

Sports

St. Peter Herald



CROSS COUNTRY
Johnstone,
Peterson one-two
punch at Sleepy
Eye, Madelia **6B**

Thursday

B

Thursday, October 18, 2018

BOYS SOCCER

GIRLS TENNIS

St. Peter senior places 4th in section tennis

By **PAT BECK**
pbeck@stpeterherald.com

St. Peter senior Lili Elofson capped off her career Monday by placing fourth in the Section 2A girls tennis singles tournament in Swanson Tennis Center at Gustavus Adolphus College.

Seeded No. 4, Elofson fell to No. 1 seeded Holy Family sophomore Ally Agerland in the semifinals 1-6, 3-6.

No. 2 seeded Le Sueur-Henderson sophomore Greta Nebit beat Elofson 6-3, 6-3 in the third-place match.

Elofson shut out unseeded Tri-City United/Cleveland senior Amelia Schatz in the first round 6-0, 6-0 and defeated No. 5 seeded Jordan freshman Emily Randolph in the quarterfinals 6-0, 5-7, 6-1.

In doubles, No. 3 seeded St. Peter senior Amelia Wernsing and sophomore Lizzy Orth teamed up to defeat unseeded Holy Family senior Anna Taylor and junior Ashley Anseth in first round 6-1, 6-1.

No. 6 seeded Jordan junior Maddie Jerabek and senior Morgan Busse defeated Orth-Wernsing 6-3, 6-3 in the Section 2A doubles quarterfinals.

No. 6 seeded Tri-City United junior Kadie Lowe defeated unseeded St. Peter eighth-grader Amelia Hildebrandt 7-5, 6-3 in first round singles.

No. 4 seeded Jordan seniors Anna Braun and Alivia Behr defeated unseeded St. Peter senior Caitlin Salfer and junior Anna Boomgarden in the first round of doubles 6-3, 7-6 (7-5).

No. 1 seeded sophomore Ally Agerlund of Holy Family Catholic defeated No. 3 seeded Jordan junior Emily Henderson 6-3, 6-2 for her second consecutive section singles championship.

No. 1 seeded Le Sueur-Henderson seniors Erica Cronk-Kylie Dunning defeated No. 2 seeded senior Kiersten Skelly-Siri Kuhn of Belle Plaine 6-0, 6-2 for the section doubles championship.

In an all-Jordan third place match, No. 6 seeded juniors Maddie Jerabek and Morgan Busse rallied to defeat No. 4 seeded seniors Ann Braun and Alivia Behr 2-6, 6-1, 7-5.

Reach Sports Editor Pat Beck at 931-8566 or follow him on Twitter.com @SPHSportsPat.



St. Peter senior Lili Elofson follows through on a backhand in the section singles semifinals. (Pat Beck/St. Peter Herald)

See SOCCER on 2B



St. Peter sophomore midfielder Yahye Mohamed (right) smiles after he scored his second goal against Albert Lea and is mobbed by teammates. (Pat Beck/St. Peter Herald)

SAINTS SOCCER BLOWOUT

St. Peter boys soccer blows by Albert Lea 5-1 in Section 2A quarterfinals

By **PAT BECK**
pbeck@stpeterherald.com

The key to St. Peter beating Albert Lea 5-1 in the Section 2A boys soccer quarterfinals Saturday at St. Peter High School wasn't that striker Ken Ringler scored a pure hat trick and had an assist.

And it wasn't that midfielder Yahya Mohamed scored two goals.

The key was: the wind.

The No. 3 seeded Saints failed to score going against the 15-mph wind in the first half, while No. 6 Albert Lea (7-9) scored a wind-aided goal by Zach Slegel to take a 1-0 lead.

"They kicked it from past the half line, it caught me in the air and it bounced really high because the ground was hard, and it just went over my head," St. Peter goalkeeper Mikinley Prafke said. "Albert Lea was definitely aggressive in the first half, and with wind going against us it was tough. But we pushed through in the second half. We used the wind to our advantage."

But a wind-aided goal by Mohamed sparked the Saints early in the second half. On a corner kick, his left-

footed shot blew directly into the goal 3 minutes into the second half to tie the score 1-1.

"I noticed that the wind was going out a ways. I was trying to curve it at first, and when I saw nobody asking for the ball, I thought I might just take a shot at the goal. I did, and, as expected, it went in. The goalie stepped up because he thought it was going to drop in, and it went right behind him."

"After that first goal from Yahye, we really rallied behind him and kept going for St. Peter school pride," Prafke said.

Mohamed scored again on a header off a crossing pass from Ringler at 18 minutes left to give the Saints the lead 2-1.

