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JCC VOLLEYBALL



PHOTOS BY DAN CONDON

Above: Georgianna Wenzel (17) and her Jackson County Central volleyball teammates celebrate after Wenzel's ace serve sends the Huskies to state. Below: Seniors Taylor Post (front row from left), Sadie Voss, Wenzel and Sydney Osterberg show off the Section 3AA championship trophy after the Huskies beat Paynesville Area in the finals.

'WE DID IT'

Huskies win final two sets to win five-set thriller over Paynesville Area and advance to the state tournament for the first time since 2003



by DAN CONDON
Sports Editor

When Georgianna Wenzel tossed the ball in the air to serve during the fifth set of the Section 3AA championship this past Saturday at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall, she knew what was at stake.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity you have to serve to go to state," Wenzel said.

Wenzel's left hand zipped the ball just over the net and between a pair of Paynesville Area players for an ace serve, sending the Jackson County Central volleyball team to state for the first time since 2003.

"It's been 18 years since we last went, so it's super awesome to get that very See **CHAMPS** on B5

Inside...

B4-5 JCC beat Luverne in the sub-section finals and is the No. 4 seed for the state tournament.

JCC CROSS COUNTRY

Boyum 42nd, Anderson 88th at state



PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY ANDERSON
Andrew Boyum makes his way through the 5,000-meter course at the Class A state cross country meet Saturday at St. Olaf College in Northfield.

by DAN CONDON
Sports Editor

A pair of Jackson County Central seniors ended their illustrious careers at the Class A state cross country meet Saturday at St. Olaf College in Northfield.

Andrew Boyum finished 42nd in the boys' race and Olivia Anderson placed 88th in the girls' race.

More than anything, JCC head coach Rafe York said it was great to see the two finish their careers on the big stage.

"To see that culmination is awesome," he said. "To See **CC** on B3

JCC FOOTBALL

Arrows rally past Huskies in Section 3AA finals

by DAN CONDON
Sports Editor

Throughout much of the Section 3AA championship game this past Friday at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall, it looked like the second-seeded Jackson County Central football team would upset the top-seeded and unbeaten Pipestone Arrows.

Even when the Arrows rallied to tie the game with less than 10 minutes left, the Huskies neared the end See **FB** on B3



PHOTO BY DAN CONDON

Payton Handevitd looks to make sure nobody is going to catch him during an 86-yard touchdown run against Pipestone in the Section 3AA finals this past Friday.

SPORTS CALENDAR

Thursday, Nov. 11
VB - state tournament vs. Annandale

Friday, Nov. 12
VB - state tournament
TBD

Saturday, Nov. 13
VB - state tournament
TBD

Sunday, Nov. 14
No events

Monday, Nov. 15
GBB - Practice starts

Tuesday, Nov. 16
No events

Wednesday, Nov. 17
No events

BSC STANDINGS

VOLLEYBALL

West Team	BSC	All
Marshall	6-0	30-2
JCC	5-1	27-6
Luverne	3-3	19-7
Pipestone	3-3	17-12
Redwood	2-4	7-16
Windom	1-5	17-12
Worthington	1-5	15-15
East Team	BSC	All
St. Peter	10-0	19-7
New Ulm	8-2	14-10
Waseca	5-5	8-16
Fairmont	3-7	9-15
St. James	3-7	6-16
BEA	1-9	2-24

SECTION 3AA STANDINGS

FOOTBALL

Team	All
Pipestone	11-0
JCC	7-4
Redwood Valley	7-3
MN Valley Lutheran	5-5
LCWM	2-7
Sibley East	1-8
Windom	1-8
St. James Area	0-9

Get sports updates as they happen on Twitter @PilotSports

A national holiday worth celebrating

Judging by social media postings, every day is national something or other day. We have National Son Day, National Daughter Day, National Granddaughter Day... National this and national that.

We even have five or six National Pet Days. That is not counting the two or three National Dog days or the couple National Cat Days.

It seems everything is eligible to have its own National Day. It is as if someone somewhere takes a picture and posts it under the heading National Whatever Day and every other social mediaist who sees the posting immediately posts his or her own whatever picture propagating the new national day.

Nothing is sacred to nationalization. I would not even be surprised if there was a National Bathroom Day. Post a picture of your bathroom. Oh, I am so proud of my throne! Oh, the thoughts I can think as I sit here and stink.

Well, today (Thursday), even without social media, is a special National Day. It is Veterans Day! It is a day to honor those who put their own lives on hold to help serve our country so we can keep living our lives.

Honoring veterans today is not nearly enough compensation for the sacrifice the men and women made as they served our country. They served every day, not just one. We should give honor every day, not just one. Even then, the compensation would still be too small.

Even during peacetime, when in the military, there is sacrifice. For me, not being with my family and loved ones would be difficult. I often think of how difficult it must have been for our son, Major Jacob, to be across seas

while his wife and newborn daughter were here in America.

It is those sacrifices that help instill in veterans an important character trait: integrity. Doing the right thing, even if you do not want to, because it is the right thing to do.

That is one thing I like about golf. Golf teaches integrity. It might be something as simple as hitting your ball as it lies instead of improving your lie.

Or, as in my case a couple of times, calling yourself for hitting a wrong ball, which incurs a two-stroke penalty. In both cases, if I would have never said anything, nobody would have been the wiser. Except me.

Those are much simpler examples of integrity than what happened at our course this summer. Every year I look forward to golfing with Lloyd Kruse and Bill Haberman, by far our two oldest members.

They have partnered up for years. And, everyone always "looked" out for them. When playing with them, we would always watch where their ball went, help keep track of their strokes, but mainly enjoyed their company. We were happy to see them out there playing.

Early this summer, Lloyd realized it was getting too difficult to play and decided to retire from league golf. Not wanting Bill to be left without a partner, Glenn Lund stepped forward and offered to play with Bill.

Glenn knew it was the right thing to do. Without a partner, Bill would not be able to play league and Glenn wanted to ensure Bill could play.

Glenn was the right guy for the job. He took care of Bill like Bill was his own dad. It was inspiring to watch. And most im-

portantly, it allowed Bill to continue playing golf for one more season.

