

DIV. 5 PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS | MAYVILLE 34, CAMPBELLSPORT 27



MARK McMULLEN PHOTOS, DAILY CITIZEN

Mayville's Reilly Nadolski tackles Campbellsport's Mason Willacker for a loss during the second quarter of Friday's WIAA Division 5 Level 3 playoff game.

Playing for a classmate

With heavy hearts, Cardinals come from behind to make state semifinals

MARK McMULLEN
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CAMPBELLSPORT — Quarterback Adison Mittelstadt was playing with a heavy heart Friday night, just like the rest of his Mayville prep football teammates.

His best friend, junior Nick Hughes, passed away from a car accident he was in on Sunday. As a show of respect, Mittelstadt changed his jersey number from No. 12 to No. 13 for Friday's WIAA Division 5 state quarterfinal game against Flyway Conference foe Campbellsport — the same number Hughes wore when he played for Mayville's prep boys soccer team.

And Mayville also came through with a 34-27 victory, one the Cardinals dedicated to Hughes.

"It means a lot," Mittelstadt said. "It was a tough week for everyone in our school, our community, but we got the job done (Nick) was my best friend. It's all about Nick right now and who we've got next week. We're going to get a dub for him."

"This is all for him," running back Blake Schraufnagel added. "He's too young to go out like that. We just put our mind on him and played for him. What would he want us to do? He would want us to play hard, so that's what we did for him."

Mayville will advance to play fourth-seeded Belvidere, which defeated second-seeded Brodhead/Juda 35-20.

Mittelstadt didn't have a great night, only throwing for 42 yards on 3 of 8 passing.

"We wanted to get a win for Adison, but more importantly we wanted Adison to play well and respond the right way," Mayville coach Scott Hilber said. "When you're playing for a friend, you play as well as you can. ... He's just such a great general of this team. He's got the coolness about him."

His running back, Schraufnagel, also was cool on Friday night. The junior ran for 235 yards and three touchdowns to help the fifth-seeded Cardinals advance past the third-seeded Cougars.

"I'll give all the credit to the line," Schraufnagel said. "They make my job very easy. It's been fun running behind them."

The Cougars had defeated the Cardinals, 18-13 to end the regular season to put the Flyway



Mayville's Blake Schraufnagel runs for extra yards during the third quarter of Friday's WIAA Division 5 Level 3 playoff football game against Campbellsport.

Conference title in a three-way share between Mayville, Campbellsport and Fond du Lac St. Mary's Springs.

"It's a big statement for us," Schraufnagel said. "The last time we played them, we came out a little mentally unstable and had a lot of mental mistakes. We didn't have coach and it wore down on us."

The marks the first time Mayville coach Scott Hilber has won a Level 3 playoff game in six attempts.

"This is my sixth Level 3 game in my career and it's the only one I've won," Hilber said with a smile. "My nephew calls it the Level 3 curse. ... We've had some close calls and some we probably should've won, could've won or did win, but this is the one that finally broke through."

And it was against a dominant run game by the Cougars, who were led by Joseph Gardner with 215 yards and a touchdown.

Gardner's first touchdown was a 55-yarder just 17 seconds after Schraufnagel had run for a 68-yard touchdown. It tied the game at 7-apiece.

"He's a great player," Schraufnagel said.

Campbellsport's Cole Kaehne would give the Cougars a 14-7 lead 9 seconds into the second quarter from 1 yard out.

Schraufnagel responded at 8:48 when he scampered for a 30-yard touchdown, but a missed extra point put the Cougars up 14-13.

"I'm not taking (the ball) away from him because he's one of the hardest working kids I've ever seen in my entire life," Hilber said of Schraufnagel. "He earned every opportunity to be here. I'm not taking him off the field. As long as he wants to play, he's playing. ... He's an absolute freaking warrior!"

Campbellsport responded when Kaehne ran in for a touchdown from 4 yards out with 3:39 left in the first half to go up 21-13.

Schraufnagel got his third touchdown of the night on a 28-yard touchdown run with 6:34 left in the third quarter. A failed pass attempt kept the Cougars with a 21-19 lead.

The Cougars raised the lead to 27-19 when quarterback Mitchell McCarty scored on a 1-yard QB sneak with 3:06 left in the third quarter.

The Cardinals responded with a 10-play drive that ended with Ty Hockers bulldozing his way in for a 1-yard touchdown with 10:46 left in the game. After Schraufnagel converted on a two-point conversion run, the Cardinals tied the game at 27-apiece.

