

## Cashton, joined by rival Bangor in state quarterfinals

By Zach Rastall  
Sports Writer

Bangor and Cashton are a pair of rivals with radically different recent histories.

The Cardinals cemented themselves as a perennial powerhouse with consistent runs deep into the postseason and a pair of state titles. The Eagles endured a winless campaign four years ago but have steadily improved since to end a whole host of droughts for the program.

For all their differences, the two Scenic Bluffs counterparts currently find themselves on a similar stage, as they both prepare for Level 3 of the Division 7 playoffs.

No. 3 seed Bangor (10-1) is back into the quarterfinals for the ninth time since 2010 after beating No. 6 seed Wauzeka-Stauben/Seneca (6-4) 33-6 in Level 1 and No. 2 seed Potosi/Cassville (9-2) 20-0 in Level 2.

The Cardinals were the only Division 7 road team to win in Level 2 and are one of only two teams to win on the road through the first two rounds.

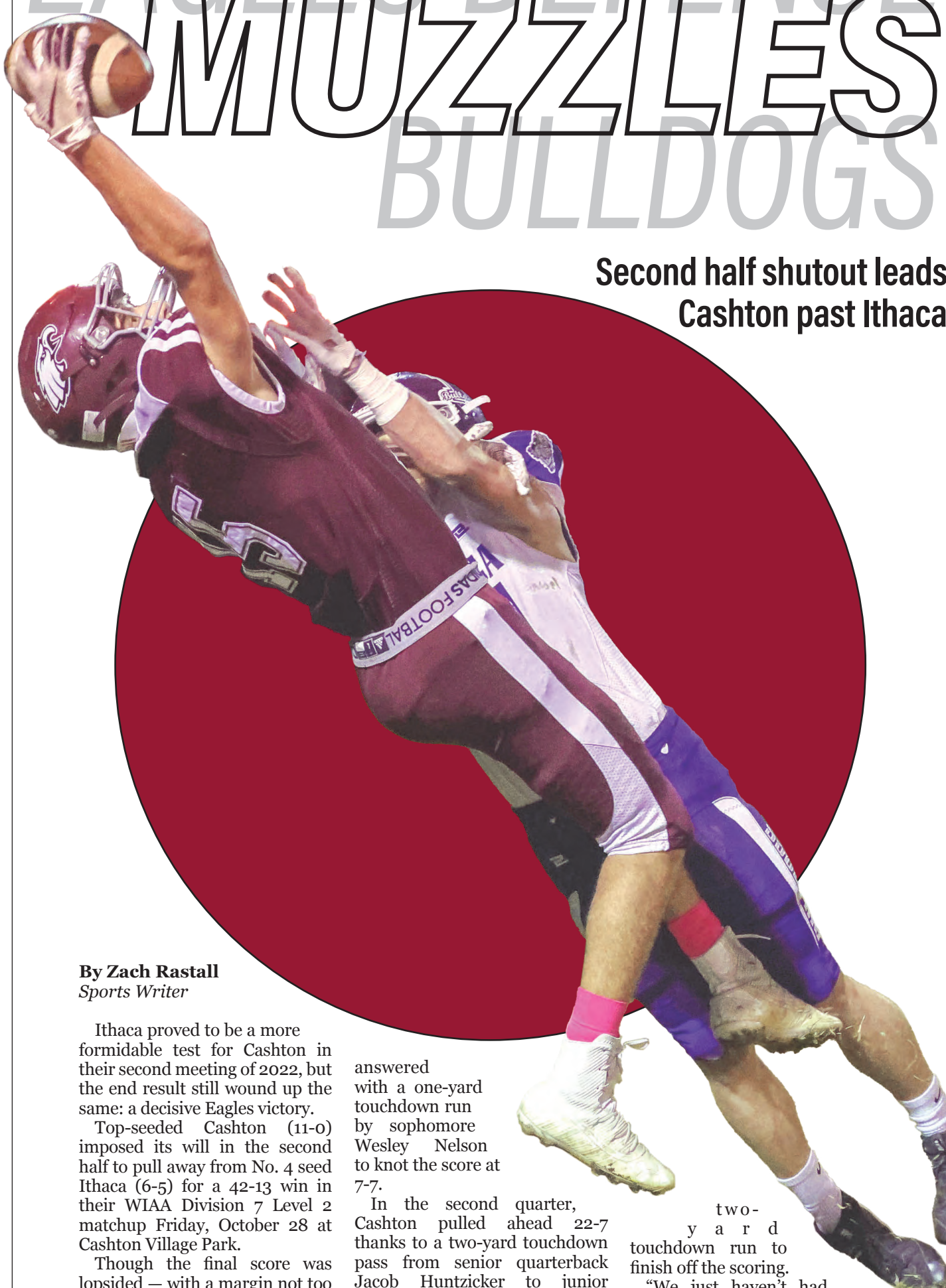
“It’s good to see Bangor doing their thing and that was just an incredible win for them, to shut out Potosi,” said Cashton head coach Jered Hemmersbach. “It makes it fun for the area and these small schools.”

