

SPORTS



UW-Platteville Sportsmen's Club
Tate Peterson won a pair of titles at the recent 2023 Zone 5 Skeet Shooting Championships
Page 9A

JASON NIHLES — sports@theplattevillejournal.com, 608-348-3006

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2023

SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

THURSDAY, AUG. 31

- Football — Iowa-Grant at Boscobel, 7 p.m.
- Volleyball — Platteville at River Valley, 7 p.m.; Shullsburg at Belmont, 7:15 p.m.; Potosi at Cassville, 7:15 p.m.
- Boys Soccer — Platteville/Lancaster at River Valley (Spring Green), 5 p.m.
- Girls Swimming — Platteville/Lancaster at Lake Geneva Badger, 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 1

- Football — Platteville at Dodgeville, 7 p.m.; Darlington at Potosi/Cassville, 7 p.m.
- 8-Player Football — Belmont at Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 2

- Volleyball — Platteville and Belmont at Richland Center Invitational, 8:30 a.m.
- Cross Country — Platteville at Verona Invitational, 9 a.m.; Shullsburg/Belmont at Darlington, 8:45 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 5

- Volleyball — Monroe at Platteville, 5 p.m.; Iowa-Grant at Mineral Point, 7:15 p.m.; Cassville at Belmont, 7:15 p.m.; Potosi at River Ridge (Patch Grove), 7:15 p.m.

PREP BASKETBALL

Potosi's Ron Kading will be inducted into WBCA Hall of Fame

by A.J. Gates
hisports@tds.net

POTOSI — As a long-time coach and supporter of Potosi athletics, Ron Kading, is about to join a very short list of accomplished coaches on Saturday, Sept. 24.

Already a member of the Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame following a 41-year head coaching stint, Kading will also be inducted into the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame next month, in the midst of an even longer stint as an assistant basketball coach.

"It certainly was a surprise, but it's a real honor," Kading said of his induction into the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. "I know a lot of coaches and officials who have been inducted, and to be included with them is definitely an honor."

Following a quick glance through the state's Hall of Fame inductees, it appears only Bob Suter of Janesville and John "Weenie" Wilson of Dodgeville are members of both the basketball and baseball coaches hall of fame. In fact, Suter and Wilson are also members of the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame as well.

Kading joined the Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2000 after stepping down from the post in 2018 with a career record of 562-304.

As head baseball coach, Kading's Chieftains had won 21 conference titles, 14 regional titles and made five trips to the state tournament, where they won the Division 3 state title in 1993.

His baseball and basketball coaching careers both began in 1977 when he was hired as the physical education instructor at Potosi Elementary School. His main coaching interest at that time was in baseball, but when asked if he could also coach basketball, he didn't hesitate to say yes.

"Little did I know, I thought I would be out of that in no time flat, but I've just really enjoyed doing it," Kading said. "I kind of learned on the job."

Kading's past basketball experience wasn't quite as extensive as his knowledge for baseball, not playing in high school or college.