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UW FOOTBALL

Herbig 'wired different'

Sophomore linebacker takes competitiveness to the next level

COLTEN BARTHOLOMEW
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MADISON — Competitive fire burns bright in Nick Herbig.

It's clear in his play as an outside linebacker for the University of Wisconsin football team (5-3, 3-2 Big Ten), which takes a four-game winning streak into its 2:30 p.m. game Saturday at Rutgers (4-4, 1-4). But Herbig's competitiveness extends to the rest of his life. Case in point



Herbig

— Herbig has been carrying a Connect 4 board with him most everywhere he goes, ready to put his skills to the test.

"(Junior linebacker) Marty Strey, he loves playing Connect 4 and we were playing on our phone and he beat me on the phone," Herbig said. "But I was like, this isn't even real Connect 4. Let me go get a real Connect 4 board. So I went to Target and bought one, and now it's become like my thing."

Connect 4 was the board game of choice for Herbig and his father, Bruce, growing up. Bruce was a counselor at Herbig's elementary school and he would hold tournaments in the 40 or so minutes between the school's breakfast club and the start of the school day. If a student could beat Bruce, he'd buy them a pizza. Competitiveness may be genetic with the Herbigs: Bruce never would lose.

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PREP FOOTBALL

Judge rules against Edgewood

Crusaders remain out of playoffs; Columbus to play Kewaskum instead

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MADISON — Edgewood High School's undefeated football season came to an apparent end Friday without a shot at a state title after a Dane County judge denied the school's request to overturn a Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association decision that found one of Edgewood's players ineligible and stripped the school of its victories, including two playoff wins.

Dane County Circuit Judge Jacob Frost said Edgewood, which sued the WIAA after the school's football team was disqualified Monday from the Division 4 playoffs, is unlikely to succeed in the lawsuit based on the initial filings and testimony he heard in the case, which was filed Thurs-

day to give Edgewood a chance to compete this weekend.

Frost said Edgewood knew that student-athlete Cameron Fane, a 19-year-old wide receiver on the team, was transferring to Edgewood in the spring semester of 2021, in his eighth semester of high school, even though the school classified him as being a second-semester junior, and despite that did not ask for a waiver that could have allowed Fane to play beyond his eighth semester.

The WIAA had only approved a waiver in March that let Fane transfer to Edgewood from a high school in Arlington, Texas, where his father and stepmother live, without having to sit out of varsity sports for a year.

Edgewood's Cam Fane catches a pass near the end zone against Jefferson's Paden Phillips in the first half of a Week 5 game on Sept. 18. Fane had 39 catches for 662 yards and nine TDs and also rushed for 279 yards and four TDs this year, but on Monday night was ruled to have been ineligible all season, resulting in the WIAA stripping the Crusaders of all of their victories and removing them from the playoffs.



AMBER ARNOLD, ASSOCIATED PRESS

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PACKERS

Rodgers explains why he isn't vaccinated

JASON WILDE
For Capital Newspapers

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Packers vs. Chiefs
When, where: 3:25 p.m. Sunday, Kansas City, Missouri.

TV: FOX

Edgewood

From B1

Without a separate waiver allowing Fane to play beyond his eighth continuous semester of school, he was ineligible under WIAA rules.

Attorneys for Edgewood argued that the WIAA rules are confusing as written, and they backed an assumption that not only did Fane get a transfer waiver, he had received a fifth-year waiver as well based on the way the residence transfer waiver rule is written.

"It's regrettable that any of us are here today." Fost soon as he closed his remarks during the hearing, held by video conference. "Unfortunately it's a bed that Edgewood made. That it got pointed out during the tournament is extremely unfortunate, but we deal with that. We have here. The law is what it is, and the facts are what they are."

No one has said why the issue came up now, or who brought it to the WIAA's attention.

Edgewood President Mike Elliott said the school was "disappointed" in the outcome.

"Neither Cam nor the Edgewood football team did anything wrong and do not deserve this type of treatment," he said in a statement. "The team worked extremely hard and earned the right to play in Saturday night's game and beyond. A technical error — raised nine months after the fact and that the team had no part in — should and could have been resolved earlier, and in a different manner. Our team did not deserve this penalty. Our school community did not deserve the scrutiny this accusation has caused."

He wrote that he hopes the WIAA will "address the gray areas in this case as highlighted" so no other team goes through what Edgewood did.

"As a community, we will come together to heal, and we will move forward," he wrote. "But we will never be able to correct the injustice our excellent 2021 football team and our entire school community have had to endure."