"I scored that one thanks to Ken," Mohamed said. "He hustled his butt off all the way down and crossed. I was expecting it, and I smashed it in with my head."

Mohamed said the Saints used the wind to their advantage in the second half.

Ringler, a co-captain who purposely chose to have the Saints go against the wind in the first half, said

the Saints even had a lot of chances against the wind. "If we had the wind, I knew we'd have a big advantage."

Playing balls in the air in the wind, it's hard to kick the balls up the field, especially Albert Lea that plays a through ball," Ringler said. "When we got the wind on our side, they couldn't do anything. We were in their half almost the entire half."

Mohamed, who more typically is a playmaker than a scorer, said the Saints did very well in passing and moving the ball around. "I'm really proud of my team. We won every 50-50 ball, and settled the ball well."

Then Ringler went on his scoring spree with three straight goals in three minutes.

Ringler has had a number of two-goal games this season, but this was his first hat trick this year.

With 12:36 to go, Ringler scored on a pass up from midfielder Daniel Nadeau to up St. Peter lead to 3-1. "I took a pass from Daniel from the middle, and I just took a touch with my left foot to the outside, and I hit it to the high near side of the goal into the top shelf."

Nadeau was impressed with the way the Saints handled the adversity after falling behind 1-0. "That was tough at first, but we put our heads up and we knew that we had many chances before we got that goal. That goal Yahye had gave us a spark. We stayed composed, and Ken just kept on shooting."

Ringler scored again on a free kick with his left foot from the right side of the 18-yard box into the bottom right corner at 11:24 to make it 4-1.

At 9:49, Ken Ringler completed his pure hat trick (three straight goals) for a 5-1 St. Peter lead. "I dribbled across from the right to the left across the face of the box, and I shot it into the bottom right side of the net."

Prafke said the Saints surged at the end because they wanted it more than Albert Lea, and they wanted to prove that they deserved their third seed.

While Prafke made numerous saves in the first half, he only had to make two saves in the second half with the Saints' defense preventing the Tigers from getting in the box.

GIRLS SOCCER

St. Peter girls soccer shoots down Mankato East 3-1

By **PAT BECK**
pbeck@stpeterherald.com

If you take a shot on goal, you never know what's going to happen.

Forward Kiki Krueger did just that, and it turned out to be a perfect pass to midfielder Adrianna Bixby who scored to give St. Peter girls soccer team a 1-0 lead 36 minutes into the first half.

"I had it down in the left corner," Krueger said. "I meant to get a shot off, but it was a cross, and we had two girls there. Adrianna, our eighth-grader, was able to put a foot on it and get it in the back in the net."

It sparked the No. 8 seeded Saints to a 3-1 victory over No. 9 Mankato East in the Section 2A quarterfinals on Thursday at St. Peter High School.

The game was moved from the stadium at St. Peter Middle School to keep from damaging the field, which is also used as the football field.

But the high school field turned out to be just about as muddy with heavy rains lately.

That and the cold and windy weather made it difficult for both



Kiki Krueger (left) and Adrianna Bixby hug after they combined on St. Peter's first goal against Mankato East. Joining the celebration are Maddie More and Ella Gilbertson. (Pat Beck/St. Peter Herald)

teams to generate a lot of offense.

The temperature hovered around freezing with winds gusting to 15 mph on the hill in St. Peter.

"It was really cold," Krueger said. "That was tough."

The field not only was slippery, it was bigger than the Saints are used

to playing most of their games. The middle school field is not as wide, although the high school field is regulation size.

"The middle of the field was like a mud pit," Krueger said. "Also we've never played on this field before. We're usually at the stadium, so this

field was a little bit wider, so we had to get used to that and use it to our advantage as best as we could."

But the Saints turned up the offense enough to score two more goals early in the second half to up their lead to 3-0.

Krueger scored from midfielder Amelia Carlson at 45 minutes.

"I got the ball from Amelia up top," Krueger said. "I saw that I had space to shoot, so I took it, and it went above the goalie's hands."

Then forward Emma Jones, assisted by midfielder Katie Dirks, made it 3-0 at 50 minutes.

"We really did well on pressuring, especially our shots on net in case the goalie bobbled it, and that's what happened on the third goal," Krueger said. "Katie took a shot and with the wind, it didn't go as far as we thought it would. But we had two girls up top again who were crashing and able to put it in the back of the net."

East finally scored off a corner kick at 60 minutes. Senior attacker Natalie Schisel scored on a scramble in front.

But that was the only goal that

got by goalkeeper Katie Gurrola.

"Katie had some good saves," Krueger said. "She does a good job of coming out when she knows she can beat the other player to the ball and clearing it whenever it's possible. It's hard especially in the cold it hurts to dive."