And, that one more season became his last season. Bill passed away Sunday. find it very fitting I learned of his death while playing at our course.

I had just teed off on hole seven when I heard the news. I must admit, my mind was not on golf as I finished out the hole.

And so, I thank Glenn for being there for Bill this past golf season. I have a good idea of how important it was to Bill to play one more season.

It reminded me of the winter of 2015-16 when I enabled Dad and Mom to spend one more winter in Weslaco, Texas. That was important to them.

I hope someday I can tee it up again with Bill in Heaven. But first I have to earn my own membership into Heaven. And secondly, I have to practice not cussing after every errant shot, lest I lose my membership. For now, Rest in peace, Bill.

Congratulations to Olivia Anderson and Andrew Boyum for running in the state cross country meet Saturday. And congratulations to the volleyball team for their exciting win over Paynesville to earn their trip to the state tournament.

And now, the right thing to do is to close this edition of Wide Write. Until next week, do the right thing and cheer on our athletes. Go, Huskies!



WIDE WRITE
Stephen A. Condon

twitter @PilotSports

Nov. 7, 10:37 a.m.
The JCC volleyball team is seeded fourth for the Class AA state tournament and will open against fifth-seeded Annandale Thursday at 9 a.m. at the Xcel Energy Center.

Nov. 6, 7:42 p.m.
Georgianna Wenzel serves an ace and JCC wins the fifth set 15-10 to go to state!!!

Nov. 6, 7:27 p.m.
JCC wins the fourth set 26-24 to force a fifth set for the Section 3AA championship.

Nov. 6, 1:24 p.m.
JCC senior Olivia Anderson finished 88th at the Class A state cross country meet with a time of 21:28.65.

Nov. 6, 12:26 p.m.
JCC senior Andrew Boyum finished 42nd at the Class A state cross country meet with a time of 17:25.97.

Nov. 5, 7:54 p.m.
Payton Handevitd runs for an 86-yard-touchdown, then has enough energy to add the conversion. JCC leads Pipestone 22-12.

Nov. 4, 7:59 p.m.
JCC has scored six straight points to tie the third set at 16. Elese Paplow came in for the first time tonight and got an ace serve, followed by four more points.

Follow for more updates

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Names: Seniors Taylor Post, Georgianna Wenzel, Sadie Voss and Sydney Osterberg
Sport: Volleyball

The week that was: JCC's four senior volleyball players helped the Huskies qualify for the state tournament for the first time since 2003 after beating Luverne in the sub-section finals and Paynesville Area in the Section 3AA finals last week. The Huskies open the Class AA state tournament today (Thursday) against Annandale.

Coach's comments: "These seniors have been the rock of this team," Deidre Wierson said. "They represent the Husky jersey with pride, dedication and a love for the game of volleyball. These girls value their teammates and treat them like family. We wish them the best in all they do in life. Thank you for being part of something great."

Athletes of the week sponsored by:

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HL-O CORNER

Salenty finishes 38th at state cross country

Heron Lake-Okabena sophomore Tim Salenty finished 38th at the Class A state cross country meet Saturday at St. Olaf College in Northfield.

Salenty ran the 5,000-meter course in 17 minutes, 22.85 seconds for his outstanding finish.

Salenty was the seventh finisher from Section 3A after placing eighth in the section meet late last month.

Salenty was in 57th after the first mile, then 49th at the two-mile mark before moving up 11 more spots.

"Tim's race future looks bright," HL-O head coach Doug White said. "He will continue to work hard in the offseason to try to get back to state next year and try to get into the top 20 next year."

Volleyball season ends in thrilling sub-section finals

The most successful volleyball season in the short history of the Heron Lake-Okabena/Fulda Coyotes came to an end in a wild sub-section finals last week. The Coyotes lost in five sets to Tracy-Milroy-Balaton to finish the season 22-8.

HL-O/F won the first set 25-20 before the Panthers won 25-14 and 25-22. The Coyotes rallied midway through the fourth set to come back and win 25-23, then TMB came back to win the fifth set 15-12.

"The game was a hard-fought battle between two all-around talented teams," HL-O/F coach Trista Rhubee said. "I think we served and blocked better than TMB, but they were very scrappy defensively and won a lot of the long rallies."

Rhubee said the Coyotes were on fire to start. "I think the first set was our best performance of the year," she said, adding she liked the fire she saw from the Coyotes in the fourth set. "I was so proud of the girls for battling back from a seven-point deficit to win the fourth set. We just never gave up and made TMB earn their points."

Elly Bang finished her record-breaking career with 28 set assists and 16 digs and was a perfect 21-for-21 serving with three aces. Sam Untiedt had 15 digs and eight kills to go with her 13-for-13 serving performance.

Emma Rasche had a team-leading 24 digs, Marissa Becker led the team with 10 kills and Maddie Schumacher had a team-high eight blocks. Taryn Evers added six blocks for the Coyotes.

LEAGUE BOWLING SCORES

Tuesday night men

Team standings: Phillips Agency 17-11, Junction 86 13-15, Bowlers Inn 12-16, New Fashion Pork 10-14

High game: Leigh Hohenstein 223, Mark Walter 208, Tony Jorgensen 205

High series: Leigh Hohenstein 557, Tony Jorgensen 526, Jerrod Schubert 513

Wednesday night men

Team standings: Schaap Sanitation 18-10, S&J Cleaning 18-10, FCA 15-13, Elness Livestock 14-14, Pocket Pounders 11-17, Left Overs 8-20

High game: Doyle Svoboda 224, Jay Wagner 210, Steve Condon 200

High series: Steve Condon 580, Doyle Svoboda 543, Jay Wagner 532

Thursday night women

Team standings: 9th Ave Salon 21-7, Lakefield Savings Bank 17-11, Bipolar Rollers 14-14, Rubis Farms 11-17, Split Personalities 11-17, Pampered Chicks 10-18

High game: Mary Byam 201, Alyssa Polke 166, Marlene Vos 165

High series: Mari Byam 517, Darcy Hoffman 463, Kim Nelson 457



DEFENSE DOMINATES IN WIN OVER ARROWS

One year ago, Nov. 12, 2020

The Jackson County Central football team overcame an early deficit to beat Pipestone 16-7 and improve to 2-3 on the season. The Arrows recovered a fumble for a touchdown for an early 7-0 lead, but William Freking rushed for a 31-yard touchdown on JCC's next drive and Levi Lindley added the two-point conversion for an 8-7 lead. Damian Meyer-Andre ran for a 10-yard touchdown and Lindley ran in the conversion for a 16-7 lead and held on for the win. Freking ran for 103 yards and Lindley rushed for 86. Payton Handevitd caught three passes for 55 yards and Lindley and Travis Rogotzke each had an interception.

