

FOOTBALL

HOMECOMING

Hillsboro routs Riverdale for season's second win

By ZACH RASTALL
HSE Sports Reporter

A timely defensive play from Hillsboro junior Isaiah Stokes just before halftime brought a one-possession game into the beginning stages of a rout.

Stokes made a pick-six in the final minute of the first half to help the Tigers (2-4 overall, 1-2 Ridge & Valley) pull away and eventually beat the Riverdale Chieftains (1-5, 1-2) 30-6 in their Ridge & Valley Conference matchup Friday, September 23 in Hillsboro.

The scoring started in the first quarter when senior quarterback Josiah Thyne got free for a 68-yard touchdown run, then added a successful two-point conversion run for an 8-0

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Hillsboro's Josiah Thyne (right) and Isaac Thyne (below) led the team offensively and defensively. Josiah rushed for 104 yard and two touchdowns on 11 carries, while Isaac 6.5 tackles on defense. HSE photos by Logan Everson.



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VOLLEYBALL

Wolves sweep Tigers in three

By ZACH RASTALL
HSE Sports Reporter

Early in the season, the Wonewoc-Center Wolves dropped two of their first three conference matches with losses to Royall and Cashton, leaving them with tough odds moving forward in the race for a Scenic Bluffs title.

But thanks to an excellent run of form in recent weeks that's seen them win five straight league matches, the Wolves are right back in the thick of the conference championship battle — with their latest win serving as their strongest statement yet.

Wonewoc-Center (10-4 overall, 6-2 Scenic Bluffs) provided another plot twist in this compelling Scenic Bluffs volleyball season by sweeping the Hillsboro Tigers (18-5,

6-2) Tuesday, September 27 in Wonewoc.

In the win for the Wolves, they were led by their core junior trio: Kelsey Justman with 16 kills and three blocks, Bryn Ertel with seven kills and two blocks and Jaelyn Stowe with two kills and 26 assists.

Stat leaders for the Tigers included sophomore Michelyn Hansen with 11 kills and three blocks, senior Toni Mitchell with three aces and 11 assists and senior Camryn Hanson with 11 digs.

That result leaves both Wonewoc-Center and Hillsboro — along with the Cashton Eagles — in a three-way tie for second in the Scenic Bluffs standings, one game back of first-place Royall.

The Panthers had previously dropped back into a tie for

first with the Tigers following a five-set loss to Cashton last Thursday, but reclaimed sole possession of first with a win over Bangor Tuesday night.

Both the Wolves and the Tigers had won their latest match heading into Tuesday's clash.

Wonewoc-Center went on the road and swept the Bangor Cardinals 25-17, 25-17, 25-16 Thursday, September 22 in Bangor.

Stat leaders for the Wolves in that one were Justman with 23 kills, three aces and three blocks, Ertel with six kills and three blocks, senior Stacie Kopenhafer with four kills and Stowe with 28 assists.

That same night, the Tigers swept away the Necedah Cardinals 25-10, 25-20, 25-8 in Necedah. Hillsboro's stat leaders were Hansen with 15 kills and nine digs, junior

Peyton Sullivan with five aces and senior Violet Morren with three blocks.

The Wolves will look to keep their hot streak going when they hit the road to face Brookwood Thursday, September 29 at 7:15 p.m. in Ontario. They then will take part in a weekend tournament Saturday, October 1 starting at 9 a.m. in Belmont.

After that, Wonewoc-Center sets its sights on a huge home match against Royall Tuesday, October 4 at 7:15 p.m. in Wonewoc.

The Tigers have a pair of home matches over the coming week, as they host New Lisbon Thursday, September 27 and Cashton Tuesday, October 4. Both contests are scheduled to get underway at 7:15 p.m.

Wonewoc-Center's Olivia Peesel celebrates a point.
HSE photos by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.



FOOTBALL

W-C/W falls to De Soto for fourth straight loss

By ZACH RASTALL
HSE Sports Reporter

Another tough matchup resulted in another lopsided loss for the Wonewoc-Center/Weston Silver Wolves in Week 5 of the 8-player football season.

The De Soto Pirates (5-0 overall, 2-0 Southern-West), ranked No. 4 in the state in the WisSports.net coaches' poll, built up a massive lead in the first half and rode that to a 56-14 win over the Silver Wolves (1-4, 0-2) Friday, September 23 in De Soto.

