

WIAA STATE VOLLEYBALL

Ponies earn silver



Times photo: Natalie Dillon

The Monticello Ponies celebrate the first volleyball state trophy in program history. Monticello lost to defending champion McDonnell Central Catholic in the WIAA Division 4 state championship on Nov. 5 at the Resch Center in Green Bay.

Monticello senior Ellie Gustafson sets multiple state tournament records

By Natalie Dillon
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GREEN BAY — The Monticello volleyball team ended its 2022 season as WIAA Division 4 state runners-up to defending state champion McDonnell Central Catholic (41-12). With the silver ball in hand, Monticello set a program-best finish, improving upon last year's state semifinal loss.

"I'm at a loss for words. I never thought we'd say we finished our season at the state tournament — at the state champion-

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A photo page from the Ponies' trip to state. **Page A12**

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WIAA FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS, LEVEL 3

Monroe dominates WBE 35-0

Rain, mud, Cheese too much for West Bend East

By Adam Krebs
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MONROE — For the second straight year, the Cheesemakers have punched their ticket to the WIAA Division 3 state semifinal. On Nov. 4, Monroe pitched its seventh shutout of the season, drowning West Bend East 35-0.

"Another shutout — unbelievable," Monroe coach Toby Golembiewski said.

Rain fell constantly throughout the night — sometimes as a drizzle, most of the time heavier — and T.R. Holyoke Field became treacherously muddy. The conditions were not conducive to the Suns (9-3), which hadn't played a game this season on grass turf. The wet weather also factored into the WBE's passing game, hampering the ability to complete passes.

"Defensively we did a really good job of taking away their inside run," said senior linebacker Tucker Markham, adding that WBE needed to then push the ball outside, which was where the line-backing core was waiting on every play. He said that the sloppy conditions only added



Times photo: Adam Krebs

Monroe's James Seagreaves not only bats away a fourth-quarter West Bend East pass, but intercepts. The Cheesemakers picked off the Suns three times in a 35-0 win in their WIAA Division 3 Level 3 game Nov. 4 at T.R. Holyoke Field.

to the enjoyment of the win. "This was so fun. We came into it knowing it would be raining and hoping it wouldn't get called off. We knew they didn't want to come down here — they wanted to be on a turf field."

Monroe's strong, speedy and aggressive defense took full advantage, forcing three interceptions and recovering a fumble, all while holding the

Suns to just 78 yards of total offense and four first downs — three of which came on a single drive.

"I was surprised they didn't take a few more shots than what they did. I think they had trouble getting the ball off," Golembiewski said.

Offensively, the Cheesemakers (12-0) did what they do best: Pound it on the ground. Monroe running

backs ran for a combined 332 yards on 43 carries — a 7.7 yards per touch average. Impressively enough, the yards per play average was about two yards shy of Monroe's season average.

Kaden Kuester was the man of the night, gaining 158 yards on just eight carries and scoring three touchdowns. He

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WIAA FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS, LEVEL 3

Redbirds soar into semifinals

Darlington ruins Kenosha St. Joseph's perfect season 20-6, will meet Mondovi for third time in four years

By Natalie Dillon
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KENOSHA — Darlington took to the rode for its Level 3 playoff game against undefeated Kenosha St. Joseph, ending



Times photo: Natalie Dillon
Darlington's Talan Christ applies pressure to Kenosha St. Joseph quarterback Eric Kenesie during their WIAA Division 6 Level 3 playoff game Nov. 4 at Kenosha Tremper.

the Lancers' season with a 20-6 victory.

The Redbirds wasted no time scoring, marching 51 yards to the end zone in 1:26. In two carries, Maddox Goebel went 39 yards for two first downs, and Tye Crist finished the drive with a 10-yard TD run.

"When you come out and score like that its big," head coach Travis Winkers said. "When you do that to a team, all of a sudden they are thinking in the back of their mind, 'Holy smokes, these guys are physical.'"

In their opening drive, the Lancers gradually moved down field with three- to four-yard runs. Their top rushers — Eric Kenesie and Jayden Gordon — combined for three first downs. Near midfield, Kenesie pitched it to Gordon, but the wet ball slipped right through Gordon's fingers. Breylin Goebel recovered the ball on Kenosha's 37-yard line.

"It's pretty big. It changed the momentum as the game went on," junior linebacker Reagan Jackson said. "A lot of us built off that on the offensive side of the ball."

In Darlington's next possession, Breylin Goebel converted two rushing first downs, forcing Kenosha to use its first timeout. As the offense ran to the sideline, shouts of "They can't hang with us" and "Let's go" could be heard.

The Lancers' timeout did little to slow the Redbirds, as Ross Crist broke away for a 20-yard TD. On the two-point conversion, the entire offensive line pushed Breylin Goebel across the line to go up 14-0.

Nearing the end of the first quarter, Kenosha faced a fourth-and-two situation and elected to go for it. Darlington's defense was a brick wall, stopping the run and forcing a turnover on downs. The Redbirds were unable to capitalize though, going three and out.

Despite just being on the field, the Darlington defense remained strong. Mason Davis put pressure on quarterback Kenesie, whose lofted ball was nearly intercepted by Breylin Goebel. After a first-down pass to Gordon, Kenesie was brought down for a nine-yard loss by Jackson. The sack forced Kenosha to punt.

"I have to thank my other guys around me," Jackson said of his defensive performance. "They're a big reason why I get home on a lot of the blitzes; they make their gaps for me on the line."

The Lancers' punter shanked the ball, giving the Redbirds excellent field position at their own 44-yard line.

After runs by Ross Crist and Maddox Goebel, Darlington faced fourth and one with the half winding down. Winkers called a timeout to stop the clock and call his next play — a QB keeper for Cadyn Burbach that resulted in a first down. Burbach then threw a 21-yard pass to Will Murray to get in the red zone. With 25 seconds left, Breylin Goebel scored for a 20-0 lead.

Kenosha got only one snap off before the clock ran out in the first half.

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