

Ontonagon defeats Bessemer

ONTONAGON — Ontonagon defeated Bessemer 25-17, 25-21, 25-27, 25-15 in a Copper Mountain Conference volleyball match Tuesday night.

"The girls fought really hard tonight," Ontonagon coach Kacie Lundin said. "We have had a few at-net errors recently. It seems that last hit had been giving us a lot of trouble. Our passing is getting much better, we are more attentive and ready for the ball to come at us."

Ontonagon's Makennah Uotila had 10 kills, four blocks and one ace. Emmy Bobula had 32 assists and 10 aces.

Bessemer was short-handed without two starting hitters.

Patience Prochnow and Maddie Guglielmotto, who was brought up from JV for the match, both had four kills to lead Bessemer. Amber Kaurala had four blocks, Brooke Stanislawski had 33 assists and Kristen Smith and Natalie Stone each had two aces.

Bessemer goes to Ironwood Thursday night. Ontonagon goes to Watersmeet that night.

E-TC falls at Jeffers

PAINESDALE — Ewen-Trout Creek fell 3-0 at Jeffers in a Copper Mountain Conference match Tuesday night.

The Jets won 26-24, 25-17, 25-22.

"Jeffers had some strong serves and hits that required some adjustments and work to keep us in the set," E-TC coach Kaitlin Ruotsala said. "Unfortunately in our second set we were dealt an ankle injury to our team captain, Brianna Schutz, which really tested the girls to keep their focus on the game yet further adjust to help out. It took into the third set for everyone to settle in."

"Brianna's sprained ankle limited some movement but didn't hold her down. She was still calling for the ball to make attacks and earned two of her four kills in the third set."

Marissa Polkky had four aces and three kills for E-TC. Emma Besonen had nine assists. Kate Borseth had three kills.

E-TC hosts Ontonagon Tuesday.

Linebacker Jamie Collins returning for 3rd stint with Patriots

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — Another ex-Patriot is returning to New England.

Free agent linebacker Jamie Collins agreed to a new deal with the Patriots on Wednesday, according to his agent David Canter.

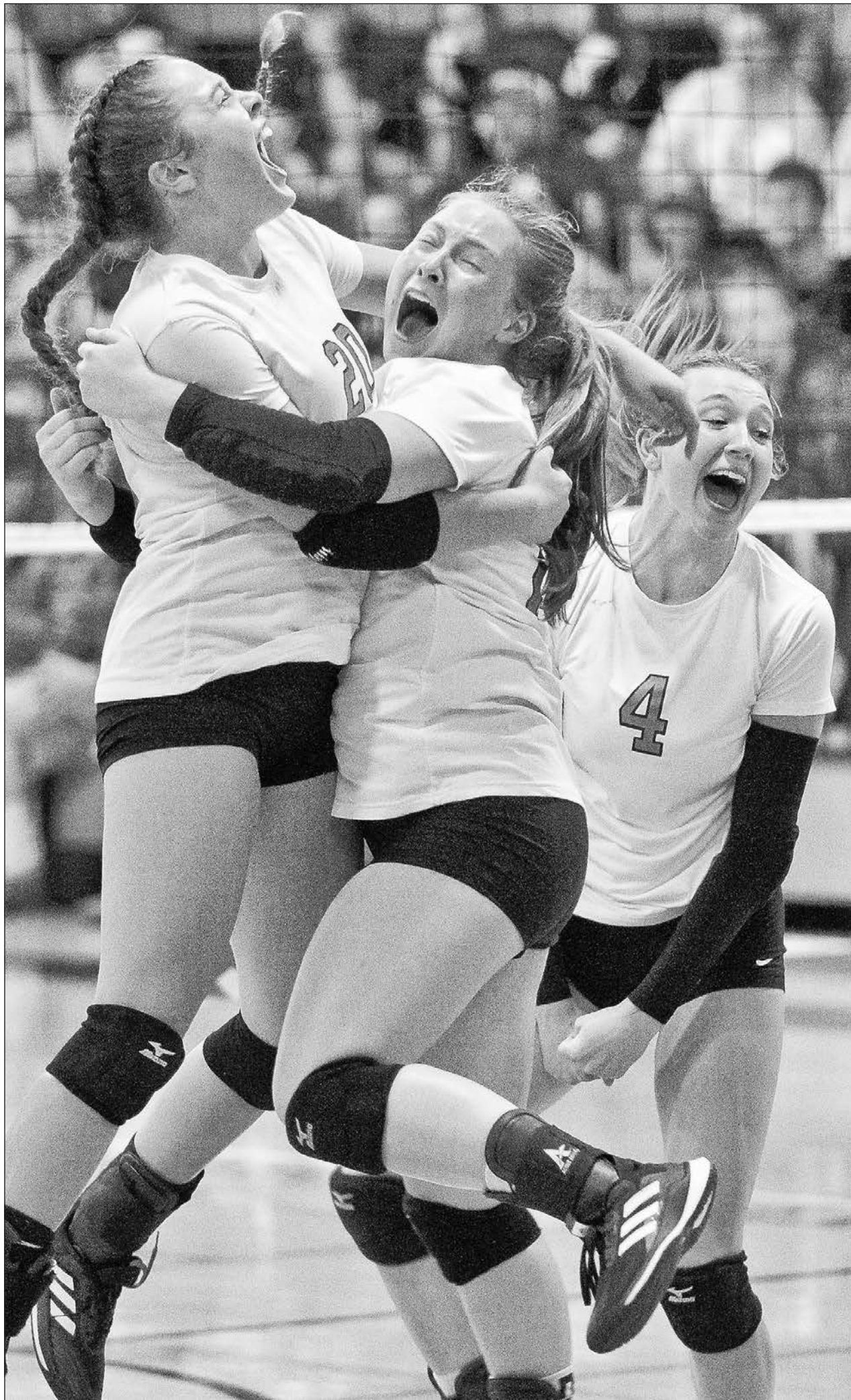
Collins signed a three-year, \$30 million deal with the Lions in 2020, but was released on Sept. 28.

