

Volleyball

Showdown in Sun Prairie

Bob, McIntosh sisters come up with timely kills in key Verona victory

JACK MILLER
Wisconsin Media Group

While Verona head coach Jillian Bauer understands all conference games are made equal, the Wildcats' matchup with Sun Prairie has determined the winner of the Big Eight Conference the last two seasons.

The Verona volleyball team picked up a win in this year's Big Eight bout against the Cardinals, 25-20, 25-11, 21-25, 25-21, on Tuesday, Sept. 14, at Sun Prairie High School.

Verona won the Big Eight's last conference title in 2019, while Sun Prairie won the conference championship the year prior in 2018. Sun Prairie finished as runner-ups in 2019 with its lone loss coming to Verona. The year prior, it was the Wildcats placing second with their only loss to the Cardinals.

"I want these girls to establish what that Verona volleyball mindset is and what we're determined to bring no matter who is on that side of the court," Bauer said. "So whether it's Sun Prairie or a team that's still growing as a program, I think it's good that we treat everybody the same. They took care of business."

There's still a long road ahead for Verona's Big Eight title hopes as Tuesday's win moves the Wildcats to 2-0 in conference play. But beating Sun Prairie on the road, certainly is a good start.

"The Sun Prairie matchup is always super competitive," said senior Delaney McIntosh, who tallied 24 digs to go along with three aces. "I would say they are one of the best in the conference. This is a learning opportunity for our team, we get better playing good teams. We were at Sun Prairie, there were a lot of people, it was loud in the gym. I think we held our poise and stature there."

Verona (15-3, 2-0 Big Eight) won the



Photo by Jack Miller

Verona's Lexi StremLOW celebrates the Wildcats 3-1 Big Eight win over the Cardinals Tuesday, Sept. 14, at Sun Prairie High School.

first two sets, but Sun Prairie (6-12, 1-1) responded with a third-set victory. The Wildcats won a nip-and-tuck fourth to claim the match.

"I think we had kids set up at big times," Bauer said. "Our middles weren't really clicking the entire time and they worked through that adversity to find a way to

make it work at the end when it really mattered."

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Football

Richardson joins 200 career win club

Fink scores five touchdowns to lead Verona to a rout over Beloit Memorial

MARK NESBITT
Sports editor

Verona football coach Dave Richardson reached the 200 career win milestone after the Wildcats rolled to a 49-21 win over Beloit Memorial on Friday, Sept. 17, at Verona Area High School.

"It's humbling," Richardson said. "It's pretty special. You don't think about that and someone brought it up before the season that I was four wins away."

Richardson becomes the 58th coach in Wisconsin to reach the 200 career win club. In his 29 years coaching at Verona, Richardson guided the Wildcats to a state quarterfinal berth in



Photo by Ed Fink

Verona football coach Dave Richardson, who is in his 29th year coaching, picked up his 200th career win after the Wildcats beat Beloit Memorial 49-21 on Friday, Sept. 17.

the WIAA playoffs in 2002 and the Division 2 state title game in 2008 when the Wildcats lost to Kimberly 28-14.

He's only the second Big Eight Conference coach to reach the career wins milestone, joining former Sun Prairie coach Mike Hahn, who won 214 games from

1972-2002 with the Cardinals.

"I thought there would have been a lot more," Richardson said. "I'm humbled and honored. I was just wondering how I got in there with guys who were role models for me. To be one of the only Big Eight coaches to do this is

surreal."

With the win, Verona improves to 4-1, 2-1 Big Eight, one game behind Sun Prairie and Middleton in the conference.

Verona senior quarterback Mason Fink scored five touchdowns to power the Wildcats to a hot start in the Big Eight Conference game with the Purple Knights. Fink completed 9 of 12 passes for 212 yards and four touchdowns. He opened up the scoring with a 1-yard TD run in the first quarter. Fink then tossed a 4-yard TD pass to Wesley Briquet to give the Wildcats a 14-0 lead late in the first.

