

SPORTS

Area Football

Tigers roll as season kicks off

Patrick Slack
Staff Writer

Fridley was the lone area team to escape week one unscathed, rolling past visiting Bloomington Kennedy 41-0 Aug. 29 as the high school football season got underway.

The Tigers methodically took apart Kennedy, building a 20-0 halftime lead on a touchdown sneak by quarterback Kaleb Blaha and a pair of scores by Michael Ude.

Fridley continued the rout in the second half, striking on touchdown passes from Blaha to Micah Niewald and Steven Crockett, with Tra'Vione Stevenson capping the scoring on a late touchdown run.

Blaha finished 13-of-19 passing for 150 yards, with Eli Paton bringing in a 44-yard pass and Niewald and Terrell Davis each bringing in 38 receiving yards. Ude added 104 yards on the ground.

Niewald also intercepted a pair of passes, while Christopher Castillo was a perfect 5-for-5 on extra points.

Wayzata 19, Blaine 0

Wayzata prevailed in a defensive battle of Class 6A powers 19-0 over visiting Blaine Aug. 29.

Following a scoreless first quarter, Wayzata broke through with a 5-yard touchdown run early in the second, then added a 15-yard scoring pass in the

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Fridley's defense sandwiches a Bloomington Kennedy ball carrier during the Tigers' home and season opener Aug. 29. The Tiger defense put together a shutout as Fridley powered to a 41-0 victory. Photo by Patrick Slack



Blaine's Matt Mossey tags out a runner at third base during the final weekend of the Class B State Tournament. The Fusion finished just outside of the state championship game in the 16-team field. Photo by Bill Jones

State Amateur Baseball

Fusion playoff run closes just shy of state finals

Patrick Slack
Staff Writer

The Blaine Fusion's postseason run came up just shy of a spot in the Class B State Tournament finals.

The Fusion, who advanced to the final weekend of the tournament as one of four teams unbeaten in the first two rounds, matched up against defending champ Chanhassen Aug. 30 in Dassel.

Chanhassen picked up a quick run in the top of the first inning, but it was all Blaine from there, as the Fusion

scored one in the first, three in the second and once again in the third and the sixth to record a 6-1 win.

Jackson Hauge went 3-for-4 with a double, Brent Tholen collected two hits, two runs and two RBIs, Chris Olson had two hits and Michael Gottschalk tripled to lead Blaine offensively.

Davis Bryan guided Blaine on the mound for a third consecutive outing, allowing just one run over eight innings, with Alex Gonzales Cruz

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Basketball

Fridley's MacDonald to join MBCA Hall of Fame

The Minnesota Basketball Coaches Association has named four men who will be inducted into the MBCA Hall of Fame on Oct. 26. The purpose of the MBCA Hall of Fame is to give special recognition to the people of Minnesota who have made significant contributions to promote high school basketball in the state via their achievements and service.

The 2019 inductees are Jim MacDonald (Fridley), Tim Anderson (Maple River/Mankato Loyola/Mankato West), Dave Montbriand (Belgrade-Brooklyn-Elrosa) and Dave Thorson (DeLaSalle).

The induction ceremonies will be held at the MBCA Hall of Fame Luncheon Saturday, Oct. 26, at 2 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Minneapolis. Ticket information is available on the MBCA website: <http://www.mshsca.org/boysbasketball>.

Jim MacDonald's coaching career spans 32 years, starting as an assistant coach at Fridley in 1988. After a one-year stint as an assistant coach, "Mac" assumed



Fridley's Jim MacDonald will be inducted into the Minnesota Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame Aug. 26. MacDonald has coached at Fridley since 1988, winning over 400 games and multiple conference championships, with state tournament berths in 2002 and 2016.

Photo courtesy of Minnesota Basketball Coaches Association

the reins of the Tiger boys basketball program in 1988, and the

2019-20 season will be his 32nd season leading the Tigers.

Under his tutelage and leadership, the Fridley hoopsters

have earned multiple conference titles and won section championships with state tournament berths in 2002 and 2016. Coach MacDonald has been recognized by his peers with multiple conference coach of the year honors and being named section coach of the year four times. He is a member of the 400 wins club and enters the 2019-20 season with an overall record of 410-345 as a head coach.

In addition to coaching basketball, Coach MacDonald also coached track and field for 15 years at Fridley, including 10 years as the head coach. He led the Tigers to four conference titles and a section championship, with a state runner-up finish. He earned conference coach of the year honors three times, and section coach of the year honors twice.

MacDonald serves on the MBCA Academic All-State Committee and participated as a coach in the MBCA All-Star Series.

Fishing

SLP caps strong inaugural season

Patrick Slack
Staff Writer

The Spring Lake Park fishing team wrapped up a strong inaugural season at the Minnesota Junior BASS High School State Championship Tournament Aug. 24-25.

