



SPORTS

B1

Monday, October 1, 2007

EagleHerald ... Your No. 1 source for local news and advertising

Menominee runners challenge, Eagles win

ESCANABA, Mich. — It was a sweet Saturday in the park for the Menominee and Stephenson cross country teams.

The Maroon boys made a serious run at runner-up honors in the big-schools division of the Escanaba Golden K Invitational at Ludington Park, while the Eagles swept the small-school boys' and girls' titles.

Menominee earned three medals and finished with 79 points to fall just three points short of second-place Munising. Escanaba dominated the run with 38 points.

"The boys' team took it up another notch today, pacing well with the front-runner teams," said coach Suzi Merrill.

Jake Isaacson kept his lead pace as steady and strong as his drumbeat with the Marching Maroon band as he took top overall honors with a time 16:55.

"Jake had an amazing first-place finish. He's strong, focused and smart with his race strategies," Merrill said of his gold-medal showing.

Tyler Losinski added a fifth-place run in 17:53 to add to his jacket-full of medals, while Trevor Salewsky ran one of his best races of the season to claim a 17th-place medal in 18:56.

Andy Beyer was a solid 22nd in 19:22, while Pat McAuliffe finished 34th in 19:54. Jordan Sherfey was just a few strides behind McAuliffe in 35th (19:57) and Chris Losinski took 46th (20:42).

Andrew Nuttall led the Eagles to the small-schools title with his second-place time of 17:27, while Kyle Phillips was third (17:40), Craig Tessmer fourth (17:55), Dan Sandahl 10th in a personal-best time of 18:44 and Chase Taylor 11th (18:49).

The five medal-winning times by the Eagles were within one minute and 22 seconds of each other.

Jacob Herres placed a very impressive 24th (20:12) in his first varsity run, and Kyle Troutt was 27th in 20:30.

The Eagles dedicated their title runs to the uncle of Tyler and Spencer Eckert (Dan Eckert), who is battling kidney failure.

All seven Stephenson girls earned medals in the strongest showing by the Eagles this season. Sondra Herres paced the Eagles with her third-place time of 22:55, while Shayna Zahorik was fifth (22:29), and Ellen Dupler seventh (22:32). Sammy White earned another medal with her 12th-place time of 24:39 and Tracy Beaudou took home a medal with her time of 20:08 (13th).

Jaimie Clairmont was 14th in 25:13 and Kayla Boettcher capped the Eagles' medal parade with her 20th-place finish (25:55).

Angela Chartier earned a 16th-place medal in 23:09 to lead the Menominee girls to a sixth-place finish in the big-schools meet with 121 points. Kingsford won the title with 45 points.

Shea Cherro (24th, 23:50), Faith Gunderson (25th, 23:54), Molly Gerarden (27th, 24:00) and Kelsey Sipple (29th, 24:24) showed good pack running for the Maroons. Jessica Waitz was 34th (24:54) and Holli Delorme 36th (25:00).

The record, the win



Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre carries wide receiver Greg Jennings after completing a 16-yard touchdown pass to him in the first quarter, setting the NFL record for career touchdown passes at 421, against the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday in Minneapolis.

Favre passes for record TD, victory vs. Vikings

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The record is his, for now, and Brett Favre can return his focus on two other numbers: 4-0.

To hear him tell it over and over, this is all he has ever worried about: helping Green Bay win.

Favre became the NFL's all-time leader in career touchdown passes with a couple of vintage third-down zingers Sunday, and the Packers stayed unbeaten with a 23-16 victory over the Minnesota Vikings.

"To win, and get this behind us, is a great feeling," said Favre, who threw No. 421 in the first quarter to Greg Jennings and No. 422 in the fourth quarter to rookie James Jones.

He also went interception-free against a defense determined to make him the league's all-time leader in that category. Favre

remained three picked-off passes away from topping George Blanda on the career list.

