

## FOOTBALL

# MHS trounces Tide 52-0

Cheesemakers gain 526 yards on offense in Homecoming rout

By Adam Krebs  
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MONROE — The Rock Valley has shown this season to be without a worthy contender for the Cheesemakers on the gridiron. In Week 7, Monroe, ranked No. 1 in the state in Division 3, trounced Edgerton 52-0 on Homecoming night.

“The kids are really knocking it out of the park,” Monroe coach Toby Golembiewski said. “They are physically capable; mentally capable; they understand their different roles that they may have from time to time. This is just a great team. Everyone knows what’s best for the team and is sticking to the plan.”

Monroe (7-0, 5-0 RVC) opened the game with a steady, nearly six minute, 12-play, 77-yard drive, culminated with a 1-yard touchdown run by Kaden Kuester. The offense never slowed down, either, going up 40-0 by halftime and gaining 370 yards rushing.

“I feel like the team wanted some physicality from our opponents. The last two weeks there was one, two, maybe three plays and then we scored and were out. I think we wanted a game where we needed to compete,” Hernandez said. “The first drive serves the purpose of shaking off



ABOVE: Homecoming King Alex Hernandez had 141 yards rushing with two TDs in just one half of play as the Cheesemakers rolled the Edgerton Crimson Tide 52-0 on Sept. 30.

Times photos: Adam Krebs

the nerves. It’s no secret that everyone is nervous before the start of a football game, regardless of your record and what you’re expected to do. That second drive was just us doing what we do best and moving the rock.”

Keatin Sweeney had 146 yards and three TDs on 13 carries,

while Homecoming King Alex Hernandez had 141 yards and two scores on 11 touches. Kuester ended the half — and night — with 78 yards on eight attempts. Monroe finished with 526 yards of offense.

Monroe’s second and third string played the entire second

half. Lane Meier had 39 yards and a touchdown in the fourth quarter, with Jacob Flom gaining 60 yards and a TD on runs of 32 and 28.

Defensively, the Cheesemakers shut down the Crimson Tide (2-5,

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## FOOTBALL

# NGM scores first win; Cards lose first game

BHW falls to Potosi-Cassville; BSMS rolls Pecatonica-Argyle

By Natalie Dillon  
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NEW GLARUS — The Glarner Knights picked up their first win of the season, 32-7, against the Big Foot Chiefs, a Capitol Conference opponent, on Homecoming Sept. 30.

New Glarus-Monticello (1-6, 1-4) quarterback Max Marty was a large part of the offense in the first half, with a passing and rushing touchdown each. Lawrence Vasquez also scored on a six-yard rush, as the Glarner Knights led 19-0 at the half.

Neither team scored in the third quarter, making for a big fourth.

Marty connected with AC Strok just four seconds into the quarter for yet another touchdown. For their final six points of the game, Emery Johnson ran three yards to the endzone. It was Johnson’s first game back since breaking his collarbone in a scrimmage with Monroe.

With just 52 seconds left in the game, Big Foot (1-6, 0-5) ran for a touchdown and successfully kicked an extra point.

Marty was 15-for-20 with 249 yards and two touchdowns. On the ground, he had 14 carries for 96 yards and a touchdown. Aside from Marty, Vasquez was the next leading rusher with 14 carries for 83 yards. Strok led all receivers with three catches for 95 yards and one touchdown.

NG-Monticello will play Lodi (6-1, 4-1) next on Oct. 7.

## BSMS 48, PECATONICA-ARGYLE 0

ARGYLE — The Vikings fell behind 28-0 after the first quarter and 42-0 by halftime against the Knights on Oct. 1 at Argyle’s Homecoming.

Jacob Duerr was 8-for-11 for 158 and two TDs for Benton/Scales Mound/Shullsburg (5-2 4-1 Six Rivers). Nate Lawrence led BSMS with 114 rushing yards on 15 carries with two TDs,

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## FOOTBALL

# Redbirds clobber Cubans 45-6

By Thomas Gunnell  
Darlington Republican Journal

DARLINGTON — Cadyn Burbach had a memorable night in his final Homecoming appearance at Darlington.