Competing out of 105 total teams, placing for Spring Lake Park were Matt Suchy and Alex Ullman (28th place, 21.48 total pounds), Evan Poppe and Andrew Ullman (44th place, 19.47 total pounds), Will Ostenson and Tanner Payne (52nd place, 17.79 total pounds) and Kyle Elleson and Sam Wein (78th place, 11.96 total pounds).

During the season, Spring Lake Park competed out of the Northeast Conference, which had three conference events.

SLP had five teams finish in the top 10, led by Evan Poppe and Andrew Ullman in first place and Will Ostenson and Tanner Payne in second place.

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Spring Lake Park's Will Ostenson and Tanner Payne competing at the Minnesota Junior BASS High School State Championship Aug. 24-25. The pair placed 52nd to help cap a strong inaugural season for the program.

Photo submitted

Fusion playoff run closes just shy of state finals

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closing the win with a scoreless ninth.

The win pushed Blaine into the winners' bracket finals at Delano Sept. 1 against Dundas.

Trailing 5-1, the Fusion scored three runs in the ninth, but their rally fell just one run shy in a 5-4 defeat. Hauge and Ryan Sutterer each had three hits and Travis Conoryea and Gottschalk had two apiece.

Blaine dropped into the elimination bracket finals immediately after, dropping a rematch 9-0 to Chanhassen.

Chanhassen went on to defeat Dundas twice the next day to claim a repeat championship.

Bryan and Hauge were named to the Class B All-Tournament Team.

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Blaine's Marcus Riewer gets the force out at second base. Photo by Bill Jones

SPORTS

Cross-Country

Anderson, Sulungaine pace Bengals in opener

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The Blaine boys earned second place and the Bengal girls took third out of five teams at the Anoka ABC Early Bird Aug. 29.

Tyler Anderson was the individual runner-up in the boys race in 17:19.1, with Josh Fike earning ninth in 18:10.2 and Gavin Kane placing 10th in 18:13.9.

In the girls race, Shalom Sulungaine finished in fifth in 20:41.3 and Kelsey Huver placed seventh in 21:02.8.

Blaine season preview

Head coach (years with team): Rachel Karel (8th year).

Team captains: Tyler Anderson, Nathan Smith, Dylan Bruesehoff, Greta Bosley and Meghan Miller.

Returning starters/key contributors: Boys: Tyler Anderson (all-conference last year) and Nathan Smith. Girls: Kelsey Huver (two-time state and all-conference runner), Shalom Sulungaine (all-conference) and Isabelle Scully (all-conference).

Team strength(s): "Both our girls and boys teams are very young this year," Karel said. "We are rebuilding on both sides after having lost several seniors to graduation. We have some great young runners stepping up into those gaps. Leadership is also fantastic. We have five great captains who did a wonderful job of helping out with summer training and welcoming new runners. They are a great crew and I'm grateful for their leadership."

New athletes: "Yes, we will have several new contributors who will make a difference," Karel said. "For the girls, Elizabeth Warren is an incoming seventh-grader who will be a strong contender for us in every meet. She is determined and focused already. Amber Kuhn (ninth grade) is another new runner who will be likely to fill a varsity spot. Sophomore Adriana Potts is coming off of a breakout track season and will probably move up in our rankings this year. On the boys team, sophomores Gavin Kane and Josh Fike have shown incredible improvement from last year. They aren't new to the team, but they will be new to varsity. They both put in the miles this summer and already performed well at our team time trial. I can't wait to see



Blaine's Shalom Sulungaine earned fifth place in the Bengals' season-opening meet at Anoka Aug. 29. View more photos from the meet at abcnewspapers.com/sports.

Photo by Patrick Slack

what they can do this year."

Expectations: "We would love to see both boys and girls teams improve on last year's section performances and at least match our conference placing," Karel said. "It is going to be a really fun season, and I am pretty optimistic about our team overall. There have been some fun surprises already this season, such as Elizabeth, Amber, Gavin and Josh as described above, and we should be strong on both sides again this year. Other goals we always focus on are working hard as a team every day and supporting each other. Our team is like a family to one another. They have a great time running and just having fun together. We just returned from our team camp retreat and had lots of team building and fun along with training runs. We do this every year. It is optional, but 56 kids came this year. There are about 80 kids on our roster this year!"

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Boys Soccer

Goals start at top for Eagles

Patrick Slack
Staff Writer

The expectations are high, as always. From outside the program and within.

Totino-Grace enters the fall as Class A's preseason No. 1, with the goals to match.

"We have a mix of talent and inexperience, which is an interesting combination," Totino-Grace head coach Bill Vance said. "By the conclusion of the season, we hope to be competing for the conference, section and state titles. It is ambitious, so a lot has to be done and a lot has to go our way for that to happen, but each year we strive for conference, section, state."

