

SPORTS

Area Football

Area dominance continues

Blaine and SLP win 4th in a row, Fridley stays unbeaten

By Patrick Slack
Staff Writer

Blaine and Spring Lake Park rolled to their fourth wins in five outings, Fridley won a battle of unbeaten and Totino-Grace held off Champlin Park in the fifth week of regular season action Nov. 6.

Blaine 45, Osseo 26

Blaine's high-powered offense soared past 40 points for the second week in a row as the Bengals toppled visiting Osseo 45-26 to improve to 4-1.

Blaine wasted little time getting going offensively, reeling off a 52-yard touchdown run by Josh Schlangen and a 21-yard scoring dash by Tyler Schuster to take a quick 14-0 lead.

Osseo cut the lead in half late in the first, but a pair of second-quarter connections between Schuster and Schlangen from 15 and 28 yards out helped extend the difference to 28-14 at halftime.

Blaine struck on two more big scores in the third quarter, a 35-yard pass from Schuster to Dylan Muyres and a 62-yard run by Schlangen, to stretch the lead to 42-20 after three quarters, and Parker Dahlman added a late field goal to go along with his six extra points on the night in the fourth.

Schlangen closed with 197 yards rushing and 84 receiving, while Schuster accumulated 128 passing yards and 95 rushing. Preston Meyers added 46 yards



Blaine quarterback Tyler Schuster (10) breaks free from the Osseo defense on his way toward the end zone during the Bengals' 45-26 home win Nov. 6. Schuster threw for 128 yards and three touchdowns and ran for 95 yards and another score as the Bengals improved to 4-1.

Photo by Jennifer Koste

on the ground.

Jordyn Greseth led the Blaine defense with 15 total tackles, with eight apiece collected by Daniel Obwaya, William Frederickson, Luke Studer, Joe Beckman and Clayton Huber. Obwaya added a sack, while Cole Bruley and Isaac Moin each recovered a fumble.

Spring Lake Park 28, Hopkins 0

Spring Lake Park's defense

posted its third shutout in four weeks as it powered past host Hopkins 28-0 to move to 4-1 on the season.

Following a scoreless first quarter of action, the Panthers broke through on a 2-yard scoring run by Aaron Clausen to take a 7-0 lead into halftime.

Spring Lake Park surged out of the break, racking up a trio of third-quarter touchdowns on a 19-yard pass from Clausen to Kaleb Skelly, a 4-yard run by Clausen and a 28-yard pass

from Nate Litke to Skelly to put the game out of reach.

Litke ran for 59 yards and Aaron Payne ran for 49 to lead the Panthers on the ground, with Clausen adding 77 yards passing.

Joey Sorenson recorded a team-high nine tackles, with seven apiece by Nathaniel Weniger and Andy Pahkala, six by Nick Ojile and five each by Devario Cadja and Jackson Smith. Ojile also collected a sack and a half, Caden Carsen and Drew Watts

picked up a sack apiece, Cadja recovered a fumble and Nolan Tuomi intercepted a pass.

Fridley 21, Minneapolis North 0

It was the third shutout of the season for Fridley as well, as the Tigers came away with a 21-0 home win over Minneapolis North in a clash of undefeated teams.

The Tigers move to 5-0 on the season with the victory, still having allowed just 15 total points on the year. Minneapolis North entered the night having scored at least 38 points in each of its first four games.

After a scoreless first quarter, Fridley took an 8-0 lead early in the second on a 1-yard touchdown run by Michael Ude, followed by a two-point pass from Tra'Vione Stevenson to Devin Williams.

That margin held deep into the fourth quarter, when the Tigers sealed the win on a 15-yard touchdown pass from Stevenson to Micah Niewald and a 2-yard scoring run by Stevenson.

Chrisitan Crockett intercepted two passes and Niewald also picked off a pass to help keep Minneapolis North off the board.

Totino-Grace 29, Champlin Park 21

A strong passing game and another big performance by Hunter Karlson sparked Toti-

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Area Volleyball

Huskies rally in NWSC showdown, Fridley wins in 4

By Patrick Slack
Staff Writer

Blaine took the opening set, but Andover rallied in the final three to pull out a 23-25, 25-16, 25-20, 25-23 Northwest Suburban Conference home win Nov. 5, the Huskies' fifth win in a row.

Avery Bolles powered Andover's offense with 20 kills, with 10 apiece by Presley Sommers and Mallory Rak. Mari Whitford distributed 23 assists and Brooke Ramsey had 16. Rak also had a team-high 18 digs and five aces.

Andover followed with a four-set win in similar fashion Nov. 10, rallying past Rogers

16-25, 25-22, 25-23, 25-23 to improve to 9-1 and remain in second place in the NWSC.