FOUR HUSKIES HONORED BY CONFERENCE

Five years ago, Nov. 17, 2016

Four JCC volleyball players were named to all-Big South Conference teams. Seniors Abby Benson, Lacey Wacker and Alexa Palmer were each named to the all-conference team for the West Division and junior Tiara Menke was named honorable mention. Benson was also named to the Class AA all-state team after earning honorable-mention honors last season. JCC head coach Deidre Wierson was named the Section 3AA coach of the year and JCC's Janet Haren was named the section's assistant coach of the year.

BURMEISTER NAMED CLASS AA PLAYER OF THE YEAR

10 years ago, Nov. 17, 2011

Jackson County Central senior Whitney Burmeister has been named the Class AA Player of the Year. Burmeister finished her career with 1,026 kills and 1,142 digs. She also had 145 ace serves and 192 ace blocks in her four-year career. The Huskies won two conference championships during Burmeister's career and the senior helped the Huskies win 106 matches during that time. Burmeister will play volleyball at Southwest Minnesota State University.

VOLLEYBALL, FOOTBALL PLAYERS HONORED

25 years ago, Nov. 14, 1996 - Jackson County Pilot

Jackson volleyball players Kelley Baker and Michele Yonker have been named to the all-Southwest Conference team. Baker is the lone repeat selection for the conference. The JHS football team handed out team awards at its banquet, with Ryan Dunlavey earning MVP honors for the offense and Vern Nissen earning defensive MVP honors. Randy Herrig was the team's most inspirational player, Trevor Rosenbrook was the special teams MVP and Rob Brown was named the most improved player. Next year's captains are Randy Gasca and Justin Storm.

TRACY-MILROY ENDS HLOL SEASON

25 years ago, Nov. 14, 1996 - Lakefield Standard

Two-time defending state champion Tracy-Milroy ended a terrific volleyball season for HLOL, winning 15-12, 15-6 and 15-10 to open the section tournament. The Panthers then swept Central Minnesota Christian to advance to state. HLOL ends its season with a 27-2 record, the most ever for an HLOL club. Katie Hansen was in on 15 blocks, while Sue Resch had 12, Stacy Oelke 10, Lindsay Voss eight and Kassy Mack eight. Voss led the attackers with 17 kills, while Resch had seven and Oelke four. Brittany Liepold had 22 set assists.

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CC: Careers end at state meet

Continued from B1

get up there and experience it, it was a good race for both of them.”

Boyum finishes 42nd

Boyum's 42nd-place finish put him just outside the top fourth of the 159 finish-



PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY ANDERSON

Olivia Anderson puts her hands in the air as she crosses the finish line one last time at the Class A state cross country meet Saturday.

ers in the Class A race. He covered the 5,000-meter course in 17 minutes, 25.97 seconds.

“I was happy with how he ran,” York said. “He finished 42nd, which doesn't seem so great, but it's basically the top quarter.”

York said having so many competitors on the course at once can be tough, but Boyum was able to stick to his usual plan.

“He ran his typical race,” York said. “All year long he's taken off a little slower and sort of picked guys off throughout the race. He pretty much took the same approach.”

Boyum was in 49th place after one mile and then moved up to 33rd at the two-mile mark. He slipped a few spots during the last mile and one-tenth, but still ended his career well.

Moving up and down throughout the race is common, as a bunch of runners get packed together.

“You get up there with the best guys in the state and, all of a sudden you're running in a pack where normally you're in a small group up front,” York said.

In the end, York said both he and Boyum were happy with the senior's final race.

“It was a good race for him,” York said. “He came away happy, so I came away happy as well.”

Jakob McCleary of Perham was the Class A champion, finishing in 16 minutes, 9.64 seconds. The fastest runner from Section 3A was Camden Janiszkeski of Luverne, who finished 15th (16:59.04).

Nova Classical Academy was the team champion (122) and Perham finished second (128). From Section 3A, Luverne finished ninth (222) and Lac qui Parle Valley/Dawson-Boyd placed 11th (227).

Anderson ends stellar career in 88th place

Anderson was the final qualifier from the Section 3A race and made good at state, finishing 88th. That put her just outside the top half, which pleased York.

“As the last qualifier from the section, you gotta think she was seeded a lot lower,” he said. “She exceeded her seed. I was really happy with her.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOE BROWN, WEST CENTRAL TRIBUNE

Olivia Anderson gives it her all as she nears the finish line of the Class A state cross country meet Saturday at St. Olaf College in Northfield.

Anderson ran the course on the campus of St. Olaf in 21 minutes, 28.65 seconds.

“I thought she ran her typical race,” York said. “It was a great way for her to end her career. I know she came away happy.”

Section 3A runners dominated the individual standings, as the top three finishers and half of the top 12 came from the section.

Amanda Overgaauw of Murray County Central was the state champion (18:09.13), finishing well ahead of Luverne runners Tenley Nelson (18:47) and Jenna DeBates (19:06), who finished second and third, respectively. MCC's Ashley Overgaauw finished sixth (19:16), Canby/Minneota's Grace Drietz was 11th (19:30) and Kaylee

Walklin of Windom was 12th (19:37).

“Our section is pretty tough,” York said.

Nelson and DeBates helped Luverne finish third in the team standings (117) and the Overgaauw sisters helped MCC place sixth (165). Staples-Motley (103) edged Perham (109) in a tight battle at the top of the team standings.

FB: Arrows rally past Huskies for title

Continued from B1

zone with a chance to regain the lead.