WIAA communications director Todd Clark in an email Friday wrote: "As the case still may be pending, we will not be issuing a statement."

Edgewood sued the WIAA on Thursday ahead of a WIAA hear-

ing during which the organization's Board of Control denied Edgewood's appeal of sanctions imposed against it, which included vacating all of Edgewood's wins this season, including its playoff victories.

In its lawsuit, Edgewood maintained that it had cleared Fane with the WIAA in the spring, granting Fane a residence and transfer waiver after submitting documentation of extenuating circumstances allowing a variance from usual WIAA rules.

But on Monday, the WIAA ruled Fane was ineligible to play because Edgewood had not sought or been granted a fifth-year eligibility waiver for Fane.

The WIAA accused Edgewood in court documents of trying to "dress up" its previously-approved residence and transfer waiver for Fane as a fifth-year eligibility waiver in an effort to mislead the WIAA.

As a sanction for the apparent violation, the WIAA stripped Edgewood of its 40-0 win in the Division 4 playoffs over Kewaskum and all 11 of its wins this season. Instead, Kewaskum will play Columbus in the state quarterfinals Saturday at 7 p.m.

Packers

From B1

in the week — Rodgers also attacked the NFL's COVID-19 protocols for unvaccinated players as being designed to "shame" and "coerce" them, bemoaned the inconveniences and what he considers to be unfair treatment that he and others have endured because of his unvaccinated status, and championed the use of ivermectin, a controversial anti-parasitic drug that has not been approved by the FDA for human use to treat the coronavirus.

Invoking the memory of Martin Luther King Jr. when explaining why he felt he had "a moral obligation to object to unjust rules and rules that make no sense," Rodgers said he was doing the interview to tell what he called "my side of the story" as he prepares to miss Sunday's game against the Kansas City Chiefs after testing positive for COVID-19 earlier this week.

Because he is unvaccinated, Rodgers must quarantine away from the team for 10 days, meaning the earliest he can return to the Packers' Lambeau Field headquarters would be Nov. 15, the day before the team is set to play the Seattle Seahawks. Jordan Love, the team's 2020 first-round draft pick whose selection set the stage for Rodgers' offseason of discontent in which he considered retirement and vowed not to play for the Packers again, will make his first NFL start in Rodgers' place at Kansas City.

Rodgers said he had "some symptoms" on Tuesday night, then tested positive on Wednesday and "didn't feel great" on Thursday but was feeling "really good" on Friday, crediting treatments he is following on the advice of podiatrist host, UFC color commentator and comedian Joe Rogan, whom Rodgers described as a "now-good friend of mine."

Two used unconventional, controversial treatments when he contracted COVID-19 earlier this year.

Rodgers said his treatment since testing positive has included "monoclonal antibodies, ivermectin, Zinc, Vitamin C, and D and HCQ" or Hydroxychloroquine.

"And I feel pretty incredible," he said.

Saying he wanted to "set the record straight" because there are "so many blatant lies that are out there about myself right now," Rodgers insisted his Aug. 26 response of, "Yeah, I've been immunized" was not a lie when responding to a direct question about his vaccination status and said he would have offered more details — including the fact that he says he was deemed allergic to an ingredient in the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines — had he been pressed by reporters on the matter.

"I didn't lie in the initial press conference," Rodgers said. "During that time, it was a witch hunt that was going on across the league, where everybody in the media was so concerned about who was vaccinated and who wasn't and what that meant and who was being selfish and who would talk about it, what it meant if they said it's a personal decision and they shouldn't have to disclose their own medical information."

"At the time, my plan was to say that I have been immunized. It wasn't some sort of ruse or lie; it was the truth. ... Had there



PACKERS COACH MATT LAFLEUR, ASSOCIATED PRESS

When Packers coach Matt LaFleur was asked Wednesday if Aaron Rodgers' answer about being "immunized" was misleading, the coach said "that's a great question for Aaron."

been a follow-up to my statement that I've been immunized, I would have said, 'Look, I'm not some sort of anti-vax, flat-earther. I am somebody who's a critical thinker. You guys know me, I march to the beat of my own drum. I believe strongly in bodily autonomy and the ability to make choices for your body, not to have to acquiesce to some woke culture or crazed group of individuals who say you have to do something. Health is not a one-size-fits all for everybody and for me it involved a lot of study in the offseason.'"

Rodgers said he is allergic to an ingredient contained in the COVID-19 vaccines manufactured by Pfizer and Moderna, which would have left him only the Johnson & Johnson vaccine as an option. Instead, he chose to undergo a homeopathic treatment designed to raise his immunity, before finally testing positive. He was informed by the league that he would be considered unvaccinated.

