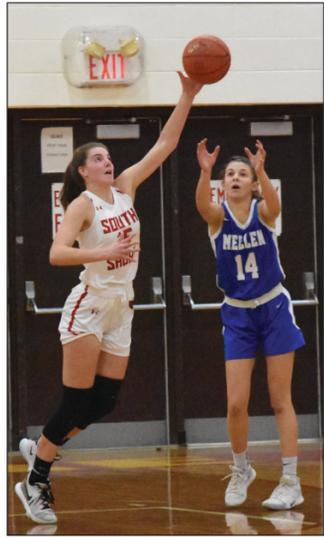


South Shore junior hits 1,000th point

With a 41-point outburst Jan. 19 against Butternut, South Shore Cardinals junior forward Lily Truchon passed 1,000 points scored for her career. Truchon, who is averaging nearly 27 points per game, is a returning all-Indianhead conference player and has emerged this season as one of the state's most potent scorers. (Contributed photo)



Thin ice cancels Bay races

A second week of Lake Superior Ice Racing Association heats scheduled for Saturday was put on hold due to insufficiently thick ice. At 13 inches, the Chequamegon Bay's ice cover still falls 3 inches short of the minimum requirement for LSIRA races. A forecast for more cold weather bodes well for racing to begin Jan. 22, according to race organizers.



(Contributed photo)

'Dockers lose in squeaker

With a narrow 58-55 home loss Thursday to the Hayward Hurricanes (3-9), an improving Ashland Oredockers boys basketball team dropped to 3-9 on the year. Behind balanced scoring from senior Kade Jolma's 17 points, Antoine Carter's 16 points, and Marcus Kruzan with 12, and effective full-court defensive pressure, the 'Dockers kept the game within reach until the final seconds when Ashland's 3-point shot attempts to tie the game missed the mark.



(Contributed photo)

Laid up: Mellen gets creative as players fall to COVID

BY PAUL BARNES
For the Ashland Daily Press

COVID-related event cancellations are nothing new anymore, and it is no different in the Bay Area where every sports program has been forced to cancel some games and reschedule others. The Mellen boys and girls basketball teams perhaps have suffered more than most.

So with several players out due to illness, boys and girls teams have turned to each other both for support and fine-tuning, Athletic Director Don Moreland said.

"We have not had our starting lineup on the floor this season to this point. It is just next man up," said Moreland, who also coaches the boys team. "Practice adjustments include playing defense against our girls team to work on rotation. We do what we can and realize we are far from the only ones dealing with this."

Having the bodies, boys or girls, to put together a good practice is invaluable, Moreland said, especially when rosters are thin.

"Things we can't teach are size, speed and athleticism. Those are things you are born with," he said. "However, just because you weren't born with them doesn't mean you can't compete with those that were. We teach body positioning, contact and toughness. What we actually teach is for kids to work hard. Hard work covers up a lot of deficiencies."

With games to make up, Mellen may be squeezing in play, making practice time even more coveted. Regard-



Like many teams in the area, the Mellen Granite Diggers boys and girls basketball teams have had to cancel games this season and have run combined practices as players have come down with COVID. (Contributed photo)



With players out due to COVID, practice time is even more valuable, coaches said. (Contributed photo)

less, Moreland said the team's expectations will remain the same. "Goals are similar

to the expectations: to improve every game and make the most of every opportunity we

get," the coach said. "Expectations for the season are the same as they are every year.

To work and play as hard as we can when on the floor. To learn and improve every day. To be leaders on the floor and in the school. To realize the team is bigger than the individual and we have to trust each other. Good things happen to people who work hard and the wins and losses will take care of themselves based on our focus and work ethic. Bottom line is we have great kids who listen so when we lose you can blame it on our coach."

While some teams in the area have played up to 15 games to this point, the Mellen boys team is currently 3-4, and on a two-game win streak, while the girls are 5-3 after a decisive 58-24 Friday win over Mercer.

Rodgers, Adams have sense of urgency

BY STEVE MEGARGEE
Associated Press

Until this season, Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers often referred to Hall of Fame cornerback Charles Woodson as his greatest teammate ever.

Now that title apparently belongs to Davante Adams, the wide receiver who has caught hundreds of passes from Rodgers over the past eight seasons. After a Christmas Day victory over the Cleveland Browns, Rodgers called Adams the "most dominant player I've played with."

"When you start stacking up the numbers for Davante, it's mind blowing," Rodgers said.

But there's one undeniable fact that remains in Woodson's favor. Woodson played a key role on the 2010 Packers that won Rodgers his lone Super Bowl title thus far. Rodgers and Adams have teamed for 68 touchdown passes but no Super Bowl berths.

Their latest - and perhaps last - chance to change that comes in the next few weeks.

The Packers own the NFC's No. 1 playoff seed and can reach the Super Bowl by winning two straight games at Lambeau Field, where they haven't lost all season. The Packers (13-4) open postseason play next weekend.

Both Rodgers and Adams care about their legacies and understand the importance of achieving the one goal that's



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Green Bay Packers' Davante Adams, left, celebrates his touchdown reception with Aaron Rodgers during a game against the Cleveland Browns on Dec. 25, 2021, in Green Bay.

eluded the Packers over the past decade.

The Packers have lost in the NFC Championship game in four of Adams' previous seven seasons, including each of the past two years.

Rodgers' spot in Canton is secure as he contends for a fourth MVP honor. Adams is putting together his own Hall of Fame-caliber resume that could get a major boost with a Super Bowl appearance.

"Every time I get out there, I don't care if I have 70 yards and two touchdowns, whatever, if something didn't look how I wanted it to, I'm always thinking about what would a Hall of Famer's take look like and how would he feel about his performance," Adams said.

"So, that's definitely something that's on my mind. And to me, we can say what we want, but I feel like it's a matter of time, for sure. I've just got to keep working, keep putting it together, man, keep working and keep stacking and put a ring on my finger, and we'll see how everything looks when it's all said and done."

Adams, 29, is the lone player in NFL history to have three seasons with at least 11 catches, 1,350 yards receiving and 11 touchdown receptions. The only other players to have at least 650 catches, 8,000 yards receiving and 70 touchdown receptions in their first eight seasons are Randy Moss and Larry Fitzgerald.

He understands the luxury

of playing alongside Rodgers has helped him put up those numbers.

"I've played with the best quarterback to ever play this game, so it's been amazing experience for me," Adams said.

How long they'll continue playing together remains uncertain, adding to the sense of urgency as the Packers begin this postseason run. Rodgers, 38, skipped the Packers' organized team activities and mandatory minicamp during the most recent offseason in a standoff with team management. Adams' contract is set to expire at the end of this season.

There's a possibility neither will be suiting up in green-and-gold next season.

Rodgers says he won't drag out any decision about his future, whether he chooses to return, request a trade or even retire. He's complimented the moves general manager Brian Gutekunst made to strengthen the team this season.

Adams says Rodgers' future could impact his own decision to stay or leave.

For now, Rodgers is appreciating the opportunity to make at least one more postseason run with the Packers, who selected him with the 24th overall pick in the 2005 draft. Rodgers talked this week about how much he appreciated the friendships he had developed with longtime team employees, from equipment guys and trainers to the cafeteria staff.