



**Shullsburg/  
Belmont CC-->  
season ends at  
sectionals**

Woodworth places  
team-best 15th at  
WIAA D3 Albany  
Sectional  
**Page 15A**

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

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022**

**WIAC FOOTBALL • UW-PLATTEVILLE 17, #3 UW-WHITEWATER 13**

# Pioneers upset #3 Warhawks to reclaim Miner's Axe

by **UWP Sports Information**  
letsGOPioneers.com

For the first time since 2004, the UW-Platteville football team defeated UW-Whitewater and reclaimed the Miner's Axe rivalry trophy.

The 17-13 victory against the #3-ranked Warhawks (5-2, 3-1 WIAC) in the 27th installment of the George Chryst Memorial Bowl completes back-to-back upsets against Top-25 WIAC opponents at Ralph E. Davis Pioneer Stadium.

With last week's win against No. 14 UW-River Falls and week two's win against No. 11 Bethel, the Pioneers (4-3, 3-1) recorded a program-first three season victories against NCAA opponents ranked in the Top-15 in the nation.

The Pioneer win also marks only the Warhawks' eighth conference loss in their last 17 seasons. Platteville, Whitewater, River Falls and UW-La Crosse are now all 3-1 in the league and atop the WIAC standings.

Once again, the Pioneer defense wreaked havoc and derailed the powerhouse program. The defense nearly doubled UW-Whitewater's season interceptions thrown with four on the day.

The Warhawks entered Saturday's game converting 48.3 percent of third downs, but Platteville held Whitewater to just 2-of-14 (14 percent) third down conversions.

The Warhawks held advantages of 304-168 yards of total offense and 14-9 first downs, but the Pioneers only committed one fumble and stayed interception-free for the entirety of the game to ensure their 110 yards through the air and 58 yards off 38 carries was just enough for the win.

After the Pioneers tied the game 7-7 in the first quarter, neither team led by more than four points for the remainder of the game. Sam Smith had two interceptions on back-to-back drives in the first quarter.

see **PIONEERS** page 11A ▶



The UW-Platteville football team celebrates with the Miner's Axe rivalry trophy following Saturday's 17-13 upset over the #3-ranked UW-Whitewater Warhawks Saturday at Ralph E. Davis Pioneer Stadium.

**WIAA DIVISION 2 VOLLEYBALL • NO. 6 PLATTEVILLE 3, NO. 2 RIVER VALLEY 1**

# The thrill of victory

by **Jason Nihles**  
sports@theplattevillejournal.com

**SPRING GREEN** — What a turnaround this season has been for the Platteville volleyball team.

Less than a month ago, the Hillmen were 14-16 after two losses to open the Madison Edge-wood Invitational on Oct. 1.

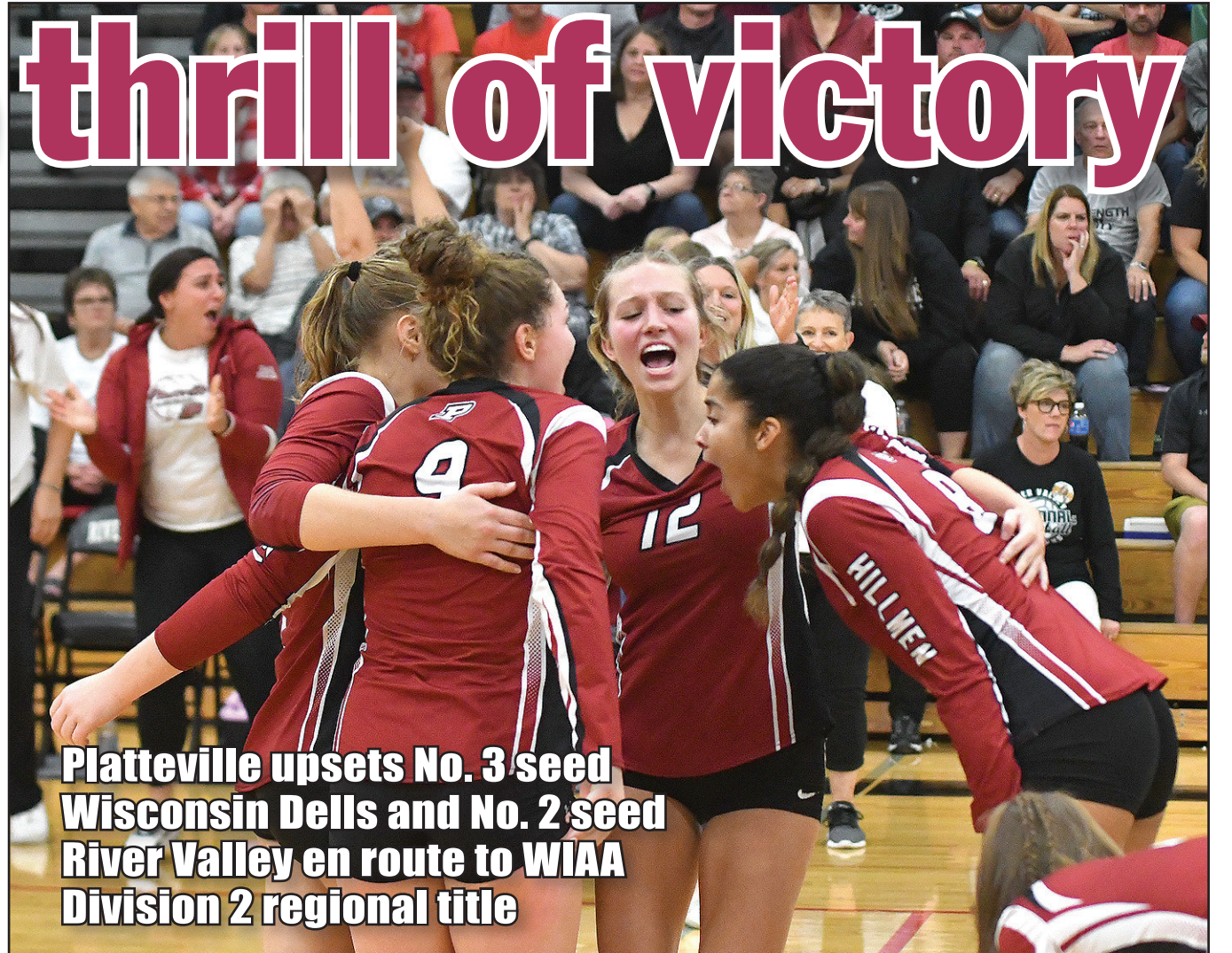
Now, coach Denise Berntgen's surging Hillmen have won eight straight matches, including a thrilling 3-1 victory over No. 2 seed River Valley in Saturday night's WIAA Division 2 regional final, and are just two victories away from the WIAA State Tournament.