Gurrola got a lot of help from the defense, anchored by the back line of AJ Brock, Sophia Lee and Vanessa Krueger.

"Our defense did a really good job of stepping to balls in the air and not giving them a lot of time to shoot the ball," Kiki Krueger said. "That really helped to get it out of the back." St. Peter out shot East 13-8.

St. Peter has beaten East in the playoffs the last three years.

"We don't play them during the regular season, but we always seem to find them during the playoffs," Krueger said. "It's good to keep this win streak going against them."

"I'm really happy to get the win," Krueger said. "We knew coming into the game that it was going to be an aggressive game, and it was going to be a little tougher with the field conditions. But we played well. We

kept the ball on the ground, and we were able to break down their defense with our through balls and our speed up top."

West 2, St. Peter 0

No. 1 seeded Mankato West, ranked No. 9 in state Class A, continued its dominance over St. Peter in the quarterfinals Saturday at Dakota Meadow Middle School in North Mankato.

The Scarlets, who defeated St. Peter 4-1 in the second game this season, 4-1 last season and 4-0 in the playoffs two years ago, ended the Saints' season 2-0 with a pair of second-half goals.

The Scarlets (15-1-1) out shot the Saints 7-4. Gurrola made five saves, while West netminder Claire Hemstock stopped all four for her sixth shutout of the season.

The young Saints (10-5-2) lose just four players to graduation: Krueger, Dirks, forward Xe'Anna Willart and defender Sophia Lee.

Reach Sports Editor Pat Beck at 931-8566 or follow him on Twitter.com @SPHSportsPat.

FOOTBALL

Waseca powers past St. Peter Friday night 42-13

By PAT BECK
pbeck@stpeterherald.com

Waseca dominated St. Peter on both sides of the ball Friday in defeating the Saints 42-13.

Led by quick and elusive quarterback Hunter Rodriguez and a big and bruising offensive line averaging 220 pounds, the Bluejays powered to 306 yards rushing and 109 yards passing for a total of 415 yards. Rodriguez ran 19 times for 163 yards and two touchdowns.

St. Peter gained just 38 yards rushing but had 211 passing minus 20 yard in sacks for a total of 222 yards. Quarterback Wyatt Olson completed 15 of 38 passes for 211 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions.

An interception by Waseca linebacker Brandon Dahnert on the fourth play from scrimmage set up the Bluejays' first touchdown. They capped off a five-play, 36-yard drive with 6-yard touchdown run by Denver Daniel, and the kick made it 7-0 with 7:47 left in the first quarter.



St. Peter wide receiver Joey Baron makes a move around Waseca cornerback Malik Willingham after a catch. (Pat Beck/St. Peter Herald)

Rodriguez then scored on a 7-yard run to up the Jays' lead to 14-0 with 51 seconds to go in the first quarter.

Rodriguez scored his second touchdown on a 31-yard sweep with 9:02 to play in the second

quarter, he ran in for 2 points for a 22-0 Waseca lead.

Rodriguez then threw a 20-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Malik Willingham in the end zone with 32 seconds remaining in the first half for a

29-0 lead.

The Bluejays (5-2) increased their lead to 36-0 on a 15-yard touchdown pass from Rodriguez to wide receiver Kyrese Willingham with 10:18 left in the third quarter.

St. Peter finally got on the scoreboard with 3:13 to play in the third quarter. Capping off a 16-play, 60-yard drive, Olson threw a 30-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Joey Baron. Eli Lubiani kicked the extra point to cut the Waseca lead to 36-7.

Waseca's Tanner Brinkman ran in a touchdown from 14 yards out on the final play of the third quarter to give the Jays a 42-7 lead.

St. Peter's Ryan Wilmes recovered a fumble, and the Saints drove 91 yards on 9 plays ending in a 3-yard run for touchdown by Jeremy Johnson to cut Waseca lead to 42-13 with 4:42 to play.

Jeremy Johnson led St. Peter in rushing with six carries for 12 yards. Hunter Wilmes rushed 10 times for 11 yards.

Joey Baron led with four receptions for 61 yards. Ethan Grant caught one for 45 yards. Wilmes had two for 28 yards. Nathan Fogal had three catches for 28 yards. Jeremy Johnson caught two for 26 yards. Josh Johnson caught two for 11 yards. Lubiani

had one catch for 12 yards.

Wareke Gillette led St. Peter with 10 tackles. Baron made seven stops. Carson Kennedy had six tackles. Josh Johnson and Seth Lokensgard made four tackles each, and Lokensgard recovered a fumble. Kai Anderson and Ryan Wilmes had three tackles apiece.

St. Peter finishes off the regular season against Tri-City United at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 17 at Montgomery. TCU (3-4) lost Marshall 54-7 on Friday.

