

Football Frenzy

STEELE COUNTY TIMES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2018

C1

FOOTBALL



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAM AGRIMSON

NRHEG standout Brady Agrimson runs for touchdown during the school's 'Tackle Cancer Night' on Friday, October 12.

Panthers pick off big district win over Giants on Tackle Cancer Night

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

In a South Central-Blue District matchup between two contenders, the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Panthers built an early lead after returning two first-half interceptions for touchdowns and held on to win 28-12 over LeSueur-Henderson (4-3).

"It was good game for us," NRHEG head coach Marc Kruger said. "Defensively, we played really well. It was something we kind of expecting against a pass-heavy team, we really worked on that during the week."

On the third play of the opening drive, NRHEG quarterback Blake Ihrke found who else, but Brady Agrimson

for a 52-yard touchdown.

The 6-foot-5-inch Agrimson provides the Panthers' offense with a home run threat at wide receiver has proven to playmaker since returning to the field on September 28. The senior has 14 catches for 244 yards and three touchdowns in only three games this season.

"That kid is a stud," Kruger said. "That the easy way to put it. It is so nice having him [on the team]. He's faster than most people and he's taller than most people. It's lethal when we are able to use him."

By commanding the defense's attention, Agrimson opens up more favorable matchups for receivers Lonnie Wilson, Jacob Schuller and

SEE NRHEG, C2

Owatonna 29
Northfield 11

Blooming Prairie 48
Mayer Lutheran 34

Medford 35
MN Valley Lutheran 26

NRHEG 28
Le Sueur-Hend. 12



PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Husky defenders Isaac Gefre and Nick Staska combine for a tackle against the Northfield Raiders.

Owatonna flexes defensive muscle, clinches district title

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna Huskies put on a defensive showcase Friday at home beating the Northfield Raiders, 29-11, in the de facto Big Southeast-Red District title game.

Owatonna head coach Jeff Williams said it was one of his team's finest defensive performances in a number of years.

"They had an awfully good rushing attack and we held them in check," Williams said. "Our kids were disciplined all night. We just didn't have a lot of

mistakes. We didn't have a lot of missed coverages or missed gap assignments. The kids carried out their responsibilities, plugged things up pretty well, stayed on their receivers and just made it tough sledding for them all night."

Northfield finished the game with negative-13 yards on 19 carries.

Raiders' standout Mitchell Stanchina was held to negative-seven yards on six touches after breaking Northfield's school record for receiving yards (217) in the previous game.

Stanchina was averaging

9.3 carries for 71.7 rushing yards and 3.2 catches for 74 receiving yards per game.

"What was really nice about that was that we didn't do anything special," Williams said. "It was just a matter of kids carrying out their responsibilities. That's always nice when you don't go out of your way to scheme for a certain kid and you can just go out their and play solid defense against everything they do. Then limit a real nice playmaker Stanchina, that's pretty rewarding."

Northfield running back Jim Vitito was averaging 101 rushing yards per game until

the Huskies held him to 11 yards on 12 carries.

It wasn't all good for Owatonna on Friday, the Huskies had two snaps that sailed over the punters head. The first of once gave the Raiders' a 2-0 advantage early in the first quarter.

"We have a little bit of work to do on our punt team," Williams said. "That allowed Northfield to get some good position and a safety, but by and large, our defense stepped up and kept the bleeding to a minimum and allowed us to hang around so

SEE OWATONNA, C4



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHY PILLER

The Blossoms' offensive line gets set before a snapping the ball on Friday night against Mayer Lutheran.

Blossoms stay undefeated with 48-34 win over Crusaders

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

In this age of technology, a computer is almost a necessity. One was needed Friday night October 12, at Mayer Lutheran, as the Awesome Blossom football team kept its undefeated string intact.

The Blossoms outlasted the host Crusaders 48-34 in a game in which the ground game for both teams took the night off.

No one could have predicted it, but the teams counted 12 touchdowns between them and mounted over 700 yards in total offense.

Despite a playing field more conducive to mud wrestling than football, the two opposing quarterbacks threw the ball around to almost a dozen different receivers and orchestrated scores from all points on the field. The combined 62 points made

fans and scorekeepers dizzy and gave officials freedom to march off almost 150 yards in penalties, 135 of them on 11 Blossom miscues.

The Blossoms, ranked third in the state poll, still overcame them to beat No. 7-ranked Mayer Lutheran and set up the regular season finale against Class A No. 5 ranked Rushford-Peterson on Wednesday, October 17 with the top seed in the section playoffs on the line. The Trojans' only loss came at the hands of Goodhue two weeks ago.

After punting on their first possession, the Blossoms used six plays to go 55 yards for the first score of the game. A 33-yard pass to Tim Wolf moved the ball to the Crusader 12-yard line, and Gabe Hagen caught a pass over the middle for two yards and the initial touchdown.

SEE BLOOMING, C3

Tigers snap skid with win over Chargers

Medford ends 3-game losing streak against Minnesota Valley Lutheran

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Medford escaped with a competitive 35-26 win over Minnesota Valley Lutheran (2-5) to regain footing in the Mid Southeast-West District Friday night at Johnson Park in downtown New Ulm.

The Tigers broke their three-game losing streak to improve to 4-3 overall and a 3-3 district mark.

"We were able to keep pressure on them the entire night," Medford head coach Jerome Johannes said. "Overall we were able to move the ball well and kept



PHOTO COURTESY OF SKYE DEVOE

Medford quarterback Willie VonRuden throws to Tanner Barbeau during the Tigers' 35-26 win at Minnesota Valley Lutheran on Friday.

the chains moving. It was a great team effort, everyone played well."

Medford used multiple different blitzes to rush the MVL offense and keep the Chargers from finding a

rhythm. The Tigers finished the game with five sacks and several knockdowns.

"Offensively, we had big success running the ball," Johannes said, adding Medford finished with 335

rushing yards. "It was a group effort, as we had five players with carries, and we had a much better night catching the ball."

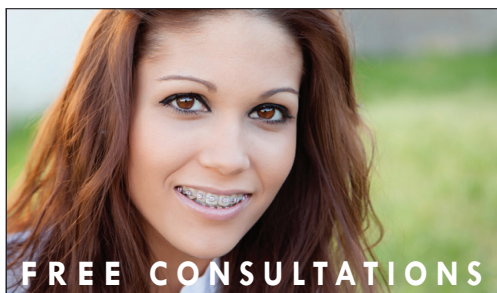
Tigers' quarterback Willie VonRuden had another big night.

He accounted for five total touchdowns; running 26 times for 184 yards and a pair of touchdowns and passing for 112 yards on 10-of-20 attempts and three more scores to Bryce Lisowski, Devon Federly and Devan List.

Medford held MVL to just 31 rushing yards. However, the Chargers were able to find some success through the air and finished with 225 passing yards.