The senior signal-caller ran for two touchdowns, converted three extra points and also booted a school-record field goal as the Redbirds rolled to their fifth consecutive victory with a 45-6 SWAL decision over the Cuba City Cubans on Homecoming Night at Martens Field on Friday, Sept. 30.

Burbach’s 36-yard scamper just over two minutes into the game put the Redbirds (6-1 overall, 3-0 SWAL) in front to stay, and then his 4-yard TD run with 3:26 remaining in the

first quarter extended the lead to 14-0.

The Crist Crew got into the scoring act for the ‘Birds with sophomore Ross Crist bulling in from a yard out and junior Tye Crist busting loose for a 45-yard dash in the second quarter to put the hosts ahead 28-0 at the intermission. Sophomore Talan Crist added a 1-yard TD burst early in the third quarter to make it 35-0.

Sophomore Maddox Goebel tacked on a 21-yard TD run with 3:42 remaining in the third quarter to push the lead up to 42 points.

In the fourth quarter, Burbach etched his name into the Darlington record book by connecting on a 37-yard field goal to top the 32-yard

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RJ Photo: Thomas Gunnell

Darlington’s Ross Crist (42) running the ball in his team’s 45-6 win over Cuba City Sept. 30.

## VOLLEYBALL

# Monroe improving despite 1-win record

By Adam Krebs  
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MONROE — It’s been a tough rebuild for the Cheesemakers on the volleyball court, with the last winning regular season coming more than two decades ago. In the past two seasons, the team has gotten younger and struggled as much as ever, and currently have just one win in the 2022 campaign.

That doesn’t mean there is not optimism moving forward.

“The biggest thing is they are right where we want them to be,” said Cassie Wittmann, Monroe’s head coach, after her team’s 25-13, 25-12, 25-11 loss to Oregon on Sept. 29. “We’ve seen so much improvement in them, especially over the past week and a half to two weeks. They are applying the things they are learning in practice and they are seeing the success when they execute. What more can we ask for?”

The Cheesemakers have just five seniors on the varsity roster, along with six juniors and five sophomores. The girls are still figuring out how to play as a team.

“I think the thing a lot of people forget

is that we are a very young team. We don’t have much varsity experience coming back from last year. To see the strides these guys have made from August to now, makes me really excited for next year — but also really sad for these seniors, because they don’t get to be a part of the that continuing change,” Wittman said. “But I hope this shows that something is working, something is changing; and these girls are putting in the effort and the hustle and everything they need to do.”

Early on against Oregon, nerves were Monroe’s nemesis, especially with serve receive. The Panthers had 10 aces in the frame, but just four in the second set and only three in the third.

“The biggest thing we’ve talked about is confidence. We need to have the mindset that if we shank a serve or give up an ace, you’re going to want that ball again. I think in that second set they saw that and realized ‘I can do this,’” Wittman said.

While the team wins aren’t all there, the Cheesemakers have seen a new person step up each night. Against Oregon,

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Times photo: Adam Krebs

Monroe’s Laurel Scheaffer pushes a ball over the net in a match against Oregon Sept. 29.

## VOLLEYBALL

# Ponies sweep, BH, NG win

By Natalie Dillon  
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MONTICELLO — The Monticello Ponies (19-1, 9-0 Six Rivers East) defeated the Barneveld Eagles (8-7, 5-3) in a three game sweep 25-11, 25-23, 25-11 on Sept. 29.

Macey Grant led Monticello at the service line with seven aces.

“She [Grant] led us out of the gate with the help of her teammates, as we got out to a 6-0 lead, which [Barneveld] never came back from,” head coach Rebecca Gustafson said.

Other stat leaders included Ellie Gustafson with 21 kills, Dalana Trumpy with 21 digs and Kelsy Grant with 26 assists.

Next up for the Ponies is conference opponent Argyle (1-13, 1-7) on Oct. 4.