Former teammate Darren Sharper had one in the first quarter that was wiped out by a penalty. He congratulated Favre after the game that left the frustrated Vikings 1-3. The Packers joined the Dallas Cowboys as the NFC's only undefeated teams.

Favre was the obvious difference in the decision over pass-deficient Minnesota.

"He's making all the proper decisions. You don't see him making some of the decisions he made in the past," Sharper said. "They're putting a lot on him, throwing the ball a lot, and he's not making too many bad throws. He's playing at the MVP level that he has played at before."

Kelly Holcomb is, well, not quite in Favre's class.

He threw a touchdown pass to Sidney Rice with 1:55 left to pull the Vikings within seven, and a nearly disastrous fumble gave Minnesota a chance to tie it.

Favre's handoff to Ryan Grant wasn't clean, and Chad Greenway fell on it at the Minnesota 46. But Holcomb's tipped pass from the Packers 34 was intercepted by Atari Bigby, with the Vikings screaming unsuccessfully for an interference call on Charles Woodson.

Winning for the fourth time in the last five meetings here, Favre went 32-for-45 for 344 yards. Green Bay is 4-0 for the first time since 1998.

"He cares about the record, but it's not the most important thing," defensive end Aaron Kampman said. "He cares about winning. He cares about winning. That's when you know you have a special teammate."

Timberjacks get the win, playoff berth

ONEIDA, Wis. — M&M Timberjacks' owners Shane and Jason King had a dream of bringing semi-pro football to the area.

The first-year team has not only realized that dream but exceeded the expectations of fans and teams throughout the Wisconsin State Football League.

The Timberjacks clinched a playoff berth with a tough 14-0 shutout over the Bay Area (Oneida) Vipers (2-6) Saturday.

"You can see how far we've come since we started this team in the spring," coach Joe Plautz said of the postseason berth. "I'm really proud of the guys. We're very, very happy to be in the playoffs."

The victory sets up a home showdown against the North Division leaders Fox Valley Force this Saturday at Spies Field. Kickoff is at 7 p.m.

The Timberjacks have a 6-2 record, while the Force is 6-1. The M&M team lost to the Force 26-7 in Appleton earlier this year.

If the Timberjacks can beat the Force and a struggling Saukville Demons team, they would clinch a home playoff game.

The Timberjacks and Vipers battled to scoreless draw in the first half before the T-Jacks' single wing kicked into gear, led by a pair of new faces in the T-Jacks' backfield.

Fullback Alfonso Smith rammed over from three yards out on the Timberjacks' first drive of the second half.

Drew Buyarski, who joined the team two weeks ago after being cleared by the rest of the teams in the league, raced through the Vipers for a 21-yard touchdown in the T-Jacks' second drive of the half. Randy Hohender, who saw limited playing duty on offense due to a sore shoulder, kicked both PATs.

The M&M team added a third touchdown in the second half, but a penalty flag wiped it out and a third-and-long pass to the end zone was dropped.

The Timberjacks' defense posted its second straight shutout.

Dan Ries had seven tackles, three solos, an interception and he broke up four passes, including two in the end zone.

"He really made some big plays," Plautz said. "He played a heck of a game."

Jim Ahrndt also had seven tackles and three solos with an interception, and he broke up a pass. Ed Demeuse had another big game with eight tackles, two solos, an interception and he broke up a pass. Buyarski had six tackles, three solos and he broke up a pass.

Buyarski led the Timberjacks' rushing game in his debut with 132 yards on 18 carries.

"He's going to add a ton to our offense and defense," Plautz said of the former Maroon all-stater. "We hope he will add to our passing game. If we can get a passing game going, it would be huge."

Smith powered out 82 yards on 19 carries.



EagleHerald/Zac Britton Northern Elite running back Andrew Janczy (25) eludes a pair of Crandon defenders during the first half of the Predators' 27-13 win in Goodman. (Color reprints: www.eagleherald.com)

Predators make the plays

By ZAC BRITTON
EagleHerald sportswriter
zbritton@eagleherald.com

GOODMAN — There may not of have been a true turning point in Northern Elite's 27-13 Northern Lakes Conference triumph over Crandon Saturday.