This will be his third stint with New England. He was drafted by the Patriots in the second round in 2013 and spent the first three seasons with them before being dealt to Cleveland in 2016. He re-signed with the Browns in 2017 before being cut and re-signed by the Patriots in 2019.

He has 25 1/2 sacks in his career and is expected to provide some support at linebacker after Ja'Whaun Bentley suffered a shoulder injury that caused him to miss last week's loss to Tampa Bay.

Collins will be reunited with former teammates and linebackers Kyle Van Noy and Dont'a Hightower.

The trio combined for 19 sacks for the Patriots in 2019.



Jason Juno/Daily Globe

MERCER CELEBRATES its big win over Hurley Tuesday night in Mercer. From left are Jenny Klopatek, April Klopatek and KD Knipp.

Tigers upend Northstars

■ Mercer win puts them in line for Indianhead title, gives them shot at 1 seed

By JASON JUNO
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MERCER, Wis. — Hurley has been dominant of late, from conference titles in basketball to a state runner-up finish in softball. This group of Northstars has made Hurley a force to be reckoned with on the volleyball court this year as well with many of those same athletes making them an Indianhead contender in this sport as well.

"Hurley is a very good team, we knew we had to come ready to play tonight," Mercer coach Robyn Schoeneman said.

On the other hand, volleyball has been king in Mercer for a long time. Though they may be a bit young this year, they came in unbeaten in the conference as well and prepared to take on their rivals to the north.

Mercer won three hard-fought games 25-17, 25-21, 25-21 in front of an electric crowd from both communities.

Rivalry games are always fun, but they're the best when both teams are really good. Hurley brought their student section and nearly every point on

both sides ended with an ear-piercing celebration from the crowd and players. There was a lot on the line, too, with Mercer now in prime position to win the Indianhead Conference title and get a top-two seed in the upcoming WIAA postseason tournament.

"It's been a long time since we've had that much excitement in the gym," Schoeneman said. "It felt good again to have that excitement, the buzz in the air, the cheering. That was fun."

Mercer's KD Knipp proved to be the difference maker with a career-high 19 kills and a career effort. Plus, it was the first game everyone was playing well at once for Mercer, Schoeneman said.

"I cannot say enough good things about KD Knipp," Schoeneman said. "We're obviously not a one-man show, but she carried us tonight."

It was a 15-15 tie in the first set. After a couple of Hurley errors to give Mercer the slight two-point lead, Knipp took over at the net, accounting for four of the next five points to put the Tigers on track for the 25-17 win.

"She can control the game with her play, with her fire, with her spark," Schoeneman said. "She came to play tonight and that was really important for the success of our team. They tend to follow what she's doing, if she's playing well, the rest of them follow suit. I'm really proud of the tone she

set right from the get-go."

Knipp credited her teammates.

"Offensively I was hitting the ball all the time. I had 19 kills tonight and I couldn't have done it without my team passing me the ball and getting it to me," she said.

The second set was tied 14-14, but Mercer again closed it out strong. It was 24-21 Mercer when Jenny Klopatek dove to keep the play alive then Eiley Schoeneman got a block at the net and eventually the kill to secure the win.

"She plays a lot bigger than a freshman," coach Schoeneman said. "She works really, really hard. It's exciting to be able to watch your kid do these things and have such an impact on the game."