Rodgers said responded by assembling "my medical team," which included "some amazing minds" including "Harvard M.D.s," "holistic doctors" and "homeopaths." He said his group, which he financed himself, generated 500 pages of research on "everything from mask wearing to the efficacy of the vaccines and the duration of the antibodies."

Asked how the NFL responded when he presented the report he'd commissioned, Rodgers replied, "I think they thought I was a quack."

Rodgers then claimed that an NFL medical representative told him that "vaccinated people can't contract the virus or spread the virus," which is demonstrably false. Rodgers offered no specifics on who it was that told him that, although he did claim that the league sent a "stooge" to training camp who was sent to "basically shame our team that we were 19th in the league in terms of percentage of vaccinated people." Rodgers said he pushed back on that representative during a meeting with the team and that afterward "so many" of his teammates and coaches thanked him for standing up for them.

A source said Friday afternoon that no doctor or medical expert with the league or the NFLPA had communicated with Rodgers but, even if one had, that no one would have given him false information about vaccinated people not being able to contract the virus or spread it.

As for Rodgers' alternative therapy, the source said a member of the Packers medical staff reached out to the NFLPA medical director on Rodgers' behalf

Mayville

From B1

Mayville's defense forced Campbell to punt to keep out best possession. The Cardinals responded by driving down the field and Braeden Vollmers scoring from 57 yards out to give Mayville a 34-27 lead and the eventual victory.

"We just had to keep our composure," Schraufnagel said of what his team had in mind heading into the fourth quarter. "I think with the turnovers the last time we played them, we lost our composure. We just had to keep our minds into it."

Badgers

From B1

Herbig remembers the first time he bested his dad in Connect 4, which came in the sixth grade.

"I casually just got up and left and he was like, 'We're not going to play like the best out of three? First to two games wins?'" Herbig said. "I was like, 'Nah, I'm probably not going to play you for a while. I'm just going to take this dub and walk!'"

Bruce remembers the scene a bit differently.

"He didn't walk away, he ran," Bruce said. "He jumped up and ran ... ran one way (across the yard) and back the other, screaming the whole way. And I didn't play him again until just about a week ago."

Herbig said senior cornerback Faton Hicks has given him the closest games thus far, but he hasn't played senior defensive lineman Matt Henningsen, regarded as one of the smartest players on the team.

"That's the lighter side of Herbig's competitive nature. When dealing with reporters and those around the program, the consensus is Herbig's a joy to be around. A fun-loving, kind kid."

The other side — the one that powers the 6-foot-2, 227-pound Badger runner through offensive tackles who outweigh him by 100 pounds — is marked by a ferocious work ethic and a drive that flirts with the line between dedicated and obsessive.

"If you talk to Nick, he's wired different," junior nose tackle Keenan Berns said.

"I talked to him and he told me how every rep, if he loses, he felt like he's losing at life, to an extent. He's a little crazy. Even if he lose a rep in practice, he gets mad at himself. I feel like it brings out the best in him. He's a different type of breed."

A scary routine

Teammates weren't up for sharing when asked about how Herbig psyches himself up before a game.

"There's probably some examples that I shouldn't say," Hicks said.

Added quarterback Graham Mertz: "We've got a lot of guys who get intense before games. Herbie is one of them. I got a couple of stories, but we'll save 'em."

Senior safety Collin Wilder, who often is playing directly behind Herbig and communicates with him throughout a game, affectionately said Herbig "has a screw loose." Wilder often gets a few insights of just how intense Herbig can be before heading out to a game.

"If you had a chance to follow him during pregame, I mean this guy ... he's in his own world; he's a trip. I love him to death."

One could disagree with the pregame antics or call them dangerous, but the production Herbig is giving the Badgers is unquestionable. He has 34 tackles, including eight for loss, and a team-best six sacks this season. He's second on the team with four pass breakups and a fumble recovery. His strip-sack of Iowa quarterback Spencer Petras last week set up a field goal for UW.

Herbig said his intensity comes from his older brothers, Jake and Nate, and from Bruce. Nate is a starting guard for the Philadelphia Eagles who played collegiately at Stanford, and Bruce also played college football.

"I think that's just how I always was. Football means more to me," Herbig said. "I take it very personally. It kind of goes back to my two older brothers, that's how they always were and I look up to them. So growing up seeing them be like that, especially Nate because he's been a football player since he was 10, seeing what he does and how he prepares himself, it gives me kind of a role model and a guide to follow."