More likely turning points.

Like the Cardinals getting stopped on three straight short-yardage dives for the end zone with nine minutes left in the first half.

Or the Predators, stalled on 19 yards of total offense in the first half, going 67 yards in 54 seconds to tie the game at halftime.

Maybe even Northern Elite holding Crandon to one yard of offense in the final 11:55 of the game, while scoring twice in the same span to remain atop the

NLC standings.

"We were expecting a tough game, but (Crandon) came out and hit just as hard as we hit," admitted junior Andrew Janczy. "We got it in our minds that we had to hit harder than that and we did that."

The Predators (6-0 overall, 4-0 NLC) did with Janczy doing more than his part. Coming off the bench for the injured Jordan Sexton, he rushed for 151 yards and two TDs and he caught two passes for 25 yards — including the go-ahead 20-yard scoring pass — to help power Northern Elite in the league showdown.

"Janczy does such a nice job," said Northern Elite coach Dan St. Arnauld. "He's a different style of runner than Jordan, so I think that's a curveball for other teams. He doesn't look

like he's running fast, but he's a slasher. It's hard to get a hold of him, he's twisting and turning and wiggling.

"I told him at halftime," the coach added. "You're going to have a fantastic second half."

He did, boosting a Predators team that was behind 7-0 when Sexton suffered a sternum injury with 3:27 left in the first quarter. Crandon — despite getting favorable field position throughout the first half — had the same score until Northern Elite's final drive of the half.

Janczy carried twice to pick-up 29 yards, catching a pass from Daniel Parent for another 15, then Brad Carlson rumbled for five more yards.

That — after a Predators' timeout — set up Parent 18-

See PREDATORS, B3

Believe it — Lions beat Bears, improve to 3-1

By LARRY LAGE
AP Sports Writer

DETROIT — The Detroit Lions did it all in a record-breaking fourth quarter, scoring on the ground, through the air on defense and special teams.

The new-look win took the place of a here-we-go again loss for a team that used to be the NFL's laughing-stock.

"Luck is turning our way," Roy

Williams said after Detroit beat the Chicago Bears 37-27 Sunday. "We're a 3-1 ballclub and not a lot of teams can say that."

No other team in league history can say they scored 34 points in the final quarter as Detroit did against the defending NFC champions, and no game included a combined 48 points in the fourth.

"We collapsed as a team at the end of the game," Bears coach Lovie Smith said.

Chicago (1-3) led 13-3 after three quarters in a terribly played game before both teams scored three times as many points in the final 15 minutes.

"It was a big finish," Williams said.

The Bears insist they're not finished, even though their quarterback change backfired and their banged-up team is reeling.

"Our season is not over," Brian Urlacher said. "But we have to get

better. We stink right now."

Brian Griese, starting in place of Rex Grossman, had three interceptions. Still, the Bears still had a chance to win.

Griese threw a 1-yard pass to Desmond Clark on a fourth down with 52 seconds left to pull the Bears within three. But Detroit's Casey FitzSimmons grabbed the inside kick and returned it for a touchdown to seal the victory.

It was the kind of game Detroit

used to lose as it put together one of the worst six-season stretches in NFL history — with at least 10 losses from 2001-2006. But these might not be the same-old Lions.

Detroit is 3-1 for the first time since 2004 and has already matched the number of wins it had last season in Rod Marinelli's first year as coach.

"This game was probably like me — ugly," Marinelli said. "It was also like me because it was a fight."

the brothers three
For Hungry People
735-9054

We Deliver to
Marinette, Menominee & Peshtigo

TUESDAY All-U-Can-Eat
\$ 4.29 SPAGHETTI
Includes a tossed salad and garlic bread