"Defensively, we knew we had to keep [Chargers' quarterback Matt] Munsen bottled up," Johannes said. "He is a great athlete and can hurt us in the run and the pass. Most of their

SEE MEDFORD, C3



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NRHEG: Panthers finish win with good 4th quarter

FROM C1



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAM AGRIMSON

Panther defenders Spencer Tufte, Jack Hogstad and Alex Buckmeier make a stop against LeSueur-Henderson on Friday.

Mason Ferber and prevents teams from being able to stack the box against running back Sawyer Vanmeldeghem and fullback Tyler Jacobson.

The Panthers (5-2) were able to extend to lead to 21-0 with two minutes and 47 seconds left in the second quarter after Wilson and Vanmeldeghem returned interceptions for touchdowns.

However, the Giants narrowed the margin after Zach Berndt connected with Jayce Luna on a 26-yard pass and catch for a touchdown with 1:12 to go until halftime.

NRHEG led 21-6 at the break despite running only 19 offensive plays in the first half.

"We just didn't have the ball very much," Kruger said.

Berndt threw another touchdown pass 35 second into the fourth quarter, a 16-yarder to Tommy Gupton to make the score 21-12.

Kruger said the Panthers sort of stalled out in the second and third quarter, but were able to finish out the game with a nice fourth quarter



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAM AGRIMSON

NRHEG's Thor Routh and Alex Buckmeier combined for a tackle on Friday, October 19 against LeSueur-Henderson.

when Jacobson rumbled into the end zone for a three-yard score.

"The third quarter was bad quarter for us," Kruger said. "We had a lot of three-and-outs. They did well with their adjustments after halftime which made it hard for us to move the ball in the third quarter. Fourth quarter, we got it figured out and it went better."

The scrappy Giants' defense was able to hold the Panthers' offense to just 14 points.

"They have a lot of size," Kruger said. "They have some pretty good top-end talent."

NRHEG's defense has been solid all year with the exception of the Panthers' 48-6 loss to Waterville-Elysian-Morristown (6-1) on September 28.

Even in the team's season opening 35-7 loss to Pipestone Area (6-1), the Arrows scored on two fumble

recoveries, a pick six and punt return and NRHEG's defense only allowed seven points.

"As an offense, we put your defense in bad spot," Kruger said. "I may have sounded crazy coming off a 35-7 loss to Pipestone, but I told the kids we were going to have a great year."

Kruger said the overall health of the team is good and the Panthers are expected to get a boost sometime in the next two weeks when senior Devin Buendorf returns from an injury.

NRHEG plays their regular season finale at Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial (3-4) on Wednesday, October 17.

Kruger said the Panthers' pass defensive will have to step up again if they are going to get a win against the Knights.

"They are similar to LeSueur-Henderson in that they like to pass and they have good quarterback," he



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAM AGRIMSON

Panthers' running back Sawyer Vanmeldeghem runs past a Giants defender on Friday night at NRHEG High School.

State rankings and Steele County schedules are on Page C6

NRHEG 28, Le Sueur-Henderson 12

LH 0 6 0 6 — 12
NRHEG 14 7 0 7 — 28

First Quarter

NRHEG — Brady Agrimson 52 pass from Blake Ihrke (Ben Schoenrock kick), 10:30
NRHEG — Lonnie Wilson interception return (Schoenrock kick), 3:26

Second Quarter

NRHEG — Sawyer Vanmeldeghem interception return (Schoenrock kick), 2:47
LH — Jayce Luna 36 pass from Zach Berndt (Isaias Sanchez kick), 1:12

Fourth Quarter

LH — Tommy Gupton 16 pass from Berndt (Conversion failed), 11:25
NRHEG — Tyler Jacobson 3 run (Schoenrock kick), 6:07

TEAM STATISTICS

Table with 3 columns: Statistic, LH, NRHEG. Rows include First Downs, Rushes-Yards, Passing, Comp.-Att.-Int., Punts-Avg., Fumbles-Lost, Penalties-Yards, and Time of Possession.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—LeSueur-Henderson: Gabe Webster 23-82; Lukas Graff

4-5; Dalton Pauly 1-2; Logan Kahlow 1-1; Zach Berndt 6-(-1).
NRHEG: Tyler Jacobson 12-69, TD; Sawyer Vanmeldeghem 10-37; Lonnie Wilson 1-0; Brady Agrimson 3-(-2); Blake Ihrke 5-(-12).
PASSING—LeSueur-Henderson: Berndt 11-31-132-2, 3 TDs. NRHEG: Ihrke 9-19-18-1, TD; Kordell Schlaak 1-2-8-0.

RECEIVING—LeSueur-Henderson: Blake Nesbit 4-54; Jayce Luna 2-41, TD; Kahlow 2-16; Tommy Gupton 1-16, TD; Pauly 1-2; Corey Steinborn 1-2. NRHEG: Agrimson 5-123, TD; Wilson 1-35; Vanmeldeghem 2-24; Jacob Schuller 1-7.

PUNT RETURNS—NRHEG: Wilson 2-5; Vanmeldeghem 1-0; Ihrke 1-0. KICK RETURNS—NRHEG: Wilson 1-19; Agrimson 1-15; Nick Staloch 1-4.

TACKLES—NRHEG: Alex Buckmeier 15; Jacobson 10; Andrew Reich, Quinten Arndt, Wilson, Staloch 5; Jack Hogstad, Vanmeldeghem, Agrimson 4; Mason Ferber 3; Spencer Tufte, Schlaak 2; Thor Routh, Schuller 1.

FORCED FUMBLES—NRHEG: Tufte 1.

SACKS—NRHEG: Buckmeier, Arndt, Tufte 1.

INTERCEPTIONS—NRHEG: Vanmeldeghem 2; Wilson 1.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAM AGRIMSON

NRHEG fullback Tyler Jacobson runs up the middle of the LeSueur-Henderson Giants' defense.

said. "That plays well for us because we have some really good defensive backs. We just have to keep it status quo this week in practice. We will look at what they are going to try to do to us passing the ball and how we can make them pay."

NRHEG will play in the opening round of the section tournament on

Tuesday, October 23. Section seeding will be announced later this week on Thursday, October 18. The Panthers are currently the No. 2 seed in the 2AA Section.

There is a possibility NRHEG could meet Gopher Conference rival, Medford (4-3), in the opening round of the tournament.

Mid Southeast-East

Table with 3 columns: District, Overall. Rows list districts like Blooming Prairie, Rushford-Peterson, Goodhue, Southland, Hayfield, Fillmore Central, Kingsland, Wabasha-Kellogg, and Winona Cotter.

Mid Southeast-West

Table with 3 columns: District, Overall. Rows list districts like United So. Central, Saint Clair/Loyola, Mayer Lutheran, Lester Prairie/Holy Trin., Medford, Kenyon-Wanamingo, Bethlehem Academy, Minn. Valley Lutheran, and Janesville-W-P.