The Section 3AAA playoffs begin at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 23 at the high seeds. St. Peter will play at home in the first round.

St. Peter is ranked third out of seven teams in the QRF standings at minnesota-scores.net.:

1. Fairmont (6-1), 2. Jackson County Central (6-1), 3. St. Peter (5-2), 4. Worthington (3-4), 5. TCU (3-4), 6. Luverne (3-4) and 7. Sibley East (0-7).

Reach Sports Editor Pat Beck at 931-8566 or follow him on Twitter.com @SPHSportsPat.

SWIMMING AND DIVING

St. Peter wins 7 events, tops New Prague 97-84

By PAT BECK
pbeck@stpeterherald.com

St. Peter swimming and diving team had three triple winners Oct. 9 in defeating New Prague 97-84 in the Saints' final home meet of the season at St. Peter Pool.

Signe Alger won the 100-yard freestyle (1:04.10), the 100 backstroke (59.05) and led off the winning 200 medley relay (1:59.30) with Jaiden Landsom, Morgan Kelly and Kylie Grack.

Landsom also won the 100 butterfly (1:04.54) and swam on the winning 200 freestyle relay team (1:49.73) with Olivia Denzer, Caitlyn Otto and Kelly.

Kelly also won the 200 individual medley (2:23.75).

Otto also won the 100 freestyle (2:12.95).

Having an insurmountable lead, the Saints swam the last two events exhibition in which Kelly had the fastest time in the 100 breaststroke (1:13.95) and Hannah Denzer, Otto, Olivia Denzer and Alger had the top time in the 400 freestyle (4:05.91).

In addition to winning the meet and improving their record to 4-3, the Saints hosted their annual Senior Night and Saints Kick Cancer fundraising benefit for St. Peter High School math teacher Sarah Annexstad and Early Childhood and Family Education staff member Gina Evenson. Four seniors were honored: Alger, Kylie Grack, Jasmine Witty and Claudia Giedd.

Swimmers and divers from both teams wore pink swim caps, and the coaches and spectators wore pink shirts. There was a Chuck-A-Duck fundraiser, and



St. Peter eighth-grader Anna Boomgaarden swims the breaststroke in the 200 individual medley. (Pat Beck/St. Peter Herald)

donations taken for the cancer fund.

St. Peter split a pair of dual meets Thursday at Mankato East.

East defeated St. Peter 97-80.

St. Peter defeated Tri-City United/Le Sueur-Henderson 151-35.

The Saints won three events.

Morgan Kelly placed first in two events, winning the 100 breaststroke (1:13.81) and swimming the breaststroke on the winning 200 medley relay with Shelby Graft, Jaiden Landsom and Kylie Grack.

Claudia Giedd led a 1-2-3 Saints' finish in diving with 159.65 points, followed by Kaylee Moreau 155.85 and Lauren Feder 151.95.

With the split, St. Peter evens its dual meet record at 5-5 and finishes off the regular season at 6 p.m. Oct. 26 against Marshall at Southwest Minnesota State.

St. Peter 97, New Prague 84
200 medley relay — 1. Graft, Kelly, Landsom, Grack 2:02.06
200 freestyle — 3. Caitlyn Otto 2:13.86; 4. Olivia Denzer 2:15.35; 5. Anna Boomgaarden 2:18.64
200 individual medley — 2. Landsom 2:26.67; 4. Hannah Denzer 2:34.68; 5. RaeAnne Smit 2:38.40
50 freestyle — 4. Jasmine Witty 28.23; 5. Lexi Johnson 28.29; 6. Grack 28.4428.91
Diving — 1. Giedd 159.65; 2. Moreau 155.85; 3. Feder 151.95
100 butterfly — 2. Landsom 1:05.19; 3. Boomgaarden 1:07.97; 4. Graft 1:08.79
100 freestyle — 2. Kelly 58.39; 4. Isabel Avant 1:03.66; 5. Kathryn Larson 1:03.51
500 freestyle — 2. Otto 5:50.49; 3. Olivia Denzer 6:00.06; 4. Hannah Denzer 6:04.31
200 freestyle relay — 2. Landsom, Olivia Denzer, Otto, Kelly 1:50.02
100 backstroke — 2. Graft 1:10.11; 4. Smit 1:12.53; 5. Larson 1:15.47
100 breaststroke — 1. Kelly 1:13.81; 3. Johnson 1:18.92; 4. Madison Kelly 1:23.96
400 freestyle relay — 2. Hannah Denzer, Otto, Olivia Denzer, Johnson 4:12.20; 3. Witty, Graft, Grack, Larson 4:12.56