Now, Bangor is back on the road to face unbeaten No. 1 seed Pepin/Alma (11-0) in a Level 3 clash Friday, November 4 at 7 p.m. in Durand.

Mike Olson’s Eagles won the Dairyland Conference and are led out of the backfield by junior running back Demetrius Bergmann with 1,377 yards and 32 touchdowns on 6.9 yards per carry. Senior quarterback Drew Seifert has completed 63.3 percent of his passes for 1,580 yards, 19 touchdowns and three interceptions, while junior running back Evan Olson has reeled in 42 catches for 908 yards and 13 touchdowns.

In addition to Cashton welcoming in Black Hawk/Warren (IL) and Bangor taking on Pepin/Alma, this Friday will also feature No. 2 seed Edgar (10-1) at No. 1 seed Regis (11-0) and No. 2 seed Shiocton (9-2) at No. 1 seed Cambria-Friesland (12-0) to decide the other two semifinal spots.

# EAGLES DEFENSE MUZZLES BULLDOGS



## Second half shutout leads Cashton past Ithaca

By Zach Rastall  
Sports Writer

Ithaca proved to be a more formidable test for Cashton in their second meeting of 2022, but the end result still wound up the same: a decisive Eagles victory.

Top-seeded Cashton (11-0) imposed its will in the second half to pull away from No. 4 seed Ithaca (6-5) for a 42-13 win in their WIAA Division 7 Level 2 matchup Friday, October 28 at Cashton Village Park.

Though the final score was lopsided — with a margin not too far off from Cashton’s 37-0 win over the Bulldogs back in Week 1 — the first half was far from a blowout.

The Eagles got the scoring started in the first quarter on junior Noah Hemmersbach’s 22-yard touchdown run, which Ithaca

answered with a one-yard touchdown run by sophomore Wesley Nelson to knot the score at 7-7.

In the second quarter, Cashton pulled ahead 22-7 thanks to a two-yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback Jacob Huntzicker to junior running back Ethan Klinkner and a 62-yard pick-six by junior Brady Hemmersbach.

The Bulldogs cut the deficit to 22-13 heading into halftime with a five-yard touchdown pass from Nelson to sophomore Zander Jones.

However, the Eagles kicked things into overdrive in the second half to assert their dominance.

Cashton senior running back Colin O’Neil ran in a 19-yard touchdown in the third quarter, then added a four-yard TD run in the fourth quarter to go along with running back Brett Hemmersbach’s

two-yard touchdown run to finish off the scoring.

“We just haven’t had too many games where, even at halftime, we’re in a ballgame,” said Cashton head coach Jered Hemmersbach. “I was glad that we outscored them there 20 to nothing in the second half. I thought we did a good job of adjusting to what they were doing in the first half and finishing the football game.”

O’Neil set the pace out of the backfield for the Eagles with 139 yards and two touchdowns on 25 carries, Klinkner finished with 74 yards on 15 rushes and Brett Hemmersbach added 63 yards and a touchdown on eight attempts.

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“I thought we did a good job of adjusting to what they were doing in the first half” — Jered Hemmersbach

## Cashton to face perennial playoff power Black Hawk/Warren in Level 3

By Zach Rastall  
Sports Writer

For a second straight fall, Cashton fans will be treated to playoff football at Village Park in November.