South Central-Blue

Table with 3 columns: District, Overall. Rows list districts like Waterville-E-M, NRHEG, Maple River, LeSueur-Henderson, Lake Crystal-WM, Gibbon-Fairfax-Win., Norwood Y. America, and Sibley East.

Big Southeast-Red

Table with 3 columns: District, Overall. Rows list districts like Owatonna, Northfield, Rochester Century, Rochester Mayo, Rochester JM, and New Prague.

Panther of the Week advertisement featuring a photo of Brock Holland, a young boy, and a graphic with the Panther logo.

Sponsored by Steve's Smokey Acres advertisement featuring a graphic of a barn and the company logo.

This week's panther of the week is Brock Holland. Brock lives outside of Ellendale with his parents Matt and Erin. He has one younger brother Bo and one younger sister Bree. Brock is in Ms. Beenken's 2nd grade class at NRHEG.

Plaza Morena Campestre Grill advertisement with phone number 507-413-0819, address 160 26th Street NE, and a 10% off coupon.

BLOOMING: Win sets up showdown with Rushford-Peterson

FROM C1



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHY PILLER

Blooming Prairie receiver Alex Baldwin races past Mayer Lutheran defender on Friday night.

Blooming Prairie 48, Mayer Lutheran 34

BP 6 20 0 22 — 48
ML 0 20 0 14 — 34
TOTAL OFFENSE—Blooming Prairie: 450.
RUSHING—Blooming Prairie: Matthew Pryor 11-85, 2 TDs; Seth Peterson 3-12.
PASSING—Blooming Prairie: Peterson 21-33-352-1, 5 TDs.
RECEIVING—Blooming Prairie: Tim Wolf 7-138, 2 TDs; Gabe Hagen 6-83, TD; Payton Simon 1-62, TD; Alex Baldwin 1-22, TD.

In a prolific second quarter, the locals scored first on a 15-yard pass from Seth Peterson to Wolf, but Mayer Lutheran quarterback Baden Noennig floated a 25-yard pass into the end zone to draw the Crusaders close at 13-7. BP answered on a seven-play drive culminating in Peterson's second touchdown pass, this time on a slip screen pass to Matthew Pryor for 22 yards. Peterson would pass for five touchdowns in the contest. The lead rose to 26-7 on one play, a sideline pass to Payton Simon good for 62 yards. The Crusaders had an answer again, when a 10-play drive ended on a Noennig pass to Mark Masters for 35 yards. ML made it a close contest on Peterson's second pass interception of the season, and the home team quickly took advantage for another touchdown with just over

Blooming Prairie quarterback Seth Peterson completed 21 of 33 passes for 352 yards and 5 touchdowns.

a minute left in the half. BP led just 26-20 at the break. Ironically, neither team could get untraced in the third quarter, and the Blossoms went into the final stanza clinging to the six-point lead. A drive that began at the end of the third quarter bore fruit for the winners when Pryor burst up the middle for 22 yards and a touchdown. Peterson's two-point conversion pass to Hagen made the score 34-20, and with nine minutes and 50 seconds left in the final quarter, and it looked like the Blossoms would get



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHY PILLER

Blossoms' quarterback Seth Peterson passes during Blooming Prairie's 48-34 win at Mayer Lutheran Friday night.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHY PILLER

Blooming Prairie's defense lines up before the snap on Friday.

the win when Pryor ran two yards after Simon intercepted a Noennig pass and BP took just four plays to score. The Crusaders made a game of it

yet, with a two-yard Noennig plunge with less than two minutes left in the game. They had one last chance as time wound down, but the locals held, and time ran out on the Crusaders.

MEDFORD: Undefeated USC is Tigers' next opponent

FROM C1



PHOTO COURTESY OF SKYE DEVOE

Tigers' defensive back Devan List goes for a tackle in the Tigers' 35-26 win on Friday.

Medford 35, Minnesota Valley Lutheran 26

RUSHING—Medford: Willie VonRuden 26-184, 2 TDs; Brayden Beede 8-51; Devon Federly 6-17; Jack Paulson 5-19; Devan List 4-64.
PASSING—Medford: VonRuden 10-20-112-1, 3 TDs.
RECEIVING—Medford: Federly 4-54, TD; Bryce Lisowski 2-29, TD; List 2-22, TD; Beede 1-4; Kael Hermanstorfer 1-3.
KICK RETURN—Medford: Lisowski 2-13.
PUNT RETURN—Medford: List 1-5.
TACKLES—Medford: VonRuden 10; Ernesto Lazaro 8; Tanner Barbeau, Zach Wetmore, Paulson, Beede 6; Lisowski 5; Juan Gamez 4; List 3; Gavin Hermes, Jacob Gasner 1.
TFL—Medford: Hermes 1.
FUMBLES RECOVERY—Medford: VonRuden 1.
SACKS—Medford: VonRuden, Beede 2; Lisowski 1.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SKYE DEVOE

Medford's Gavin Hermes attempts to block a pass on Friday at Johnson Park in New Ulm.

passes were short hooks and bubbles." Medford will have its hands full in its regular season finale on Wednesday, October 17 at undefeated United South Central (7-0).

The Rebels are ranked No. 6 in Class A, and are led by running back Zach Niebuhr, who has rushed for 980 yards and 12 touchdowns on 167 carries this season. USC has shown the ability to throw the ball too, quarterback Isaac Meyer has completed 44-of-87 attempts for 704 yards with six touchdowns and two interceptions. Meyer has also ran for 269 yards and four touchdowns on 49 rushes, and Colby Klocek is

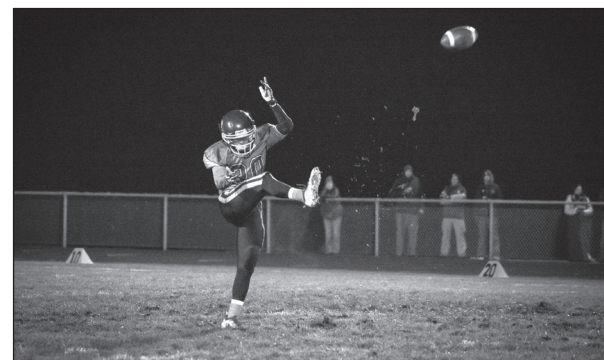


PHOTO COURTESY OF SKYE DEVOE

Medford's Jack Paulson punts during the Tigers' 35-26 win at Minnesota Valley Lutheran.

the team's top receiver with 25 catches for 439 yards and five touchdowns.

The Rebels have a stingy defense that surrenders just 10.3 points per game thanks in large part to Gavin Sonnek and Brevan Linder, who each have four sacks this season, and Mark Bushlack, who has 16 tackles and three interceptions.

