

SPORTS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 2022 | kenoshanews.com | SECTION C

CENTRAL 27, OREGON 0

A persuasive case for the defense



MIKE RAMCZYK, KENOSHA NEWS

The Central football team huddles up after a big 27-0 victory Friday night.

Undefeated Falcons pitch a shutout

MIKE RAMCZYK
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PADDOCKLAKE — “I feel like we have the best defense in the conference.”

Those are big words from Central senior lineman Mason McNeill, a three-time team captain.

The Falcons haven’t made the playoffs in quite some time, and they’ve really never been known for their defense.

But don’t tell that to McNeill, a 6-foot-2, 290-pound stud on both sides of the line.



McNeill

Central shut out the Oregon Panthers in non-conference action, 27-0, Friday night at Central High School, and McNeill fully expected the team’s defense to lead them to their current 2-0 record.

“I wanted to go into the season winning the preseason, going 2-0, and obviously we did that. Our team is pretty confident,” McNeill said moments after his squad’s dominant victory. “We have a lot of new guys to varsity, so everyone was kind of skiddish,

this week we came in rollin’. We scored on our second drive and at the end of the first half.”

“Overall, our defense is great. I feel like we have the best defense in the conference.”

Central head coach Jared Franz echoed McNeill regarding the defense.

“Defensively, this is exactly the effort we were planning for,” Franz said. “Being physically strong, controlling the line of scrimmage, Oregon’s a power run team, we see a lot of that in our conference.”

“27-0 is a pretty good outcome

Please see **FALCONS**, Page C3

COMMENTARY

3 things we learned with Friday football

Tremper scores surprise upset, Wilmot, Central tout defense

Don’t let its record fool you, please. The Shoreland Lutheran football team (0-2) is not that bad.

The Pacers fell again in non-conference action Friday night at the Topper Bowl in Burlington at Catholic Central High School, 24-10, but the score was much closer than the score indicated.

Under new head coach Jason Hagedorn, the Pacers are still



MIKE RAMCZYK

trying to figure out the new system, but Joseph Kayon showed flashes of his talent with a couple long runs.

Honestly, the Pacers were only down 10-3 late in the third quarter and seemed to be driving, but a holding penalty thwarted an otherwise promising drive.

“It was really nice to be able to keep Catholic Central and St. Joe’s on our schedule,” Hagedorn said recently. “Coach Aldrich (CC) knows football, and it’s always fun to coach against someone like that.”

“It’s week to week since I’m the new coach. We want to see what’s going to work each week against each opponent. Overall, I’m very happy with where we’re at with the kids and knowing what they should do. The next step is not just knowing it but making it successful.”

Hagedorn says “success” is implementing things slowly the first two weeks and staying healthy.

Despite the 0-2 start, the Pacers can feel good about battling both St. Joe’s and Catholic Central before eventually losing by double digits.

Shoreland’s slow, but steady improvement is just one thing I observed from my travels covering Shoreland and Central Friday night.

These games were just the tip of the iceberg, as Indian Trail scored 50 points in an overtime thriller, Tremper shocked Union Grove and Bradford got its first victory of the season.