But a fourth-down stop by the Arrows was followed by a 95-yard drive and the game-winning touchdown with just 45 seconds left, giving Pipestone a 34-28 victory and trip to state.

“We came over here planning on winning,” JCC head coach Tom Schuller said. “There are no consolation prizes; there are no second-places. That's the way it is. That was our whole goal this season and I'm disappointed we didn't win the section.”

But that doesn't mean the season wasn't without plenty of highs.

“It was a fun year with these guys,” Schuller said. “It was a tough year. We had a tough schedule and I thought we plowed through it and just about were able to win the section.”

Schuller said the goal is to be right back in the section finals again next fall.

“We intend to be back here next year,” he said.

Arrows rally to win

JCC led 22-20 at the half and 28-20 after Gabriel Wolff scored with less than two minutes left in the third quarter. The Huskies forced a punt and had the ball with a chance to build on their lead as the fourth quarter started, but weren't able to capitalize.

A punt into the wind did little good for the Huskies and Pipestone went 38 yards in two plays to get within two. The game was tied when the Arrows were successful on the two-point conversion.

Playing without the lead for the first time since the second quarter, the Hus-

kies didn't appear to be fazed.

JCC embarked on a sustained drive that took the Huskies from their own 38-yard line down inside the Arrow 10.

But four running plays starting at the 9-yard line weren't able to produce a touchdown and the Huskies turned the ball over with four minutes, 40 seconds left.

“I knew we needed to score and we just weren't able to do it,” Schuller said. “Hats off to Pipestone for stopping us there and then we couldn't get off the field there.”

The Arrows picked up a pair of first downs on five straight running plays, then gashed the Huskies for 52 yards on a play-action pass.

“We had the one big mistake,” Schuller said. “The safety came up on a jet sweep in the middle of the field and left a guy wide open.”

The Huskies jumped offsidelines to give the Arrows a free first-down on third-and-2 and the Arrows were in the end zone the next play to lead 34-28 with just 45 seconds left.

Desperation drive comes up short of end zone

The Huskies made things interesting in the final minute when Roman Voss threw a 33-yard completion to Payton Handevitd to get to the Arrow 39-yard line and then completed a 10-yard pass to Travis Rogotzke to get the Huskies to the 29 with just 11 seconds left.

An interception ended the drive and game, though, and the Huskies fell six points short of a section championship.

Schuller said the pain of defeat is expected when the team works so hard all season.

“It's supposed to hurt,” he said. “We care. We put

a lot into this and when you lose, it hurts. It's OK to hurt. We put a lot of time in and a lot of effort.”

There are lessons to be learned, he said, especially in a narrow defeat.

“You don't always get what you want in life and it's a hard lesson,” he said. “Sometimes you give it everything you've got and it isn't good enough. You can live with that because the effort was there. Every kid out there gave everything he had.”

Huskies answer Arrows

Pipestone has shown the ability to hit big plays all season, but its opening drive was methodic. The Arrows went 65 yards in 15 plays, capped with a touchdown pass on fourth-and-goal from the 6.

Pipestone converted on third-and-9 and fourth-and-2 earlier in the drive to keep it alive, which became a theme throughout the game.

The Huskies answered, though, going 59 yards on six plays in their opening drive. After Levi Lindley ran for a first down on fourth-and-1, Voss hit Tanner Haar for a 40-yard completion. Lindley ran for a 3-yard touchdown the next play to tie the game at six.

The Arrows scored a defensive touchdown the next time the Huskies led the ball for a 12-6 lead, but the Huskies again had an answer.

A 20-yard run by Payton Handevitd was followed by a 15-yard pass from Voss to Caleb Vancura. Three plays later, Will Freking ran in from 1 yard out and Lindley added the conversion for JCC's first lead at 14-12.

Handevitd extends lead

The Huskies had their biggest play of the season on their next drive, which

helped them extend the lead.

Facing third-and-3, Handevitd took a pitch to the right, made a cut and then outraced the defense for an 86-yard touchdown run — the fourth-longest touchdown run in school history.

Handevitd added the two-point conversion to give the Huskies a 22-12 lead with six minutes, 29 seconds left in the half.

“He's a very versatile player,” Schuller said. “He's a great player, a great athlete. He's a top-end athlete. We needed that. We haven't been getting a lot of those big, long touchdowns and we got one tonight and we thought that would be enough to put us over the hump, but it wasn't quite enough.”

The Arrows answered their next drive, scoring in just more than one minute to cut the Husky lead to 22-20, which held until halftime.

The touchdown came on fourth-and-10 from the 11-yard line.

“We had a couple mistakes back there,” Schuller said. “We're young and we're doing the best we can; we just didn't hold up a couple times.”

Big plays like the two fourth-down touchdowns and the defensive score were just too much for the Huskies to overcome.

“We had three big mistakes and they all cost us badly,” Schuller said. “We had two plays with our safeties and the fumble with the quarterback that turned into a touchdown. We just couldn't quite overcome them.”

Huskies extend lead again with Wolff TD

An interception ended JCC's first drive of the second half, but the Huskies were able to stop the Arrows on fourth down in JCC territory.

A 75-yard drive ensued, allowing the Huskies to again extend their lead.

JCC ran the ball 10 straight times, starting with a 26-yard run by Handevitd. None of the next nine runs were for