St. Peter 151, TCU/LSH 35; Mankato East 97, St. Peter 80
200 medley relay — 1. Alger, Kelly, Landsom, Olivia Denzer 1:59.30; 3. Shelby Graft, Johnson, Boomgaarden, Witty 2:10.13
200 freestyle — 1. Otto 2:12.95; 2. Olivia Denzer 2:15.63; 5. Avant 2:24.39
200 individual medley — 1. Kelly 2:23.75; 3. Hannah Denzer 2:32.78; 4. Boomgaarden 2:41.18
50 freestyle — 2. Graft 27.07; 3. Grack 28.26; 4. Witty 28.91
Diving — 2. Giedd 167.65; 5. Moreau 161.05; 6. Feder 160.55
100 butterfly — 1. Landsom 1:04.54; 3. Boomgaarden 1:08.93; 4. RaeAnne Smit 1:09.10
100 freestyle — 1. Alger 59:05; 2. Johnson 1:02.97; 4. Grack 1:03.92
500 freestyle — 2. Otto 5:50.28; 4. Hannah Denzer 5:52.39; 3. Olivia Denzer 6:01.44
200 freestyle relay — 1. Landsom, Johnson, Otto, Kelly 1:49.23; 3. Morgan Petersen, Avant, Johnson, Ashley Stanton 1:57.15
100 backstroke — 1. Alger 1:04.10; 3. Graft 1:10.84; 5. Kathryn Larson 1:16.09

Reach Sports Editor Pat Beck at 931-8566 or follow him on Twitter.com @SPHSportsPat.

VOLLEYBALL

St. Peter volleyball finishes unbeaten in Big South East

By PAT BECK
pbeck@stpeterherald.com

St. Peter volleyball team finished off the Big South East Division championship undefeated with a 25-10, 25-18, 25-17 win at Fairmont on Thursday.

The Saints (24-4 overall and 10-0 in the conference) play for the overall conference championship at West Division champion Marshall at 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 16.

Against Fairmont, Brielle Bushaw led St. Peter with 18 service points including four aces. She also picked up five digs and had two kills.

Paige Hewitt led with 30 set assists and three blocks and had seven digs and three kills.

Allie McCabe led with 12 digs,

plus three set assists.

Claire Nuessmeier paced the Saints with 14 kills, and she had three digs, two ace serves and one block.

Sarah Conlon collected eight digs, five digs, three ace serves, three blocks and a set assist.

Maggie Pierret had seven kills, one block and one dig.

Carlie Chabot notched two kills, four digs, one block and one ace serve.

McKenna Van Zee picked up three digs.

Breanna Hagen had one set assist.

Aria Seitzer hit a kill.

Reach Sports Editor Pat Beck at 931-8566 or follow him on Twitter.com @SPHSportsPat.



St. Peter senior goalkeeper Mikinley Prafke leaps as he tips a shot over the net against Albert Lea in the second half. (Pat Beck/St. Peter Herald)

Soccer: 'Our defense wouldn't let anything past the half line'

From Page 1B

Worthington 2, St. Peter 0

The two saves were key ones, however. On one save, Prafke tipped a high shot over the net, and he punched out a corner kick.

Ringler said, "The goals were great, but if it wasn't for our back three defenders keeping it in our half the entire time we would have never had those chances. Our defense, Harry (Dean), Tyson (Sowder), Momo (Abdi) and Obet (Alcantara/Alvarez) wouldn't let anything past the half line. We kept that pressure, and that's how we scored our goals."

Nadeau said, "In that first few minutes of the second half, Albert Lea was getting some free kicks in our half. They've got good kids with huge legs. Mikinley made some exceptional, smart choices."

St. Peter has made it as far as section finals once in 2009 when co-head coach Alex Nadeau was a player. The Saints made it to the semifinals two other times.

No. 2 seeded defending Section 2A champion Worthington earned its ninth shutout of the season in blanking No. 3 seeded St. Peter 2-0 in the section boys soccer semifinals Tuesday.

The game was scoreless at half-time. Worthington, which has an 0.8 goals against average, scored with 26 minutes and 17 minutes left in the second half. Goalie Ben Lopez earned the shutout with six saves.

The teams split during the regular season, with Worthington (16-2-0) winning 7-1 and St. Peter (12-5-1) winning 3-2.

Worthington next faces No. 4 seeded Mankato East for the section championship at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at New Prague. East beat No. 8 seeded Northfield 2-1 in the section semifinals.

Reach Sports Editor Pat Beck at 931-8566 or follow him on Twitter.com @SPHSportsPat.