Richardson said Beloit Memorial stacked eight players in the box to stop the Wildcats' running game.

"We took what they gave us and we are capable of passing the ball," he said.

Fink tossed three touchdowns in the second

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Boys soccer

No. 5 Verona stifles No. 2 Sun Prairie

Wildcats score three goals in second half

MARK NESBITT
Sports editor

In a showdown between two of the state's top two teams, Verona rolled to a 4-0 win over Sun Prairie in a Big Eight Conference game on Tuesday, Sept. 14, at the Verona Area Soccer Stadium.

Verona, ranked fifth in the Division 1 Wisconsin State Soccer Coaches Association state poll, scored three goals in the second half to knock off fourth-ranked Sun Prairie.

"It was our most complete game of the season," Verona coach Dave Perkins said. "I think we are trending upwards. We are not a complete product yet. We have a long ways to go."

Verona (5-1-1, 1-0-1 Big Eight) jumped out to an

early lead when sophomore Connor Gage scored on an assist by senior Conor Bruce in the 34th minute.

Perkins said the Wildcats made some adjustments at the half by changing the angle and spots of their runs into the box and by attacking the outside more.

Bruce had a corner kick that the Cardinals headed into the goal to give the Wildcats a 2-0 lead in the 61st minute. It was the start of Verona's three-goal spurt in a six-minute span.

"We like to use Conor on corner kicks from the right side because he's left-footed and can really whip the ball in," Perkins said.

Senior Max Lynch scored a goal on junior Alex Klimm's cross through the box in the 64th minute.

Three minutes later, Verona's Brian Vasquez was taken down in the box. Senior Noah Hook scored on a penalty kick to cap the scoring for the Wildcats.

Boys cross country



Photo by Mark Nesbitt

Verona's Ben Schaaf finished 31st in the junior-senior race in the Big Eight Grade Level Challenge on Tuesday, Sept. 14, at Stewart's Woods in Verona.

Crabb leads Verona to sixth in Big Eight Challenge

Oleson battling sprained ankle

MARK NESBITT
Sports editor

Just three days removed from the Madison West Invitational, Verona boys cross country coach Randy Marks rested the Wildcats' top eight runners in the Big Eight Conference Grade Level Challenge on Tuesday, Sept. 14, at Stewart's Woods in Verona.

"Most of the smart teams don't go after that meet and rest their top eight runners," Marks said. "It's more for the freshmen, sophomores and JV."

Verona also has a couple runners dealing with injuries. Junior Blake Oleson has a sprained ankle and sophomore Kaden Ratze has a groin injury and hasn't run since the season opener.

Marks said he wants Oleson to get an X-ray and MRI on his ankle and foot. Oleson finished 20th at the alternate fall state meet last

spring.

"It may be a broken foot," he said. "We want to be healthy for the conference and sectional at the end of the season."

Verona finished sixth in the Big Eight Grade Level Challenge with 105 points. Madison La Follette won the team title 20-22 over Madison Memorial. Verona sophomore Emerson Crabb took ninth in the freshman-sophomore race with a time of 19 minutes, 5.8 seconds. Sophomore Josh Slager finished 11th (19:12.6) and sophomore Cole Bremmer placed 24th (19:49.3) in the same race.

"They both ran faster at Lake Farm Park, but they had solid races," Marks said. "When you run two 5Ks in three days it's hard to improve your time."

Freshman teammate Eli Rindfleisch placed 26th (20:04.5). Ben Schaaf took 31st in the junior-senior race with a time of 19:26.

Verona will run in the Midwest Invitational in Janesville on Saturday.

Girls cross country

Wildcats run to title

Neess' pacing a learning tool for other runners

MARK NESBITT
Sports editor

Verona had three of the top seven runners in the freshmen/sophomore race to lead the Wildcats to the championship in the Big Eight Conference Grade Level Challenge on Tuesday, Sept. 14, at Stewart's Woods behind Verona Area High School.

