



With the ball in the air, Huskies quarterback Brayden Truelson executes a strategy with Nate Smith (72) and Zach Wiese (63) providing blocking in Friday night's home opener against Rochester Century. The Huskies crushed Century 44-7.

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

## Huskies continue dominance in home opener

The defending state champion Owatonna Huskies continued their winning ways right where they left off last year. The Huskies smoked Rochester Century 44-7 in the season opener Aug. 30 in Owatonna.

The Huskies are learning how to cope on the

gridiron without their star running back Jason Williamson, who dominated last year's unbeaten team. And they seem to be doing it without missing a beat. The powerhouse Huskies kept a 20-game winning streak spanning over the past three seasons alive Friday night.

Owatonna took an early lead and never looked back. The Huskies scored two touchdowns in the first quarter, two in the second along with a field goal and two more in the third quarter. Century finally got on the board with just over 8 minutes left in the game during the fourth quarter.

Junior Zach Stransky rushed for 66 yards and scored Owatonna's third touchdown in the second quarter before he was forced to leave due to an ankle injury. It's unknown exactly when he will be able to return.

The Huskies travel to Northfield Friday night.

## Blossom girls pick up first win

BY LEMAR NELSON  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Awesome Blossom volleyball team won a home opener match Aug. 27, over JWP easily, displaying excellent teamwork and a good attitude along the way.

None of the three games put much pressure on the home team.

As Coach Renee Kittelson commented, "It was a great win tonight for our home opener. The girls came out with fire and carried that through the whole match. All of the girls played well."

Julia Worke led the offense with 11 kills, and Micaylyn Trihus and Maya Lembke contributed 7 and 6 kills. Maggie Bruns scrambled for 14 digs, and she and Heather Pirkl combined for 11 and 10 assists.

### ROCKETS WIN

The Awesome Blossom volleyball team opened the season on the road and suffered a hard fought five game loss at Randolph Aug. 22. The Blossoms took two of the first three games, but lost game four in an overtime contest. The Rockets then pulled away late in the deciding game 15-11.

Besides it being a tense-played match, one bright spot in the contest featured setter Heather Pirkl recording her 1,000 career set assist. Coach Renee Kittelson also noted the absence of Micalyn Trihus who was unavailable for family reasons. "It may not have made a difference, but her absence at the net was noticeable" commented Kittelson.

The home team won a tightly played game one in the match 26-25, but the visitors bounced back for a 25-19 second game win. BP continued on a roll with a 25-20 third game win, but the Rockets clawed their way to the intense overtime decision in game four and then hung on for the deciding victory.

Julia Worke led the Blossom attack with 16 kills and 17 digs, and Megan Oswald added 13 kills and 7 digs. Maya Lembke scrambled for 20 digs and served 3 aces, Maren Forystek had 21 digs, and Maggie Bruns served 2 aces and a kill, 13 assists, and 17 digs. Pirkl counted 18 assists and 13 digs.

It was a tough way to open the season, but Kittelson commented that the girls played hard, and the match could have gone either way.

## Blossoms shut out Trojans in season opener

BY LEMAR NELSON  
SPORTS EDITOR

A 20-point second quarter blitz catapulted the Awesome Blossoms of Blooming Prairie to an easy victory, as the Blossoms steamrolled Rushford-Peterson 46-0 at Rushford Friday, Aug. 28 in the season opener.

The win put the district and section opponents on notice that the Blossoms were developing another strong contender for post-season success.

"I thought we played really well," remarked Coach Chad Gimbel. "We came out strong and pretty much dictated play from the get go. The only negative I saw was our inability to hang on to the ball. We lost three fumbles in the contest."

BP counted two touchdowns in the first quarter to take a 13-0 lead and then added those 20-second quarter scores to forge the big halftime margin. That was more than enough to earn the

season opening win of the 2019 campaign.

It was truly a team victory, but quarterback Kaden Thomas led the offense with pinpoint accuracy. He completed 14 of 17 passes for 217 yards and four touchdowns with 88 yards going to receiver Gabe Hagen on four receptions. The Blossoms also rushed for over 200 yards, led by Tyler Archer with 83 yards. Matthew Pryor added 55 yards and Karson Vigeland had 47.

Defensively, Bradley Simon led the way with 7 tackles, but Jarrett Larson added 6 and Hagen contributed 5. Twelve different Blossoms had at least one tackle each for the winners. All in all, the team had an auspicious opening game, and Blossom fans remain excited about the current schedule.

