



PHOTO COURTESY DANIELLE NORRID

Owatonna's Logan Norrid gets ready to dive into the water after pushing off the starting blocks.

## A swimming sensation

### *Owatonna sophomore strokes her way to state 3 years straight*

BY ALEX NUEHRING  
SPORTS EDITOR

Only a small percentage of high school student-athletes participate in a state tournament, even fewer make it back-to-back years and then there's the cream of crop: students like Owatonna swimmer Logan Norrid who make it three straight years.

She recently achieved that feat by beating the state cut time in two events: the 100-yard butterfly and the 100-yard breast-stroke.

What makes Norrid's recent achievement even more impressive is she's just a sophomore.

She did all that and didn't perform as well as she can.

"My goal was to get [my] best times and I just missed both of my personal bests, but I am happy I did get both state cuts. I also am happy I finished in 10th in the 100 fly and 14th in the 100 breast in the state when all of Minnesota's AA section meets were compiled," she said.

What makes her such a fast swimmer, her head coach Isaiah Fuller said, is her technique and underwater kicking.

"Logan is very efficient through the water with her strokes, there is not much wasted motion- not many



people have a stroke as efficient as her. Along with her strong stroke, Logan [is a] very good underwater [swimmer], streamline and kick, which gives her another big advantage against other swimmers [because] underwater kicking, when done right, is much faster than swimming on top of the water," he said.

In addition to her swimming skills, Norrid thinks another key to her strong performance was her mental preparation.

"I think I was in a good place mentally and was really excited to race people again. I also got a new suit so I felt really fast. I was also happy to be with my little sister and helping her with her first section meet," she said.

As if that weren't enough, she also had her passion for swimming and competitiveness energizing her performance.

"There is no place I'd rather be than in the pool. I am also a very

SEE A SWIMMING, B12

## Panthers outlast Blossoms in volleyball action

BY ALEX NUEHRING  
SPORTS EDITOR

After losing its first six games, the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Genève (NRHEG) volleyball team won its second consecutive game when it came from behind to beat Blooming Prairie 3-2 on Monday, Nov. 2.

The Panthers came out strong and that fast start propelled them to a 25-17 win in the first set.

"We were aggressive in game 1. We finished the first set with 7 ace serves and 5 of those came from Hallie Schultz. Our hitters were aggressive at the net and our backrow played extremely scrappy," said NRHEG Head Coach Onika Peterson.

However, the second set was an entirely different story as the Panthers' defense struggled against the Blossoms' offense.

"We struggled in set 2—we gave Blooming Prairie too many points. We had some mental errors and had difficulty keeping the ball in bounds. Blooming Prairie has a couple big offensive threats with Trihus and Oswald in the front row so you can't help them any by giving them points from our mistakes. We needed to make BP earn a couple more of those rather than give it to them," she said.

The third set came down to the wire, but it was the Blossoms who came away with a 27-25 win to take a 2-1 set advantage. Despite the loss, Peterson was pleased with the improvement she saw from the second set to the third.

"I think we were able to cut down our

mental errors. We kept the ball playable and when the girls started getting a little more comfortable they were able to be more aggressive as the set went on. Our blockers were able to get some nice touches on the ball and our backrow did a great job putting our setters in a good place," she said.

Due to those good signs, she liked her team's chances even though the Panthers were one lost set from losing the game.

"I think even though we lost set three we still had some momentum going into the fourth after such a great third set. We played much better in the third than the second. The girls had some confidence and a lot of fight and came out swinging in set four," Peterson said.

That confidence and aggressive playing style paid off as NRHEG won 25-18 to force a decisive fifth set.

The Panthers' momentum carried over into the fifth set and they ultimately won the fifth set 15-9 to win the game 3-2.

"Blooming has become a fun little rivalry over the last couple years. I think part of the team's fight came from not wanting to go 0-2 with them for the season," Peterson said.

She added that another key to victory was that it was a total team effort.

"I think this was a huge team win. We had seven girls that got kills up on the board, including five with 5 kills or more. We also finished the game with 18 ace serves," she said.

SEE PANTHERS OUTLAST, B12

## Turnovers, Scarlets' potent offenses doom Huskies

BY ALEX NUEHRING  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna football team scored touchdowns on two of its first three possessions, but after that it was all Mankato West as the Scarlets scored four first-half touchdowns and held the Huskies scoreless in the second half to come away with a 35-14 win on Friday, Nov. 6.

Few fans would have thought Owatonna's defense would give up 35 points after watching them force a three-and-out on Mankato West's first possession.

The Huskies' offense kept momentum on their side by sustaining a long drive that culminated in a four-yard rushing touchdown by running back Tanner Hall.

The Scarlets' offense tied the game about a minute later thanks to a 45-yard receiving touchdown.

That score seemed to motivate Mankato West's defense as they played much better and forced Owatonna to punt from their own 42-yard line on their next offensive possession.

The Huskies' defense returned fire by sacking the Scarlets' quarterback on third down and forcing Mankato West to punt.

After being forced to punt on their previous possession, Owatonna's offense bounced back, drove the length of the field and scored its second touchdown when Truelson found Nick Williams in the endzone.

The Huskies led 14-7 at the end of the first quarter.

On the very first play of the second quarter, the Scarlets' tied the game when their running back scored a 64-yard rushing touchdown.

Once again the Scarlets' defense fed off their offense and forced a three-and-out on Owatonna's next possession.

The Huskies' defense held firm and gave the ball right back to its offense, but Truelson threw an interception and Mankato West took advantage of the good field position by scoring a six-yard rushing touchdown on fourth down to take a 21-14 lead.

Owatonna's offense got one more shot



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Owatonna linebacker Cole Earles, middle, and defensive back Zach Stransky (20) hold Mankato West's running back to a short gain.

before the end of the first half, but they couldn't find any offensive rhythm and were forced to punt from their own 39-yard line.

The Scarlets' offense continued to fire on all cylinders and scored its fourth touchdown of the half via a 2-yard reception.

The Huskies trailed 14-28 at halftime.

In the first half, Mankato West accrued 207 yards of total offense, while Owatonna was held to just 121 total yards.

The second half started on a good note for the Huskies when Payton Beyer made a leaping catch to convert

on third-and-long, but the Scarlets' defense snared a Truelson pass shortly thereafter.

Mankato West's offense took over and scored its fifth touchdown of the game on a 20-yard reception.

Down 14-35 when the fourth quarter began, the Huskies were forced to

throw the ball in order to have any shot at making a comeback and the Scarlets' caught two more interceptions, including one in Owatonna's red-zone, to seal the win.

Owatonna (3-2) will go on the road to take on Northfield (0-5) at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 11.