

# SPORTS

## BADGERS FOOTBALL

# 'Natural' move to wide receiver for Engram

Former DB spent three years on defense

**COLTEN BARTHOLOMEW**  
Wisconsin State Journal

As he sat at a table Friday in front of a room of reporters at the McClain Center, Dean Engram remarked multiples times he had trouble believing the situation was real.

His father, Bobby, sat to his left and the pair fielded questions about Bobby's hiring as the University of Wisconsin football team's offensive coordinator and

about Dean's move from cornerback to wide receiver. Bobby had never coached Dean on an organized team, only drill work in the backyard or at football fields in the towns they've lived in as Bobby finished his NFL playing career and entered the coaching world.

Now Dean will not only be on a team his dad is coaching, he'll be on his side of the ball as well.

"It was always a dream just to work on my dad, being able to have the opportunity, it's kind of still amazing to me," Dean said, shaking his head almost to

make sure he wasn't imagining his current state of affairs.

"It's surreal for us a little bit, because it happened naturally," Bobby said.

"When he was being recruited up here, you make the trips and you talked to the coaches and you look at the numbers and the fit. And he had other programs, obviously, that he could have gone to. He chose Wisconsin because of the things that we both saw. A few years later for Paul to contact me and have that opportunity



Wisconsin Badgers linebacker Nick Herbig (19) celebrates an interception by Wisconsin Badgers cornerback Dean Engram (6) against Northwestern at Camp Randall Stadium in Madison on Nov. 13, 2021.

WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

Please see **BADGERS**, Page A8

## PREP GYMNASTICS | CHI-HI TRIANGULAR

# Victorious at home

Cardinals strong in final meet before Big Rivers championships

**BRANDON BERG**  
Chippewa Herald

The Chi-Hi gymnastics team wrapped up Big Rivers Conference triangular competition with a team victory at home on Monday evening.

The Cardinals won a triangular over Rice Lake and Superior, winning with a cumulative team score of 134.337 with Rice Lake in second (119.2) and Superior third (107.35).

Ava Krista finished first place all-around with a score of 34.5 points. Lilly Schultz (33.475), Ella Spaeth (33.450) and Reagan Palichat (32.762) were third, fourth and fifth, respectively, for the Cardinals.

"With it being our final home meet we just wanted them to have as much fun as they wanted and any last-minute skills they'd like to add today was kind of the practice run for them to do so," Chi-Hi coach Katie Thalacker said. "So now we have a good two weeks to focus in on conference."

Krista and Schultz tied for first place on the uneven bars (8.45) and Krista also won the vault (9.235) — shattering her previous best score of 8.8 — and finished second on the balance beam (8.425) and tied with Spaeth for third in the floor exercise (8.3). Schultz was fourth on the vault (8.8), floor exercise (8.225) and balance beam (8.0) while Spaeth won the beam (8.5), took third in the vault (8.85) and came home fifth on the the bars (7.8) as the Cardinals took the top-five spot in the event.

Krista and Schultz's score on the uneven bars is the highest from Big Rivers competitors this year so far based on the conference's honor roll listing.

Palichat finished third behind Krista and Schultz on the uneven bars (8.225), fifth in both the floor exercise (8.137) and balance beam (7.9) and sixth on the vault (8.5).

The senior Hinke was fourth on the uneven bars (7.9), fifth on the vault (8.55) and sixth on the beam (7.7). Seniors Hinke and Hannah Golden were honored during Monday's triangular for their contributions during their careers as they competed in their final home meet.



Chi-Hi senior Riley Hinke performs a flip during her balance beam routine on Monday evening at Chi-Hi.

### Up Next Big Rivers Conference Championships

**When:** Saturday, Feb. 19, 10 a.m.  
**Where:** Menomonie High School

"Oh my gosh it is so emotional," Hinke said of the final meet at home, "and you just want to do great for your team and do great for yourself."

"I was sad. It's hard to show right now but I don't know but it's really exciting being with

such a good team for my last meet here and just a lot of fun," Golden added.