Coming off a memorable run to the semifinals a year ago, the undefeated and top-seeded Eagles (11-0) have got themselves back into Level 3 again. It’s on this now familiar stage that

they will host No. 2 seed Black Hawk/Warren (IL) (8-3) for a WIAA Division 7 quarterfinal clash Friday, November 4 at 7 p.m. in Cashton.

This is no longer uncharted territory for a program that was happy to simply qualify for the playoffs throughout most of the last couple decades, and the Eagles have the potential for more in this field of eight

remaining teams.

“It just comes down to — a lot of it is turnovers and big plays,” said Cashton head coach Jered Hemmersbach. “From what I can see, all eight teams in Division 7 are very similar in what they want to do offensively and how good they are on defense.”

For this coming Friday, Cashton draws a Black Hawk/Warren team

that rolled past No. 7 seed Highland (6-4) 56-20 in Level 1 and No. 3 seed Wisconsin Rapids Assumption (10-2) 26-9 in Level 2. During the regular season, they finished third in the Six Rivers Conference behind co-champions Potosi/Cassville and River Ridge.

Black Hawk/Warren is led on offense by a three-headed monster in the

running game: senior running back Lucas Milz with 1,212 yards and 13 touchdowns on 8.1 yards per carry, senior running back Landen Mahoney with 1,129 yards and 17 touchdowns on 9.0 yards per carry and senior quarterback Reed McNutt with 980 yards and 14 touchdowns on 9.5 yards per carry.

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Westby’s Lizzy Curtis finished 46th at last weekend’s WIAA state cross country meet. Bluffs Conference game. Photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

## Westby’s Curtis finishes 46th at state

By Nate Beier  
Sports Writer

Westby freshman Lizzy Curtis ran to a 46th place finish at the 110th WIAA state cross country championships on Saturday, October 29 at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids.

Curtis was the lone representative from the Coulee Conference in the Division 3 race, finishing with a time of 20:59.6 and crossed the finish line behind North Crawford sophomore Agnes Carstens and Necedah freshman Delilah Hedden.

Other Coulee Conference runners competed in Division 2. The West Salem girls team finished eighth overall. Lead runner Mia Olson was 38th. G-E-T’s Adrianna Rotering was 85th and Arcadia’s Tegan Michalak 89th.

In the Scenic Bluffs, Royall’s Marah Gruen was 13th in the D3 girls race. Bangor’s Anna Fronk was 48th. Brookwood’s Dylan Powell finished his high school career with a 19th place finish in the D3 boys race and the Bangor boys ended 12th in team competition. Cochrane-Fountain City, which won the D3 sectional at Osseo-Fairchild, claimed the D3 state title.

10-29-22  
WIAA STATE  
(Wisconsin Rapids)

**D3 BOYS**  
Bangor  
46) Gavin Benzing 17:47.8, 69) Traevon Delaney 18:09.7, 79) Nolan Langrehr 18:17.1, 113) Evan Buchholz 19:19.1, 115) Aryn Loehen 19:21.4, 132) Cian Buchholz 20:27.4, 149) Josh Lockman 22:34.2  
**Area Individuals**  
17) Nolan Reese (Kickapoo/La Farge) 16:58.4, 19) Dylan Powell (Brookwood) 17:08.3  
**Team results**  
1) Kohler 94, 2) Pacelli 102, 3) Iowa-Grant 162, 12) Bangor 255, 16) Aquinas 342

**D3 GIRLS**  
Kickapoo/La Farge  
53) Jadence Nagel 21:15.8, 69) Autumn Jacks 21:39.4, 91) McKinley Ray 22:27.9, 94) Lilly Geary 22:34.2, 101) Jayla Nagel 22:38.7, 109) Alessia Gotta 22:55.3, 113) Breylyn Culver 23:04.1  
**Area Individuals**  
13) Marah Gruen (Royall) 19:58.8, 36) Claire Becker (Melrose-Mindoro) 20:49.0, 45) Agnes Carstens (North Crawford) 20:59.4, 46) Elizabeth Curtis (Westby) 20:59.6, 47) Delilah Hedden (Necedah) 21:03.9, 48) Anna Fronk (Bangor) 21:05.9  
**Team results**  
1) Cochrane-Fountain City 132, 2) Lourdes Academy 138, 3) Valders 151, 11) Kickapoo/La Farge 237