## BLACK HAWK 3, JUDA 1

SOUTH WAYNE — The Warriors (6-9, 6-3 Six Rivers East) fell in the first set 25-27 before rebounding to defeat the Panthers (2-11, 1-7)

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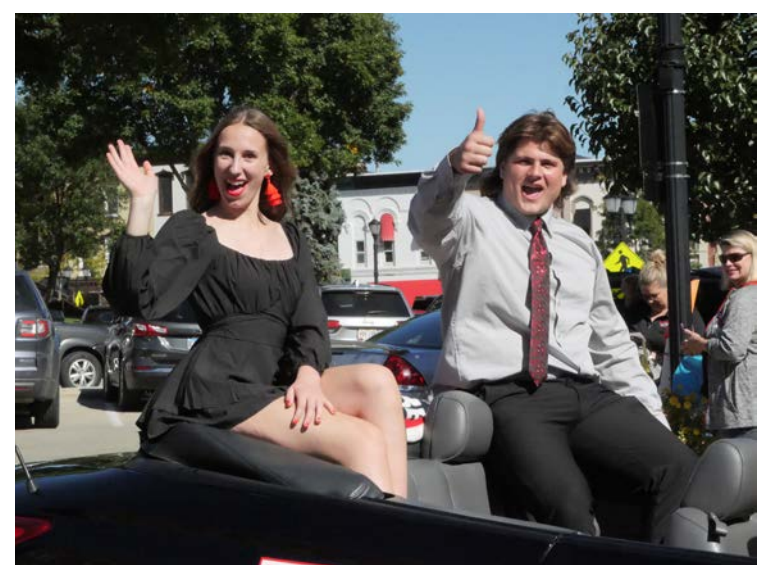
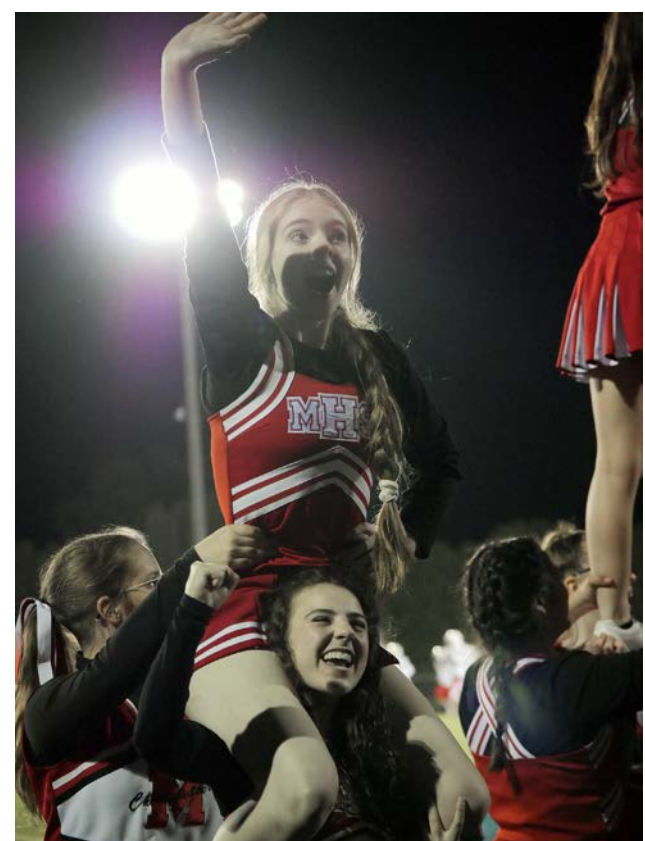
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**ABOVE:** Monroe's Homecoming Court was presented to the crowd at halftime of the football game.  
**ABOVE RIGHT:** The cross country float tosses candy to young fans at the Homecoming Parade Sept. 30.  
**BELOW:** Monroe's dance team performs at halftime.  
**RIGHT:** Monroe High School Marching Band members perform on the field at halftime.  
**FAR RIGHT:** Hayden Jackson sits on the shoulders of Lilly Cherney during a cheer routine at halftime.



**ABOVE LEFT:** Monroe FFA members show off a pair of young calves on a float on Monroe's downtown square during the afternoon parade. **ABOVE CENTER:** A young Cheesemaker fan chases bubbles blown from a parade float. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Homecoming Court members Lindsey Davis and Isaac Bunker wave to the crowd during the parade. **BELOW LEFT:** Monroe's football team bursts through the R.I.P Edgerton sign held up by the cheer team as they enter the field moments before kickoff. The Cheesemakers won convincingly, 52-0. **BELOW RIGHT:** The Monroe student section cheers for the dance team, which performed at halftime.