The Blossoms will open their home schedule Friday at 7 p.m. against Wabasha-Kellogg.

## Panthers drop season opener

BY LEMAR NELSON  
SPORTS EDITOR

NRHEG opened its volleyball season with a three-game loss to Nicollet on the Raiders' court Aug. 27.

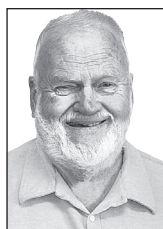
Playing without a number of last year's graduates, the Panthers competed about as well as could be expected.

Nicollet took game one in overtime 26-24 and won game two 25-18. The third game stayed close most of the way, with the Raiders

prevailing 25-22.

"With so many seniors graduating," commented Coach Onika Peterson, "we knew we would take our lumps early in the season. Our girls did some good things great but also acknowledged that we have many things to work on."

Kendall Johnson and Anne Jacobson had 5 and 3 kills, and Johnson scrambled for 13 digs. Grace Tuffe had 13 assists, and Sophie Stork and Cambria Nissen had 8 digs respectively.



Outside the Lines  
LEMAR NELSON

For most people Labor Day signals the end of summer and the beginning of another season. School begins for students, although many schools and students would rather the year begin a week or two before that date. The fall sports schedule kicks off in earnest, with the three fall sports at BPHS all seeing action even before the school session actually begins.

Locally, the Cancer Group's giant two-day auction to fight cancer takes

place the first weekend after Labor Day, and farmers start renovating equipment in preparation for the fall harvest. Other activities pop up on the calendars of residents, and everyone becomes resigned to new weather dominance. If the Farmer's Almanac is close correct in its forecast, we are headed for another cruel winter with much snow and very low temperatures.

Yes, another Labor Day is history, but it made me wonder a little as to what the holiday really signifies, how did it get its start, and where did it officially become such a major event. To read Wikipedia's take on Labor Day, the event originally began to honor all laborers for their contributions to the productivity, strength and well-being of our country. New York City

held the first Labor Day parade in 1887, and Oregon became the first state to officially make it a public holiday.

It has honored the labor movement in the U.S. since that time, and the federal government declared the first Monday in September an official national holiday in 1894. Canada is one country that celebrates the holiday the same day aser doe, and many countries throughout the world set aside a special day to honor the country's laborers. I guess we can't take much credit for the Labor Day history, but we all can claim to be a part of a deserved tribute to workers everywhere.

### AWAY WE GO

Because of the Labor Day holiday, we have a

much earlier deadline for copy at the paper. That means this column will be shorter than average, which probably is fine with many readers. However, I must report that the BPHS volleyball team initiated its home season with a dominant three-game sweep over JWP last Tuesday. After a disappointing five-game defeat at Randolph earlier, the win over the Bulldogs was particularly satisfying.

Coach Kittelson complimented the girls for their focus in the game and their play both at the net and on the court. With the experience that returns, and the talent these girls display, I predict a winning season for the team. That would be a good accomplishment for a good group of girls.

The other fall sports also

got underway last week, but because of the early deadline, results could not be reported in time. I hope the game results will still be of interest next week.

What's up?

By far the biggest happening in town this week is the annual Cancer Group's two-day auction. I am amazed at the number and the quality of items that get donated and appear on the sale. There is no doubt but that this auction and the Ed Foundation one in the spring are by far the two biggest fundraisers in the entire area. This latest cancer auction has some truly unique and great items, and should draw a huge crowd on both nights. Don't forget Sept. 6 and 7 and get in on the fun.

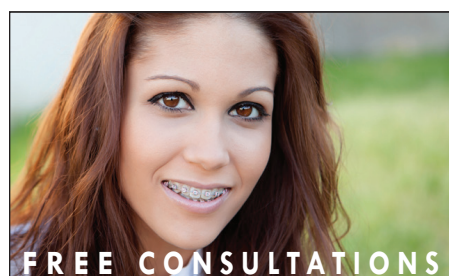
One other big event coming up in town is the

annual Education Foundation banquet and Blossoms Forever awards program. This special occasion is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 28, and will honor several former BHS graduates and personalities who have achieved some quality accomplishments in their careers.

I have been unable to uncover any of the individuals who are going to be honored, but I know there will be some heavyweight personalities who have earned accolades. The banquet alone is well worth the money, and the various honors well deserved. Book your seat for the banquet at the Servicemen's Club Saturday, Sept. 28.

Enjoy these waning days of summer, root for your annual fall sports team, and we'll talk again.

## Fall sports is off



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