

# Journal-Press SPORTS & SCHOOL NEWS

## FOOTBALL

### Week 7: Buffalo 48, Cambridge-Isanti 22



Plowing backwards into the end zone is Buffalo's Isiah Karels (6), who gets assistance from linemen Steve Johnson (73), Noah Karels (71), Josh Hastings (50), and Gerrit Poncius (78). Karels led the Bison with four rushing TDs and 125 yards in a 48-22 win last Friday over Cambridge-Isanti. (Photo by Rob LaPlante)

## Snow, offense makes its return

### Karels' four rushing TDs ignite 48-22 road victory at Cambridge-Isanti

By Rob LaPlante  
Sports Editor

George Larson Field at Cambridge-Isanti High School seems to bring out the best in the Buffalo football team.

Last Friday's week seven showdown was no different.

Even with temperatures dropping, the wind whipping, and snow falling, the Bison's offense still looked similar to the ones of the past that played in Cambridge.

Sparked by a 26-point third quarter, Buffalo improved to 3-4 on the season with a 48-22 victory last Friday over the Bluejackets (1-6).

Averaging 23.8 points per game through six games, Buffalo grabbed an early 16-0 advantage, sparked by a big play from its special teams. A bad snap on a Bluejacket punt in their own end zone resulted in a 2-0 Bison lead on a safety.

Two scores later it was 16-0 on a pair of short touchdown runs by Isiah Karels. Cambridge-Isanti closed the gap to 16-14 on a pair of touchdown runs by Gaven Ziebarth, the first from three yards, the second coming with 36 seconds left in the half on a 77-yard score.



Buffalo's Wyatt Olson (left) tackles Cambridge-Isanti quarterback Connor Braaten. (Photo by Rob LaPlante)

Ziebarth's first score was setup on a long run from Cambridge-Isanti quarterback Connor Braaten, who was tackled at the Bison 3-yard line. Other than the two big runs, Buffalo's defense didn't allow much.

"If it wouldn't have been for their two big plays, a quarterback scramble and a goofy trap, it's a two touchdown game at half," said Head Coach Todd Bouman. "I told them at halftime, it's not going to be easy. I was just happy the way they responded early in the second half."

The response came just three plays and 44 seconds

into the third quarter when Karels found pay dirt for the third time in the contest on a 13-yard run. The three-play, 74-yard drive came courtesy of three big runs by Karels.

Less than two minutes after Karels' score, the Bison made it 30-14 on Aidan Bouman's first of two passing touchdowns in the game, a 28-yard strike to Michael Tweten.

The Bluejackets scored their only touchdown of the second half on a Braaten 13-yard run, but the Bison lead grew to 42-22 heading into the fourth quarter after Karels scored for the

fourth time on a 3-yard run. Bouman's second touchdown to Tweten came with 2:58 remaining in the third, a 39-yard strike down the left sidelines.

Coming off his first-career 100-yard performance in a 41-26 road loss at Monticello, Karels set a new career-best with 125 yards rushing on 14 carries and four TDs.

"I'm not going to lie, it feels pretty good," Karels said. "There were some really good calls from the coaches. We came out with some stuff they weren't expecting, and it worked out for us."

The Bison exploded for 544 total yards of offense - 238 from the ground. Luke Gunderson also set a career-high with nine carries for 92 yards and a touchdown. His 28-yard scamper was the only scoring of the fourth quarter.

"It was pretty fun," Gunderson said. "Our linemen were there for us tonight."

Gunderson also added four catches for 89 yards.

"It's felt really good to go from a JV (junior varsity) center to a skilled position this year," Gunderson said. "We had some guys move out this year, and others have stepped in."

Despite the weather, Buffalo's passing attack was still effective. Bouman completed 20-32 pass attempts for 306 yards and two scores. Bouman ranks first in the state with 165 completions and 2,078 passing yards. His 19 passing touchdowns is tied for second.

"Regardless of the weather, in all honesty, it doesn't bother Aidan one bit," Coach Bouman said.

Bouman's favorite target continued his monster season. Tweten finished with 11 catches for 189 yards, to go with his two scores.

Tweten leads the state in all three major receiving categories with 71 receptions, 1,036 yards, and 14 touchdowns. His 71 grabs tied Treyton Welch's school record for receptions in a season (71). He needs 266 more yards to tie Welch's school record of 1,302, and two more TDs to tie Welch's school record of 16.

Defensively, Brandon Lampi and Ty Zwack each had eight tackles. Karels added to his all-around game by posting two tackles and grabbing his first-career interception.

The victory was the fourth

## Football

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## GIRLS SWIM & DIVE

### Bison qualify for True Team State Tourney



Brianna Shroyer set a St. Cloud Tech pool record in the 100 breaststroke. (Photo by Todd Polzin/Bufallo Girls Swimming & Diving)

By Rob LaPlante  
Sports Editor

Head Coach Rachel Busch came into last Saturday's Section 8AA True Team Meet with high expectations for her girls' swim/dive team.

