

## FOOTBALL

# Cheese plow into playoffs

Sweeney goes over 1,000 yards rushing on the season

By Adam Krebs  
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MONROE — With the preseason to the postseason out of the way, the top-ranked Cheesemakers can lock in their focus to the ultimate goal: A march to a state championship.

On Oct. 14 in Week 9, Monroe decimated Whitewater in the final hurdle to an unbeaten regular season, 47-0, capturing the program's third straight conference title and the 15th straight win at TR Holyoke Field.

"On those congratulations, you have to lump in all those guys that were involved in those three championships," Monroe head coach Toby Golembiewski said. "Because if you don't get the first one, you're not here on the third one. It's just been a great, great several years of kids that have come through here that have wanted to work hard and play hard and play unselfish Cheesemakers football."



Monroe's Keatin Sweeney had 157 yards and two scores in a 47-0 win over Whitewater Oct. 14. Sweeney and teammate Alex Hernandez each have over 1,000 yards rushing on the season, and the Cheesemakers lead the state in both rushing and total offense.

In fact, outside of a 21-point nonconference Week 2 win over Mount Horeb-Barneveld (8-1, 7-0 Badger Small), the Cheesemakers (9-0, 7-0 Rock Valley) were hardly contested at all this fall. Monroe finished the regular season with

six shutouts. In fact, Monroe's lone deficit to this point all season was a 5 1/2 minute stretch in the second quarter against MHB.

In the win over Whitewater (0-9, 0-7), the Cheesemakers showed off their smash-mouth style of play to the

dozen Whippet fans in attendance from the get-go. Monroe needed just two plays on its first possession to score — a 46-yard run by Keatin Sweeney, followed by a 10-yard scamper by Sweeney

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## CROSS COUNTRY

# MHS Badger West champs



Times photos: Natalie Dillon  
ABOVE: Mary McKenzie (5901) leads the pack during the girls' Badger West Conference race at Twining.  
BELOW: Wyatt Stevenson sprints to the finish as Monroe's No. 4 runner on Saturday, Oct. 15.

## 10 Cheesemakers All-Conference

By Natalie Dillon  
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MONROE — The Monroe Cheesemakers took advantage of racing at home by winning both the boys' and girls' Badger West conference titles on Saturday, Oct. 15. With football's win the night previous, Monroe earned three conference championships in less than 24 hours.

"We set this as a goal for over a year now, as things fell into place to be a special day," Monroe head coach Scott Mosher said. "This is Monroe's final year in the Badger Conference, so we wanted to go out on top."

Heading into the day, the girls' team was ranked No. 11 in the WCCCA Week 7 poll. They proved their rank by taking first (43 points), despite not having a single runner in the top five. Rather, the top three runners all finished in a pack at six, seven and eight. Mary McKenzie led them with a time of 20:48.0, followed by Jadyn Elgin at 20:48.2 and Miley Hanson at 20:54.2.

The remaining two scorers — Aniyah Jackson-Bey and Skye Dickson — finished in the top 12 with times of 20:58.5 (10th) and 21:20.0 (12th), respectively.

"What makes the team so special and unique is we don't have a runner who is our clear No. 1," Mosher said. "We had all five finish within 32 seconds of each other. When they came across the line in that pack, we knew they scored low enough to win."

The girls set the tone for the boys, who also



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## FOOTBALL

# Cardinals down Flying Arrows 36-19

QB Bockhop shreds up Lancaster defense

By Natalie Dillon  
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BRODHEAD — After an uncharacteristic two-game regular season losing streak, Brodhead/Juda (7-2, 5-2 SWC) bounced back against Lancaster (6-3, 4-3) on Friday, Oct. 14.

"The last time we lost two games in a row is at least four or five years ago," Brodhead/Juda head coach Jim Matthys said. "I'm proud of them to see the whole team bounce back from that. Now we have some momentum going into the playoffs."

The Cardinals began the game with an interception in the endzone by Gunner Boegli, setting Brodhead up offensively at the 20.

On its opening drive, Brodhead scored on an 81-yard rushing touchdown by Isaac Saunders. Gabe Bockhop's extra point was blocked.

Brodhead's defense came up big again on Lancaster's second drive, starting with a tackle for loss by David Masloske. The Cardinal secondary broke up the next two passes, but a roughing-the-passer penalty gave the Flying Arrows 15 yards and a fresh set of downs.

Despite a fourth-and-goal opportunity, Lancaster failed to convert, turning the ball over on downs.

In the Flying Arrows' first possession of the second quarter, Peyton Alvarado ran for a touchdown to tie the game at six. Brodhead's defense jumped offside on the extra point, setting Lancaster up for a two-point conversion, instead. Logan Wolf gave Lancaster the 8-6 lead with his run.

