



## FOOTBALL

## ENDING THE STREAK

Watertown-Mayer snaps 29-game losing streak with upset win over G-SL

KIP KOVAR  
Sports Editor

GLENCOE – The victory formation has been a fairly regular occurrence in games that involved the Watertown-Mayer football team. It's just been done by the other team.

For the first time since Sept. 1, 2017, it was W-M's turn to cap off a game in victory formation as they snapped a 29-game losing streak with a 28-10 upset win over Glencoe-Silver Lake on the road Friday night.

"It's been a long time coming here for a lot of our guys," Royals coach Andrew Phillips said. "I couldn't be more proud of them. It's been a long time for Watertown-Mayer football. Tonight was that night. Everything came together for us."

"Honestly, I've never been so excited in my life," Wyatt McCabe added. "This was a huge win for us leading into the last few games of the year. I really can't explain how excited I am."

As the Royals stepped off the bus for the game, Phillips wasn't entirely sure what to expect from his team.

"I told them when we got off the bus that I wasn't real confident," Phillips said. "They didn't have a lot of fire, but they stepped up to the plate and rose to the challenge."

Need a spark early on, W-M got just that. It was Connor Donovan who gave the Royals that spark and had a game to remember. In the first quarter, Donovan picked off G-SL's Jacob Stifter and returned it 70 yards for a touchdown to give W-M a 7-0 lead.

Donovan wasn't done there. A 38-yard touchdown catch from sophomore Albert Rundell put the Royals up 14-0 midway through the second half.

"That's what you need if you're going to beat a team like G-SL," Phillips said about Donovan stepping up. "You need a player to step up and be the man. Connor was that guy for us early on. The turnover was huge, but being able to turn it into points helps us even more. He was just a guy stepping up and making plays."

W-M would take their two-score lead into halftime, but the Panthers



The Watertown-Mayer defense was swarming all over the field as they snapped their 29-game losing streak with a 28-10 win over Glencoe-Silver Lake Oct. 30.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MCLEOD COUNTY CHRONICLE

wouldn't go away easily. A 20-yard touchdown run by Beau Lepel on the opening drive by G-SL cut it to a one-score game. The Panthers would climb even closer on a 35-yard field goal by Dylan Silus.

With momentum switching over to the side of the Panthers, W-M needed to make a response.

"They scored and then we had a short offensive position, but then we get a stop," Phillips said. "All of a sudden, the clock is winding down and we're thinking we're in this game still. That's what the message was. We couldn't stop."

W-M got that response in one big play. A 75-yard touchdown run from McCabe put W-M back up two scores with a 21-10 lead with just over 30 seconds left in the third quarter.

"It was a great play," McCabe said. "They had just scored and we needed to get some momentum back. Our of-

fensive line ran it perfectly, creating a huge hole."

"Anytime you score on a big play, those are big-time momentum swingers," Phillips added. "The sideline was going crazy. You get a big run like that and you get everybody on the sideline jumping up and down. It gets everybody going. For us at that time, it made it an 11-point game which meant they had to score twice. That was a huge thing for us against any team, but especially against them."

With a 21-10 lead with just over seven minutes left to play, Phillips had a decision to make. With W-M facing a third and long, the Royals elected to for the first down through the air instead of keeping the clock running with the ground game.

"I felt like we needed to try and keep the ball in our hands," Phillips said. "It was a little bit of a gamble because an

incomplete pass stops the clock."

That gamble paid off in a big way as Rundell found his receiver for a first down to keep the drive alive. That big third-down conversion set up an eight-yard touchdown run by Cole Lange, sealing the win for the Royals.

"Albert stepped up tonight," Phillips said. "He grew a lot tonight as a football player and a leader. Tonight was the first night I looked out there in the huddle and could tell who the guy in command was and it was him. He made big throws and big-time decisions with his feet."

This his Phillips' third season as head coach of the Royals. It was the first win for him and W-M. When he took over the program back in 2018, talks of a co-op were discussed due to low numbers. Talks of the co-op fell through, and W-M was left on their own to figure things out. That's when Phillips told his players that the hard

work they put in will pay off eventually.

"When I took over and the talk of the co-op fizzled over, I told the guys that we're going to take this program back to being competitive and we're going to do it with the guys right here," Phillips said. "We are going to do it with our W-M kids. I knew it was going to be a lot of work and there were some long nights. I told them there were going to be memories made that they'll never forget. Tonight was one of those. In 2020, these guys will remember this forever. We did it with our own kids and it was special."

For the six seniors on the roster this year, the win meant just a little more than most. It was the first varsity win of their careers.

"It was a big thing, especially for our seniors," Phillips said. "We have a small group of seniors and some of them have been there since they were freshmen. Some of them are brand new to football. They got a win. It's the first win of their high school career. They're never going to forget this night and that's what high school football is about. They'll remember it forever."

## W-M 28, GLENCOE-SILVER LAKE 10

Friday, October 30  
at Glencoe-Silver Lake

	1	2	3	4	F
ROYALS	7	7	7	7	28
PANTHERS	0	0	10	0	10

## Scoring

## First Quarter

W-M – Connor Donovan 70-yard interception return (kick by Ashton Hecksel good), 7-0

## Second Quarter

W-M – Connor Donovan 38-yard catch from Albert Rundell (kick by Ashton Hecksel good), 14-0

## Third Quarter

G-SL – Beau Lepel 20-yard run (kick by Dylan Silus good), 14-7

G-SL – Dylan Silus 35-yard field goal, 14-10

W-M – Wyatt McCabe 75-yard run (kick by Ashton Hecksel good), 21-10

## Fourth Quarter

W-M – Cole Lange 8-yard run (kick by Ashton Hecksel good), 28-10

## Watertown-Mayer Offensive Statistics

Passing	Comp	Att	YDS	TD	INT
Albert Rundell	9	15	103	1	0
Rushing	Att	YDS	TD		
Wyatt McCabe	5	90	1		
Cole Lange	10	32	1		
Receiving	Rec	YDS	TD		
Connor Donovan	6	83	1		

## VOLLEYBALL

## Bulldogs top Panthers, having winning streak snapped against Spectrum

KIP KOVAR  
Sports Editor

The Lester Prairie volleyball team went 1-1 in recent action this past week. After knocking PACT Charter, the Bulldogs saw their winning streak come to an end with a 3-1 loss to Spectrum at home.