Medford will play in the opening round of the section

tournament on Tuesday, October 23. Section seeding will be announced later this week on Thursday, October 18. The Tigers are currently tied with LeSueur-Henderson (4-3) for No. 5 seed in the 2A A Section.

There is a possibility Medford could meet Gopher Conference rival, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (5-2), in the opening round of the tournament.



Elizabeth Bramstedt



Madi Lea

OCTOBER BLOSSOMS OF THE MONTH



Elizabeth Bramstedt - Senior
 The senior high student of the month is Elizabeth Bramstedt, who is a senior. Her favorite class is band because it is a "really good atmosphere" and she's able to be "around fun people."

Some comments shared by school staff members include:

- "Elizabeth takes her classwork seriously and has been diligent about keeping up her grades."
- "She is totally the nice kid and looks out for others in her class. She also has very thorough communications about her needs and absences. She is unafraid to ask for extra help, and is quick to help others if she sees they are struggling."
- "Elizabeth comes to class daily with a positive attitude."

Elizabeth's siblings are Kyle and Michael. She also has three pet dogs - Max, Buddy and Piper. Her special interests are photography, watching races and playing in band.

Madi Lea - 8th Grade
 The junior high student of the month is Madi Lea, who is in the eighth grade. Her favorite class is FACS. She likes to sew and that is what they are doing right now.

Some comments shared by staff members at the school are:

- "Madi is a super hard worker and a very kind classmate. She is a great kid to have in class!"
- "Madi is always working hard and leads by example."
- "Madi is a joy to have in class. She is extremely polite and thoughtful. She also takes responsibility for her own learning, asking questions when needed for clarification."

Madi's sibilings are Alex and Ava. She has a pet dog, Kong, and two cats, Mittens and Tiny. Her special interests include sports, trap shooting and water skiing.

The Blossom of the Month is sponsored by this community booster:



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OWATONNA: Huskies regained the lead for good in the third quarter

FROM C1

Owatonna 29, Northfield 11

we could do some good things in the second [half]."

David Keller nailed a 25-yard field goal with seven minutes and 17 seconds remaining in the first quarter to give Owatonna a 3-2 advantage.

On Northfield's next possession, Jake Miller intercepted a pass and returned it more than 20 yards to the one-yard line and on the next play Jason Williamson ran into the end zone untouched for the score.

Raiders' quarterback Mason Zick passed to Luke LaPanta for 6-yard touchdown and Reed Roney booted a 33-yard field goal to give Northfield a 11-10 halftime lead.

"They did a good on defense against us, which they always seem to do," Williams said. "They've got some very well coached kids. Their kids are well disciplined and they didn't give us many opening or opportunities for big plays."

"That's kind of been our trademark the last few years," he continued. "We score on big plays. Northfield made us grind thing out and did a good job of forcing us into punting situations periodically, but we were able to get a little bit of traction, particularly in the second half we got a few things to work a little bit."

Owatonna retook the lead for good when Williamson scored his second rushing touchdown, this time from 10 yards out with 7:46 left in the third quarter.

The Huskies' Mason Oland returned a Northfield fumble 35 yards for a touchdown on the Raiders' next drive to give Owatonna a 22-11 lead.

"Obviously, those were huge momentum changers for us and provide us a boost," Williams said of Miller and Oland's defensive plays. "Our defensive coaches did a good job of putting a game plan together and our player executed it."

Quarterback Sol Havelka finished



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Huskies' defender Mason Oland returns a fumble 35 yards for a touchdown on Friday against Northfield.

8-of-11 for 86 after relieving starter Brayden Truelson in the first half.

Williams said Havelka does a good job of reading the Huskies' zone read plays, whether it's carrying the ball or throwing a bubble screen on the backside of the play.

"Brayden [Truelson] has had a great fall so far," he said. "There are certain things that Sol [Havelka] brings to the table that are pretty good. Since Havelka came back from his injury he hasn't gotten more than a handful of series of game competition. We are committed to developing both of those quarterbacks and we wanted to make sure that Havelka also had the opportunity to go out and play, get some game night competition and work through some mistakes and

advisory."

Williams said the Huskies' quarterback situation is likely to be in flux for the foreseeable future, maybe even the next two seasons.

"I think both of those kids are outstanding players," he said. "Both of them throw a nice ball and do a good job of commanding the offense. It gives us the unique situation going into the last game of the regular season and the playoff, of being able to ride the hot hand. I expect both of those guys to contribute to our on-field success for the rest of the season."

Owatonna will play their final regular season game on Wednesday, October 17 at home against New Prague (1-6).

"They are fairly young team,"

Williams said. "They are playing a lot of juniors and they have been scoring some points. They run a wing-t offense with a lot of different formations and shifts. They can run the ball or throw the ball out the wing-t."

Williams said the Trojans will look a lot like Northfield on the defensive side of the football.

"They run a 3-4 or 5-2, whatever you want to call it," he said. "They have struggled stopping people the last couple of weeks. It will be challenge for us because wing-t are always difficult to stop. We will see if we can gain a little more traction heading into the playoffs."

Owatonna clinched at least a share of the Big Southeast-Red District title and most likely will receive a first-round bye and be at

Northfield	2	9	0	0	—	11
Owatonna	10	0	19	0	—	29

First Quarter

N — Safety, 10:19
O — David Keller 25 field goal, 7:17
O — Jason Williamson 1 run (Keller kick), 2:04

Second Quarter

N — Luke LaPanta 6 pass from Mason Zick (Conversion failed), 8:51
N — Reed Roney 33 field goal, 1:46

Third Quarter

O — Williamson 10 run (Conversion failed), 7:46
O — Mason Oland 35 fumble return (Kick failed), 7:21
O — Sol Havelka 1 run (Keller kick), 2:51

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Northfield: Jim Vitito 12-11; Mason Zick 2-(-12); Mitchell Stanchina 5-(-12). Owatonna: Jason Williamson 29-116, 2 TDs.

PASSING—Northfield: Zick 14-29-155-1, TD. Owatonna: Havelka 8-11-86-0.

RECEIVING—Northfield: Luke LaPanta 5-34, TD; Vitito 3-53; Stanchina 1-5; Gavin Rataj 1-4. Owatonna: Ethan Walter 2-31; Isaac Oppgard 2-31.

PUNT RETURNS—Northfield: Josh Grabau 2-5.

KICK RETURNS—Northfield: Grabau 3-38; Luke Stanga 1-12; Zach Vikeras 1-0.

home throughout the Section 1-5A tournament. Section seeding will be announced on Thursday, October 18. If the Huskies do receive a first-round bye they wouldn't play until Saturday, October 27.



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Owatonna's Jake Miller returns a interception on Friday in the Huskies' 29-11 win over Northfield.

