUELLER

He is the first to earn EWC player-of-the-year honors on offense and defense since Plymouth's Chris Hein in 1989.

It's the second straight season

Mueller has been named the top defensive player in the EWC.

Mueller, a 6-foot-2, 229-pounder, is a unanimous choice on the All EWC first-team offense and defense at tailback and linebacker, respectively. He was also a first-team running back and linebacker as a junior.

Mueller led the league in rushing with 1,178 yards and scoring with 102 points on an EWC-high 17 touchdowns (16 by rushing).

He averaged a whopping 11.1 yards per carry. On defense, he recorded 11 solo tackles, 43 assists and six stops behind the line of scrimmage during league

play.

"Nick had an outstanding year (running the ball) and that relates to the development of the offensive line," said Panther Head Coach Pat Brunet. "Nick was the leader on defense - physically, emotionally and mentally.

"He was just as tough on defense as offense. He recognized a lot of things and his experience helped the defense. He was the offensive and defense player of the year... what else can you say about him."

PHS, which won its third straight EWC title with a 6-0 record each season, led the league in first-team picks with nine.

EVANS IS GOOD, TOO

Plymouth senior Katie Evans, a dominant force at the net all season, has been named the Eastern Wisconsin Conference's Player of the Year in volleyball.

Evans and senior Beth Gregor are the Panthers' representatives on the 1996 All-EWC first team.

"Katie is very deserving of player of the year," said Panther coach Diane Roznik, whose

team finished second in the EWC.

"Katie has dominated the conference in blocking for three years. She scored 10 or more points in seven conference matches for us."

Evans enjoyed an impressive league season as she set a record for block kills with 54, was second in scoring with 120 points and second in kills at 58.

SO IS STOLTENBERG

Plymouth senior defender Tim Stoltenberg has earned all-Eastern Lakeshore soccer conference boys first-team honors after he moved up from the second team a year ago.



EVANS

| | | | | |
|---|------------------------|--|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | <p>QUESTION</p> | <p>WEEKLY POLL</p> | <p>ANSWER</p> | |
| <p>Who do you want to win the World Series?</p> | | <p>To see next question and vote, visit plymouth-review.com</p> | | <p>Atlanta: 79% Houston: 21%</p> |

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Hello friends,

Last fall, Michelle Chiaro, who is an ICU nurse and a mother of four, took part in her first bear hunt.

This spring, I was sitting with Michelle when she harvested her first turkey, which was a dandy and is currently at the taxidermist where she is having a full body mount done on it.

This summer, Warren Bartels, who reads this column in The Price County Review, gave Michelle a Horton "Summit 150" crossbow.

Michelle has been practicing with her bow ever since and this fall she began bow hunting for whitetail deer. To date, we have sat in the woods 16 times together and that is what this week's column is about.

In reality this story began with Michelle running bear baits with me for three summers before she got a tag and deciding that she liked bear hunting - or should I say hunting all together.

Eighteen months ago, I was given permission to put a food plot on my neighbors' land behind my house and began the huge job of clearing land with a chainsaw and a rototiller. I put trail cameras on the plot and there were some big bucks working it with regularity, and lots of doe.

Last fall, I could not get an antlerless tag for the zone my plot is in and there was one buck that was a pure sumo, working the plot all summer that I hoped to put an arrow in.

Here is another interesting fact: I go on some really cool bow hunting trips; if I fill my tag in my plot on Sept. 20th, those trips do not happen.

So as crazy as this sounds, the two years that I have had my food plot, I have been a spectator.

So, on opening weekend of bow hunting, Michelle took off work and we sat in a ground blind on the food plot and I had even planted European wheat in the spring to hide the blind. She had a doe tag as well as her buck tag and long story short, after six hunts in a row morning/night, we decided that we like sitting in a tree over on the ground.

On almost every hunt, we saw deer and what was very interesting was that for the most part, the deer that we saw could care less about the food plot as they were eating acorns. Michelle and I had our stands placed about 60 yards apart and to be perfectly honest, hers was the one that was going to get the action.

Our morning and evening

hunts always started out in the dark or ended in the dark. For me, it was like watching a movie as we generally had one or two deer experiences a hunt, and I could have easily taken a six-pointer on one of the hunts, but had plans and wanted Michelle to have the action.

I mentioned earlier that we started hunting in portable tree stands. I always make sure Michelle makes it up the tree and then I climb part way up, hand her crossbow to her, and then climb down and go to my tree. When our hunt is over, I climb back up her tree and get her bow.

What I am getting at is that it is pretty cool to watch a gal that is pushing 50 go 16 feet up climbing sticks, make the maneuver on to a stand and do it effort-

lessly. I have helped introduce a couple of dozen people to hunting from a tree and my No. 1 teaching rule is both hands and both feet count; if something goes wrong, you still have three to count on.

So last Tuesday night I am watching the movie, which is Michelle bow hunting and the forest in general. A large doe was as usual feeding on acorns, but this time it was heading

Michelle's way.

I mentioned earlier she practices a lot with Warrens bow and she can hit both shooting free hand and from a rest in a tree stand. When the doe was about 20 yards away, Michelle let a bolt fly and that is how she was introduced to and got her first deer which was a very large adult doe.

It is very cool to meet someone, whether they are 10 or 49, that wants to hunt but does not have a clue how to hunt, and teach them how to hunt.

Next is my turn; I am headed to the Chippewa River near Durand, where I will travel by canoe, sleep in a tent, and spend my days in a tree. No cares on the size of the rack, just want to make some meat and a memory.

Live like there is no tomorrow!

Sunset



Michelle Chiaro

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893-8406
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