GIRLS TENNIS

Lowe wins lone match for Titans in section girls tennis



Providing double coverage, Erica Jackson of TCU/Cleveland hits a volley in front of Josie Plutt in a play-in match at the Section 2A doubles tournament. (Pat Beck/St. Peter Herald)

By PAT BECK
pbeck@stpeterherald.com

Junior Kadie Lowe won the lone match for Tri-City United/Cleveland in the Section 2A girls tennis individual tournament Thursday in Swanson Tennis Center at Gustavus Adolphus College.

Seeded No. 6 in singles, Lowe defeated unseeded St. Peter eighth-grader Amelia Hildebrandt in the first round 7-5, 6-3.

Then in the quarterfinals, No. 3 seeded Jordan junior Emily Henderson eliminated Lowe 6-0, 6-0.

Also in singles, No. 4 seeded St. Peter senior Lili Eloffson shut out TCU/Cleveland senior Amelia Schatz in the first round 6-0, 6-0.

In doubles, Sibley East freshman Jacquelyn Wibstad and senior Hailey Haggenmiller defeated TCU sophomores Erica Jackson and Josie Plutt 4-6, 6-3,

(10-5) in a play-in match.

Also in doubles, No. 7 seeded LS-H senior Elle Seaver and junior Keely Olness defeated TCU/Cleveland senior Britney Tiede and Geena Ehlers 6-1, 6-1.

The top four seeded players advanced to the semifinals on Monday: No. 1 seeded senior Ally Agerlund of Holy Family Catholic, Eloffson, Henderson and No. 2 seeded Le Sueur-Henderson sophomore Greta Nesbit.

Advancing to the doubles semifinals are No. 1 Erica Cronk-Kylie Dunning of LS-H versus No. Anna Bruan and Alyvia Behr of Jordan and No. 2 Kiersten Skelly-Siri Kuhn of Belle Plaine and No. 6 Maddie Jerabek-Morgan Busse of Jordan.

Reach Sports Editor Pat Beck at 931-8566 or follow him on Twitter.com @SPHSportsPat.

FOOTBALL

Interceptions cost Clippers in homecoming loss to rival Nicollet Raiders

By **RICHARD ROHLFING**
Correspondent

A tradition since 2011, the Cleveland versus Nicollet "Boarder Battle" traveling trophy, an oak board 4 inches wide and 3 feet tall, will make its permanent home in Nicollet after the Clippers lost 24-8 to the Raiders Friday in nine-man football action.

Also their homecoming game, the loss was especially a bitter one for the 4-3 Clippers, who will move up to 11-man next year and will not play the Raiders again, at least in the foreseeable future.

"There's no team I would have rather beaten," co-head coach Erik Hermanson said.

The Raiders came into the game with just one win, 21-14 over GHEC/T/ML. They lost to Madelia. Both of those teams the Clippers had beaten.

But the Clippers had eight turnovers to Nicollet's two with seven of them coming when the Raiders intercepted eighth-grade quarterback Karson Lindsay.

Although not quite the mud battle at Nicollet last year, the field was soaked, and a light mist fell most of the game. The wet environment didn't help Lindsay, Hermanson said. Lindsay stepped into the starting role after sophomore quarterback Alex McCabe was injured in an auto accident several weeks ago.

"It was really hard conditions to put Karson in with the wet ball and

slippery field. It takes a way a lot of our abilities."

Lucas Mueller took the opening kickoff to the Cleveland 45, and then Lindsay connected with Danny McCabe for 37 yards. But two plays later, Nicollet made the first of their seven interceptions.

On their own 9, the Raiders had a short gain and then recovered their own fumble. On third and 8, the snap went through the quarterback into the end zone. He managed to get a handle on the ball, but Levi Baker ran him over for the Clipper safety.

The Clippers were on the Nicollet 45 after the free kick but went three and out. From their 25, the Raiders ran three plays for 11 yards and then gained 39 more on a counter. With a nicely placed pass from the Cleveland 35, they scored. The two-point conversion pass was good, and the Raiders were up 8-2 with 6:29 left in the first quarter.

At times the game was like watching a tennis match. With McCabe making three catches for a total of 35 yards plus a tight end Joe Dembouski 7-yard catch, the Clippers were on the move on their next drive, but it ended on another interception.

Cleveland's defenses held, but the Clippers turned the ball over on their 37 on a fumble after a completed pass. On their ensuing possession, Nicollet gained 11 yards on a screen pass, but a play later Solomon Pawlitschek picked off a pass, and the Clippers had the ball back

on their 23.

From there, McCabe had runs of 21 and 9 yards, and Bryce Novak made a nice cut around his defender and pulled down a Lindsay pass for 23 yards. From the Nicollet 19, Lindsay hit McCabe in a perfect pass to the right corner of the end zone for the touchdown. The PAT kick flew up short, but the Clippers tied the Raiders 8-8 with 7:27 to the break.