The Pirates started things with a trio of touchdowns in the first quarter for a 20-0 lead: senior

running back Harley Schams's 15-yard TD run, a blocked punt returned for a touchdown and junior wide receiver Landon Pedretti's 44-yard TD pass to senior quarterback Evan Pedretti.

That was followed by three more touchdowns in the second quarter to extend the De Soto lead to 44-0: a 27-yard TD run by Schams, a four-yard TD pass from Evan Pedretti to Landon Pedretti and a two-yard TD run by Schams.

Wonewoc-Center/Weston junior quarterback Danny Roehling punched in a one-yard touchdown run to get the Silver Wolves on the board and cut the

deficit to 44-6 at halftime.

Schams added a final one-yard touchdown run in the third quarter and freshman Austin DeFlorian found the end zone on a five-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter for De Soto. Junior Corbin Champlain scored on a three-yard touchdown run for the Silver Wolves in the fourth quarter as well.

For Wonewoc-Center/Weston, Roehling completed 2 of 8 passes for 31 yards and an interception, with Champlain making one catch 26 yards to go along with his rushing touchdown. Schams compiled 87 yards and four touchdowns on eight carries to

lead the Pirates.

The Silver Wolves are on the road again in Week 5 to face Wisconsin Heights (2-2, 1-1) in a conference clash Friday, September 30 at 7 p.m. in Mazomanie.

The Vanguardians are coming off a 29-28 win over North Crawford last Saturday. They've been led this season by senior quarterback Derek Adler with 453 yards, four touchdowns and seven interceptions while completing 47 percent of his passes, and sophomore running back Cody Blicharz with 430 rushing yards and three touchdowns on 7.2 yards per carry.

VOLLEYBALL

Royall bumps Bangor, leads SBC

By ZACH RASTALL
HSE Sports Reporter

The race for the Scenic Bluffs volleyball title is heating up and occasionally bordering on unpredictable as the 2022 season moves to the end of September.

With the dynamics of conference championship race continuing to shift, the Panthers (18-6 overall, 7-1 Scenic Bluffs) maintain a one-game lead in the standings following a wild last week for them and the Scenic Bluffs as a whole.

Coming off their huge four-set road victory over Hillsboro last Tuesday to originally take sole possession of first in the league standings, the Panthers appeared poised to rack up another win when they won the first two sets against the Cashton Eagles.

However, the Eagles rallied to pull off a stunning 18-25, 9-25, 25-17, 25-19, 15-13 win over Royall Thursday, September 22 in Elroy.

In the loss for the Panthers, junior Marah Gruen led the way with 22 kills and 18 digs, junior Brooklyn Gruen had three aces and 20 assists, junior Kasey Jones fired back five blocks and freshman Bria Gruen finished with 19 digs.

Stat leaders for Cashton included senior Braylee Hyatt with 10 kills and 11 digs, junior Sydney Helgerson with four aces and 13 digs, senior Taylor Bayer with seven blocks, senior Ella Brueggen with 13 assists and sophomore Sammi Kleba with 10 digs.

That loss dropped the Panthers back into a tie with Hillsboro for first place in the Scenic Bluffs over the weekend, but that would change yet again after the next night of league play around the area.

Royall did its part by sweeping the Bangor Cardinals 25-11, 25-18, 25-16 Tuesday, September 27 in Bangor. One week earlier in Elroy, the Panthers had earned a 25-18, 25-15, 25-20 sweep over the Cardinals.

That result Tuesday coupled with Hillsboro's loss to Wonewoc-Center the same night bumped the Panthers back into sole possession of first place ahead of a three-way tie featuring Hillsboro, Wonewoc-Center and Cashton in second.

Over the coming week, Royall will host Necedah Thursday, September 29 in Elroy and then hit the road for a pivotal match against the Wolves Tuesday, October 4 in Wonewoc. Both matches are set to start at 7:15 p.m.

CROSS COUNTRY

Hillsboro's Postel, Britzke place 11th at Brookwood

By ZACH RASTALL
HSE Sports Reporter

A busy September for the Hillsboro cross country team rolled on when they competed at the 2022 Greg Bell Memorial Night Meet Thursday, September 15 at Kronshage Park in Boscobel.