The Flying Arrows returned the favor on the next drive, committing penalties of their own. On his reception, Saunders was tackled by the facemask, giving Brodhead 15 yards. On the next play, Aiden Vondra ran to the outside for a touchdown.



Times photo: Natalie Dillon  
Aiden Vondra catches a pass from Gabe Bockhop. Vondra caught one touchdown pass and ran for two more.

The Cardinals attempted a two-point conversion, but Bockhop's pass was tipped. Downfield Lancaster's Paxton Hanke tackled Blake Matthys after the play had been ruled dead. Getting off the ground, Hanke then kicked Matthys in the helmet. The 15-yard unsportsman-like conduct was enforced on the kick-off.

Neither team scored in the remainder of the first half.

To start the third quarter, Bockhop connected with Boegli for a touchdown. With Vondra's two-point conversion, Brodhead took a 20-8 lead.

The mood shifted quickly, though, as B. Matthys was called for helmet to helmet on a tackle that appeared to be clean.

"They weren't happy about it," J. Matthys said of the adversity his team had to face. "We can't control those kinds of things."

Luckily, the penalty didn't end up hurting the Cardinals, as the Flying Arrows were forced to punt after a fumbled snap.

Facing three and out on Brodhead's subsequent drive, Bockhop threw laser to Saunders. After the extra point, the Cardinals led 27-8.

"What I feel changed in the second half was our defense," J. Matthys said of the energy shift. "We only ran 14 plays in the first half. In the second, we ran at

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## CROSS COUNTRY

# Albany, Darlington top 4 at SWAL meet

NGM wins Capitol; Brodhead-Juda runs at RVC meet

By Natalie Dillon  
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FENNIMORE — At the SWAL conference cross country meet on Thursday, Oct. 13 in Fennimore, both Albany and Darlington boys and girls finished in the top four.

Boscobel won the girls' title with 43 points. Its top runner, Nora Jillson, took first overall. The team nabbed the No. 3 spot in the WCCCA poll in Week 7.

Darlington, No. 12 in the WCCCA as of Week 7, finished in second with 57 points. Freshman Adalee Berget led the Redbirds as the second-place finisher overall (19:27.7). Alexis Murray also finished in the top 10 with a time of 21:05.9 (8th). The remaining scorers for Darlington were in the top 20: Piper DuPauw (21:35.7, 14th), Shayla Gould (22:11.9, 16th) and Stella McGowan (22:49.4, 17th).

Albany finished just behind Darlington with 63 points. Its top three runners finished in the top 10: McKenna Broughton (20:08.7, 4th), Ava Ahnen (20:10.8, 6th) and Emerson Briggs (21:19.3, 9th). Linsey Mueller, the Comets' fourth runner, also

finished in the 22nd minute at 21:57.5 (15th). Abby Hollis rounded out the group with her time of 25:43.3 (29th).

In the boys' race, Iowa-Grant ran away with first (47 points). Their top three runners — Mason Aide, Caden Pennekamp and Bret Connolly — took three of the top five spots. As such, they are ranked No. 2 in the WCCCA poll.

Albany boys, who were ranked No. 12 in the Week 7 WCCCA poll, took third with 68 points. Although Brian Cid (17:28.0, 8th) was the only runner in the top 10, the other four scorers placed in the top 20: Brayden Bakken (17:45.3, 11th), Ethan Koss (17:46.7, 12th), Gage Roth (18:18.7, 18th) and Kaleb Broughton (18:19.3, 19th).

Darlington boys trailed the Comets in fourth with 115 points. George West (16:47.7) led the Redbirds, as he finished third overall. Gerson Soto, Ethan Aird and Liam Lansing came in at the 19-minute mark with times of 18:07.6 (17th), 18:21.0 (20th) and 18:59.2 (30th), respectively. The last scorer, Kane McDermott, finished with a time of 20:11.1 (45th).

Pecatonica/Argyle girls' and boys' teams also participated finishing sixth (138 points) and eighth (197 points), respectively. Ridge

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## FOOTBALL

# Redbirds capture SWAL title; BHW routes rival Pec-Argyle; NGM, Parkview-Albany end seasons

By Natalie Dillon  
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FENNIMORE — With its 66-13win over Fennimore (2-7, 1-6) on Friday, Oct. 14, Darlington (8-1, 7-0) won the SWAL conference outright.

The Redbirds opened the game with a 32-point first quarter. The Goebels, Maddox and Breylin, accounted for all four touchdowns. Breylin ran for nine

and 18-yard scores, while Maddox returned a punt and scampered for three yards.

In the second quarter, it was the Crists. Ross Crist rushed for a five-yard touchdown, while Tye Crist broke free for a 73-yard scoring drive. With just under a minute left in the half, Eli Crist converted a pick-six.