"Since it was on our home course we thought we might as well run them," Verona coach Dave Hanson said. "If we had a training we would have run the same course."

Hanson said for the first two miles each member of the team had a paced run with their training groups.

"The last mile it was everybody for themselves depending on how they were feeling," Hanson said. "It was good for training and some girls learned something about themselves. The different approach gave them the opportunity to see what kind of racer they like to be the last mile."

Verona sophomore Lexi Remiker finished fourth in the freshmen/sophomore



Photo by Mark Nesbitt

Verona's Lexi Remiker, left, and Liz den Daas, right, cross a bridge in the freshmen-sophomore Big Eight Grade Level Challenge on Tuesday, Sept. 14, at Stewart's Woods behind Verona Area High School. Remiker finished fourth (21:53) and den Daas took fifth with a season-best time of 21:53.8.

race with a time of 21 minutes, 52 seconds. Freshman Liz den Daas took fifth with a lifetime-best time of 21:53.8 and sophomore Raelyn Bartels placed seventh (22:43.1).

Remiker was hoping to beat her time from the

Verona Invitational earlier this season, but was one second away from a season-best time.

"My coach gave us times for each mile because we wanted to treat this as a workout because we just raced on Saturday,"

Remiker said.

She started out with a slower pace and then moved up from 20th to fourth at the finish line.

"My friend Payette does that very race and our coach really wants us to start pacing the first mile better so we can really kick it the last mile," Remiker said.

Payette Neess finished fifth in the junior-senior race with a team-best time of 21:43.5. Junior Sotera Boado placed eighth (22:02.8) in the same race and senior Emma Petta took 10th (22:14.6).

"Payette has her run down where she likes to go out paced and then she likes to come on strong over the last mile," Hanson said.

Verona captured the team title with 28 points to edge Janesville Craig (37) and Middleton (39).

Verona will compete in the Midwest Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 26.

Remiker and Bartels will miss the invite.

Hanson said it will give two Verona freshmen an opportunity to race.

"I have had some girls who have run their fastest mile ever the first mile of that race," he said. "We are the kind of team that if you see one of them you will see a pack. Our goal is to get our pack pushing forward."

Girls swimming

Gnewuch rises to the challenge

Verona Area/Mount Horeb takes fourth in Waukesha

MARK NESBITT
Sports editor

Verona Area/Mount Horeb sophomore Isabella Gnewuch posted three top-four finishes in the Waukesha South Blackshirt Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 18.

The Wildcats finished fourth in the 18-team invite with 206 points at Waukesha South High School.

"I thought overall the team looked more comfortable than a week ago swimming against high level competition," VA/MH coach Bill Wuerger said.

The day before, VA/MH lost a Big Eight Conference

dual meet to Middleton 112-74 at Verona Area High School.

Wuerger said the meet against Middleton was originally scheduled as a road conference meet, but then switched to VAHS due to water circulation issues with Middleton's pool.

"I thought the team swam well Friday night," Wuerger said. "The meet was closer than the score indicates. If a few more close races had gone our way, the team scores would have been very close. Middleton has more depth than any other team in the state, so it was a great opportunity for the team to race against other strong swimmers."

Waukesha South Blackshirt Invite

Gnewuch finished third in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2

minutes, 11.77 seconds and took third in the 100 butterfly (58.42) at the Waukesha South Blackshirt Invitational Sept. 18.

Gnewuch teamed with seniors Tola Klabough, Maia Blas and Kenzie Zuehl to place fourth in the 400 freestyle relay (3:40.93).

Verona Area/Mount Horeb had seven top-six finishes and took fourth as a team. Middleton racked up 273.5 points to capture the 18-team invite title. Arrowhead (266) took second and Madison West finished third (248), 42 points ahead of the Wildcats.