It was tight again midway through the third set at 15-14, but it was still tight later than the first two sets were as Mercer led 21-20 before closing it for the win. It was especially important to end the game then.

"They were so energized right from the get-go," Schoeneman said. "Then when they started getting a little more complacent, I was like 'Oh my God, if we go to a fourth set, we are going to be out of gas.' We had to finish it and we had to finish it now."

It just wasn't Hurley's night, their

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Brewers' Yelich hopes to shake shaky 2021 in postseason

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Perhaps the most surprising element of the Milwaukee Brewers' run to the NL Central title is they won it without a typical season from Christian Yelich.

The 2018 NL MVP missed much of the first half with a lower back strain and didn't hit for much power upon his return. He'll get a chance to make up for it as the Brewers seek their first World Series title, although he's not so worried about his own personal fresh start.

"I think it's zeroes for everybody and you're just focused on trying to win," Yelich said Tuesday. "Nobody cares who does it, how it gets done, as long as we come out on top."

"I think that's the beautiful thing about this team, but also the playoffs, is winning is always first. You just want to be part of that and help contribute in any way you can."

Milwaukee opens its franchise-record fourth straight playoff appearance Friday when it hosts the NL East champion Atlanta Braves in Game 1 of an NL Division Series. Ace Corbin Burnes (11-5, 2.43 ERA) will pitch the opener against Charlie Morton (14-6, 3.34), with Brandon Woodruff (9-10, 2.56) to face Max Fried (14-7, 3.04) in Game 2.

The Brewers have made the playoffs every year since acquiring Yelich from the Miami Marlins prior to the start of 2018. Milwaukee had only four postseason appearances total over nearly a half-century prior to his arrival.

"You don't want to ever take this for granted because of how hard it is to get to this point," Yelich said. "Even though we've done it four years in a row, you still realize it's a long year and a lot of stuff has to happen. We had to overcome a lot of things this year as a team — injuries, COVID, amongst a bunch of other things."

But Yelich hasn't been quite the same player the last couple of years as he was his first two seasons in Milwaukee.

After posting the NL's best batting average and slugging percentage in back-to-back seasons in 2018 and 2019, Yelich hit just .205 with 12 homers and 22 RBIs in 58 games last year as one of many star players to struggle in the pandemic-shortened season.

Yelich batted .248 this season with nine homers and 51 RBIs in 117 games, though 70 walks brought his on-base percentage to .362. He batted .221 with one homer after the start of September.

The Brewers still believe Yelich can produce. He will face the Braves for the first time this season, as he was recovering from his back injury when they met in May and was dealing with COVID-19 when the Brewers went to Atlanta in late July.

"This is a really good player," Brewers president of baseball operations David Stearns said. "I expect him to perform, I think he expects to perform, and we're looking forward to seeing how this goes. We'll get into any sort of retrospective analysis after the season, but right now we expect Christian to perform at a level that helps us win games."

Yelich is proud the Brewers have made regular playoff appearances since his arrival. He wants to help make this postseason run last a little longer than the others.

"I think we, as a team, expected to be here," Yelich said. "That was our goal, that's what we set out to be. I think if we fell short of that, then it would have 100% been a disappointment. But you want to give yourself as a team and an organization as many bites of the apple as you can. So you've got to get in every year and then hopefully one of those years, or multiple years, you can take it to the finish line."

Correa prepares for what could be final run with Astros

HOUSTON (AP) — Carlos Correa seems resigned to what now appears inevitable.

A Houston Astro since he was 17, his time with the team is probably approaching its expiration date — likely to end when the club's playoff run does.

"This is my home," he said. "But it's not up to me."

Correa becomes a free agent after the season and the Astros seem unwilling to pay him what another

team surely will. The sides negotiated in the offseason to no avail, and the star shortstop cut off talks when the season began so they wouldn't be a distraction.

He certainly hasn't looked preoccupied on the field this year, hitting a career-high 26 homers and leading all position players with a 7.2 overall WAR and 2.9 defensive WAR. But as the AL West champion

Astros prepare to play the

Chicago White Sox in their best-of-five Division Series beginning Thursday, the possibility that these are Correa's final games with the team looms large.

"I'm just hoping that there's a way that we can retain and sign Carlos, because he's a big part of this team, not only on the field, but he's one of the real leaders," manager Dusty Baker said.

General manager James Click deflected talk about

Correa's future Tuesday.

"Right now, we're focused on the postseason," he said. "We'll address the rest of it when we can."

With his future in limbo, Correa reflected on what this team has meant to him as he grew from a boy to a man. He thought back to the day in 2012 when the Astros drafted him first overall. And the

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