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## CROSS COUNTRY

# Cheesemakers set PRs at UWP invite

By Natalie Dillon

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PLATTEVILLE — The Monroe boys' and girls' cross country teams took home high finishes in the Dick McKichan Invite at UW-Platteville on Saturday, Oct. 1. The boys finished second (100) behind McFarland (96), while the girls finished third (102) behind Union Grove (97) and winner Dodgeville/Mineral Point (60).

"This is an important end-of-the-year meet for us because we get to see most of the teams from our conference and section, so we can see how we stack up against these teams," head coach Scott Mosher said. "Both programs showed they can compete against any of the teams we will see and that we at least have a chance to realistically compete for a conference championship and qualify for the state meet."

Jared Batz led Monroe with a time of 16:53.6 for fifth place overall. This was his second week in a row finishing under 17 minutes. Last week's 16:47.9 was a personal record.

"We had nearly every boy run a PR last week at Midwest and then had roughly half come back and PR again on Saturday," Mosher said. "What's even more incredible is we have boys that are not only improving week to week but we are seeing boys that are running 3-4 minutes faster than last year."

Tre Dammien, who is on the doorstep of breaking 17 minutes, ran a 17:12.1 for seventh place.

"[Tre] Dammien won the Fastest Freshman award for being the fastest freshman out of all 25 teams," Mosher said. "He placed 13th overall and 7th in the large school race, showing he belongs with the top runners at conference and sectionals."

The remaining three scorers for Monroe were Padraic Houston (27th, 18:14.9), Wyatt Stevenson (28th, 18:15.0) and Anthony Wels (33rd, 18:28.6).

On the girls' end, three freshmen placed in the top five for the Cheesemakers.

Miley Hanson led the team with her time of 20:29.0 (15th). Jadyn Elgin and Mary McKenzie finished one after the other with times of 20:37.5 (18th) and 20:46.9 (19th). McKenzie improved upon her PR performance from last week by 1.5 seconds.

Skye Dickson and Aniyah Jackson-Bey rounded out the top five with times of 20:54.9 (21st) and 21:20.0 (29th). Jackson-Bey hadn't raced for three weeks due to illness, crushing her PR by nearly a minute.

The Cheesemakers head to Albany for the Baertschi Invitational on Saturday, Oct. 8. It is their last meet before the conference championship at home on Oct. 15.

## NGM GIRLS 1ST, BOYS 4TH

Lily Maynard paced the lady Glarner Knights to a first-place finish in the small schools' race with her time of 20:11.2 (6th). The remaining scorers finished in the top 15, giving NG-Monticello 56 total points:

Molly Olson (20:53.1, 10th), Ruthie Zuber (20:59.7, 11th), Melanie Fink (21:21.4, 14th) and Emma Martinson (21:33.7, 15th).

The boys were led by Tom Nelson, who broke the 17-minute mark to take third (16:36.0). Two other racers finished in the top 25 — Tanner Gardner (18: 23.3, 21st) and Jude Rice (18:33.6, 22nd) — while the final two scorers took 41st and 45th, respectively: Ian Schwartzlow (19:36.7) and Grayson Rodefeld (19:43.4). NG-Monticello boys' team totaled 132 points.

## ALBANY BOYS 2ND, GIRLS 4TH

The Comets' top-three scoring boys all finished in the top 20 en route to a second-place finish. Brayden Bakken led them all (17:45.7, 10th), followed by Ethan Koss (18:03.8, 16th) and Kaleb Broughton (18:16.1, 18th). Brian Cid (19:07.9, 32nd) and Drew Sertle (19:23.9, 34th) rounded out the scorers. The boys' team finished with 110 points, 69 points behind winner Iowa-Grant.

The girls' team featured only five runners, led by McKenna Broughton (20:01.6, 3rd). Ava Ahnen (20:34.1, 8th) also finished in the top ten. Merson Briggs (22:11.6, 20th) and Linsey Mueller (22:43.2, 27th) were the next pair of Comets to finish, while Abby Hollis (25:42.5) rounded out the team. The girls' collected 108 points.