From their 33, the Raiders drove most of the field on their ensuing possession but settled for a 31-yard field goal. It gave them a lead they wouldn't relinquish.

The first play after the ensuing kickoff, the Raiders, like sharks smelling blood in the water, intercepted again. The touchdown run on the play got called back to the Clipper 21 for a block in the back, and a false start took them back 5 more yards, but the next play was a 26-yard touchdown pass. With the PAT kick, the Raiders were up 18-8.

The Clippers went three-and-out after the kickoff. Taking over on their 37, the Raiders drove most of the field to the Clipper 4, but with Brendon Brown and Shane Rogers stopping the Raider run on fourth and goal, the Clippers were still only behind by 10 at halftime.

The Clipper defense held after the second-half kickoff and got the ball on downs on their 20, but Lindsay got intercepted again. Both teams punted, and Bryce Novak picked off a Raider pass to get the ball back for the Clippers, but three plays later, Lindsay's toss went

back into the hands of a Nicollet defender.

After each team punted again, Nicollet used three running plays to go 88 yard for the score. The touchdown came on 43-yard quarterback keeper. The PAT kick bounced off the upright, but the Raiders had a 24-8 lead with 10:17 left in the fourth quarter. Two more Raider interceptions down the stretch ended any chance of a Clipper comeback.

Lindsay completed 14 of 35 passes for 171 yards and one touchdown. McCabe had eight catches for 115 yards and a touchdown. He also ran the ball six times for 56 yards. Josh Vetter had nine carries for 29 yards. Baker had three carries for 21 yards. Brown caught three passes for 18 yards.

On defense, McCabe had 15 tackles. Baker 10 tackles and the safety sack. Rogers and Cameron Seeley each had nine tackles. Brown had six tackles and a sack.

The Clippers have a bye week on Friday before hosting Sleepy Eye St. Mary's on Wednesday, Oct. 17. Hermanson is welcoming the break so his team has more time to regroup.

"We still can improve. It's like a second season. We still can make a playoff run. We just need to come together as a team and make sure everyone comes together to lift any weaknesses we might have."

Reach Sports Editor Pat Beck at 931-8566 or follow him on Twitter.com @SPHSportsPat.

FOOTBALL

Lind, Yaya lead St. Peter cross country at Buc Invite

By **PAT BECK**
pbeck@stpeterherald.com

On a shortened course, Izzy Lind led the St. Peter girls cross country team to third place and Mohammed Yaya led St. Peter boys to fourth Thursday in the five-team Blue Earth Area Buc Invite at Minn Iowa Golf Course in Elmore.

The meet moved from Riverside Town & Country Club due to recent weather-related damage to the golf course north of Blue Earth.

But the 5K run — 3.1 miles — was inadvertently shortened to 2.92 miles. After the rains subsided from Tuesday, the race was on Thursday.

Lind finished third out of 42 runners in 18:42, just 4 seconds from first-place McKenna Hermann of Belle Plaine.

Belle Plaine also won the team title with 30 points, followed by Fairmont 44, St. Peter 65, St. James 110 and Blue Earth Area 132.

Also for St. Peter, Hadley Stuehnenberg placed sixth (19:16), Hailey Looft 19th (21:46), Emily Peterson 20th (21:59), Tallulah Dash 27th (23:08), Sky Gassman 29th (23:20), Reese Portuque 31st (27:46), Laurel Hibscher 36th (25:34) and Allie Madden 37th (25:56).

Yaya placed eighth out of 53 runners in fourth place (15:54). Close behind, teammate Bailey More placed sixth in 16:13. Drew Hastings of Belle Plaine placed first in 15:41.

Also for the Saints, Tom Eide took 27th (17:48), Shawn Lehtinen 29th (17:55), Clay Roessler 32nd (18:13), Carter Wendroth 33rd (18:14), Kaden Oeltjenbruns 34th (18:10), Nils Berglund 36th (18:27), Connor Bjorling 37th (18:34) and Willem Nelsen 43rd (19:04).

St. Peter finished fourth of five teams: 1. St. James 38, 3. Belle Plaine 61, 3. Fairmont 67, 4. St. Peter 86 and 5. BEA 120.

It was a close meet with the Saints finishing only 2 minutes and 30 seconds behind Fairmont.

The Big South Conference Meet runs at 4 p.m. Oct. 16 in Redwood Falls. This meet is divided into two meets featuring a big school side and a small school side. St. Peter is part of the big school meet with Marshall, Waseca, Fairmont and Worthington.

Next week is the Section 2A meet at 4 p.m. Thursday at Montgomery golf course.