Among the top returners for the Eagles are senior Steevie Lamarre, who had 15 goals and six assists on his way to earning all-state honors a year ago, and all-conference senior returner Liam Vance, who had eight goals and seven assists.

Also added to the mix will be senior Brian Brown, who has verbally committed to play at the Division I level at West Virginia.

"Steevie Lamarre, Liam Vance, Brian Brown are high level players who we expect a lot out of," Vance said. "Our defense has one returning starter, so we need to get better

there quickly. Brian Brown is a senior who played on Minnesota Thunder Academy's Development Academy team the last three seasons, so this is his first high school season."

The Eagles have six seniors on the roster after graduating 11 a year ago, including all-state standout Herbert Endeley.

Totino-Grace fell 4-3 in its season opener against Elk River Aug. 27.

Area recap

Blaine is off to an 0-4 start, falling 6-1 at Forest Lake, 2-0 at Duluth East, 2-0 at Anoka and 2-1 against Andover.

Spring Lake Park fell 10-1 at Blake and 6-1 at Champlin Park in its first two matches of the year.

Fridley opened the season 3-1, bouncing back from an 8-1 loss at Blake to pick up one-goal wins over Minneapolis South 3-2, Tartan 1-0 and Benilde-St. Margaret's 3-2.

Columbia Heights is off to a 2-1 start, picking up a 2-1 win over Robbinsdale Cooper and a 4-0 win at Minneapolis Edison after dropping a 1-0 opener at Cloquet-Esko-Carlton.

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Briefs

Blaine girls take 3 of 4 to open season

Girls soccer

Blaine opened the season 3-1, defeating Mounds View 2-0, Anoka 5-2 and Minneapolis Southwest 3-2 before dropping a 2-1 match against Andover Sept. 3.

Spring Lake Park began the year 0-2, falling 3-1 at Roseville and 7-0 at Champlin Park.

Fridley started the season 1-3, including a 6-3 win over Legacy Christian Aug. 27.

Columbia Heights split its first two matches, with a 5-0 win over St. Paul Johnson Aug. 28.

Totino-Grace opened the season 1-1-1, falling at Holy Angels 1-0, tying Elk River 2-2 and shutting out Armstrong 3-0 Sept. 3.

Volleyball

Blaine went 2-3 at the Eden Prairie Invite Aug. 31, sweeping Holy Family and Mankato East while falling to Edina, Eden Prairie and

Minnetonka.

Spring Lake Park dropped to 0-2 after falling against Mounds View Aug. 29.

Fridley split its first two matches, including a 3-1 win over Blake Aug. 28.

Columbia Heights fell 3-0 in its opener at St. Paul Johnson Aug. 29.

Totino-Grace started the season 2-1, with wins over Rockford and St. Paul Academy.

Girls tennis

Blaine fell 6-1 against Osseo Aug. 27 and 7-0 against Centennial Aug. 29 before defeating North Branch 5-2 Aug. 30. Picking up wins against North Branch were Olivia Troy, Brooke Freeland and Grace Troy in singles, and the doubles teams of Sara McGrath and Evelyn Scheibe, as well as Clare Merck and Emma Miller.

Spring Lake Park fell 5-2

against Armstrong Aug. 29.

Fridley fell 7-0 against Visitation Aug. 29.

Columbia Heights fell 4-3 against St. Paul Johnson Aug. 27.

Totino-Grace fell 7-0 against Elk River Aug. 29 and 6-1 against Maple Grove Aug. 27.

College soccer

Anoka-Ramsey swept the MCAC Soccer Athletes of the Week announced Sept. 2. For the ARCC men, sophomore forward Gabriel Monaghan had two goals and registered five shots in a 3-0 win over NJCAA Division II Dakota County Technical College. For the ARCC women, sophomore forward Lauren Ives helped lead the team to its 100th win in program history by defeating Dakota County 7-1. Ives had three goals and an assist.

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Sports on deck

Key area events Sept. 6-Sept. 12:

Football Blaine at Champlin Park Friday, Sept. 6

Blaine heads to Champlin Park for its second road game in a row to open the season. Blaine is coming off of a 19-0 loss at Wayzata to kick off the fall, while the Rebels rallied from a 13-point halftime deficit to win their opener 22-19 over East Ridge.

Football Spring Lake Park at Irondale Friday, Sept. 6

Spring Lake Park is on the road for a second week in a row to begin the fall, heading to Irondale for a rivalry showdown. The Panthers will try to rebound from a 21-0 loss at Armstrong, while Irondale won its opener 48-8 over Park Center. Spring Lake Park defeated Irondale twice last year.