With a total of 1,225 points, her team didn't disappoint. Buffalo score was good for third place, and a wild card berth to this Saturday's Class AA True Team State Meet.

Maple Grove, ranked No. 8 in Class AA, finished first with 1,388 points. St. Michael-Albertville was second at 1,235. The Knights denied their invitation to state as a wild card team, but Buffalo would've qualified regardless as a wild card team based on power points.

"We came in very hopeful to get a ticket to True Team State," Busch said. "On paper, Maple Grove looked favored, and they did just that. I would've preferred to have 11 more points to beat STMA. It's amazing, you have 1,225 points and you finish only 10 back."

The main difference between Buffalo and STMA came in the 1-meter, 11-dive event, where the Knights were led by Bella Baldwin, who scored 31 points with a second-place finish of 375.95.

Alayna Mills was Buffalo's top diver with a 15th place score of 272.80, good for 18 points. STMA outscored Buffalo 73-28. The Bison added two middle school divers for Saturday's meet. Eighth grader Olivia Samuelson was 28th with a 6-dive score of 119.70. Seventh grader Kate Miriovsky was 29th at 78.15.

Busch was left feeling good about the fact her team outscored STMA 1,197 to 1,162 in swim events only.

The Bison also left the pool leaving their mark on two events at the new St. Cloud Tech pool.

Brianna Shroyer's first-place time of 1:08.97 in the 100 breaststroke was a new pool record, as was Kassy Shroyer's first-place time of 1:00.40 in the 100 butterfly. Kassy and Brianna tied for the team's most individual points, each with 63. Kolby Schendel totaled 59, Ellie Carik 55, and Sydney Polzin 53.

This year's Class AA True Team State Meet begins at 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19 at the Jean K. Freeman Aquatic Center in Minneapolis.

This is Buffalo's second-ev-

## Swim/Dive

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## GIRLS TENNIS



Sisters Alaina (left) and Anna (right) Lee pose with their championship medals they earned after winning this year's Section 5AA Doubles Tournament. The two will play in their first-career state tournament. (Submitted photo)

## Sisters win section doubles title

### Lees advance to state tourney

By Rob LaPlante  
Sports Editor

Two members of the Buffalo girls' tennis team will make their first-career state tournament appearance Oct. 24-25 at Baseline Tennis Center in Minneapolis.

Sisters Anna and Alaina Lee punched their ticket with a perfect 5-0 record as the No. 1 seed in this year's Section 5AA individual tournament held this past Monday and Tuesday at Reed-Sweatt in Minneapolis.

The Lees won a perfect 3-0 in Monday's single-elimination bracket. They opened with a pair of 6-0, 6-0 wins over two unseeded teams, first from Wayzata

and the other from Patrick Henry. They concluded the day with a 6-1, 6-1 victory over No. 8 seeded Grace Bakke and Ashley Denninger of Maple Grove.

According to Head Coach Scott Larsen, the victory over the Wayzata dual set the tone for the tournament.

"Going in, Anna and Alaina were seeded No. 1 based on their skill set, and not on what they did together. Anna played No. 1 singles for us, and sometimes when you throw a team together, you get a bit of the unknown to start," Larsen said. "The Wayzata match to begin was a tough first-round draw for them. But they showed good chemistry early, and they never looked back after that match."

Anna, a sophomore, and Alaina, a freshman, never lost a set the entire tour-

namment, which ended with a pair of straight-set wins in Tuesday's championship round.

They defeated No. 4 seed Alex Repplier and Justina Palmer of Champlin Park 6-1, 6-4, and concluded with a 7-5, 6-0 victory over No. 2 seed Meadow LaDuke and Emma Thole of St. Michael-Albertville. LaDuke and Thole finished second and will also represent the section at state.

The individual state tournament kicks off Thursday, Oct. 24 and concludes Friday, Oct. 25. The team tournament will be held Wednesday, Oct. 23 - all at Baseline.

The Lees will likely be unseeded at state, but will open Thursday against a section runner-up through a random draw process.

Buffalo's other doubles team, Ella Stevens and

Ohnica Melenich, were on the difficult end of a random draw at this week's section tourney.

The seniors exited after one round when they lost 6-3, 6-2 to No. 3 seed Meghan Staunton and Olivia Bekala of Delano.

"That was a tough draw," Larsen said. "They lost to a good Delano team that finished third in the section. We were disappointed they didn't get further in the tourney, but we weren't disappointed in their play. It was a tight match with a lot of good points."

Buffalo's singles players both lost their head-to-head matchups. Junior Sophie Hazen and eighth grader Kiley Herbst were both making their first-career

## Girls Tennis

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