Platteville (22-16) dominated the first two sets, survived the hot hand of Valley's Morgan Brickl and overcame a severe ankle injury that knocked senior middle hitter Ellie Temperly out of the match in the fourth set, to pull out a 25-14, 25-20, 18-25, 25-23 win over the host Blackhaws Friday night.

A year ago River Valley upset No. 3 Platteville as a sixth seed in a WIAA regional semifinal.

The Hillmen pulled off this year's stunner with stellar defense and pure determination. Platteville had made 97 digs in four sets with just six digs errors and had three blocks in the match against River Valley standout Katie Hahn.

Early in the fourth set, Platteville won what had to be the longest rally of the year — with the ball crossing the net 27 times and Platteville setter Jaxcyn Berntgen keeping it



(from left) Platteville's Hailey Weigel, Jaxcyn Berntgen (9), Camryn Nies (12), Alyssa Blevins (8) and Brooke Von Glahn (bottom right) celebrate after the final point of Saturday night's 3-1 WIAA Division 2 regional final victory over host River Valley.  
photo by Jason Nihles

going with a kick at one point — when an River Valley's Delaney Johnson (obviously gassed) mistimed a jump and hit the ball into the net to give the Hillmen an early 5-3 lead. The rally was the key play in a 5-0 run that gave Platteville an early 8-3 lead.

A few minutes later, with Platteville still holding an 11-8 lead, Temperly rolled her

ankle when she tried to avoid River Valley setter Brooke Anderson, who slipped under the net, and Temperly fell to the ground in instant pain.

She was carried off putting no weight on her left leg and it was pretty clear she was done for the night once the ice wrap came out.

Platteville weathered that initial storm and after Valley

tied it at 13-13, went on a 5-1 run to make it 18-14.

Senior Alyssa Blevins, Temperly's replacement who had not played all night until the injury, blasted a key kill through the middle of the Valley defense to make it 22-19, but the SWC co-champion Blackhaws (27-12, 7-3 SWC) scored the next four points on back-to-back kills by Brickl

and Hahn, a power dump second hit kill by setter Brooke Anderson and a block by Anderson.

Just as when it seemed like the set and perhaps the match was slipping away, the Hillmen tied the set on an unlikely kill by the setter Berntgen.

Senior Brooke Von Glahn

see **HILLMEN** page 14A ▶

**WIAA DIVISION 3 CROSS COUNTRY • ALBANY SECTIONAL**

# IG boys win sectional title to earn state berth



Iowa-Grant senior Hope Connolly finished fifth at Saturday's WIAA Division 3 Albany Regional to earn her second trip to the WIAA State Cross Country Championships.  
photo by Tom Gunnell / Republican Journal

**Connolly earns second individual state berth**

by **Jason Nihles**  
sports@theplattevillejournal.com

**ALBANY** — The #2-ranked SWAL champion Iowa-Grant boys cross country team is headed to state.

The Panthers captured the sectional title with 59 points over runner-up Fennimore at 106.