Mid Southeast-East

	District	Overall
Bloomington Prairie	6-0	6-0
Rushford-Peterson	6-1	6-1
Goodhue	5-1	6-1
Southland	4-2	4-3
Hayfield	2-4	2-5
Fillmore Central	2-3	2-4
Kingsland	1-5	1-6
Wabasha-Kellogg	1-6	1-6
Winona Cotter	0-6	0-7

Mid Southeast-West

	District	Overall
United So. Central	6-0	7-0
Saint Clair/Loyola	5-1	6-1
Mayer Lutheran	5-1	5-2
Lester Prairie/Holy Trin.	4-3	4-3
Medford	3-3	4-3
Kenyon-Wanamingo	2-4	2-5
Bethlehem Academy	1-5	2-5
Minn. Valley Lutheran	1-5	2-5
Janesville-W-P	1-6	1-6

South Central-Blue

	District	Overall
Waterville-E-M	6-0	6-1
NRHEG	5-1	5-2
Maple River	4-2	5-2
LeSueur-Henderson	3-3	4-3
Lake Crystal-WM	3-3	3-4
Gibbon-Fairfax-Win.	2-4	3-4
Norwood Y. America	1-5	1-6
Sibley East	0-6	0-7

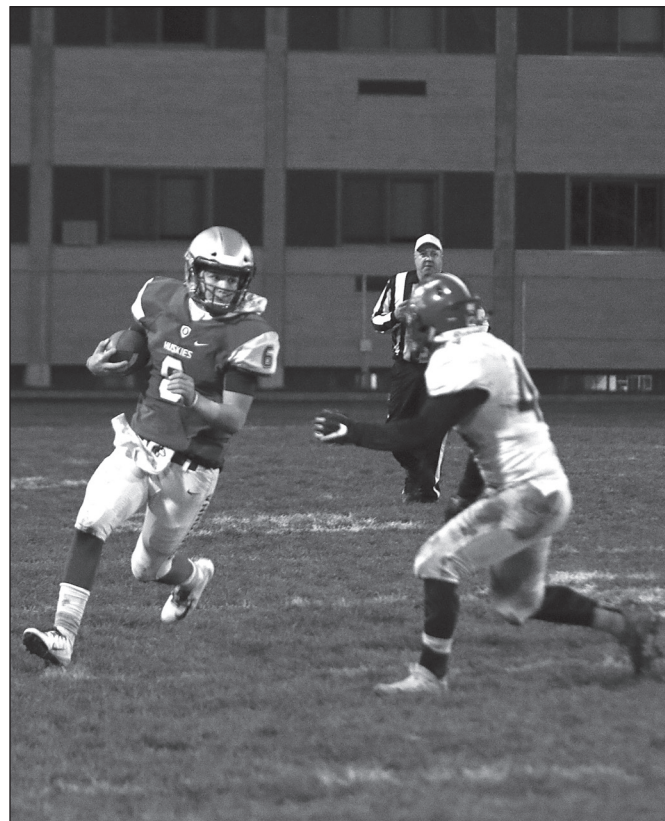
Big Southeast-Red

	District	Overall
Owatonna	4-0	7-0
Northfield	3-1	5-2
Rochester Century	3-1	4-3
Rochester Mayo	1-3	4-3
Rochester JM	1-3	2-5
New Prague	0-4	1-6



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Huskies' defenders Mason Oland and Nick Staska meet Northfield standout Mitchell Stanchina in the backfield for a loss on Friday.



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Owatonna quarterback Sol Havelka carries the ball for a first down on Friday against Northfield.

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CROSS COUNTRY

Blossoms, Tigers and Panthers compete at 7-team meet

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The first meet of the season for an injured Bobbie Bruns landed her first for the Blossom girls in a cross country meet at a seven-team contest at Oak View Golf Course Thursday, October 11.

However, the Blossoms' girls' team settled for sixth place in the meet and boys finished fifth of the seven teams. La Crescent took the title in both division. "Despite the cold we had some good times, including Bruns' first effort of the season," Blooming Prairie John Bruns said. "Abby Smith also returned from illness and came in second for the Blossom girls. Seventh grader Ty Forystek also ran his first varsity race and timed a respectable 21 minutes and 36 seconds. Bruns and Smith ran one and two for the girls, and Isaac Ille paced the boys in 18:51."

Bruns timed a girls and Smith ran a 24:32. The next two girls were Asha

Lightizer and Abby Braaten, who both came in under 26 minutes, and the next three finished under 27 minutes. Lightizer timed a 25:35 and Braaten a 25:56.

Olivia Johnson, Ashleigh Alwes and Rose Michaud followed in 26:20, 26:38 and 26:48, respectively. Emily Anderson, Jackie Hyland and Grace Brekke all ran for the Blossoms as well.

For the boys Ille ran that 18:51 for 12th place individual, and Ethan Grant ran a 20:14.

The next three runners also finished under 21 minutes. Alex Miller timed a 20:23, Adam Larson a 20:42 and Hosea Baker a 20:45. Dylan Johnson and Ty Forystek came in under 22 minutes and Cody Nirk, Joe Pirkl, Isaac Arnold and Gustaov Ogren rounded out the runners for the Blossoms' competitors. The teams run Tuesday, October 16 at Maple River in the Gopher Conference Meet.

Complete team results were La Crescent/Hokah with 26 points, Tri-City United with 34, Medford with

97, Waterville-Elysian-Morristown/Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton with 119, BP with 127 and Pacelli with 150 in the boys, and La Crescent/Hokah with 41, WEM/JWP with 46, Pacelli with 79, USC with 91 and Blooming Prairie with 134.

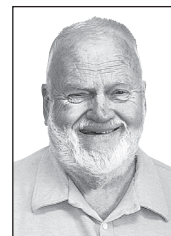
NRHEG's top runners were Addison Deyle (16th place in 19:21), Tylar Malakowsky (26th place in 20:05), Caden Riewer (34th place in 20:20) and Eric Arvis (71st place in 24:44) in the boys' division, and Mia Williams (25th place in 25:56 in the girls division.

"The NRHEG runners were short handed tonight on a cold night for a meet," Panthers' head coach Miles Otstot said.

"Those who did run, performed well. One girl was able to run for the Panthers tonight, and that was Mia Williams, who ran her best time of the season.

"This was a great meet for all who were able to run in it, and we are looking forward to our conference meet next week."

BLOSSOMS STILL PERFECT



Outside the Lines
LEMAR NELSON

Despite a very muddy field at Mayer Lutheran this past Friday night, the Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossom football team persevered to capture their seventh straight win and remain unbeaten at 7-0.

Now only Class A No. 5 ranked Rushford-Peterson stands between the team and an undefeated regular season.

That game should be a great contest, as the two teams have had a great rivalry for the past decade or so.

BP continues to combine a free flowing offense with a pretty sticky defense.

In the Mayer Lutheran game, the defense completely shut down a Crusader running game that had been especially potent the past few games.

Much credit goes to sophomore athlete Mitch Fiebiger and his line mates.

