



GRAFTON 45, GREENDALE 21



Photos by Mark Justesen

Chase Norton carries the ball into the end zone, left, for one of his two touchdowns Friday as the Grafton football team scored a 45-21 victory over Greendale. Right, the Black Hawks celebrate with the Woodland Conference championship trophy after finishing league play with an undefeated record.

Undisputed Woodland champs

Black Hawks dominate Greendale in de facto championship game

By Aaron Carlson
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GRAFTON — For a program that has not had much opportunity to clinch sole possession of a conference championship in recent decades, the Grafton football team sure put on a good show Friday, routing visiting Greendale, 45-21, to win its first league title since sharing the North Shore Conference championship in 1995 and earning its first outright conference crown since winning the Braveland Conference in 1984.

“Oh my gosh, this is amazing. This is all I ever wanted, for real, and we got it,” Grafton senior Josh Lee-O’Bryant said about clinching the title on the home turf before being asked if the experience lived up to the expectations he had dreamed about. “Way better. Like I said, this is everything I wanted.”

“This is insane.”
Following the victory, Woodland Conference commissioner Ken Schimpf presented Grafton with the league championship trophy on the field. Then the stands emptied and the Black Hawks celebrated with friends, family, alumni and other community members. After that, the festivities moved into the gym, where Lee-O’Bryant

climbed a ladder and attached the newest addition to the school’s wall of conference championships.

“This is huge. This is huge for the community, it’s huge for the kids, it’s a testament to everyone,” Grafton head coach Jim Norris said. “This group is fantastic, absolutely outstanding. I don’t want to take anything away from them at all, but man, it’s been brick by brick by brick by brick for the last five years. This is what we’re working for. This is what we were building.”

It was only fitting that Lee-O’Bryant was the player to add the banner to the wall, since he played a key role on both sides of the ball to help Grafton win the showdown with the Panthers.

On defense, he tackled Greendale running back Javon Murry for a 7-yard loss on the second possession of the game that helped force a punt. On offense, he helped the Black Hawks move the ball for scoring drives of 50, 48 and 69 yards. He made another tackle for a loss on the opening play of the second quarter, as part of the visitors’ third drive of the contest, which helped the home team open up a 21-0 lead.

“That was just because I really wanted this. I wanted this more than I wanted to breathe. I had to,” Lee-O’Bryant responded to a question about his drive on defense, which was equaled by his desire to create holes for Grafton

running backs from his spot on the offensive line. “Coach was telling us to come in confident and play like we were going to win. We came in, we executed, came in with a different type of mentality and we got the job done.”

The opening play of the game set what proved to be an ominous tone for Greendale. Blake Kogelmann dropped back to pass and lofted a toss down the field that was directed to Brayden Latus, who would have scored easily for what would have been an 81-yard touchdown. However, the senior dropped the ball and the Panthers were forced to punt a couple plays later. Grafton then needed just five plays to go 50 yards to take the lead, with Chase Norton scoring on a 6-yard touchdown run to cap off the drive.

Jackson Heinle and Lee-O’Bryant made tackles for big losses on Greendale’s second possession, forcing another three-and-out, then the Black Hawks went 48 yards in seven plays to push the lead to 14-0 when Norton scored on a 9-yard run.

“We emphasize a fast start, and we started fast all the way back in late July with contact days and August with starting camp, so as a team you’re always evolving, you’re always getting better, you’re always finding ways to win and get your playmakers involved and our coaches got our

See **CHAMPIONS**, PAGE 2B

PREP ROUNDUP

Cedarburg duo advances to WIAA Div. 1 doubles championship match

MADISON — Cedarburg senior Carly O’Leary said going into the WIAA Div. 1 state individual tournament that she was hoping to make it onto the podium at the Neilsen Tennis Stadium with doubles partner Zoe Larson.

The Bulldogs’ senior duo accomplished much more than that, advancing all the way to the final and taking second. While the pairing may have wanted one more win after dropping a 6-2, 6-0 decision to the DHS team of Molly Jex and Lizzie Stuckslager, the Cedarburg combination exceeded its sixth seed in the bracket, improved to 30-5 and have the state medal they were hoping to earn.

They will also be back in Madison this week, when Cedarburg competes in the WIAA team tournament for the first time in program history.

Larson and O’Leary made it to the final match, but were

See **ROUNDUP**, PAGE 3B



Photo by Dave Radcliffe/Conley Media

Cedarburg seniors Zoe Larson, left, and Carly O’Leary give each other a high five Saturday during the WIAA Div. 1 state doubles championship match at Neilsen Tennis Stadium.

NORTH SHORE CONFERENCE CROSS COUNTRY MEET

Bosley repeats

Homestead senior defends NSC title

By Steven L. Tietz
Special to the News Graphic

SAUKVILLE — Before his team took the course for the North Shore Conference boys cross country championships Saturday at Tendick Park, Homestead head coach Andy Bosley did some rough calculations regarding his top-heavy team’s chances of repeating as champions.

“In a bigger meet (with more teams), going one-two individually (like the Highlanders did) would have more of an impact,” he assessed. “They (Owen Bosley and Dominic Silhol) could finish a minute ahead and it might not make as big a difference.”

And those words proved prophetic. Owen Bosley, did indeed win his second consecutive NSC individual title while Silhol claimed second.

The Highlanders, ranked 10th in the state, also had Connor Rathe earn first-team all-league honors with a sixth-place effort, but that was not enough for Homestead to overcome the depth of 17th-ranked Hartford, which put all five scoring runners in front of Homestead’s fourth runner and pulled away to earn its first conference title since 1975.

See **BOSLEY**, PAGE 2B



Photo by Mark Justesen

Homestead’s Owen Bosley, left, and Dominic Silhol lead the pack and are well on their way to finishing first and second, respectively, Saturday during the North Shore Conference cross country meet at Tendick Park.