Also in the Northwest Suburban Conference Nov. 5, Spring Lake Park powered past visiting Park Center 25-18, 25-20, 25-12, Anoka fell 25-18, 25-17, 25-8 against Rogers, Coon Rapids fell 25-13, 25-19, 26-24 against Robbinsdale Armstrong

and Totino-Grace fell 25-17, 25-21, 25-22 against Centennial.

Also in Nov. 10 play, Totino-Grace pulled out a five-set win at Park Center 25-23, 25-19, 23-25, 18-25, 15-8 and Fridley defeated Columbia Heights 25-16, 25-18, 23-25, 25-14 in the Tri-Metro.

In a showdown of the top

two teams in the Minnesota Classic, Legacy Christian Academy remained undefeated as it outlasted Spectrum 25-22, 24-26, 25-17, 25-15 Nov. 5. The Lions followed with a convincing 25-17, 25-9, 25-20 sweep over United Christian Academy Nov. 7 to improve to 7-0 overall.

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SPORTS



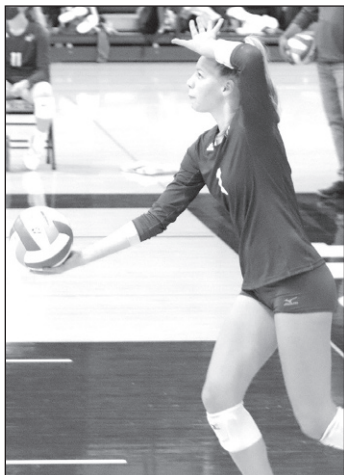
FEATURED ATHLETE Olivia Albers

Feature

Spring Lake Park volleyball four-year varsity player, three-year starter and two-year captain Olivia Albers

Start in volleyball

“I originally started doing gymnastics until the third grade. I joined volleyball in third grade and quit gymnastics because I liked the idea of competing with your team rather than against your teammates.”



Enjoy most about sport

“The thing I enjoy the most about volleyball is the competitive atmosphere on the court and being able to play against different levels of competition.”

different level of competitiveness and gets everyone hyped up for games and during practice.”

Something people might not realize about sport

“Something people might not know about volleyball is that you can pick up this sport at any age. Unlike hockey or soccer, you don’t have to start this sport at a young age to be good at it.”

Favorite part of position

“As a hitter, I enjoy being a primary player on offense and getting big kills after long rallies. In the back row, I like being depended on to get impossible digs and covering my teammates.”

Top SLP VB memory

“My favorite memory from high school volleyball was in 2018 during sections when we came back and won against Irondale in five sets after being down 13-8 in the fifth set.”

Best part of team

“The best part about my team is that I can rely on my teammates for advice and a shoulder to lean on. Every player on our team has such a



Blaine’s IBK Mafe (3) gets hold of an Osseo ball carrier before he can break outside during the Bengals’ 45-26 home win Nov. 6. The Bengals are now 4-1 on the season. Photo by Jennifer Koste

Area football dominance continues

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no-Grace to a 29-21 home win over Champlin Park to move to 3-2 on the season.

The Eagles jumped out to a 14-0 lead in the first quarter on a 45-yard touchdown pass from Kristoff Kowalkowski to Karlson and an 8-yard strike from Kowalkowski to Sam Fretheim, before the Rebels responded with a pair of scores to knot the score at 14-14 late in the first half.

The Eagles answered with an 80-yard kickoff return for a touchdown by Karlson, though, to take a 21-14 advantage into the break, a margin that would hold through three quarters.

Totino-Grace extended its lead to 29-14 early in the fourth on an 8-yard pass from Kowalkowski to Karlson and a two-point run by Connor Schusted, then held off the Rebels down the stretch to secure the win.

Karlson, who has now totaled 11 touchdowns in the Eagles’ past three games, finished the night with 122 yards rushing. Sean Collins, Schusted and Fretheim each had eight tackles.

Bloomington Kennedy 29, Columbia Heights 7

Bloomington Kennedy used a pair of fourth-quarter touchdowns to pull away for a 29-7 win over visiting Columbia



Blaine running back Preston Meyers speeds around an Osseo defender Nov. 6. Meyers ran for 46 yards in the win. Photo by Jennifer Koste

Heights.

The Hylanders scored their touchdown in the third quarter on a 9-yard completion from Matt Rockwell to Jonathan Hackett, a connection that closed the gap to 14-7 late in the third quarter.

Rockwell finished with 100 yards passing, 33 each to Isaiah

Grissom and Chase Oates, while Amil Clark totaled 88 yards on the ground and Saveon Harvey ran for 42.

William Katchmark had nine tackles and forced a fumble and Spencer Alvarez had seven tackles and a sack to lead the defense.

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