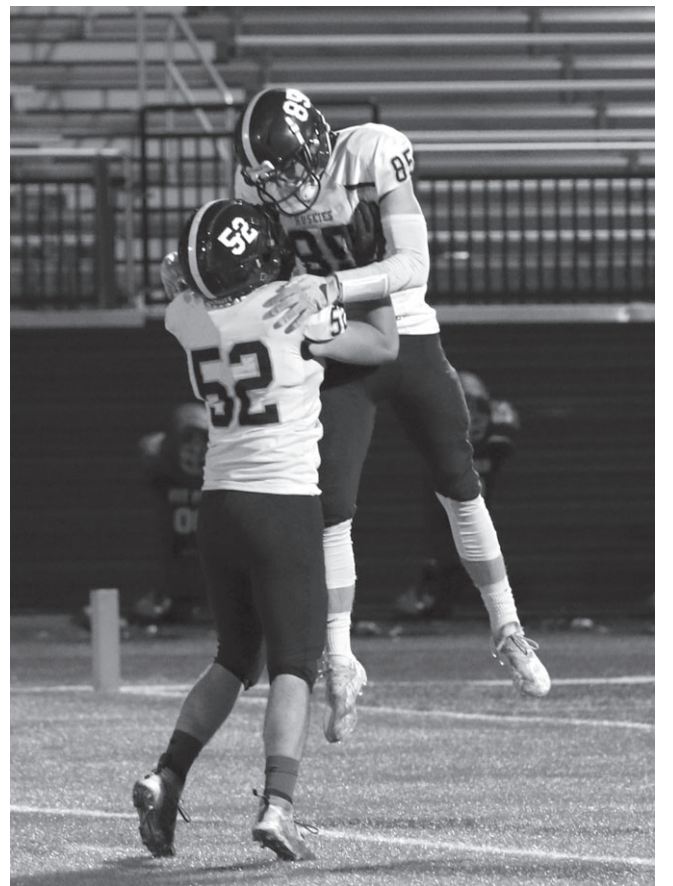
“WE HAD SO MANY PEOPLE GIMPING AROUND AND THEY GAVE IT EVERYTHING THEY HAD. IT JUST WASN'T QUITE ENOUGH TONIGHT.”

Tom Schuller

JCC vs. Pipestone
JCC 6 16 6 0 **28**
PIPE 6 14 0 14 **34**
Scoring
PIPE - Musch 11 from Johnson (two-point failed)
JCC - Lindley 3 run (Two-point failed)
PIPE - Smidt 35 INT (PAT failed)
JCC - W. Freking 1 run (Lindley two-point)
JCC - Handevitd 86 run (Handevitd two-point)
PIPE - Biever 11 from Johnson (Johnson two-point)
JCC - Wolff 1 run (Two-point failed)
PIPE - Biever 38 from Johnson (Johnson to Biever two-point)
PIPE - Johnson 11 run (two-point failed)
JCC leaders
Rushing - Handevitd 10-163; Lindley 21-88; Wolff 13-57; W. Freking 6-41
Receiving - Handevitd 3-43; Haar 1-40; Vancura 1-15; Rogotzke 1-10
Passing - Voss 7-11 for 108 yards
Interception - Handevitd



Levi Lindley has a hole up the middle for a first-quarter touchdown run in last week's Section 3AA championship game against Pipestone.



PHOTOS BY DAN CONDON

Zach Rasmussen (left) and Tanner Haar celebrate Haar's long catch that helped set up a first-quarter touchdown against Pipestone.

more than 13 yards as the Huskies slowly moved down the field.

Wolff capped the drive with a 1-yard touchdown run, giving the Huskies a 28-20 lead.

The Huskies weren't able to extend it to a two-score game as their two-point conversion came up short.

That set up Pipestone's comeback, which gave the Arrows the win and trip to state.

'Can't fault their effort'

The Huskies gave it their all the entire game. That was most evident from Vancura, who switched jerseys at least five times throughout the game. He started wearing No. 90 and playing tight end, then switched to No. 63 to play on the offensive line when Cameron Scholten got hurt. He flip-flopped the rest of the game as Scholten went in and out of the lineup.

“We had to switch Vancura back and forth between tight end and line,” Schuller said. “We were down to bare bones. Those guys really, really sucked it up. We had so many people gimping around and they gave it everything they had. It just wasn't quite enough

tonight.” Schuller said injuries played a big part in allowing the Arrows to come back.

“We started running low on players,” he said. “We just couldn't overcome that. I can't fault their effort, we just had too many mistakes.”

Huskies outgain Arrows

The Huskies racked up 457 yards of offense compared to 312 for the Arrows. JCC rushed for 349 yards and threw for 108. The Arrows ran for 101 yards and passed for 211 — well below the 409 they threw for in the regular-season meeting between the two teams.

Handevitd ran for 163 yards on 10 carries and Lindley gained 88 yards on 21 rushes. Wolff ran for 57 yards and Freking rushed for 41.

Voss completed seven passes, with three going to Handevitd for 43 yards. Haar (40 yards), Vancura (15) and Rogotzke (10) each caught one pass.

Handevitd also intercepted a pass and returned a kickoff 17 yards to go with his 206 yards of offense.



A host of Huskies help Caleb Vancura change jerseys as he switches from tight end to offensive line during last week's section championship game.

JCC VOLLEYBALL

Huskies win sub-section with sweep

by DAN CONDON
Sports Editor

Just as the Luverne Cardinals appeared to be gaining momentum in the third set of the sub-section championship last Thursday in Worthington, Eliese Paplow and the Jackson County Central volleyball team took it away.

Paplow entered the match for the first time with the Huskies trailing 16-12 in the set and promptly served an ace to spur a rally that led the Huskies to a sweep of the Cardinals.

The top-seeded Huskies won the first two sets 25-18 and 25-20 before rallying to win the third set 25-21 to sweep the second-seeded Cardinals.

The win advanced the Huskies to the Section 3AA championship, where they beat Paynesville Area Saturday (see B1).

Paplow spurs rally

Paplow hadn't been on the court all night long until she was called upon in the middle of the third set. JCC trailed 16-10 before a kill by Sadie Voss gave the serve back to the Huskies.

That's when Paplow entered and picked up an ace serve the first time she touched the ball. A block by Peyton Hanson ended a long volley two plays later and then, two plays after that, Voss hammered another kill to tie the set at 16.

Another point gave the Huskies their first lead since a 3-2 advantage early in the set, but the Cardinals tied the set at 17.

JCC scored the next two points — the second on an Emma Haren kill — and never trailed again.

Haren added two more kills late and Hanson finished off the set and match with a kill between a trio of Cardinal defenders.

"Being able to have Eliese Paplow come in in that third set and serve and really light a fire under our squad defensively was great," JCC head coach Deidre Wierson said. "That really changed over the whole set."

Wierson credited Paplow's ability to stay focused throughout the match and said that's a skill all of the bench players possess.