The Wildcats had a trio finish in the top 10 in the 100 free. Zuehl took fifth in the 100 free (55.01) out of 75 swimmers to lead the Wildcats. Klabough placed seventh (55.39) and Blas took ninth (55.63). Zuehl added a sixth-place finish in the 50 free (25.17). Klabough finished 10th in the 200 free (2:01.47).

Freshman Emily Speilman took ninth in the 100 breaststroke (1:11.21) and freshman Monica Schmidt placed 10th in the same event (1:11.28).

The Wildcats' 200 free relay team of Blas, Speilman, Klabough and freshman Kyrah Kittleson finished sixth (1:42.39). Gnewuch teamed with Speilman, Schmidt and Zuehl to take sixth in the 200 medley relay (1:52.79).

Speilman took 11th in the 200 IM (2:16.23) and Kittleson placed 14th in the 500 free (5:29.06).

Middleton 112, VA/MH 74

The Wildcats won four events in a Big Eight Conference dual meet against Middleton on Friday, Sept. 17, at VAHS.

"We've reached the point in the season where it is more difficult for swimmers to consistently drop time," Wuerger said.

Despite that, Wuerger said the team set 24 season-best performances in individual events and several others were not too far off.

Gnewuch won the 100 butterfly with a time of 58.59 seconds and she finished first in the 100 backstroke (1:01.48) by 0.29 of a second ahead of Middleton's Sophie Benson. It was one of four events decided by 0.5 of a second or less.

Schmidt won the 200 IM (2:13.25) by 0.4 of a second ahead of Middleton's Natalie Charles. She placed second in the 100 breaststroke (1:10.77), 0.39 of a second behind Charles. Zuehl took the top spot in the 100 free (55.15), 0.46 of a second ahead of Middleton's Ella Needham.

Sophomore teammate Annika Rufenahct captured the title in diving with 240.60 points.

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Girls golf

Ehiorobo leads Verona past Beloit Memorial

Ehiorobo, Stoesz card scores under 100 for Wildcats

JACK MILLER
Wisconsin Media Group

The Verona girls golf team defeated Beloit Memorial in a Big Eight Conference dual Tuesday, Sept. 14, at Krueger-Hasckell Golf Course in Beloit.

The Wildcats finished 12th at the Janesville Parker Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 18, at Riverside Golf Course.

Verona 407, Beloit Memorial N/A

The Wildcats put up a score of 407, while the Purple Knights fielded an incomplete team score.

Laila Ehiorobo led Verona with a 95 on the par-72 course. Ehiorobo fired a 50 on the front nine and a 45 on the back. Two strokes behind was teammate Audrey Stoesz, who

carded a 50 on the front nine and a 47 on the back to earn a score of 97.

Lily Haessig recorded a 101 with a front nine score of 54 and a back nine score of 47. The Wildcats were rounded out with Nina Donny's 114. Zaya Seeley shot a 121 for Verona.

Beloit Memorial's Sara Ramsden scored a 39 on the front and a 40 on the back to finish with a meet-best 79. The Purple Knights had just two golfers compete on Tuesday.

Parker Invitational

Verona finished with 400 strokes as a team to take 12th overall at the 17-team invitational. Middleton finished first with 308 strokes.

Stoesz carded a 49 on the front nine and a 50 on the back nine to lead the Wildcats with a 99. Haessig and Seeley both shot 100s. Ehiorobo was just one stroke back with a 101. Lexi Frye finished with a 115.

Auto racing



Photo submitted

John Beale and the Gildan Racing Team, Verona, won five trophies in the Dream 150 Fall Shootout Super Late Model at the Marshfield Speedway on Saturday, Sept. 18. Beale won three late model 50-lap feature races and the overall Fall Shootout championship. Gildan Racing also received the Best Appearing Car and Crew award voted on by fans.

Beale rolls to Dream 150, Fall Shootout titles

Gildan Racing Team also wins trophies for best appearing car, crew

MARK NESBITT
Sports editor

Verona's John Beale made his way to the top of the Dream 150 Fall Shootout Super Late Model 50-lap feature race on Saturday, Sept. 18, at the Marshfield Speedway.