Fiebiger leads the team in tackles by a big margin and he is getting great help from Gabe Hagen, Trent Swenson, Payton Simon and the other linemen in the trenches.

The overall defense has been very strong all season long.

It surely deserves another tip of the hat this week. That's the way to go, Blossoms.

The BP volleyball team had a disappointing past two games of the regular season schedule, dropping matches to power house Medford and rival NRHEG.

Now they have to wait over a week for the sub-section playoffs to begin.

The team finished the regular season with a 10-14 record, but with only one senior on the team, they maybe can look for better outcomes next year.

The lone meet for the cross country teams took place this past Thursday, with the boys placing fifth and the girls sixth. One bright spot for the girls was Bobbie Bruns competing, after she missed most of the season from injury.

The teams compete at Maple River on Tuesday in the Gopher Conference meet with section meets fast approaching in another week.

Good luck to them in the upcoming competitions.

MORE DISASTER

One can't help but feel extremely sorry for the thousands of people who saw their lives completely destroyed by the latest hurricane.

The pictures on TV of entire blocks of houses and buildings completely obliterated by the storm was truly heartbreaking, and one can imagine just how hopeless it all seems now, and how long it will be for the region to return to some sense of normalcy.

It has been my contention all year that, except for a little too much rain at times, we have been living in a veritable paradise of weather.

The storms in the south, flooding in the east and fires in the west have reinforced my view that the Midwest is almost the ideal when it comes to living conditions.

The occasional tornado in the summer and the rare blizzard in the winter seem to be of little worry compared to the continual disasters faced by those in other parts of our great country. Even going to some warmer climate in the winter holds no attraction for me. Give me Minnesota and Minnesota weather any time!

AROUND AND ABOUT

The community has had a flurry of activity in the past few weeks, and residents still have some upcoming events of great interest.

Besides the influx of diners at the annual lutefisk dinner at First Lutheran Church today, people are looking forward to the annual Village Affair fast approaching on Saturday, October 27.

Many use this popular event for getting that novel Christmas gift from the creations of local craftsmen.

Personally, for years I have attended the occasion for some of the delicious pies local church ladies have prepared. Often a pumpkin pie to be frozen for Thanksgiving is on my shopping list, and it is fun just to wander the halls and observe some of the many skills displayed by the booths.

Put the date on the calendar and join the crowd for this annual fun event.

The varsity football team is not the only team in town enjoying success. The seventh-grade football team won its final two games of the season, and the sixth-grade tackle team went undefeated though the regular season, beat LeSueur-Henderson in a playoff game and then lost the championship game Saturday to a talented Waseca team.

A tip of the hat this week goes to those teams for their success.

Once the Village Affair is history, the community will look forward to the all-school musical in November.

"The Wizard of Oz" will make its third appearance on the BPHS stage, and all indications point to another very entertaining production.

As is usually the case with these musicals, rehearsal times have been difficult to work around, but the students involved seem to be making the best of it and enjoying the experience.

The story of the play is familiar to everyone, young and old alike, and it is usually a vehicle that provides plenty of opportunity for great humor.

I anticipate that humorous moments will abound when Dorothy goes on her journey, accompanied by the scarecrow, the tin man and the cowardly lion.

I can hardly wait for the performance.

For the next few weeks, all attention will be focused on the football team and the section playoffs.

This is familiar territory for the Blossoms, and we hope they can advance through the section games.

The team can be justly proud of the success this season has produced far.

It is difficult to predict weather at this time of the year, as it changes quickly from day to day. We can only hope that the local farmers get some dry days, so beans and corn harvest can be completed. Go, Blossoms, and well talk again.

FOOTBALL

Blossoms reach championship game



The Blooming Prairie sixth grade football team defeated LeSueur-Henderson 20-7 before falling to Waseca in the Championship Game of the Championship Division in the 2018 Southern Minnesota Youth Football League Playoffs.

TENNIS

Owatonna tennis players to meet in sub-section championship

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Owatonna tennis players Emily Rahrnick and Sara Anderson each won three matches on Thursday at Lifetime Fitness in Lakeville and will meet in the sub-section championship on Tuesday.

Rahrnick won each of her matches over Mankato West's Hannah Berndt, Lakeville South's Lauren Diede and Hastings' Anri Sakakibara 6-0, 6-0.

Anderson defeated Austin's Lauren Wernimont, Rochester Century's Sophia Nevenheim and Hastings' Emily Beyer.

The winner of Rahrnick and Anderson will face the winner of Rochester Mayo's Emma Trncic and Rochester John Marshall's Chris Kirsten with a trip to state on the line.

The last Husky singles player to advance to the state meet was Bri Hartman three years ago.



Owatonna's Sara Anderson returns a serve for the Huskies earlier this season.

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

VOLLEYBALL

Blossoms suffer back-to-back losses to county rivals

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossom volleyball team ended the week and the regular season schedule with a four-game loss at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (9-12-2) on Thursday, October 11.

The Blossoms were 1-2 for the week and ended the regular season with a 10-14 record.

The team finished just 2-6 in the Gopher Conference. The team is off until next week, with playoff action beginning on October 22.

After dropping the first game to the Panthers 25-17, the Blossoms picked up the pace and outlasted the hosts 25-23. The optimism with the win did not last, however, as BP dropped the next two games 25-19 and 25-18. NRHEG had an edge at the net and also served better in most cases.

Julia Worke had a big night with 13 kills and 26 digs, and Micalyn Trihus pounded down 15 kills and 6 blocks.

Rachael Oswald added 20 kills and two blocks, Heather Pirkl dished out 41 assists and varsity newcomer Anna Kittelson contributed 10 kills and 21 digs. Maren Forystek rounded out the Blossom stat sheet with 12 digs.

NRHEG's Olivia Christopherson finished with 18 kills, seven aces, five digs, 2 aces and an assist; Alexis Anderson had nine kills, six digs, an assist and an ace; Caitlin Goette had seven kills and four aces; Darian Pearson had seven aces, six kills, two

digs and an ace; Jayna Finseth had four kills, two aces and an assist; Sophie Stork had four kills, three digs, three aces and an assists; Laura Worrell had 18 assists and three digs; Hannah Budach had 15 assists, five digs, and an ace; Sydney Schlinger had eight digs, four aces and three assists and Lexie Ignaszewski had a dig.

MEDFORD SWEEPS

After three straight match victories, the Awesome Blossom volleyball team had no answer against ranked Medford and fell to the Tigers in three games. Medford dominated the locals on their home court in the match on Tuesday October 9.