## DARLINGTON GIRLS 3RD, BOYS 6TH

Raquel Reuter (20:07.9, 4th) and Adalee Berget (20:09.1, 5th) finished one right after the other to lead the lady Redbirds to a third-place finish. Alexis Murray (22:29.0, 23rd) and Piper DePauw (22:43.0, 26th) also had strong showings, while Clara Solverson (23:07.8, 30th) rounded out the top five. In total, Darlington scored 88 points.

On the boys' side, George West paced the Redbirds at 17:26.8 (8th). His teammate Ethan Aird (18:14.8, 17th) came in less than a minute later, while Gerson Soto (18:52.4, 30th), Liam Lansing (19:42.0, 44th) and Kane McDermott (21:17.0, 72nd) trailed further behind. The Redbirds scored 171 points.

## BRODHEAD-JUDA GIRLS 5TH, BOYS 12TH

After leader Kalena Riemer (21:37.0, 16th), the Cardinals had three runners finish 30-39. Madilyn Arnold paced the group at 23:14.4 (32nd), followed by Olivia Hartwig (23:57.0, 37th) and Madi Brown (24:04.4). Emily Welsh was the fifth runner for Brodhead-Juda at 25:04.2 (43rd). In total, the Cardinals amassed 166 points.

In a tough boys' field, Nathan Engen led the way for the Cardinals with his time of 18:35.9 (24th). Gavin Pinnow (19:37.6, 42nd) and Jorge Villalva (19:55.6, 49th) finished in the next group for Brodhead-Juda, while Braden Williams (21:32.5, 75th) and Gauge Jorgenson (22:42.3, 87th) rounded out the team's scorers. They finished with 277 points, seven behind Lancaster in 11th.

## Oregon 11, Monroe 0



Times photo: Adam Krebs

Monroe's Trey Wyss chases down a ball Sept. 29 against second-ranked Oregon at TR Holyoke Field. Oregon (13-2-2) won by mercy rule, 11-0 over the Cheesemakers (0-1-3).



Times photo: Adam Krebs

Monroe's Kaden Kuester trips up Edgerton runner Beau Allison on a run attempt in the second half. The top-ranked and unbeaten Cheesemakers held Edgerton to just 63 yards in their 52-0 win on Homecoming Sept. 30 at TR Holyoke Field.

## MHS

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2-3). Edgerton had just 16 yards of offense in the first half — and that was despite an 18-yard screen pass on 3rd-and-20 and an 11-yard scramble on a 2nd-and-17. Overall, Edgerton finished with 63 yards of offense. Monroe reserve Cole Meighan made a stellar pick in the fourth quarter to thwart a potential Tiders scoring opportunity.

"We work really hard all week in practice. Our scout team always gives us the best look they possibly can to simulate the other team's offense," senior lineman Sean Rufenacht said. "I love watching the younger guys get a chance to play on the field. I get really hyped. Not getting to play in the second half isn't always fun, but that means we did our job in the first half — we put up the points and kept them from scoring, and that's what we need to do."

Monroe's lone blemishes were a trio of pre-snap 5-yard penalties and an interception on a heavy rush in the second quarter, allowing Edgerton to take over deep inside Monroe territory. That drive ended in a blocked field goal, with Sweeney darting 61-yards for a score three snaps later.

"That's not going to be easy to overcome down the road. We have to continue to clean that up," Golembiewski said of the pre-snap penalties for his offensive linemen. "It's weird that it didn't happen in previous weeks, and now it's happening. I really think they are getting in a little personal content of seeing how far and how many guys they can knock down and how hard they can make them fly, so they are getting a little jumpy beyond just executing the play, because they want to execute the play with mass destruction."

Things went from bad to worse for the Tide late in the second. Monroe scored on a quick 70-yard drive with 1:23 left in the half to make it 34-0. Then on the ensuing kickoff, a squib stopped about two yards short of the end zone, and the Edgerton returner muffed the ball when trying to pick it up. Meier then dove on top to recover at the 6. Three plays later, with 21 seconds left, Hernandez plunged in from a yard out for the score.