In addition to their efforts in competition, Hinke and Golden were credited by their coach for their leadership in helping a talented group of freshmen led by Krista, Schultz, Spaeth and Palichat get up to speed with varsity competition.

"Hannah and Riley, they're really great about letting them know ahead of time what the expectation is and how each meet

is going to look because it's way different than they've ever been used to," Thalacker said.

Hinke and Golden said they emphasized being positive and energetic while cheering on their teammates while moving on from the more reserved club gymnastics scene.

Please see **CHI-HI**, Page A8

■ **Online:** For more photos from Monday's triangular, see [chippewa.com](http://chippewa.com).

## SUPER BOWL

# Quiet success

Mixon produces best year of his career

**MITCH STACY**  
AP Sports Writer

CINCINNATI — Joe Mixon's foot injury in 2020 was one of many unfortunate events in another train wreck of a season for the Cincinnati Bengals.

Cincinnati had shown promise early that year, but suddenly its premier running back, coming off two consecutive 1,000-yard seasons, was done after six games. Injuries also took down rookie quarterback Joe Burrow and a long list of others. The Bengals clunked to a 4-11-1 finish amid the chaos and confusion of the pandemic.

Mixon persevered. On a surgically repaired foot, the 6-foot-1, 220-pound power runner came back better than ever.

The best season of his five-year career earned Mixon election to the Pro Bowl and helped the Bengals go from worst to first in the AFC North — and ultimately to their first Super Bowl in 33 years.

The 25-year-old Californian never takes success — or good health — for granted.

"I always tell our players when I talk to them, you've got to play each play like it's your last because you're not guaranteed the next one," Mixon said Monday. "And we finally know what that means. And I finally know what that means, and know what that feels like."

"We've all been through adversity and everybody's learning to get through tough times," he said. "And for us to be able to be here in this position, it's a blessing."



Mixon

Please see **NFL**, Page A8



**SUPER BOWL LVI**  
**L.A. Rams vs Cincinnati**  
**When:** Sunday, 5:30 p.m.  
**Where:** SoFi Stadium, Inglewood, Calif.  
**TV:** NBC

## PACKERS

# Bisaccia headed to Green Bay

Former interim Raiders head coach takes over special teams

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

GREEN BAY (AP) — The Green Bay Packers are counting on former Raiders interim head coach Rich Bisaccia to upgrade their beleaguered special teams.

The Packers announced Tuesday that Bisaccia will join Matt LaFleur's staff as the team's third special teams coordinator in as many seasons. The Packers had a punt and a field goal blocked in an NFC divisional playoff loss to the San Francisco 49ers and had the NFL's worst special teams during the regular season, according to Football Outsiders efficiency metrics.

The Packers are getting one of the league's most respected spe-

cial teams coaches in Bisaccia, who is going back to his roots after helping the Raiders reach the playoffs as interim head coach.

Bisaccia took over after the resignation of Jon Gruden and went 7-6, including the Raiders' wild-card loss to Cincinnati. The Raiders opted against making Bisaccia their permanent head coach and instead hired New England Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels.

Even so, Bisaccia earned plenty of compliments from Raiders players for the way he kept the team together amid turmoil that included Gruden's forced resignation over offensive emails and wide receiver Henry Ruggs III's ar-

rest in a deadly crash in Las Vegas.

"Rich is a great leader," Raiders defensive end Maxx Crosby said. "One of the best people I know. One of the most honest dudes I know. I'll go to bat for him any day of the week."

Bisaccia has 20 seasons of special teams coordinator experience with the Raiders, Cowboys, Chargers and Buccaneers. He now has the challenge of solidifying a unit that has long been the Packers' biggest weakness.

LaFleur fired Shawn Menenga as special teams coordinator after the 2020 season and replaced him by promoting



Raiders interim head coach Rich Bisaccia motions towards the field during the second half of a game against the Los Angeles Chargers on Jan. 9 in Las Vegas.

Please see **BISACCIA**, Page A8