"These girls on the bench or on the floor are very coachable," she said. "That's one thing we train a lot so they're ready to go when it's time. That's a huge focus that she's ready mentally; they're listening and watching what's going on."

Huskies start strong

JCC used a pair of four-point runs in the first set to lead 11-8 and then led 15-10 after a kill by Taylor Post. Luverne scored the next three points, but a kill by Sadie Voss and ace serve by Haren put the Huskies ahead 17-13.

The lead was 19-14 after a nice dig by Alexis O'Reilly led to a point and grew to 22-16 after an ace from Georgianna Wenzel. An ace serve by Voss ended the first set.

The Huskies scored six straight points early in the second set to lead 7-3, including two on a pair of Haren aces and one on a Peyton Hanson block.

Three straight kills by Voss gave the Huskies a 10-4 lead and three more Voss kills put the Huskies ahead 14-7.

Back-to-back kills by Haren and Hanson and an ace from Haren gave JCC a 20-12 lead and the Huskies led 23-15 after a Hanson kill.

The Cardinals scored four straight points to make things a little closer before a pair of Voss kills helped finish off the set.

Wierson said entering as the No. 1 seed put a target on the team's back, but winning the first two

sets helped the Huskies play with even more confidence.

"That's huge for confidence," she said. "I think with us being the No. 1 seed, that really built their confidence to say, 'This is why we're here and we're going to build into the next set.'"

Third-set struggles

An ace by Haren and block from Wenzel gave JCC a pair of leads early in the third set, but the Cardinals quickly gained momentum.

Four straight Luverne points gave it a 6-3 lead and the Cardinals led 11-6 moments later. Blocks by Post and Wenzel kept JCC close, but the Cardinals built a 16-10 lead before the Huskies' rally.

"That third set, we definitely saw more errors — more errors than I would like to see," Wierson said.

Some encouragement during time-outs kept the Huskies focused and helped them rally to finish off the sweep.

"The message was just to play our game, control on our side, forget about the last play — if we made an error we need to move on to the next ball," Wierson said. "The next ball is coming here, this is what we're going to run on our offense. Kind of just review again where they're at on their offense and defense and what's open for us."

Voss has 20 kills

Voss finished the match with 20 kills, seemingly providing a big blow whenever the Huskies needed one.

"I thought she did a great job leading the team," Wierson said. "Overall, just her composure and everything; she really held everyone together tonight, along with all of our seniors, really. They've done a great job on just keeping everyone tied together."

Voss added eight digs and had a block and an ace serve.

Haren finished with six kills and two blocks and was 15-for-17 serving with a team-high five aces.

Hanson had five kills and she and Wenzel each had a team-leading four blocks. Wenzel added nine digs and two kills and was nine-for-10 serving.

Maci Farmer set up JCC's powerful offense with 27 set assists and added 14 digs and two kills.

O'Reilly had a team-high 16 digs and added a pair of ace serves. Osterberg recorded seven digs in the win. Post was 10-for-10 serving and Paplow was six-for-seven serving with an ace. She also had five digs, all in the third set.

"Anytime you get a W, any way it goes, you've just gotta be proud at this point in time because it's a battle on the other side of the net," Wierson said. "Overall, it was a solid win for us."



PHOTOS BY DAN CONDON
Taylor Post goes up for a kill during last week's sweep of Luverne in the sub-section finals.



Emma Haren (left) and Sadie Voss win a battle at the net against Luverne.



Members of the Jackson County Central volleyball team celebrate their win over Luverne in the sub-section championship match last Thursday in Worthington.

Huskies open state tournament today against Annandale

by DAN CONDON
Sports Editor

The Jackson County Central volleyball team opens its first state tournament in 18 years this morning (Thursday) at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul.

The Huskies, 27-6 on the season and winners of Section 3AA, are seeded fourth at state. They'll open against fifth-seeded Annandale (25-4) at 9 a.m.

JCC head coach Deidre Wierson said the Cardinals are a balanced team.

"We know they've got some nice hitters on the outside, as well as the right side," she said. "They're a nice blocking team and they're strong. They're a good team. All these teams are going to be tough, and they should be."

To beat Annandale, the Huskies will have to rely on the things they do well.

"We're really going to have to play our strength, which is going to be serving and being able to run fast with our offense," she said.

Whether the Huskies win

or lose in the first round, they'll play at 9 a.m. Friday.

If JCC wins its first-round matchup, it will likely play top-seeded Southwest Christian in the semifinals. The two teams squared off in the Volleyball Showcase on Sept. 25, with the Stars winning 2-1.

Having that match, though, could help the Huskies should the two teams meet up this weekend.

"I know we've changed some things that will benefit our team in order to put our best game together against them," Wierson said. "There's definitely some confidence from that."

Wierson said she's proud of her the players have taken it upon themselves to prepare for a potential rematch with the Stars.

"The girls have watched film numerous times from that match," she said. "It's cool to hear them say, 'I can do this better' or 'We've been working on this so we can make this happen on this play.' They're strategizing on their own. They are knowledgeable volleyball players. It's humbling to be part of this program and have the group of young ladies that we are blessed to be coaching."

The championship and third-place matches are scheduled for 3 p.m. Satur-

day. The consolation finals are at 9 a.m. Saturday.

In other first-round matchups, top-seeded Southwest Christian opens against unseeded Mounds Park Academy on the same half of the bracket as JCC. On the other side, No. 2 Cannon Falls (27-5) opens against unseeded Hawley (27-5) and third-seeded Sauk Centre (30-1) faces unseeded Greenway (22-6).

'Soak it all in'

Because the Huskies have never played in the Xcel Energy Center before, spending the day ahead of their first match in the arena will be beneficial. The Huskies went to St. Paul Tuesday night and went to a banquet that night.

Yesterday, the Huskies were able to watch the first round of the Class AAA and Class AAAA tournaments.

"We'll be there Wednesday watching," Wierson said. "The girls can go and soak it in. To have that down time to walk around the X and watch some good volleyball will be good."

This morning, the Huskies will be allowed on the court one hour ahead of their 9 a.m. start. That will give them plenty of time to get used to being on the court and the surrounds. Two matches take place at

the same time on the floor, with a barrier in between.