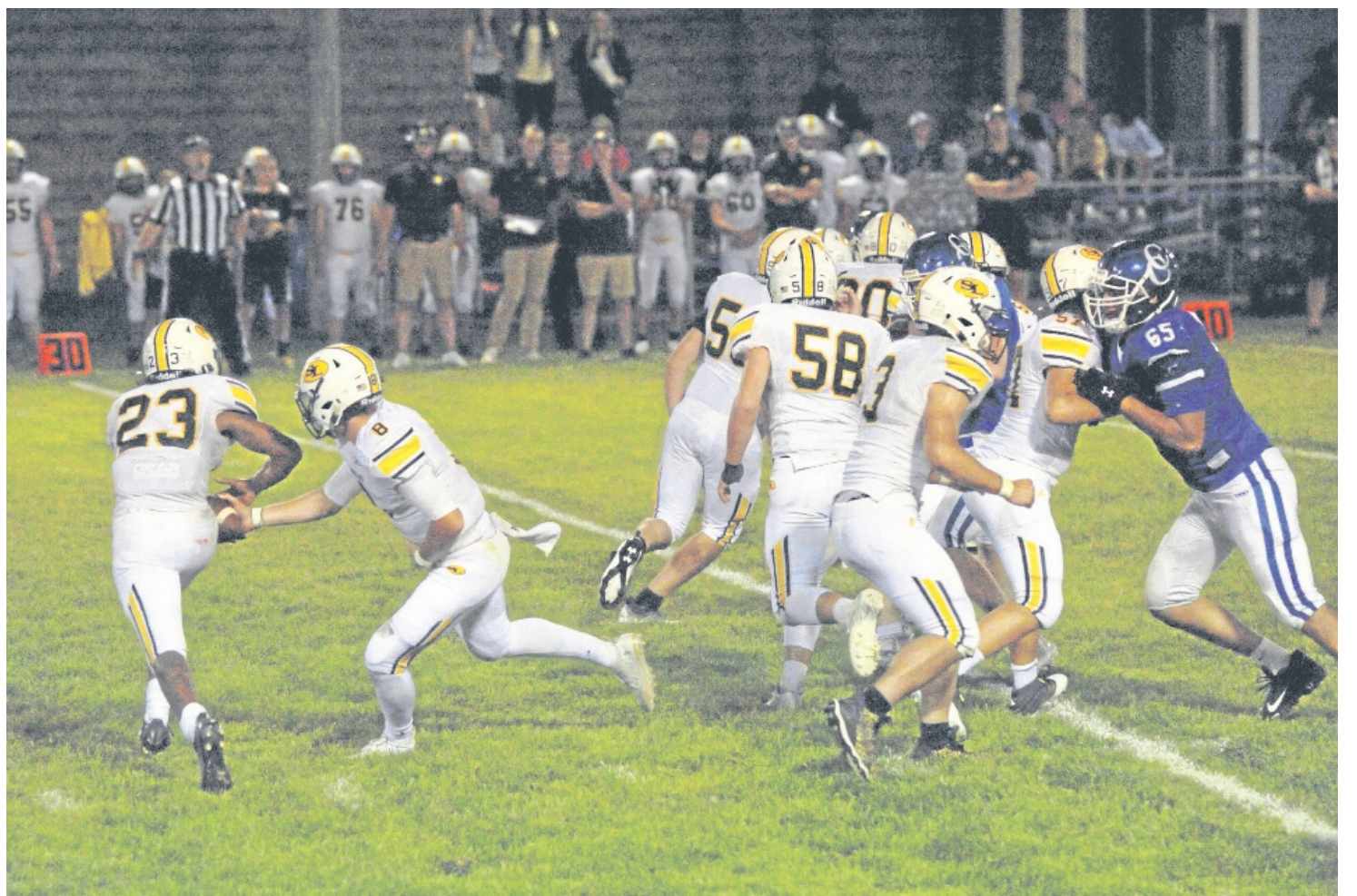
Here are my three biggest takeaways from Week 2 of the football season Friday night:

1. Tremper is good

I say “must” because it is still early with only two non-conference games, but I really like what Colin Zalakar and his staff are doing with the Trojans.

They went into a hostile environment against a conference champion Union Grove squad Friday night and molly-wopped them.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



MIKE RAMCZYK, LEE NEWSPAPERS

Shoreland Lutheran quarterback William Craig hands the football off to Joseph Kayon on Friday night at the Topper Bowl in Burlington.

Avalanche of points

Trailing 12-7 in second quarter, Tremper rallies against reigning SLC champion Union Grove

LEE NEWSPAPERS SPORTS STAFF

For awhile Friday, it appeared the Tremper and Union Grove high school football teams were going to have a knock-down, drag-out nonconference battle.

Instead, it turned into a rout for the Trojans.

Tremper trailed 12-7 early in the second quarter, then broke the game open with 36 unanswered points to turn the game Friday into a 43-12 rout at Union Grove.

All was going well for Broncos (0-2) early. Kacey Spranger scored on a 4-yard run to cap the Broncos’ opening drive of the game for a 6-0 lead (the extra

point was blocked).

Tremper (1-1) answered on its first possession as well, capped by a 19-yard touchdown run by Deszmond White.

Union Grove went back into the lead at 12-7 with 8:55 left in the first half on a 46-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Nathan Williams to Spranger.

But that was all the offense the Broncos were going to get.

The Trojans scored four touchdowns in the final seven minutes of the first half on a 20-yard run by Carson Nye and touchdown passes of 31, 10 and 52 yards by quarterback Mason Prozanski for

a 34-12 lead.

Tremper added another score in the third quarter on a 6-yard run by Gabe Gonzales and capped the game with 2:55 left with a safety.

For Tremper, Prozanski went 10 of 13 for 222 yards passing and also had 83 yards rushing on 12 carries. White had four catches for 95 yards and five runs for 57 yards on offense, and had four solo tackles on defense.

“Our run game is thorough the power option and (Prozanski) distributed the ball well and he is a great athlete,” Tremper coach Colin Zalakar said. “I’m really

proud of the effort. We finished well and we shut them out in the second half.”