## Lester Prairie 3, PACT Charter 1

RAMSEY – The winning streak for the Bulldogs continued on the road against PACT Charter. Despite a slow start that led to dropping the first set, Lester Prairie stormed back to keep the streak alive as they won their third match in a row with a 3-1 (20-25, 25-23, 25-21, 25-12) Oct. 29.

"We started off slow the first game and came on strong the next 3 games," Bulldogs coach Kelly Elling said. "Carly Wolter had a great day in the back."

Wolter was busy all night in the back row for the Bulldogs. She led the team with 30 digs while also recording three assists.

Marissa Radtke led the way with 11 kills to go along with 10 digs. Lydia Leverich added six kills, while Noelle Blashack and Brooke Albers each chipped in five digs.

Lester Prairie 3, PACT Charter 1				
Bulldogs	20	25	25	25
Panthers	25	23	21	12

Lester Prairie Individual Stats					
Player	K	As	Ac	D	B
Brooke Albers	5	3	0	4	1
Lydia Leverich	6	8	0	16	0
Marissa Radtke	11	0	1	10	2
Laura Amaya	2	0	0	3	0
Lizzy Anderson	3	0	4	9	0
Noelle Blashack	5	2	0	3	0
Itzell Amaya	1	2	0	6	0
Jenna Heimerl	5	3	0	6	1
Chloe Engelke	3	16	3	11	2
Carly Wolter	0	3	0	30	0
Anna Litzau	0	1	0	0	7
TOTALS	41	38	8	98	12



Lester Prairie volleyball coach Mary Otto and the Bulldogs extended their winning streak to three games with a 3-1 win over PACT Charter.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Spectrum 3, Lester Prairie 1

LESTER PRAIRIE – A slow start for the Bulldogs snapped a three-game winning streak. Lester Prairie came out slow out of the gates as Spectrum completed the season sweep with a 3-1 (25-18, 25-18, 26-28, 25-22) Nov. 2.

"The first time we played them we lost in five sets with a lot of good games," Bulldogs

coach Kelly Elling said. "This time we lost in four sets. We had a slow start to the evening and then pulled out a close win in the 3rd set. Then in the fourth set, a couple of communication errors cost us the set."

The Bulldogs couldn't get much going in either of the first two sets. That carried over into the third set. Down big late in the third set, the Bulldogs rallied back for a 28-26 win to stay alive.

Lester Prairie had a chance

to stay alive in set four, but lack of communication on key plays down the stretch led them to see their winning streak snapped.

Radtke led the way offensively once again with a team-high 10 kills. Blashack, Jenna Heimerl, and Chloe Engelke all chipped in three kills.

Wolter had a busy night in the back row, finishing with 23 digs. Engelke and Lydia Leverich each had nine assists while Radtke served up three aces.

## Martinson added to HJ sports staff

Jared Martinson of Maple Grove has joined the Herald Journal as a sports editor.

Martinson is a 2016 graduate of Maple Grove High School, where he played basketball and football.

Following high school, Martinson graduated from Bethel University in May of 2020 with a degree in journalism and a media production minor. He was the sports editor for the Bethel University Clarion as a junior and played basketball for the Royals as a freshman and sophomore.

Martinson is looking forward to diving into the Herald Journal's sports coverage and the community as a whole.

He is an avid basketball fan and has covered the greater Minnesota high school basketball scene for the Prep Hoops Network. Being a former high school athlete, he knows how important sports are to a community and the players and coaches themselves. Martinson loves getting beyond the box



Jared Martinson

score with a story to find the defining moment of the night and believes there is so much more to athletes than how they perform on the field.

You can send story ideas and questions to [jmartinson@heraldjournal.com](mailto:jmartinson@heraldjournal.com).

Martinson has an active Twitter presence and will use social media constantly to provide game updates and scores at his handle @JaredNHR.



@Kovar\_HJSports

## RANKINGS

## CLASS A FOOTBALL RANKINGS

1. Blooming Prairie
2. Mahanomen/Waubun
3. Minnesota
4. Dawson-Boyd
5. Mayer Lutheran
6. Browerville
7. BOLD
8. Breckenridge
9. Murray County Central
10. Wabasso

## CLASS AA FOOTBALL RANKINGS

1. Caledonia
2. Minneapolis North
3. Blue Earth Area
4. Moose Lake-Willow River
5. Barnesville
6. Chatfield
7. Paynesville
8. Redwood Valley
9. Eden Valley-Watkins
10. Morris Area

## CLASS A VOLLEYBALL RANKINGS

1. Minnetota
2. W-E-M
3. Mayer Lutheran
4. Mabel-Canton
5. B-B-E
6. Henning
7. Foston
8. Greenway
9. R-T-R
10. Medford

## CLASS AA VOLLEYBALL RANKINGS

1. Stewartville
2. Marshall
3. Concordia Academy
4. Watertown-Mayer
5. Kasson-Mantorville
6. SW Christian
7. Belle Plaine
8. Maple Lake
9. Pequot Lakes
10. New London-Spicer