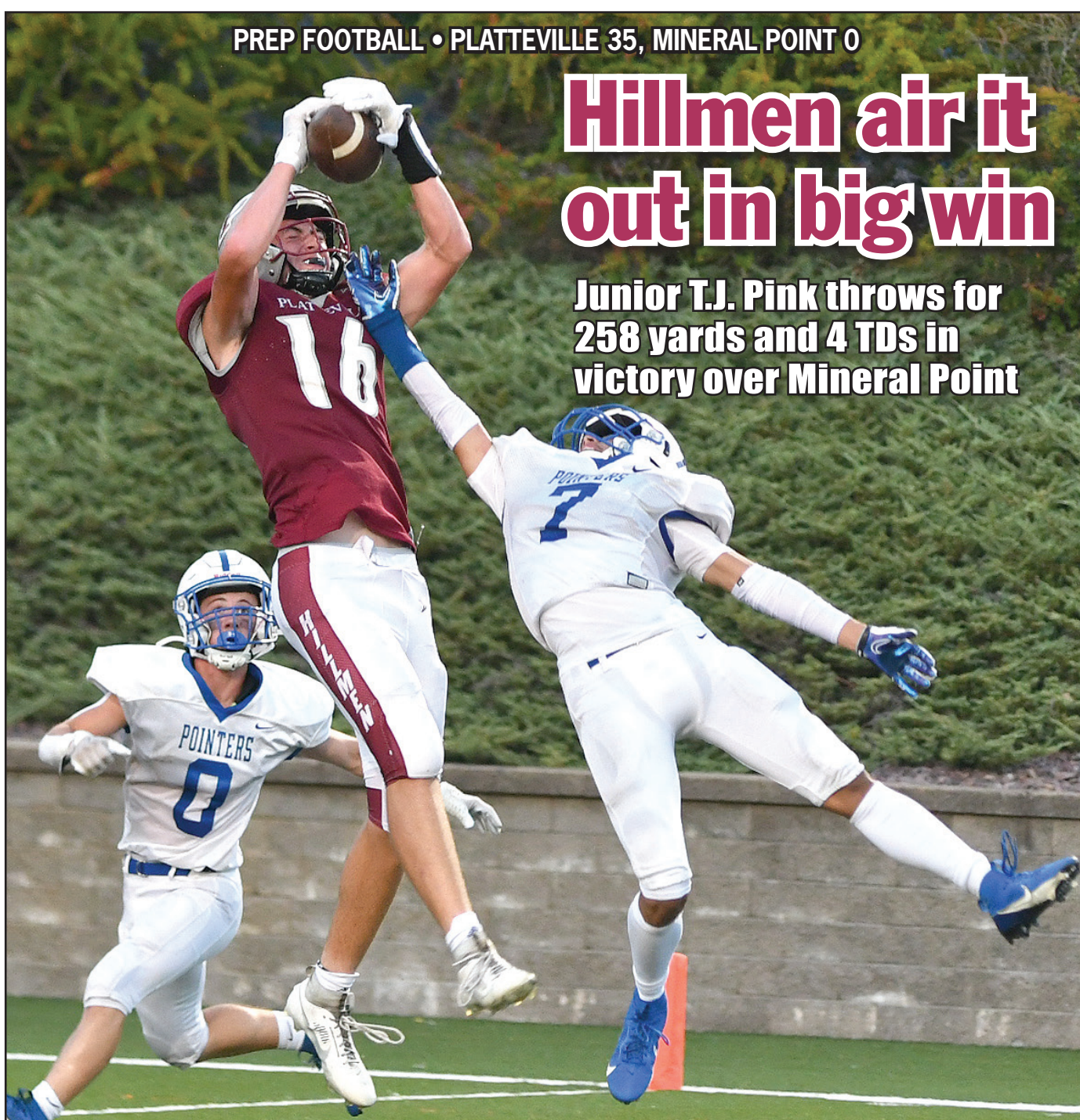
"I went to Oshkosh High School, and their

see KADING page 10A ▶

PREP FOOTBALL • PLATTEVILLE 35, MINERAL POINT 0

Hillmen air it out in big win

Junior T.J. Pink throws for 258 yards and 4 TDs in victory over Mineral Point



Platteville senior Zach McClain leaps to snag a clutch 4th-and-17 pass that set up a touchdown late in the second quarter of Friday's 35-0 non-conference win over Mineral Point.

photos by Jason Nihles

by Steve Prestegard
editor@theplattevillejournal.com

It's hard to decide which side of the ball was more impressive in Platteville's 35-0 shutout of Mineral Point at Ralph E. Davis Pioneer Stadium Friday.

Hillmen quarterback T.J. Pink threw for 258 yards and four touchdowns, with seven different receivers catching his passes.

On the other hand, the Hillmen defense gave up just 46 total yards and three first downs, and never let the Pointers get close to scoring all night.

The offensive and defensive trends of the night were established in the first quarter. Platteville went 77 yards in two rushes and seven passes to five different receivers, including two third-down conversions. The last pass was

a 16-yard touchdown to Logan Day on third-and-7. The first of Tyler Sasse's five extra points gave the Hillmen a 7-0 lead with 8:51 left in the first quarter.

Mineral Point got one of its three first downs on its second offensive play, but three plays later had to punt — or, more accurately, attempt to punt. A bad snap resulted in a 17-yard loss all the way back to the Pointer 4, and the Hillmen needed just three plays, the last a 1-yard touchdown pass from Pink to Garrison Tashner, to extend their lead to 14-0 with 5:21 left in the first quarter.