Fennimore scored all 13 of its points in the second quarter. Max Miles ran for 53 yards and caught a pass from

Tristan Steldt.

Darlington tacked on 13 more points in the second half on two rushing touchdowns from Taggart Gille.

The Redbirds ran for 424 yards in the victory, with eight different players getting touches. Tye Crist and Taggart Gille were the top two rushers with 136 and 94 yards, respectively. Aside from Eli Crist, Danick Haesler also snagged two interceptions.

No. 2 Darlington hosts Benton-Scales Mound-Shullsburg (5-4, 4-3 Six Rivers) on Friday, Oct. 21.

## BLACK HAWK 48, PECATONICA/ARGYLE 0

WARREN — Black Hawk (6-3, 4-3 Six Rivers) is getting hot at the right time, as the team shut out Pecatonica/Argyle (0-8-1, 0-6) on Friday, Oct. 14.

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## VOLLEYBALL

### Monroe falls to Beavers in Badger Challenge

Adaptive senior class honored

By **Natalie Dillon**  
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MONROE — Monroe (2-20, 0-7 Badger West) battled Beaver Dam (8-20, 1-6 Badger East) but fell short by scores of 11-25, 20-25 and

15-25 in the Badger Challenge on Thursday, Oct. 13.

The Cheesemakers' best performance came in the second set where they got out to a 5-1 lead but fell 20-25. Despite the loss, Monroe head coach Cassie Wittmann was happy with how her team has improved all season.

"We have a lot of youth," Wittmann said of her lineup. "There's so much immaturity

there that we are excited to see where these girls can go. Seeing them improve already in the past 8-10 weeks is incredible. I feel like everybody else can see the difference."

Beaver Dam opened the match slow, committing a service error and lift. The team rebounded, though, with a tip from Ali Kelm, ace from Amelia Storhoff and block for a 4-2 lead.

Olivia Feller and Sophie Golembiewski rallied Monroe with a kill and ace, respectively, to tie the game.

The Golden Beavers took the lead on the next point and never looked back. They scored two or three points to every one for the Cheesemakers until the end. Beaver Dam closed out the first set on a seven-point run, unruffled by a Monroe timeout.

After a poor serve receive, the Cheesemakers jumped out to a 5-1 lead in the second set, thanks to a kill and ace

from senior Maggie Hawkinson.

Beaver Dam worked its way back, as its number 16, Virginia Bryant, also had a kill and ace. The two teams tied the set at six, seven and eight before Monroe went on a four-point run for the lead. Hawkinson recorded a kill and fellow senior Corrina Snider served up an ace.

Once again, the Golden Beavers stormed back, tying the game at 12 and 13. Golembiewski was the hero this time around, knocking down two kills for a 17-13 Cheesemaker lead.

"The biggest thing is reading and knowing," Wittmann said of the team's second-set runs. "We talk a lot about being disciplined and knowing what to change. That came out in that set. The other big thing is we have to keep going back to the basics. We talked about controlling the controllables. Those are the things we need to focus on because that's our style of



Times photos: Natalie Dillon  
Monroe senior Maggie Hawkinson receives flowers from her No. 1 fan.



Laurel Shaeffer tips the ball over Beaver Dam blockers during the Badger Challenge on Thursday, Oct. 13.

### Rush

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for a TD. When Monroe got the ball back minutes later, the Cheesemakers needed six plays to go 57 yards and score, this time Kaden Kuester from 8-yards out.

Monroe's third possession lasted just one play. After Drew Indergard picked off a Whippets pass, Sweeney dashed 61 yards to the house on the next snap to make it 21-0. Sweeney also joined teammate Alex Hernandez in the 1,000-yard club for the season on the play.

"It's pretty cool," Sweeney said. "It's all on the linemen — they deserve all of it. I can't thank those guys enough; and Coach G for giving me the ball."

Monroe gained 347 yards rushing on 30 carries against Whitewater. In fact, the Cheesemakers let their senior QB sling it around a bit — George Brukwicki finished 3 of 4 passing for 74 yards, which included a 39-yard TD to fellow senior Charlie Wiegel. Wiegel also had a pair of fumble recoveries on defense.

Sweeney, who finished the game with 157 yards and two

scores on just eight touches, had 1,370 yards and 19 touchdowns a year ago, averaging 9.6 yards per carry. This year, he's averaging 11.8 yards per touch and has 18 touchdowns.

Hernandez touched the ball just four times against Whitewater, gaining 50 yards and a score. So far this season he has 1,159 yards (10.1 ypc) and 12 touchdowns, far-outpacing last year's mark of 1,378 yards, 14 TDs and 5.9 ypc.