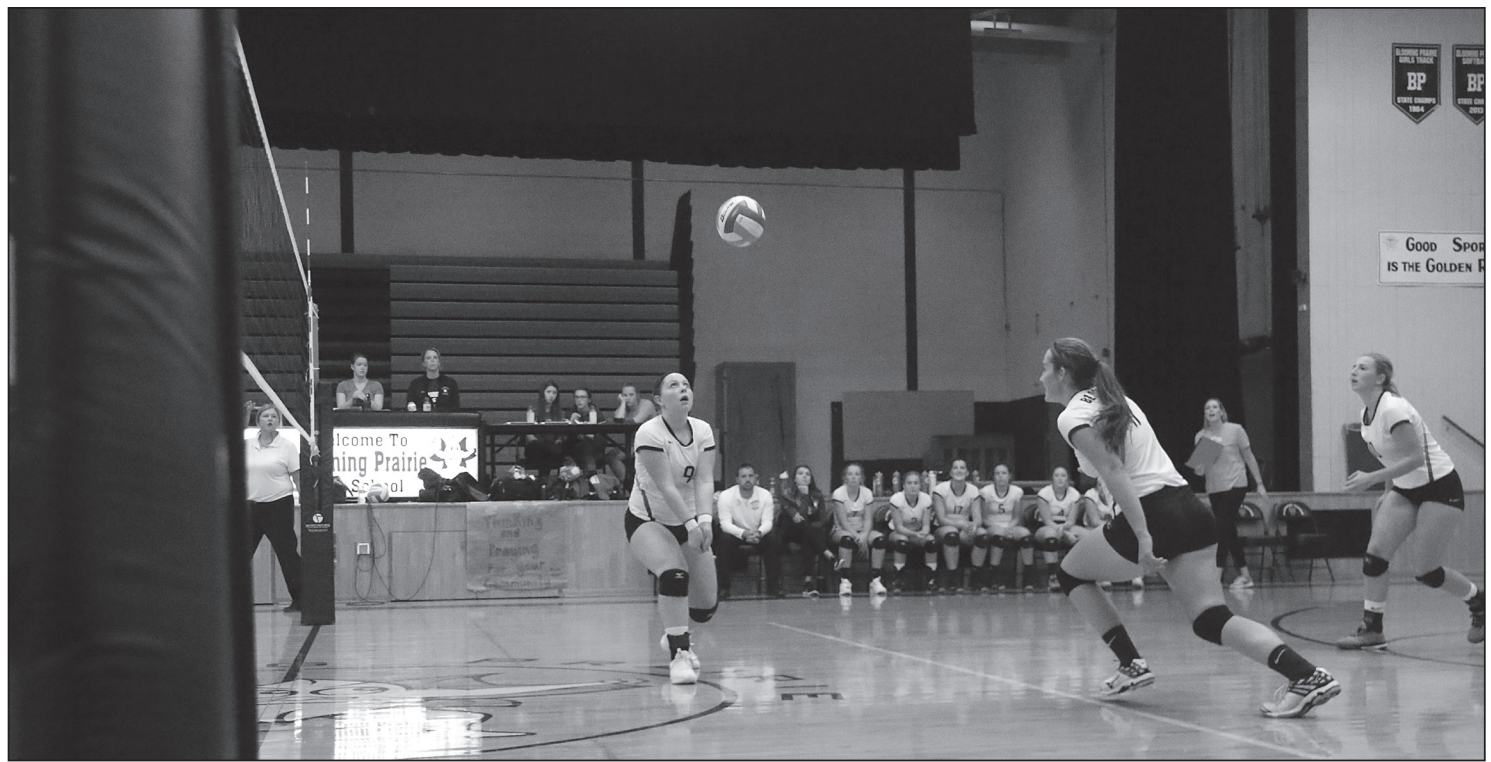
The home team played strong at the net in keeping the Blossoms at bay, winning the games 25-15, 25-14 and 25-13.

Rachel Luebbe and Emma Kniefel had 10 and eight kills for the Tigers, while Worke was the only local in double digit kills, with 10.

Worke also had 18 digs in the match, and Pirkl contributed 10 digs and dished out 15 assists. Morgan Langeslag had 27 assists for the winners.

Medford had an edge in serving, although the two teams traded several long rallies. Meredith Gillis had five points in the game two win for the hosts, and Jenna Berg reeled off nine straight in the deciding game, including the match winner.

"Tonight we played a scrappy Blooming Prairie team," Medford head coach Melissa Underdahl said. "It



Blooming Prairie Heather Pirkl sets up Megan Oswald in a match earlier this season.

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

was senior night tonight also, I was able to start all of the seniors for their last regular season home game. They stepped up and did a great job leading their team to a victory. They did a good job of taking away our cross angle hits. We switched up our offense and tried going down the middle on our attacks and took advantage of some line shots."

Medford Emma Kniefel finished the game with nine kills, 13 digs and two aces; Kiley Nihart had 16 digs, three assists and block; Rachael Luebbe had 10 kills, four digs and an ace; Kinsey Cronin had six kills and a block; Isabel DeLeon had five kills and a block; Izzy Reuvers had four kills and three digs; Morgan Langeslag had 27 assists, four digs and a block; Clara Kniefel had four kills and a dig; Meredith Gillis had four digs and an ace and Jenna Berg had two aces and four assists.

OSWALD LEADS VB VICTORY

For the lone senior on the Awesome Blossom volleyball team, it was only fitting that Rachael Oswald would pound down the match-winning kill in a sweep over visiting Lyle-Pacelli on Monday, October 8. BP won the games 25-17, 25-23, and 25-14.

"Oswald has been a real



Julia Worke smashes a return earlier this season for the Awesome Blossoms.

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

leader for the younger players this year," Blooming Prairie head coach Ranell Kittelson said. "Last year, she was a little quieter, but she has become a vocal and inspiring captain this season, and she has been a great helper for all the underclass girls on the team. The whole team has played well over the last three matches."

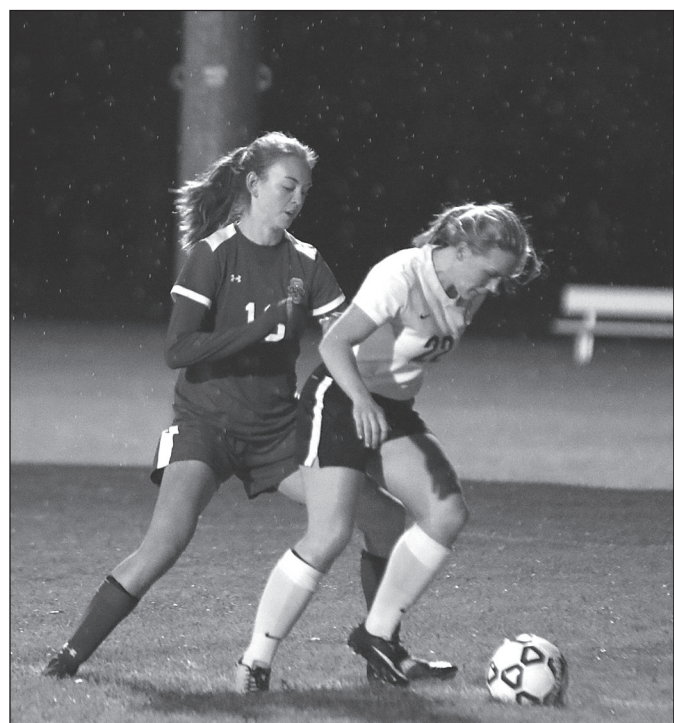
BP took an early lead in

the first set and pulled away late, but the Athletics tied the second game at 20. The Blossoms, however, prevailed at the end. The home team again led early in game three and closed out the match on Oswald's last kill. Trihus had led the Blossoms in game one with 6 serving points, including an ace, but the locals used a balanced serving attack in games two and three.