The Hillmen's third drive ended with an interception on a fourth-and-17 play, but the Hillmen got the ball back after another three-and-out. The following eight-play 57-yard drive included a 22-yard completion

to Zack McClain on fourth-and-17 to the Pointer 2, setting up Riley Donahoe's 2-yard touchdown run to extend the lead to 21-0 with 9:12 left in the first half.

Three plays later, a blocked punt set up the Hillmen at the Mineral Point 26. The distance to the end zone was halved on a pass interference penalty, and then Pink found Tashner for his second touchdown catch of the night, extending the lead to 28-0 with 8 minutes left in the half.

"I told the guys on Saturday that it is fun to play football when you are blowing them out," said Platteville head coach Bryce Arneson. "There were comments from players that they haven't seen some of our guys play like that before and it's because they had confidence and swagger. I think that

the guys came prepared for the game mentally and physically and it showed out there on Friday. We just need to make sure that we are building on this game and getting ourselves ready for a challenging conference schedule."

Another three-and-out to start the second half set up Platteville's 69-yard scoring drive with three runs and four passes, the last to Jauron Blevins, who got behind the entire defense for a 40-yard touchdown catch to send the game to running time, after Sasse's fifth extra point, with 7:43 left in the third.

Mineral Point's field position was set up by good kick and punt returns all night, but the Pointers were never able to do anything with their field

see HILLMEN page 11A ▶

PREP FOOTBALL • POTOSI/CASSVILLE 44, ITHACA 16

Fishnick leads Potosi/Cassville rout

by A.J. Gates
hisports@tds.net

POTOSI — In the preseason discussions of this year's Potosi/Cassville football team, a lot has been said about the return of senior running backs Eli Adams and Friederick, and deservedly so.

But there appears to be a third offensive weapon at coach Mark Siegert's disposal, one who played a major roll in the Chieftains' 44-16 non-conference victory over visiting Ithaca last Friday night.

Senior Braden Fishnick, who at wide receiver last season had 12 receptions for 209 yards and two touchdowns, was promoted to quarterback this year, a role he has certainly been flourishing in.

"For a person who hasn't played varsity quarterback, he has really done a great job of running the offense," coach Siegert said of Fishnick. "With all the things we put on his plate, which is a lot, he's done a really, really nice job."

In last Friday night's 44-16 victory over Ithaca, Fishnick completed 5-of-7 passing attempts for 100 yards and one touchdown, while also rushing for 116 yards and two more TDs on 14 attempts.

He first connected with junior tight end Oliver Post for a

nine-yard touchdown pass in the closing seconds of the first quarter, then scored on touchdown runs of six and 11 yards in the fourth.

The emergence of Fishnick makes the Potosi/Cassville offense even more dangerous, with Adams and Friederick offering a dynamic one-two punch to the running game, which also opens things up for the passing game.