Iowa-Grant senior Hope Connolly also earned her second straight trip to state as an individual with a fifth-place finish in the girls race.

The top two teams, and top five individuals not on a qualifying team, advanced to the WIAA State Championships that will be held at the Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin

Rapids on Saturday. This marks the seventh time in program history that the Iowa-Grant boys team has qualified for the state meet, following its most recent trip in 2019.

Seniors Mason Aide and Owen Laufenberg were freshman on that 2019 Iowa-Grant boys team, that finished 10th out of 16 teams three years ago. Both played key roles in helping the Panthers get back this year.

Aide (17:07.7) led the way for IG Saturday, running an incredibly competitive race to finish second out of 123 finishers, passing the individual SWAL champion Nick Stitzer (17:12.5) in the finishing kick.

Junior Carter Scholey of Belleville was the individual boys champion with a time of 17:00.2.

"Mason set out to race with Scholey and Stitzer, and

showed some incredible toughness to be in a position where he could make a move and get that second place spot," said IG head coach Jake Winkler. "We have such a strong team this year. The top three guys have been able to pack together in races well, and our 4-5-6 guys have also been able to close the gap on one another and have a healthy level of competition among them. That's part of what has been our greatest success is that they aren't worried about their place on the team, but have been focused on how our team places."

Sophomore Bret Connolly (6th, 17:53.9) and senior Camden Pennekamp (8th, 17:56.9) each ran to top-10 finishes for the Panthers.

Freshman Will Fulton (20th, 19:02.3), Laufenberg (24th, 19:09.9), freshman Noah Lange

see **IG** page 15A ▶

**SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE**

**THURSDAY, OCT. 27**

• Volleyball — WIAA sectional semifinals  
D2 — Platteville at West Salem, 7 p.m.  
D3 — Mineral Point at Brodhead, 7 p.m.  
D4 — Barneveld at Highland, 7 p.m.  
• Boys Soccer — WIAA sectional semifinals

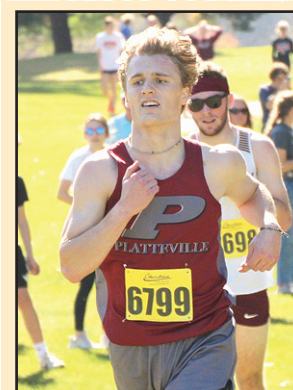
**FRIDAY, OCT. 28**

• Football — WIAA Playoffs, Level 2  
D7 — Bangor at Potosi/Cassville, 7 p.m.  
8-Player — De Soto at Belmont, 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY, OCT. 29**

• Volleyball — WIAA sectional finals  
• Cross Country — WIAA State Championships at Ridges Golf Course (Wisconsin Rapids)  
• Boys Soccer — WIAA sectional finals  
• Girls Soccer — Platteville/Lancaster at Southern Lakes Conference Meet, at Delavan-Darien, 11 a.m.

**D2 CROSS COUNTRY**



Platteville senior Quinn Wright placed eight at Saturday's D2 Prairie du Chien Sectional.

## Platteville cross country season ends at PdC Sectional

by **Jason Nihles**

**PRAIRIE DU CHIEN** — The Platteville cross country team ended the season at Saturday's WIAA Division 2 Prairie du Chien Sectional.

The Platteville girls scored 155 points and finished fifth out of 14 complete teams, while the Platteville boys finished sixth out of 15 teams with 150 points.

The top two teams as well as the top five individuals not on a qualifying team advance to this week's WIAA State Championships at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids.

Platteville senior Quinn Wright, who placed 63rd at state a year ago, just missed out on a return trip Saturday.

Wright finished eighth overall with a time of 17:28.8 to lead the Platteville boys. He finished one spot — and 2.1 seconds — out of the fifth individual qualifying spot.

"Quinn ran an exceptional race," said Platteville head coach Rob Serres. "To qualify on to state he would have needed to place in the top five of the individuals that were not part of state qualifying teams. Unfortunately after taking out the teams, Quinn ended up sixth, one place out of state. Quinn ran his heart out and I am proud of all that he gave to this team."

Fellow seniors Casen Udlehofen (18:53.1) and Erik Grabandt (18:54.6) finished 30th and 31st for the Hillmen behind Wright's lead.

Junior Zade Plumb (19:07.7) finished 38th and freshman Liam Davis (19:16.0) placed 43rd to round out Platteville's scoring team. Juniors Brian Richter (69th, 20:38.5) and Dominic Fansler (75th, 21:18.0) rounded out the Platteville boys' seven-man team.

Mount Horeb Joseph Stoddard won the individual sectional title with a winning-time of 16:28.5, nearly 30 seconds faster than runner-up Isaac Ewing (16:57.8) of McFarland.

Ewing led the Spartans (84) to the boys sectional championship, while Monroe (94) finished second to also move on to state.

Senior Kendra Stastny

see **PLATTEVILLE** page 14A ▶