**D2 BOYS**  
**Team results**  
1) Notre Dame 81, 2) Lakeside Lutheran 115, 3) Xavier 143, 5) Mauston 169, 9) West Salem 239

**D2 GIRLS**  
**Team results**  
1) Xavier 81, 2) Dodgeville/Mineral Point 124, 3) Notre Dame 140, 8) West Salem 221

**D1 BOYS**  
**Team results**  
1) Stevens Point 39, 2) Oconomowoc 86, 3) Madison West 128

**D1 GIRLS**  
**Team results**  
1) Muskego 45, 2) Slinger 110, 3) Kaukauna 122, 10) Holmen 239

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# Westby volleyball ends season in sectional final

By Nate Beier  
Sports Writer

The wild ride that was the Westby volleyball season came to a close Saturday, October 29 as the Norsemen fell to St. Croix Falls 3-0 in a WIAA Division 3 sectional semifinal match.

Westby (33-2) advanced to the program's first-ever sectional final on the strength of a 3-1 win against La Crosse Aquinas on Thursday, September 17 in front of a full house at Westby.

Emily Collins powered WHS with a 20-kill effort against the Blugolds. Jayda Berg tacked on 10 kills and Bethany Roethel 10. Roethel also led the team with 16 digs in the win.

Tricia Klum posted a team-high 29 assists and Kaylee Kirner added 14.

In the sectional final, Collins and Berg each had 10 kills. Kirner led the team with 18 assists while Klum added 13. Kennedy Brueggen ended with 9 digs.



The Westby volleyball team had its historic season come to an end Saturday, October 29 after falling to St. Croix Falls 3-0 in a Division 3 sectional final. The Norsemen finish the year 33-2 overall for the program's best-ever mark. Photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

The Coulee Conference runner-up, West Salem, also advanced to the sectional final round in Division 2. The Panthers (30-11) fell 3-1 to Bloomer at Arcadia on Saturday, October 29.

In Division 4, the Wonewoc-Center volleyball team felled Highland 3-1 for the second-straight season in a sectional final. The Wolves (25-4) will face Chippewa Falls McDonell

in a rematch of last year's D4 state semifinal this Friday at 9: a.m. McDonell is the defending D4 state champion and is the top seed in the bracket.

'EAGLES' continued from page 9

Huntzicker completed 4 of 6 passes for 58 yards and a touchdown, with Connor Butzler making a 41-yard catch.

Defensively, Brett Hemmersbach compiled a team-high eight total tackles and the trio of Brady Hemmersbach, Noah Hemmersbach and O'Neil each recorded an interception.

As for Ithaca, Nelson completed 13 of 28 passes for 131 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions while also running for a team-high 34 yards and a touchdown on nine carries. Senior Lincoln Manning made four catches for 54 yards and had

his lone pass attempt picked off.

Nelson started the season at receiver and played there against Cashton, but eventually was moved to quarterback and assumed the starting role under center for the Bulldogs.

With the win, the Eagles now advance to the Division 7 quarterfinals for a second consecutive season. Prior to 2021, the program's most recent playoff win came all the way back in 1999.

"You put your name out there when you are making it into the Level 3 games," Jered Hemmersbach said. "There's only eight teams left."



Cashton's Colin O'Neil tackles Ithaca's Channing Brown. Photo by Jenny Schendel.

'PLAYOFF' continued from page 9

Black Hawk/  
Warren's  
Lucas Milz  
leads the  
Warriors'  
rushing attack  
with over 110  
yards a game.  
Photo by Nate  
Beier/GX3  
Media.



Head coach Desie Breadon's team hasn't thrown all that often, but on the occasions they do McNutt has completed 35 of 68 passes (51.5 percent) for 556 yards, seven touchdowns and one interception.

"All season our defense has played exceptionally well against the run," Hemmersbach said. "We've got to continue to really close those gaps. We can't give up big plays. Make them earn their scores if they do

score and make them work the drive."

The Eagles are only two wins away from earning the opportunity to play at Camp Randall Stadium for a state championship. Regardless of what happens Friday and beyond, they get one more chance to treat their home fans to high stakes football in 2022.

"It's just an awesome feeling," Hemmersbach said. "I so happy for the seniors and the program."

# Great job, Eagles! On to Level 3 in the Playoffs



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