BRADFORD 40, ZION-BENTON (ILL.) 10:

The Red Devils rebounded behind a solid night from Kemonie Parks in a non-conference game on Friday at Bradford Stadium.

The Red Devils (1-1), coming off of a 24-7 loss on the road against Wilmot, provided a strong response at home to secure their first win of the season.

Parks was a large reason why.

Please see **FOOTBALL**, Page C4

FRIDAY RECAP | CUBS 4, BREWERS 3, 10 INNINGS

Brewers feeling plenty hapless

Cubs’ only have two hits, but both are two-run homers by Happ

STEVE MEGARREE
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Ian Happ had the only hits for the Chicago Cubs — just enough to hinder the Milwaukee Brewers’ playoff push.

Happ hit two two-run homers to account for Chicago’s two hits, and the Cubs beat the Brewers 4-3 in 10 innings on Friday night.

Happ hit a drive off Matt Bush in the seventh and a tiebreaking shot against All-Star Devin Williams (4-3) in the 10th. Both homers sailed over the right-field wall.



Happ

“To come through in those situations is awesome for the group, for the team, for the pitching staff that did such a good job keeping us in it the whole day,” Happ said. “It’s really cool.”

It was the first time the Cubs won a game in which their only two hits were homers since April 14, 1985, when Jody Davis and Gary Matthews went deep in a 4-2 victory over the Montreal Expos.

Milwaukee’s Rowdy Tellez tied the game with a leadoff homer in the ninth off Brandon



MORRY GASH, ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Chicago Cubs’ Ian Happ is congratulated by third base coach Willie Harris after hitting a two-run home run during the seventh inning against the Milwaukee Brewers on Friday in Milwaukee.

Ramczyk

From C1

Sure, it was 12-7 Broncos early, but then the Tremper train came through and couldn't be stopped.

Thirty-six unanswered points later, and the Grove is 0-2 and Tremper sits at 1-1 after winning only three games last year.

Tremper outgained the Grove, 398-158, behind 222 passing yards and three touchdowns and another 83 yards rushing from quarterback Mason Prozanski.

Game-breaking playmaker Deszmond White caught four balls for two of those scores and added 57 rushing yards and a score on the ground.

Along with Friday night's big-time win, we learned the season-opening 34-13 loss to Madison Memorial was no fluke.

Madison Memorial crushed Waukesha West, a perennial powerhouse, 35-7, on Friday night.

Tremper players are feeling more comfortable in Zalokar's system, which wasn't fully implemented when he started in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With numbers up, hopes are high at Ameche Stadium.

All signs point to the Trojans winning more than three games this season.

2. St. Joe's beat a Division 1 school

No matter the size of a school, the game of football and most sports for that matter come down to the Jimmy's and the Joe's.

Who's actually on your team?

Do you have the talent to compete at a high level?

Luke Schuler answered that question emphatically with a grown-man performance Friday night in the Lancers' 28-0 shutout at Wauwatosa East, a D1 school bordering Milwaukee.

D1 is D1, no matter the talent or strength of the Tosa East program, and Schuler, who will play Division 2 college football next season, showed just how much he impacts a football game.

Schuler picked off a pass in the second quarter and took it 95 yards to the house to put the Lancers up 14-0.

Then, in the third quarter, he caught a 9-yard TD pass from Eric Kenesie.

The icing on the cake was a 53-yard interception return from Kenesie.

Tosa East may not be great, but any victory for a



SEAN KRAJACIC KENOSHA NEWS

Tremper's Alex Hartmann breaks up a pass during the season opener against Madison Memorial at Ameche Field on Aug. 19.

D4 team over a D1 team is impressive.

With 264 total yards and only 64 allowed, and another 140 yards rushing from Jayden Gordon on only 16 carries, St. Joe's has now rolled in consecutive weeks and is showing why it figures to be a state championship contender this fall.

3. Wilmot defense has allowed only 7 points this season

Anthony Corona is going to play Division 1 college football next fall at Illinois State University as a ball-hawking, hard-hitting safety.

For now, as a senior with the Panthers, he can do it all.

While Schuler's 95-yard

interception return for the score was the biggest defensive play of the night, Corona may have had the biggest offensive play.

Corona capped off a 33-0 shutout victory at Milwaukee Lutheran with an 88-yard rushing touchdown, showing off his elite speed.

Wilmot improved to 2-0 this season and has outscored opponents 57-7.

The Panthers got another elite rushing performance as a team, with 128 yards and two touchdowns from Marco Falletti, who is second in the area in rushing this season behind St. Joe's junior Jayden Gordon.