In fact, three servers had three points each in the third set. Sophomore hitter Trihus led the attack with 16 kills, but Oswald added 10 kills to the total. Worke contributed five kills, three ace serves and 17 digs; and Forystek, Allison Krohnberg and Maya Lembke scrambled for 13, 11 and eight digs, respectively. Pirkl dished out 29 assists.

SOCCER

Owatonna soccer seasons end



An Owatonna player tries to get the ball away from the opponent during a match earlier this season.

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna boys and girls soccer teams' seasons came to end this past weekend during in the second round of each team's respective section tournament.

The boys' team lost 4-1 at Rochester Mayo (14-3-1) on Thursday. The Huskies won their first round game of the section tournament 3-1 over Lakeville South (4-9-2) and finished the season with a record of 13-4-1. Mayo plays Lakeville North (10-6-2) at home in the section championship on Tuesday.

The girls' team lost 4-0 to Lakeville South (10-4-2) on Thursday. The Huskies won the first round section tournament game 2-1 over New Prague (6-9-2) on Tuesday, October 9 and finished the season 10-7-1.

Lakeville South plays at Lakeville North (10-4-2) on Tuesday in the section championship.



Owatonna sophomore Nolan Burnmeister dribbles a defender during a match earlier this season.

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Steele County football schedule

Blooming Prairie		
Aug. 31	Southland	W, 40-14
Sep. 7	at Fillmore Central	W, 41-7
Sep. 14	Wabasha-Kellogg	W, 52-6
Sep. 21	at Cotter	W, 58-0
Sep. 28	Goodhue	W, 20-14
Oct. 5	at Hayfield	W, 47-7
Oct. 12	at Mayer Lutheran	W, 48-34
Oct. 17	Rushford-Peterson	7 p.m.
Medford		
Aug. 31	Winona Cotter	W, 51-0
Sep. 7	Kenyon-Wanamingo	W, 14-13
Sep. 14	Faribault B.A.	W, 38-20
Sep. 21	at Mayer Lutheran	L, 42-6
Sep. 28	Lester Prairie-H.T.	L, 46-44 (OT)
Oct. 5	at St. Clair-Loyola	L, 41-14
Oct. 12	Minn. Valley Luth.	W, 35-26
Oct. 17	United S. Central	7 p.m.

NRHEG		
Aug. 31	Pipetstone	L, 35-7
Sep. 7	at Sibley East	W, 39-6
Sep. 14	Norwood YA	W, 33-8
Sep. 21	at G-F-W	W, 27-20
Sep. 28	W-E-M	L, 48-6
Oct. 5	at Maple River	W, 29-28 (OT)
Oct. 12	Le Sueur-Henderson	W, 28-12
Oct. 17	at LCWM	7 p.m.
Owatonna		
Aug. 31	at Faribault	W, 41-0
Sep. 7	at Rochester Mayo	W, 37-9
Sep. 14	Austin	W, 63-27
Sep. 21	Rochester JM	W, 34-0
Sep. 28	at Mankato East	W, 71-12
Oct. 5	at Roch. Century	W, 28-7
Oct. 12	Northfield	W, 29-11
Oct. 17	New Prague	7 p.m.

Football state rankings

CLASS 5A		
1.	Owatonna	
2.	Elk River	
3.	St. Thomas Academy	
4.	Robbinsdale Cooper	
5.	Waconia	
6.	Chanhasen	
7.	Mahtomedi	
8.	Sauk Rapids-Rice	
9.	Mankato West	
10.	Bemidji	
Others receiving votes: St Cloud Tech, Spring Lake Park, Hastings.		
CLASS A		
1.	Minneota	
2.	BOLD	
3.	Blooming Prairie	
4.	(tie) Mahnomens-Waubun and Otter Tail Central	
5.	St. Charles	
6.	Royalton	
7.	United South Central	
8.	Mayer Lutheran	
9.	(tie) Goodhue and Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg	
10.	Dawson-Boyd	
Others receiving votes: Ada-Borup/NCW, Rushford-Peterson, Fertile-Beltrami, Murray County Central, Polk County West		
CLASS 2A		
1.	Caledonia	
2.	Minneapolis North	
3.	(tie) Barnesville and Redwood Valley	
4.	(tie) Mahnomens-Waubun and Otter Tail Central	
5.	St. Charles	
6.	Royalton	
7.	Paynesville Area	
8.	(tie) Pipestone Area and Hawley	
9.	(tie) Waterville-Elysian-Morristown and Chatfield	
Others receiving votes: Maple River, Osakis, Aitkin.		
*Source: Associated Press —released Oct. 10.		

Steele County Times 2018 Football Contest

Football Contest Rules

Contest: Begins Sept. 6 and runs for 12 weeks.

How to win: Pick the team you think will win each game listed in the below advertisements. Write the team's name in the blank with the corresponding number. Cut out the entry blank and enter to: Steele County Times, P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 or drop off at our office at 411 E. Main St. in Blooming Prairie. You may enter in person, mail or by e-mail to bptimes@frontiernet.net. It must be postmarked no later than 5 p.m. Friday. You must enter a score in the Tie-Breaker game or you will be disqualified.

What you win: The Times will award a \$20 gift card to the Lansing Corners, in Lansing, to the person correctly predicting the most winners from the games listed. The person with the most correct games throughout the 12 week contest will be awarded a subscription to the Steele County Times (\$42 value). Ties will be broken by the score of the Tie-Breaker game. All decisions by the judges are final. The contest is open to anyone age 14 and above, excluding staff and family members of Bussler Publishing, Inc. or Dodge Media, Inc.

FOOTBALL CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

1 _____	11 _____
2 _____	12 _____
3 _____	13 _____
4 _____	14 _____
5 _____	15 _____
6 _____	16 _____
7 _____	17 _____
8 _____	18 _____
9 _____	19 _____
10 _____	20 _____

*Tie-Breaker Score _____ *

Week 5
James Gefre
Week 7
Week 6
Mike Grunklee 4 wrong, Won by tie-braker

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6. Colorado at Washington	8. Oregon at Washington State

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19. Cincinnati at Kansas City	20. Dallas at Washington (Tiebreaker)
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Don't forget to submit your answers!