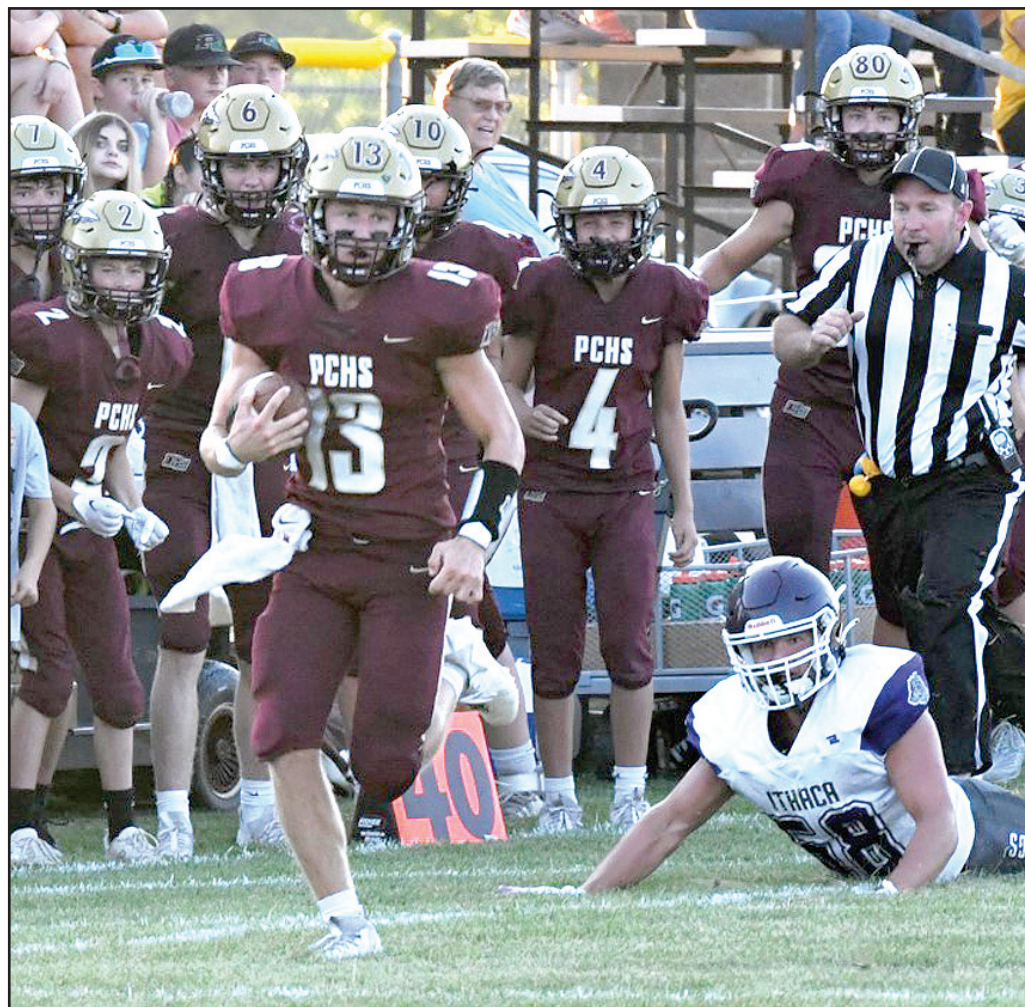
"Most of our passes are off play action, so if the run game is working, then the play-action pass is a lot better," Siegert said.

The run game was obviously working last Friday night for the Chieftains, who got a team-high 146 yards on 13 carries from Adams, and 122 yards on 22 carries from Friederick. Adams also had two receptions for 37 yards, accounting for 183 total yards of Potosi/Cassville's offensive production.

While Adams did not find the end zone after scoring three times in last week's season opener, Friederick found the end zone three times this past week on runs of 1, 2 and 3 yards.

"Last week they really, really did a nice job of shutting down our inside run game with 10 in the box, but this week it

see ROUT page 11A ▶



Potosi/Cassville senior Brayden Fishnick ran for 116 yards and two touchdowns, and passed for 100 yards and another scored in the Chieftains' 44-16 blowout win over Ithaca Friday night at PHS.

photo by A.J. Gates / Herald Independent

VOLLEYBALL

Platteville finishes sixth at Warhawk Open

Junior Jaxcyn Berntgen passes out 1,000th career assist

by Jason Nihles
sports@theplattevillejournal.com

The new-look Platteville High School volleyball team opened the 2023 season over the weekend with a sixth-place finish at the 21-team UW-Whitewater Warhawk Open.

The Hillmen went 3-3 in pool play Friday and Saturday, to reach the four-team silver bracket, where they swept Milwaukee Heritage Christian 25-20, 26-24 to reach the fifth-place match.

Platteville ended the tournament Saturday afternoon with a 25-1, 25-16 loss to Prescott, its second loss to the Cardinals in as many days.

"The girls did a really good job," said Platteville head coach Denise Berntgen, who led the Hillmen to a 22-17 overall record SWC last year. "We are working with a completely different line up than last year so a lot of girls saw playing time and we are starting to find a rhythm with each other which is great to see at our first tournament of the season."

Berntgen lost seven seniors from last year's team which finished 6-4 to tie for third in the SWC, including first-team All-SWC players Ellie Temperly (MH) and Camryn Nieser (OH), and honorable mention All-SWC players Brooke Von Glahn (RS) and Hailey Weigel (MH, 2021 SWC honorable mention), as well as starter Maddison Carl (OH).

Junior setter Jaxcyn Berntgen, senior middle hitter Alyssa Blevins and junior libero Claire Huser are the lone returning players with extended varsity experience.

Jaxcyn Berntgen led the new-look Hillmen Saturday, passing out 67 assists, nine kills and four aces and 30 digs. Berntgen also surpassed the 1,000th assist mark for her career during the tournament.

"I'm very proud of Jaxcyn," said coach Berntgen, who is

see PLATTEVILLE page 11A ▶