Placing for the Tigers in the boys' 5,000-meter race were junior Parker Skala (19:42.7) in 44th, junior Sawyer Postel (19:46.8) in 46th, sophomore Zachary Morren (20:42.1) in 66th, freshman Abner Scheder (22:12.9) in 98th and sophomore Quinn Scheder (22:25.3) in 101st.

Senior Russell Jackson (22:30.9), junior Alexander McDonough (22:33.2), sophomore Jerry Von Falkenstein (25:08.6), junior Joey Daniels (32:41.8) and senior Mason Haas (36:00.8) also ran for Hillsboro.

Top-five individual finishers on the girls' side were Dodgeville/Mineral Point sophomores Ellie Robinson (18:18.4) and Annie Robinson (19:04.9) in first and second, respectively, Boscobel sophomore Nora Jillson (19:33.6) in third, Dodgeville/Mineral Point senior Julia Thompson (19:47.8) in fourth and Lancaster junior Mallory Olmstead (19:49.2) in fifth.

The top three in the boys' team standings were Iowa-Grant (48 points) in first, Dodgeville/Mineral Point (81 points) in second and Fennimore (91 points) in third. Hillsboro was back in 14th with 328 points.

The top three in the girls' standings were Dodgeville/Mineral Point (30 points) in first, Boscobel (86 points) in second and Lancaster (94 points) in third.

Hillsboro, along with Royall, next competed at the 2022 Lloyd Luethe-Dustin Levy Memorial Invitational hosted by Brookwood Saturday, September 17 in Ontario.

Postel (21:30.1) led the way for Hillsboro in the boys' 5,000-meter race with an 11th-place finish. He was joined by Skala (22:04.6) in 13th, McDonough (25:05.3) in 34th, Jackson (25:52.2) in 36th and Quinn Scheder (27:34.9) in 43rd.

Abe Scheder (28:52.8) and Von Falkenstein (29:17.0) also ran for the Tigers.

Royall had senior Levi Lamb (23:27.9) in 25th, senior Rodrigo Garcia (26:21.8) in 37th, freshman Travis Wehman (26:22.2) in 38th, junior Trevor Wehman (26:32.0) in 39th and freshman Adonu Ingraham (26:59.1) in 41st.

Top-five individual finishers in the boys' race were Brookwood senior Dylan Powell (18:00.3) in first, Tomah senior Carl Oskar Wilcox-Borg (18:58.4) in second, Eau Claire Regis senior Angelo Brantner (20:17.1) in third, Sparta freshman Joel Johnson (20:25.7) in fourth and Brookwood sophomore Caston

Gosda (20:29.5) in fifth.

The girls' 5,000-meter race saw Britzke (24:58.8) come in 11th for the Tigers.

The boys' team standings featured Sparta (39 points) in first, Brookwood (48 points) in second and Tomah (78 points) in third. Hillsboro (125 points) and Royall (163 points) finished in sixth and seventh, respectively.

The girls' team standings had Brookwood (31 points) in first, Sparta (47 points) in second and Cashton (68 points) in third.

2022 LLOYD LUETH-DUSTIN LEVY MEMORIAL INVITATIONAL (5,000-METER RACE)

Hillsboro (boys): 11) Sawyer Postel 21:30.1; 13) Parker Skala 22:04.6; 34) AJ McDonough 25:05.3; 36) Russell Jackson 25:52.2; 43) Quinn Scheder 27:34.9

Royall (boys): 25) Levi Lamb 23:27.9; 37) Rodrigo Garcia 26:21.8; 38) Travis Wehman 26:22.2; 39) Trevor Wehman 26:32.0; 41) Adonu Ingraham 26:59.1

Hillsboro (girls): 11) Britzke 24:58.8

Team results (boys): Sparta 39, Brookwood 44, Tomah 78, De Soto 104, Cashton 119, Hillsboro 125, Royall 163

Team results (girls): Brookwood 31, Sparta 47, Cashton 68, Tomah 72



Hillsboro's Savannah Britzke finished 11th with a time of 21:30.5. HSE photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

FOOTBALL

Royall drops fourth straight to Highland

By ZACH RASTALL
HSE Sports Reporter

With one more defensive stop, the Royall Panthers could have snapped their three-game losing skid with a win over Highland. Instead, they endured a heartbreaking defeat in the game's closing minutes.

The Cardinals (3-3) scored a go-ahead touchdown with just under 1.5 minutes to go to escape with a 21-18 victory over Royall (2-4) Friday, September 23 in Highland. The contest was a Scenic Bluffs-Ridge & Valley crossover game that doesn't count toward conference standings but does count toward each team's record for playoff qualification purposes.