Reach Sports Editor Pat Beck at 931-8566 or follow him on Twitter.com @SPHSportsPat.

CROSS COUNTRY

Johnstone, Peterson one-two punch at Sleepy Eye, Madelia



Loyola/Cleveland's Mitchell Johnstone (in front) finished first while Jerrett Peterson (in back) finished second both at Sleepy Eye on Oct. 4 (above) and at Madelia a week later. (Photo courtesy of Rhonda Omtvedt)

By **RICHARD ROHLFING**
Correspondent

With the one-two punch of juniors Mitchell Johnstone and Jerrett Peterson, it was two more top finishes for the Loyola/Cleveland boys cross country team after meets in Sleepy Eye on Oct. 4 and in Madelia a week later.

Johnstone led the field of 78 during the cold Madelia meet with a 16:46.20, and Peterson finished in 17:04.60. Classmate Brett Omtvedt was sixth (17:43.20).

In his best career finish, Tyler Erickson was seventh (17:45.60), and Micah Rentschler was ninth (17:47.60) to complete the Crusader top five.

"Tyler got a great start and continued to run strong throughout the race," coach Dale Compton said. "He is another athlete who continues to get stronger every week."

Pushing the top five along were Alec Schaefer in 12th place (18:41.60) and eighth grader James Young in 25th place (19:52.60).

With 25 points, the Crusaders easily won the meet, which, with all four Valley Conference teams participating, was a preview to this Tuesday's Valley meet.

Martin County West was second with a 43. Rounding out the field were Springfield (80), Sleepy Eye Area (139), Minnesota Valley Lutheran (147), Heron Lake-Oka-bena (150), Maple River (164) and Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial/Nicollet (208). Madelia did not field a complete team.

The L/C girls were third among the eight teams. Fifth among the 59 runners, Ellie Nygren was the top finisher for the Crusaders with a 20:35.00.

Crossing the finish line in 21:37.90, eighth grader Abby Skane was 10th teamwise and 11th overall, Carla Nunez was 19th/20th (22:42.60), Lauren Yenish was 24th/25th (23:06.20), and Kaitlyn Sizer was 34th/35th (24:19.60).

"Carla ran a great race for our girls team," Compton said. "She was under 23:00 for the first time this season. She wasn't too excited

to run in the cold weather but finished very well."

MCW won the meet with 63 points, two less than LCWM/N. The Crusaders had 92 points. Rounding out the field were Springfield (98), GFW (117), MVL (131), SEA (141), and Madelia (189). Maple River did not have a complete team.

With a 17:02 finish at the Sleepy Eye meet, Johnstone was the boy's individual champion. Directly following him were teammates Peterson (17:21), Rentschler (17:38) and Omtvedt (17:53).

"Micah ran really well," Compton said. "It was probably his best race of the season. He had been battling a lower leg injury the first part of the year, so he is finally getting healthy."

Fifth for the Crusaders, Erickson's 18:35 was good for ninth place. Schaefer was 11th with a 19:08, and Young was 24th with a 20:17.00. There were 49 runners.

The Crusaders easily won the meet with 19 points. Second was Norwood Young America with

56 points. Sibley East took third, MVL Lutheran was fourth, SEA was fifth, LCWM/N was sixth, and Wabasso was seventh.

In the girls' race, Loyola/Cleveland finished second behind LCWM/N. Nygren led the effort with a fourth place 21:05 finish among the 45 runners. Kane was sixth (21:16).

"Abby had her best race of the season," Compton said. "She has been getting stronger every week and we are excited to see her continue to develop over the final few weeks of the season."

NYA was third, SE was fourth, MVL was fifth, SEA was sixth, and Wabasso was seventh.

Rounding out the Crusader girls top five were Nunez (23:11.00 for 16th), Yenish (23:16.00 for 17th) and Makenna Mueller (24:24.00 for 25th). Sizer was 29th with a 24:39.00 finish.

The Gopher-Valley meet is in Lake Crystal.

Reach Sports Editor Pat Beck at 931-8566 or follow him on Twitter.com @SPHSportsPat.

Cooking SHOW & EXPO

with **Chef Guy Klinzing**
Formerly of **Taste of Home**®

HURRY!

Get your tickets now.
Starting at **\$8⁰⁰**

Purchase online or at Faribault Daily News office • 507.333.3120

Live Cooking • Shopping • Gift Bags
Door Prizes • Food Sampling • Come Join the Fun

Gourmet Sponsor



Appliance Sponsor



Ticket Sponsor



Thursday, October 18

5:00 - 7:00pm Vendor Show
7:00 - 9:00pm Cooking Show

Faribault High School
330 9th Ave SW, Faribault, MN

www.letsgetcookingmn.com