The pair of seniors aren't the only backs benefitting from arguably the state's best offensive line. Kuester has 541 yards on just 47 carries, Tucker Markham 291 and Lane Meier 191. Meier had 62 on two carries off the bench against Whitewater, while Nathan Fuchs had a 1-yard score and 16 yards.

Going further, Ben Gatdula had 139 yards on just 11 attempts in five quarters before a shoulder injury caused him to miss the rest of the regular season.

In fact, the Cheesemakers lead the entire state by nearly 600 rushing yards with 3,762. Their mark of 10.3 yards per carry is the only program in the state rushing at that clip, and they have 59 rushing touchdowns — eight more than the next team.

"We've been working so

hard and have been doing this since sixth grade, working hard every day in the weight room, and watching film, and then just executing on the field on Friday night," Sweeney said.

Monroe, the top-ranked team in Division 3, even leads the entire state in total yardage at 4,189 — which could be a lot more if not for playing nearly every second half with the second and third strings on the field and a running clock. The Cheesemakers only punted four times all season, and only twice used their No. 1 punter, Brukwicki — both times against Whitewater in the second half with a running clock.

"We (seniors) have to make sure everyone is going hard at all times and that we're ready to go four quarters for a game," Sweeney said.

"We practice hard so we can get our younger guys in there" at the end of games, Monroe senior lineman Austin Fuchs said. "We know they are going to be leading this team next year."

In all, Monroe outscored its regular season opponents by nearly a 10-1 mark at 417-42. The average lead at halftime was 31 points. The defense has allowed just 1,353 yards total — 835 through the air, and 518 on the ground at an



Times photo: Adam Krebs  
Monroe's Sean Rufenacht brings down Whitewater running back Aaron Porras during the first half of their Week 9 game Oct. 14. Monroe won 47-0 and enters the postseason unbeaten and ranked No. 1 in the state in Division 3.

average of 2.5 yards per carry.

**Up Next:**  
**WIAA DIVISION 3 LEVEL 1 vs. Portage (4-5, 3-4 Badger Small) At T.R. Holyoke Field, Monroe**

The Warriors closed the regular season on a 3-game

losing streak, falling to Stoughton, Monona Grove and MHB by two or more scores in each.

Portage runs 2/3 of the time, though the Warriors gained more yards (1,115) through the air than they did on the ground (1,049). Portage was outscored 246-

168 in the regular season.

Gavin Thompson is the quarterback, completing just shy of 51% of his passes for 1,072 yards and 10 TDs with five INTs. Keagan Hooker is the team's leading rusher with 435 yards (5.5 ypc). Two other runners carried the ball more than 30 times, but neither averaging more than 4.1 yards per attempt. Ashton Krasovec was the team's leading receiver with 15 catches for 377 yards and five TDs. Ian Karpelenia had 12 grabs for 282 yards and two scores. Hooker has 10 catches for 129 and two scores.


Should Monroe advance, the Cheesemakers would host the winner of Plymouth (7-2) and Pewaukee (7-2), the state's defending champion that also stunned Monroe in the second half of the Level 4 state semifinal in 2021. Beyond that, familiar foes MHB, McFarland and Stoughton reside, along with West Bend East.

"Last year was a good humbling moment for us. We didn't think we were going to make it that far," Fuchs said. "Now this year, everyone knows that there is high expectations that we go far. I think that's the biggest thing with everyone — we want to go to state, and we want to win state."

Outside of talent and execution, Fuchs is confident simply in those he lines up with every day. The entire offensive line returned from 2021, and are playing bonded and as if they have something to prove.

"It's a great pleasure that we get to keep playing, and I am glad I get to play through with these guys. All I've got to say is we're a family. Me and (Isaac) Bunker, we're best friends, we're real tight," Fuchs said. "We're so close. This is a family. A lot of us on the O-line are the same age and have been playing football together forever."

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Town, WI \_\_\_\_\_



Date of Service \_\_\_\_\_  
Branch \_\_\_\_\_  
Role \_\_\_\_\_  
Tour \_\_\_\_\_

# Thanking Our Veterans

*Veterans Day Salute to Valor. Please join us in thanking our local veterans for their sacrifice and service to our country.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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Date of Service \_\_\_\_\_  
Branch \_\_\_\_\_  
Role \_\_\_\_\_  
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Honor your Veteran in The Monroe Times Wednesday, November 8th.  
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Morris Media of Monroe office at 1065 4th Ave. W., Monroe, WI 53566  
*There's no cost to submit a photo for publication*  
For more information, call Kathy at (608) 328-4202.  
**Deadline is Friday, October 27th at 5pm.**

Veteran's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran's Town \_\_\_\_\_ **WISCONSIN**

Veteran's Date of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Veteran's Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran's Role \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran's Tour \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_