Beale overtook Justin Mondeik on the 38th lap to win the late model championship. Beale is the owner of the Gildan Racing Team in Verona, and he won all three feature races with the guidance of crew chief Dalton Zehr.

The Gildan Racing

Team brought home five trophies. Beale and the Gildan Racing Team achieved the fewest points in the 50-lap features and were crowned the overall Fall Shootout champion. Gildan Racing also received the Best Appearing Car and Crew award voted on by fans.

In the first 50-lap feature, Super Late Model track champion Darren Jackson led the first 10 laps. Beale took over the lead on the 11th lap and he led the rest of the way to the checkered flag.

Colorado's Jonathan Knee took an early lead in the second 50-lap feature in the late model race. Once the drivers reached the midway point, Beale maneuvered to the front of the pack.

Girls tennis

Singles' undefeated seasons come to end

Wildcats finish 1-3 at Madison West Invitational

JACK MILLER
Wisconsin Media Group

Naisha Nagpal's impressive 17-0 start to the season at No. 1 singles came to an end during the Verona girls tennis team's 6-1 Big Eight Conference dual win over Madison La Follette Tuesday, Sept. 14, at Verona High School.

The Wildcats then played in the Madison West Invitational on Friday, Sept. 17 and Saturday, Sept. 18, earning a 1-3 record.

Verona 6, Madison La Follette 1

Nagpal — a freshman — lost to La Follette's Annalise Yang 6-1, 4-6, 10-8 at the top singles flight for her first loss of the season. Verona went on to win the other six matches.

At No. 2 singles, Samantha Breibach lost just two games en route to a 6-0, 6-2 victory against Emily Zamber. Zoe Qureshi (No. 3 singles) and Elsa Queoff (No. 4 singles) both moved to 18-0 in their respective flights this season against the Lancers. Qureshi won 6-0, 6-1 against Norah Burke. Queoff swept Leyna Hegge 6-0, 6-0.

At No. 1 doubles, Julia Huseth and Morgan Kreuser were 6-2, 6-1 winners against Madison Feldhausen and Kyra Saari. Andrea Chavez-Lazaro and Morgan Witkowski earned a 6-1, 6-2 victory at No. 2 doubles against Esperanza Jimenez and Cherish Scott. Annie Nick and Erin Nick teamed up for a 6-0, 6-0 sweep of Zoie Collu and Zoe Papadoulos at No. 3 doubles.

Madison West Invitational

The Wildcats defeated Badger, 4-3, and also picked up losses against host Madison West (5-2), Ashwaubenon (5-2) and Eau Claire Memorial (4-3)

during the invitational held Sept. 17 and Sept. 18 at Madison West High School.

Nagpal (No. 1 singles) went 3-1 for the tournament, with her only loss coming to Badger's Zaya Iderzu by a score of 6-3, 6-0.

Both Qureshi (No. 3 singles) and Queoff (No. 4 singles) dropped their first matches of the season at the tournament.

Queoff lost to Madison West's Grace Huang 6-3, 6-1. Qureshi was topped by Ashwaubenon's Aneesha Prathigudupu 7-5, 6-3. Qureshi and Queoff both won three matches to help lead Verona — ranked No. 4 in Division 1.

The No. 3 doubles team of Erin Nick and Annie Nick won two matches for the Wildcats. Eau Claire Memorial is ranked No. 9 in Division 1, while Madison West earned an honorable mention spot on the Wisconsin High School Tennis Coaches Association's rankings.

Volleyball: Wildcats win wire-to-wire fourth set against Cards

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Tied 7-7, the Wildcats started to pull away in the first set with an 8-3 run — capped off by a kill from sophomore Reagan McIntosh — which forced a Cardinal timeout. Up 15-10, Verona went on to score 10 of the next 20 points to win the set comfortably at 25-20.