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Mayville 34, Campbellsport 27

Mayville	7	4	6	12	37
Campbellsport	0	0	0	0	0
M - Schraufnagel 68 run (Bridgeway-Kayser 66%), 215, 1st					
C - Gardner 59 run (Gardner 66%), 638, 1st					
C - Gardner 6 run (Gardner 66%), 115, 2nd					
M - Schraufnagel 30 run (Bridgeway 66%), 648, 2nd					
C - Gardner 4 run (Gardner 66%), 33, 2nd					
M - Schraufnagel 28 run (Gardner 66%), 634, 3rd					
C - McCarty 1 run (Bridgeway 66%), 106, 3rd					
M - McCarty 2 run (Schraufnagel 66%), 104, 4th					
M - Vollmers 5 run (Bridgeway-Kayser 66%), 443, 4th					

First downs — M: 21 (18, 3, 1); C: 14 (10, 3, 1). **Passing Comp. - Att. - Int.** — M: 10-18, 133-200, 0; C: 10-20, 133-200, 0. **Punting** — M: 4-43, 137; C: 4-43, 137. **Time of possession** — M: 31:14; C: 28:46.

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS
Rushing — M: Schraufnagel 22-235, Vollmers 19-90; C: Gardner 29-205.
Passing — M: Gardner 28-6-0-42; C: McCarty 5-20-0-140.
Receiving — M: Vollmers 2-50; Hayden 12-12; C: Wittke 3-24.

Bruce and UW defensive coordinator Jim Leonhard describe Herbig as someone who wears his heart on his sleeve, and that quality is apparent before and after games. The energy level he brings himself to is different than others.

Herbig will be making his 10th consecutive start at Rutgers, and his tenacity on the field is one of the qualities that helped him become a true freshman starter in training camp last season.

Leonhard — a three-time All-American at UW and a 10-year NFL veteran — was asked if Herbig reminded him of any former teammates. He told a story about how despite hearing repeatedly early his career that the emotion of the game would wear off, he saw something different when he joined the Baltimore Ravens in 2008, his third NFL season.

"That was a group of guys that kind of red-lined it every game, from the beginning till the end," Leonhard said. "The kid's been around football his entire life, he knows only one way to play this game and that's to empty the tank. Every play, every drive, every day."

"To me, it was more certain teams I was on. Like Von Miller is a guy, like he'd literally crawl off the field and to go take a blow, get some oxygen, sit down for a series, and then he'd go out there the next drive and do the same. A number of players that just had that mentality of just don't save anything, there's no point. I love that about (Herbig). When you get some of your best players kind of playing that way, everyone seems to fall in line and follow their leadership, whether it's vocal or just how they play."

Learning at 'The Bro Barn'

Herbig never misses a chance to learn from his brother Nate. The two trained together throughout last summer when the pandemic shut down gyms and other facilities, and that work served as a springboard for Herbig into a standout freshman season.

Seeds for his even better sophomore campaign were planted this offseason when he worked out with Nate and other Eagles linemen at a complex nicknamed "The Bro Barn." Philadelphia tackle Lane Johnson built the 1,100 square-foot structure on his property in South Jersey, and it's become a hub for Eagles teammates and others in the spring and summer months.

Herbig was invited to train with pro players and Johnson's trainer, former Marine Gabe Rangell. He'd lift weights and practice get-offs and passing-blocking moves, holding himself to an NFL standard.

"Shout out to Gabe Rangell and Lane. Appreciate those guys so much," Herbig said. "I don't think they realize how much they've impacted me in my journey so far. I'm really grateful and blessed to have encountered those guys."

His discipline and desire to work are defining traits. He meets often with outside linebackers coach Bobby April to refine his techniques, and he spends time after practices going through individual drill work. Mertz said the quarterbacks normally are the last ones on the practice field, getting extra throws in, but Herbig always will be on the other side of the field working on his moves against a heavy bag.

"None of this happens overnight, and there's a guy that every day approaches this with great energy," UW coach Paul Chryst said. "He's got an unbelievable desire to be the best he can be. He's got an unbelievable desire to help his team. And I think you see it on Saturdays in some of those things that are called production, but he does it every day."

Herbig's family will be at the Rutgers game Saturday before taking in Nate's game against the L.A. Chargers on Sunday.

Bruce said he's asked often about Herbig and his accomplishments this point.

"People ask, 'Aren't you proud that he's doing this and that?'" Bruce said. "I'm not proud of that. I'm proud that he's dedicated himself to something and he's gone all-in on it."