Football Fridley at Richfield Friday, Sept. 6

Fridley looks to build off of its 41-0 season-opening win over Bloomington Kennedy as it heads to Richfield, which snapped a 19-game losing streak in week one by defeating St. Croix Lutheran 49-34.

Football Columbia Heights at Providence Academy Friday, Sept. 6

After falling against defending state champion SMB in week one, Columbia Heights faces another tough challenge at Providence Academy, which went 9-1 in 2018.

Football Maple Grove at Totino-Grace Friday, Sept. 6

A pair of teams will vie for their first win as Maple Grove, which

fell 27-6 against St. Michael-Albertville to open the season, travels to Totino-Grace, which fell 13-10 against Lakeville South.

Girls Tennis Columbia Heights at Fridley

Tuesday, Sept. 10
Columbia Heights heads to Fridley for a Tri-Metro Conference matchup.

Volleyball Blaine at Spring Lake Park Tuesday, Sept. 10

Blaine makes the short trip to Spring Lake Park for a conference rivalry clash.

Cross-country Anoka Steve Hoag Invitational Wednesday, Sept. 11

Anoka hosts several of the top teams from across the metro area, including last year's Class AA girls state champion St. Michael-Albertville. Spring Lake Park and Totino-Grace will also be in action from the area.

Cross-country St. Francis home meet Thursday, Sept. 12

St. Francis is scheduled to host over a dozen teams, with Blaine and Fridley among those competing.

Girls Tennis Spring Lake Park at Andover Thursday, Sept. 12

A midseason Northwest Suburban matchup features Andover hosting Spring Lake Park.

Girls swimming and diving Anoka at Blaine Thursday, Sept. 12

Top Northwest Suburban and state contenders square off in a dual as Anoka takes on Blaine.

Tigers roll as football season kicks off

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final seconds before halftime. The Trojans added one more score late in the third to seal the win.

Tyler Schuster threw for 65 yards and ran for 46, while William Fredrickson completed a 38-yard pass and rushed for 41 yards to lead the Bengal offense.

Defensively, Ibukunoluwa Mafe made 12 tackles, Zachary Shaffer had 11 tackles and a fumble recovery, Joshua Schlangen made 10 tackles and Brennan Koste and Austin Bones each had nine tackles.

Armstrong 21, Spring Lake Park 0

Armstrong picked up a touchdown in each of the final three quarters to pull away from visiting Spring Lake Park 21-0 Aug. 29.

Brian Orellana ran for 63 yards and Henry Dennis ran for 32 to lead the Panthers offensively.

Blaine Cooper and Joey Sorenson were each in on 17 tackles and Nick Ojile had seven tackles and a sack.

SMB 35, Columbia Heights 7

Host Columbia Heights challenged reigning Class 4A state champion St. Paul Academy/Minnehaha Academy/Blake into the fourth quarter, but a late interception return for a touchdown sealed what ended as a 35-7 SMB opener win Aug. 30.

SMB worked its way out to a 14-0 lead late in the first half before Columbia Heights closed within 14-7 on a 4-yard scoring strike from Aaron Severson to Spencer Alvarez in the closing seconds before the break.

SMB upped its lead back to two scores in the third quarter, then, with Columbia Heights on the move



Blaine quarterback Tyler Schuster (10) carries the ball during the Bengals' season opener at Wayzata Aug. 29. Photo by John Sherman/Sun Newspapers

early in the fourth, intercepted a pass and returned it 70 yards for a score to close the upset bid. The Wolfpack added a final touchdown in the closing minutes.

Lakeville South 13, Totino-Grace 10

Lakeville South put together all of its scoring in the fourth quarter to rally past host Totino-Grace 13-10 Aug. 29.

Totino-Grace picked up the lone score of the first half on the opening play of the second quarter, as Kristoff Kowalkowski found Samuel Quick on a 26-yard touchdown pass. Matthew Pettijohn added the extra point, giving the Eagles a 7-0 lead they would hold through the third quarter.

Lakeville South got on the board on a 23-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter, then took a 10-7 lead with 4:56 remaining on a 10-yard touchdown pass.

Totino-Grace came back to tie the game on a 26-yard Pettijohn field goal with 1:46 to play, but the Cougars hit a game-winning 42-yard field goal with just 13 seconds remaining to pick up the season-opening win.

Kowalkowski finished 14-of-22 passing for 199 yards, with Quick bringing in seven passes for 98 yards and Isaac Richards making two receptions for 67 yards. Luke Delzer rushed 16 times for 72 yards.

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Columbia Heights' J'Mar Fowler (31) powers through the SMB line on a carry. Photo by Patrick Slack



Totino-Grace's Nicholas Hand pounces on a Lakeville South fumble. Photo by Patrick Slack