Up next for the Cheesemakers is East Troy (2-5, 1-4). The Trojans have been outscored 211-106 this season, while Monroe has five shutouts and outscored opponents 316-34. East Troy's biggest offensive weapon is quarterback Caiden Dessart, who leads the team in rushing with 284 yards, and

has added 869 yards through the air with a combined total of seven touchdowns.

Monroe still leads the state in rushing with 3,050 yards — an average of 435.7 yards per game and 10.4 per carry. Hernandez is just 11 yards from 1,000 on the season, averaging 9.9 yards per tote. Sweeney has 822 yards (11.0 ypc), while Kuester is at 447 (11.8 ypc) and Tucker Markham 260 (13.7 ypc). Ben Gatlula (12.6 ypc) was hurt in the second game of the season and is projected to return by the time the playoffs arrive.

The Cheesemakers have clinched a playoff spot and are one win from clinching at least a share of the Rock Valley title. Mathematically, the Cheesemakers still could finish outside of the top spot. Both Evansville and McFarland are 4-1 in conference play — with each losing by more than five scores to the Cheesemakers. Both schools will face off in Week 9.

"We still want to win each day. Each day takes us to Friday, and then we certainly want to win that game. Mathematically we could still blow a conference championship. So we want to win the day, win the game, and then if we do that, you're looking at seeding and getting a chance to host some playoff games," Golembiewski said.

## Volleyball

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25-18, 25-15 and 25-15 on Sept. 29.

Both Raylin Peterson and Tara Wellnitz tallied 13 kills, while Wellnitz alone led in blocks with three. She also kept rallies alive with her 22 digs. At the line, Mallory Peterson recorded six aces, while Ellie Edler distributed the offense with 21 assists.

Juda was led by Lavinia Rufer and Brilley Swedlund who knocked down 13 and 11 kills, respectively. Jackie Nusbaum totaled 20 assists, while Ciarrah Davis dug out an impressive 31 balls.

Black Hawk will host Pecatonica (5-4, 4-3) on Oct. 6,

while Juda hosts Barneveld.

## BRODHEAD 3, BIG FOOT 0

BRODHEAD — The Cardinals (27-3, 6-1) remain in the top portion of the Rock Valley conference with a win over Big Foot (9-14, 2-5). Brodhead took all three sets 25-11, 25-15, 25-14.

Abbie Dix controlled most of the game, recording 10 kills, four aces, 11 digs and three blocks. Alexis Kammerer dominated at the line with five aces and just one service error. She also led the team in assists with 23. Aside from Dix, McKenna Young also tallied 11 digs.

The Cardinals will be tested this week, as they play Edgerton (13-11, 5-2) on Oct. 4 and conference-leading McFarland (26-4, 7-0) Oct. 8. The results of these match-ups could very well

determine the conference champion.

## NEW GLARUS 3, MARSHALL 0

NEW GLARUS — In a battle for second place in the Capitol South conference, the Glarner Knights (30-12, 5-2) swept the Cardinals (14-11, 4-3) to celebrate their homecoming.

Despite missing their libero Payton Schneider due to injury, other players were able to step up in her place. Amber Horn recorded 10 kills to lead the team, along with six aces. Grace Nommensen distributed the offense with 19 assists, while Veronica Tollakson loomed at the net with four blocks. All players saw time on the court.

The Glarner Knights will host conference opponent Cambridge (2-11, 0-7) Oct. 4.

"If someone is having an off night, someone else can step up."

— Cassie Wittman, Monroe coach

Sophie Golembiewski attempts a spike against Oregon Sept. 29. The Panthers defeated the host Cheesemakers in a 3-0 sweep.

Times photo: Adam Krebs



## Improving

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that was senior Maggie Hawkinson. Hawkinson finished the night with six timely kills.

"I hope it just shows that we don't have to rely on one person. If someone is having an off night, someone else can step up," Wittman said. "At the beginning of the season, we weren't sure where Maggie was

going to be — if it was going to be middle or outside. She started in the middle and we weren't getting the kills we wanted to, so we moved her outside, and you can see what happened — she's kind of blossomed and bloomed from there. That's our hope with a lot of these young kids, too, trying to find their niche — and maybe that's in a whole different position."

The Cheesemakers will host Mount Horeb on Oct. 6, then will play at Mount Horeb's tournament two days later.