Following a scoreless first quarter, the Panthers got on the board first when junior Colin McKittrick found the end zone on a six-yard touchdown run for a 6-0 lead.

Highland responded with a nice 69-yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback Cohen Healy to senior wide receiver Bryce Bollant and a one-yard touchdown run by Healy to seize a 13-6 lead at halftime.

Royall sophomore Jackson Bender cut the deficit to 13-12 in the third quarter with a 15-yard touchdown run, then gave the Panthers a fourth-quarter lead with a 15-yard pick-six and a two-point conversion run to make it an 18-13 game.

However, the Cardinals had the last laugh when Healy dumped off a short pass to junior running back Darren Laufenberg, who gashed through the defense for a 45-yard touchdown with 1:24 remaining. A successful two-point conversion gave Highland a 21-18 advantage that held up as the final score.

Laufenberg set the pace for the Highland offense out of the

backfield with 100 yards on 19 carries to go along with his pivotal 45-yard catch-and-run touchdown. Healy completed 7 of 17 passes for 150 yards, two touchdowns and an interception and Bollant made two catches for 79 yards and a touchdown.

Individual Royall stats were not yet available at publishing time due to a lack of a statistician for the Panthers at Friday's game.

The Panthers will get another shot at ending their losing streak when they host the winless Brookwood Falcons (0-6, 0-4) in Scenic Bluffs play Friday, September 30 at 7 p.m. in Elroy.

Brookwood has been led on offense this year by sophomore running back Marshall Doll, who has put up 452 rushing yards and three touchdowns while averaging 8.2 yards per carry. He's also made five receptions for 102 yards and a touchdown.

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FOOTBALL

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Hillsboro lead. Thyne later added a six-yard touchdown run in the second quarter to push the Tigers ahead 14-0.

Later in the same quarter with its offense sputtering, Riverdale got a much-needed special teams boost when sophomore Chase Chitwood returned a punt 41 yards for a touchdown to trim the deficit to 14-6.

With the Chieftains in possession late in the first half, Stokes made his huge swing play when he came down with an interception and brought it to the house for a touchdown with under a minute left in the second quarter.

Junior running back Ervin Novacheck punched in a conversion run to hand the Tigers a 22-6 lead that they would carry into the half.

Stokes busted free for a 60-yard touchdown run in the third quarter and Novacheck tacked on another conversion run to bring the game to its final score of 30-6.

"Isaiah Stokes was a key component to team success. He made big plays on both sides of the ball," said Hillsboro head coach Eric Auel. "His interception for a touchdown in the second quarter really cemented our ability to play ball-control football."

Auel also praised Josiah Thyne and sophomore Isaac Thyne — the latter of whom recorded a team-high 6.5 tackles in his first career start on defense — for their performances in contributing to the win.

Josiah Thyne led the Tigers in rushing with 104 yards and two touchdowns on 11 carries, with Stokes right behind him adding 103 yards and a touchdown on 11 attempts as well.

Riverdale junior quarterback Carson Kinyon completed only 5 of 26 passes for 109 yards and an interception, with junior wide receiver Andre Tainter hauling in three catches for 71 yards.

As a team, Hillsboro averaged 6.4 yards per play on offense — all on the ground — last Friday while holding Riverdale to 3.3 yards per play overall and a pedestrian 2.2 yards per carry in the run game.

"Key points to the victory from Friday night was our defense's ability to control Riverdale's running game and our defensive line's ability to provide pressure on their QB when throwing the ball," Auel said. "Our offensive line also shored up some mistakes up front that gave us problems the last two weeks. It resulted in big plays that put us up and allowed us to play solid defense and take time off of the play clock."

Next up for the Tigers is a road game against Wauzeka-Steuben/Seneca (3-3, 3-0) Friday, September 30 at 7 p.m. in Seneca.

Wauzeka-Steuben/Seneca has won all three of its conference games so far in 2022 — 35-19 over Highland, 27-14 over Ithaca and 28-6 over Iowa-Grant — and is led by senior quarterback Evan Payne.

Through six games, Payne has completed 63.2 percent of his passes for 529 yards, eight touchdowns and one interception on 9.3 yards per attempt while also adding 469 yards and three touchdowns on 7.2 yards per carry on the ground.

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