"We will be able to be there and get acclimated with the facility," Wierson said. "The girls are excited to be able to soak it all in and enjoy the moment."

Playing in the big arena will help fire up the team, Wierson said.

"I think we're just so excited," she said. "They are going to have that energy to be in that facility and embrace that and want to play at a high level."

The facility is different for the Huskies, but they're used to some of the other aspects of the tournament.

The 9 a.m. start time isn't a big deal, as the Huskies have experience with that from weekend tournaments. They also practiced in the morning this week to get their bodies even more prepared.

They've also played on the sport court material that is used for the floor at the Xcel Energy Center, which covers the ice underneath.

"The sport court is a different feel, but we've been on that for the Showcase Tournament and a lot of club tournaments, so that's to our advantage," Wierson said.

'Bring our best'

Wierson said the Huskies

were going to cheer for Marshall in the Class AAA tournament yesterday. The teams have long been rivals, but Wierson said Tiger coach Dan Westby has been a great help as the team prepares for state.

"He's been a good resource for me," Wierson said, adding the Class AA coaches were also helpful during a meeting earlier this week. "Everyone wants what's best for the kids. With them not having a state tournament last year, everyone is doing what they can to make this state tournament as memorable as we can for the kids."

Once the Huskies are on the court, they'll be ready, Wierson said.

"Our goal is to compete," she said. "We are going to really focus on taking one point at a time and being the first team to five, then winning that first set. Take those baby steps along the way. We're going to bring our best."

And the Huskies plan to enjoy every moment while they're there.

"We're so excited," Wierson said. "We're so thankful to be here since it hasn't happened since 2003. It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience for some of these girls."

Class AA state volleyball tournament

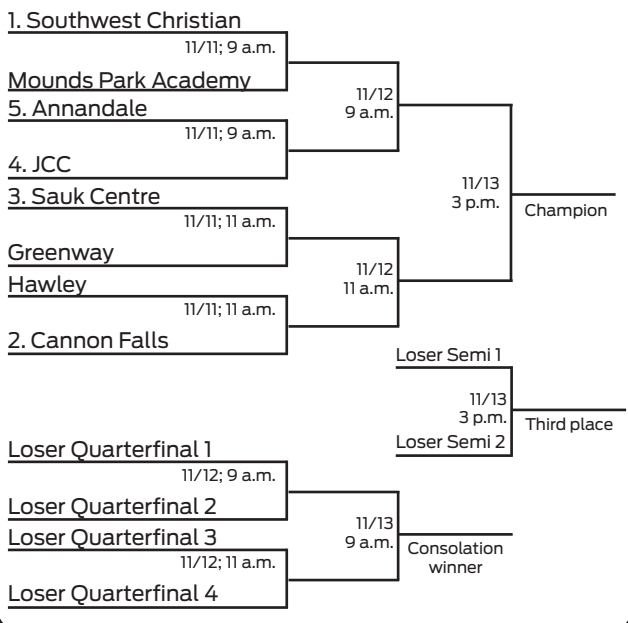




PHOTO BY DAN CONDON

Members of the Jackson County Central volleyball team show off their Section 3AA championship trophy Saturday. Team members are (front, from left): Andria Benson, Taylor Post, Sadie Voss, Georgianna Wenzel, Sydney Osterberg and student manager Victoria Murdock. Back: Head coach Deidre Wierson, assistant coach Krista Nelson, Elese Paplow, Erin Gallagher, Peyton Hanson, Sarah Anderson, Maci Farmer, Brittany Arduser, Alexis O'Reilly, Emma Haren, assistant coach Janet Haren and athletic trainer Caitlin Place.

CHAMPS: Huskies rally to win section title

Continued from B1

last point," Wenzel said. "That was the best feeling."

Wenzel's ace serve capped an incredible rally for the Huskies, which saw them win the final two sets to beat the Bulldogs 3-2.

JCC lost a back-and-forth first set 27-25 before winning the second set 25-17. The Bulldogs dominated the Huskies 25-10 in the third set, but JCC won the final two sets 26-24 and 15-10 to win the Section 3AA championship.

"It's like a dream," JCC head coach Deidre Wierson said after the win. "Everything is surreal to me. It's one of those reassuring moments to take that breath and say, 'We did it. This is so well deserved. We earned this.'"

Season on the brink

After JCC and Paynesville split the first two sets, nothing went right for the Huskies in an important third set.

JCC trailed just 5-4 early, then the wheels fell off.

Paynesville scored four straight points, then four more after a Husky point. After JCC scored another point, the Bulldogs rattled off another four, then later won on a 7-0 run.

Wierson said the Huskies were battling, but just couldn't stop Natalie Riley and Kyleigh Tangen.

"I think they were fighting through most of it," she said. "We just could not stop those two hitters from the fabulous team of Paynesville."

"Things didn't go our way and we got a little frustrated with ourselves," Wenzel said.

Senior Sadie Voss said late in the third set, she was ready to move on.

"I just wanted to get it over and start fresh again, but I just knew we could fight back those next two sets," she said.

Huskies regroup

Wierson said after los-

ing so soundly in the third set, the Huskies needed to regroup in a hurry heading into the fourth set.

"After the third set, we really just focused in on what we needed to do on our side of the net," she said. "Reset and let's play our game. Let's execute our pass so we can really make a play for our hitters."

Voss said the fear of the careers of four seniors coming to an end provided motivation in the fourth set.

"This is do or die," she said. "If we lose this set, we're done, so why not give it your all and just play really hard — just have fun."

Wenzel said she knew if her team put everything on the line it would come out on top.

"Just give it your all," she said. "This could be the very last game we ever play together. If you're giving it your all, it just makes it that much better."

Huskies storm back

The fourth set was no cakewalk, but the Huskies were able to keep their season alive with a late rally.

An ace serve by Andria Benson — who came in to spark the Huskies during the second set — gave JCC a 12-9 lead, but the Bulldogs scored the next six points to take a 15-12 lead.

The Huskies answered right back with the next five points — coming on two kills from Voss and one acepiece from Wenzel and Maci Farmer — to regain a 17-15 lead.