Anthony Hall added 58 rushing yards and a score,

and the bulldozing back also caught a 30-yard touchdown pass from Cooper Zimmermann.

I've only seen Shoreland, St. Joe's, Wilmot, Bradford and Central so far this season, but I would honestly put the Panthers up against any one of these teams and really anyone in the Southern Lakes.

After a rare 1-win season, head coach Keiya Square has turned things around tremendously and has his Panthers in prime position—with enough talent and determination—to capture a conference title.

Mike Ramczyk is a sports reporter for the Kenosha News.

Happ

From C1

Hughes, but the Brewers squandered chances to close it out in the ninth and 10th. They went 2 for 15 with runners in scoring position.

"It's a frustrating night, for sure," Brewers manager Craig Counsell said. "We got runners on early not much kind of middle of the game, did a nice job in the ninth and the 10th but didn't capitalize on really big opportunities."

The Brewers had runners on first and second in the ninth after Keston Hiura reached on an error by shortstop Nico Hoerner and Luis Urias walked, but the Brewers couldn't get the winning run across. Mark Leiter Jr. got Victor Caratini to fly to left, and Sean Newcomb (2-0) retired Kolten Wong and Christian Yelich.

Chicago then regained the lead when Williams allowed a homer for just the second time this season. The other occurred when Bryan Reynolds hit a game-ending drive for Pittsburgh in an 8-7 loss on Aug. 3.

"Not a good pitch," Williams said. "He's sitting changeup, and I hung it right down the middle."

The Brewers got a one-out RBI single from Hunter Renfroe in the 10th that cut Chicago's lead to 4-3 and put runners on first and second. The runners advanced on a wild pitch, and a Tellez walk loaded the bases.

Pinch-hitter Jace Peterson then sent a grounder to second baseman Nick Madrigal, who tagged Tellez out and threw to first to complete the game-ending double play.

Manuel Rodríguez earned the save in his first appearance of the season. Rodríguez, who has been dealing with an elbow issue, was activated from the 60-day injured list earlier in the day.

Milwaukee's Freddy Peralta pitched six hitless innings, departing with a 1-0 lead after 82 pitches. It was Peralta's fifth appearance since coming off the IL after missing over two months with a right lat strain.

"Our goal is to have Freddy make eight more really good starts," Counsell said. "We're not going to push him at a time when

it's a little questionable whether he should be out there again."

Peralta said he didn't want to come out but he felt it was the right decision.

The Cubs are 10-7 against the Brewers this season after losing 15 of 19 meetings in last year's season series. Nine of the matchups have been decided by one run, and the Cubs are 7-2 in those games.

Milwaukee has slid out of playoff position after leading the NL Central for much of the year in part because of its struggles against the bottom three teams in the division. The Brewers are 3-12 in their last 15 matchups with the Cubs, Cincinnati Reds and Pittsburgh Pirates.

The news wasn't all good for the Cubs.

Justin Steele, one of the NL's hottest pitchers, left with lower back tightness after retiring Renfroe on a fly to the warning track to start the bottom of the sixth. Steele struck out six, walked four and allowed four hits, including a Tyrone Taylor homer in the fifth.

"It's still a little bit tight, but it definitely got better once we started working on it a little bit and stuff," Steele said. "We'll see how it feels tomorrow."

In his last six starts, Steele has allowed just three earned runs over 31 2/3 innings. He entered Friday's game with a 1.47 ERA since June 29 to lead all NL starters over that stretch.

Breaking the tie

The Cubs' victory gave them a 208-207 lead in the all-time series between the teams.

Trainer's room

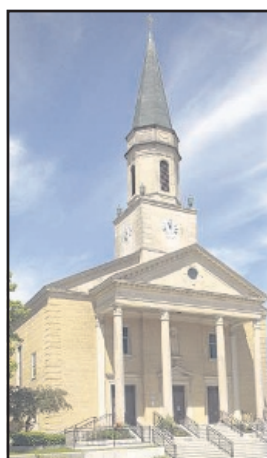
Cubs: Transferred RHP Alec Mills (back) to the 60-day injured list and optioned RHP Kervin Castro to Triple-A Iowa.

Brewers: RHP Trevor Rosenthal, who hasn't pitched since 2020, is getting examined after leaving his last rehabilitation assignment early with lat soreness. The Brewers acquired Rosenthal from the San Francisco Giants at the trade deadline and have been hoping he could join their bullpen for the final month of the season.... Peterson was activated from the injured list. He hadn't played since July 17 due to an elbow issue.

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