Sun Prairie led the second set 6-3, but it was all Verona after that as the Wildcats ended the set on a 22-5 run to earn a 25-11 victory.

The Cardinals led wire-to-wire in the third set (25-21) to force a fourth game.

"In the third set, we made quite a few errors on our side of the net and that just kills you," Bauer said. "We granted them four points right from the get-go and they rolled with it."

Tied 14-14 in the fourth set, the two teams traded points back and forth all the way up to 21-21. Delaney McIntosh made it 22-21 with a kill that she

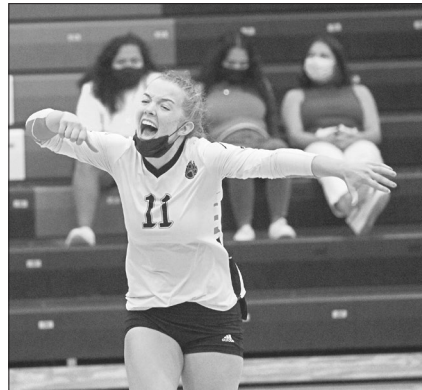


Photo by Jack Miller

Verona's Delaney McIntosh celebrates during the Wildcats 3-1 Big Eight win over the Cardinals Tuesday, Sept. 14, at Sun Prairie High School.

connected on several feet back from the net.

"As a hitter, it's always important to read the block," she said. "One thing that has helped is that our defenders and anyone who is not hitting has been calling shot placements for the offense, takes a little something of their minds."

A Sun Prairie error finally gave Verona a little bit of breathing room at 23-21. Kills from senior Claudia Bobb and Reagan McIntosh ended the set and match.

Reagan McIntosh recorded 43 assists to go along with three blocks on the night.

Bauer said she was proud of how her pin hitters — Bobb and Delaney McIntosh — played throughout the match. Bobb finished with a match-high 17 kills.

"We put a lot on them and demand a lot out of them, especially at pressure times," Bauer said. "I think they rose to the occasion."

Football: Verona looks to keep rolling against Madison La Follette

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Team	Overall	Conf.
Sun Prairie	5-0	3-0
Middleton	3-2	3-0
Verona	4-1	2-1
Madison Memorial	3-2	2-1
Madison La Follette	1-4	1-2
Madison East	1-4	1-2
Beloit Memorial	1-4	0-3
Madison West	0-5	0-3

quarter. He hooked up with senior Cole Jannusch on an 88-yard TD pass. He then tossed a 15-yard TD pass to senior Karson Mitchell and a 17-yard TD pass to Jannusch to give Verona a 35-7 lead at the half.

Jannusch had three receptions for 111 yards and two touchdowns.

Senior running back Isaiah Marsh barreled in for a 2-yard TD run in the third quarter. Senior Kyle Krantz returned a kickoff 95 yards for a touchdown in the fourth quarter to cap the

scoring. Verona ran for 116 yards, led by Krantz who rushed for 85 yards on 11 carries.

The Wildcats' defense forced two turnovers — an interception by senior NJ Elias and a fumble. Junior linebacker Mason Armstrong had a team-high 12 tackles. Junior defensive linemen Drake Badger, Rayan Bertrand and senior linebacker Garrett Hoppe each had one sack.

Verona plays Madison La Follette (1-4, 1-2 Big Eight) on Friday, Sept.



Photo by Ed Fink

Verona senior Karson Mitchell makes a leaping catch against Beloit Memorial on Friday, Sept. 17, in Verona.

24, at Lussier Stadium in Madison. The Lancers run a spread offense from the shotgun that looks to take advantage of big strikes. La Follette quarterback Kamarion James-Ragland has passed for 1,019 yards with 11 TDs and five

interceptions.

"If we don't get any pressure we will be in trouble," Richardson said. "We will have to contain their receivers and we should have some blitz packages where we can get some pressure."