JCC still led by two when Emma Haren picked up a kill for a 21-19 lead, but the Bulldogs scored three straight points to take a 22-21 lead.

The set was tied at 23 and 24, but the Huskies prevailed when Voss hammered a kill and an error followed for a 26-24 win.

"That last set we had just lost 25-10," Voss said. "That just shows how much

determination we have and how much trust we have in each other. We wanted it so bad."

"It was all or nothing," Wierson said. "I thought there was some great captain leadership out there."

Wierson credited the back-row play of senior Sydney Osterberg for helping the Huskies win the fourth set.

"Sydney had some really great digs that really kept us alive in that match," she said.

"That fourth set we were just thinking we need to go all in," Osterberg said. "All in or we're done and we went hard and we got it."

Huskies complete comeback in fifth set

Haren started the fifth set — which goes to 15 — with an ace and Peyton Hanson recorded a block for a 2-1 lead. The Huskies trailed 5-4, but a kill by Voss gave the Huskies a lead and they never trailed again.

A kill by Voss gave JCC a 7-6 advantage and a kill by Haren later put the Huskies up 10-8.

Haren then served an ace off the top of the net for a 12-8 lead. Hanson hammered a kill for a 13-9 lead and Voss put the Huskies on the brink of state with a kill for a 14-10 lead.

That's when Wenzel served an ace to send the Huskies to state.

"I honestly thought I was going to miss it," Wenzel said.

She didn't, and the Huskies didn't miss their chance to make history.

"We thought we were going to make it," Osterberg said. "We wanted it, so we pushed hard and we got it."

Osterberg said that fifth set was some of the best volleyball the team played all season.

"We played so well," she said. "It's the best we've played in a long time. We started talking and our hits were hard, our passes were

good. We were just on that last set."

Huskies, Bulldogs split

The first set was tied 15 times and the lead changed hands seven times.

The Bulldogs led much of the way, but the Huskies rallied to tie the set at 17 and it was tied at every point until 22. The Huskies were on the verge of winning the set when back-to-back kills by Haren and Wenzel gave them a 24-22 lead, but the Bulldogs scored the next three points. JCC staved off set point with a kill by Haren, but Paynesville tallied the next two points to steal the first set.

The Huskies rebounded quickly and never trailed after the first few points of the second set.

Kills by Wenzel, Voss and Farmer highlighted an early 4-0 run for a 6-4 lead and an ace by Farmer gave JCC an 11-7 advantage.

The Huskies led just 16-15 later in the set, but three straight points gave them some breathing room. That stretch started a 9-2 run that gave the Huskies a set win.

Kills by Haren and Benson and an ace by Haren ended the set in style for the Huskies.

"That was a huge momentum shift for us and confidence booster for us to know we are a good team and we can do this," Wierson said of the second-set win.

Benson provided a spark during that set, coming into the match for her first extended playing time since returning from an injury.

"I thought Andria did an awesome job coming in," Wierson said. "We needed something else to go on with that attack on the other side of the net. She did a great job of coming in and made some key plays. This team, they're so versatile that they're just very unique and I'm so proud of them."

Wierson joins mentor as only coaches to lead Huskies to state tournament

Jackson County Central volleyball coach Deidre Wierson has come close to making it to state far more times than she'd like.

As a player, Wierson and the Huskies finished as section runner-up her junior and senior seasons, both times losing to the eventual state champion.

As an assistant coach, Wierson saw the Huskies get close to state on several occasions, usually losing to Marshall, which almost always won the state title.

And as head coach, Wierson also has come close to state, with the closest a section runner-up finish in 2016. Now, Wierson is just the second coach in school history to lead the Huskies to state, joining her mentor and former coach, the late Carolyn Hummel.

"Carolyn Hummel is the reason why I really love this game," Wierson said following JCC's section championship Saturday. "To see her husband here cheering us on — I don't know what else to say other than its just humbling to be able to bring this dream and my hometown to a place that we've been trying to get back to for so long."

Having her name mentioned in the same sentence as Hummel's is something that brings a great deal of pride to Wierson.

"It just means a lot," she said. "The only word I can think of is humbling and I'm so thankful."

Benson said there were nerves early, but she eventually calmed down.

"I was ready to play, but I was nervous at the same time," she said. "I felt prepared."

'It's amazing'

There was no lack of smiles on the faces of JCC players and fans after the five-set thriller.

"That feeling was amazing," Osterberg said of winning the section title. "Honestly, I can't explain it. Just knowing we are going to state is awesome."

"It's amazing," Benson said. "We worked so hard this season for it and I'm just glad that we kept pushing through every set and kept pushing through until the end. We really deserve it."

"It's unreal," Voss said. "It's incredible. I'm so proud of this team. We lost the first set, but we didn't give up. We made history and we're going to keep getting it done."

Voss said going to state as a senior is the perfect way to cap her career.

"It's a great year to do it," she said. "I've always wanted to go to state and my dream came true."

State has been a longtime dream for Wenzel, as well.

"I've been dreaming about this since I was in elementary school, coming here and watching all the older girls," she said. "It's really exciting being that senior now and getting to be that role model for the little girls."

Team effort

Voss finished the match with 19 kills and 18 digs and was 11-for-12 serving. Haren hammered 17 kills and added six digs and five ace serves.

Wenzel finished with eight kills and 14 digs and was 19-for-21 serving with two aces. Hanson had four kills and a team-high three blocks. Benson had a pair of digs, one ace and one kill.

Farmer did it all for the Huskies, finishing with 45 set assists, eight digs and five kills while going a perfect 17-for-17 at the service line with two aces.

O'Reilly had eight digs and was 11-for-13 serving and Osterberg recorded seven digs.

Post had two digs and Elese Paplow was two-for-two serving.



Top left: Emma Haren (left) and Andria Benson go up for a block in Saturday's Section 3AA finals against Paynesville Area. Above: Peyton Hanson (8) and teammates celebrate a point against the Bulldogs. Right: Maci Farmer back sets to a charging Haren during the section finals. Left: Sydney Osterberg passes the ball against Paynesville.

