

Regional title slips away from Bulldogs

By ZAC BRITTON

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CRIVITZ — Peshtigo was all set to accept the Division 3 regional championship plaque on a silver platter after three games on Saturday.

Bonduel took that platter back. The Bears — riddled by hitting errors in the first and third games of the regional final match — showed their Friday night upset of top-seeded Coleman was no fluke, beating No. 2 Peshtigo in the final two games to score a 3-2 (14-25, 25-20, 12-25, 25-17, 15-8) triumph at Crivitz High School.

"We pretty much beat ourselves in the first game," admitted Bonduel coach Dawn Schleck of her No. 5-ranked team. "I figured there were a lot of unforced errors. I told them after that (game), we needed to get the silver platter out if we were going to do that again because we might as well give it to (Peshtigo). But I also said we can come back from this."

The Bears did, but the Bulldogs did not make it easy. Peshtigo had effectively dominated in the first and third games, winning easily in part by spreading its offensive attack — including even back-row kill attempts — and keeping the errors to a minimum.

Bonduel then toughened up, with

only one hitting error and two Jennifer Woldt service aces to take a 11-2 lead in the fourth game. Peshtigo battled back, clipping the lead to 12-9, only to have the Bears tear off a 10-2 run to help force game five.

The regional finalists each traded blows in the final game and, despite Bonduel taking a 5-2 initial lead, Peshtigo scrapped to make it 7-7. Following a Bonduel timeout, the Bears scored points on Bulldog mistakes including a net violation and a passing error.

The Bears shook off a hitting error into the net and went up 11-8 on consecutive kills by Katie Jo Anschutz.

Bonduel then walled off the Peshtigo hitters with team blocks from Deedra Wesenberg and Anschutz for the two of the match's last three points, including the clincher.

That Peshtigo heartbreak made it a second straight regional final berth without a title.

"I know I have a young group and I guess I put a lot of pressure on those players," Bulldogs coach Robin Gilligan said. "I think it just got to be too much, for the seniors even. We couldn't get over our nerves and stress about being out there in a big game. I'm a little disappointed, but I can understand why it happened."

That occurred despite solid matches from Bailey Kunz (15 kills, 12 digs), Katelyn Fischer (14 digs, 13 assists



EagleHerald/Zac Britton
Peshtigo's Sarah Dobbin (left) and Alyssa Pyscher (15) block a Bonduel kill attempt during their Division 3 regional title match Saturday. (Color reprints: www.eagleherald.com)

and four aces) and Alyssa Pyscher (four kills, three block kills and three aces).

Kunz challenged the Bears' defense with varied attacks, while Pyscher had

a standout stretch at the net to help the Bulldogs establish an 8-2 lead in the third game. With Sarah Dobbin taking on setter duties for stretches, Fischer was another attack on the Bears' defense.

That was not enough when Bonduel got on track, as it did in the second (a 6-0 run late), fourth and fifth games.

"Bailey really stepped up (Saturday)," said Gilligan, whose team ended the year at 23-10. "I wanted them to get the ball to her as much as possible because she put it down most of the time. They did do that the first and second game, but in the third, fourth and fifth they weren't as much."

"Our passing didn't help," she added of the final match for Bulldog seniors Ashley Haynes, Katie Schuelke, and Brittany Meyer. "Our passing was horrid the last two games."

Bonduel, however, got more help then just Anschutz's 12 kills and five block kills and Woldt's eight kills and four blocks.

"We had to pull together, in the games that we lost we were hanging our head," said Schleck, who team advances to a sectional semifinal match against Marathon in Edgar Thursday. "I needed to convince to them to pick their heads up and play the ball game. If they play with their hearts, they can beat anybody."

Emotions run high for girls

By JODY KORCH

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ABRAMS — One group finishes its career and passes the torch to the underclassmen.

That's the finality of sectional cross country meets. Marinette and Peshtigo had no girls state qualifiers at Saturday's WIAA Division 2 Oconto Falls Sectional, but their coaches couldn't have been much prouder.

Marine coaches Linda and Evan Perkins shared the pain of senior Tamara Lapacz, who was denied her second straight trip to state. At the same time, they shared in the joy felt by senior Brooke Hoppe, who made her last-ever race her best.

Hoppe finished 36th with a time of 17:31 on the 4,000-meter Sandalwood Country Club course.

"Couldn't be happier for the kid," Evan Perkins said. "She's a kid who went out for cross country to kind of get in shape for basketball. She's proven herself to be a darn-good runner."

Lapacz placed 25th with a time of 17:07.

"Tamara was a huge part of this team all getting better," Linda Perkins said. "She set the standard, and they all came and tried to meet that standard."

Amanda Strutz, Marinette's other senior, tied her personal best with a 40th-place time of 17:41.

They'll give way to a group of underclassmen led by freshman Heather Lapacz, who placed 38th. Sophomore Sadie Hutchinson was 73rd and freshman Erin Mans took 83rd. Marinette was ninth overall with 212 team points.

"Each race is a learning experience," Evan Perkins said. "Try to learn from it. Looking at our veteran kids, they're the ones who have the experience, and they ran great. You set that expectation, and the younger kids say this is the way we're supposed to be."

Peshtigo coach Jim Stillman was similarly pleased with the performance of his six girls, who nearly all ran personal-bests.



EagleHerald/Jody Korch
Marinette's Tamara Lapacz leads a pack over a bridge at Sandalwood Country Club during Saturday's Oconto Falls Sectional. (Color reprints: www.eagleherald.com)

Stillman said the team talked about not having a realistic shot at a state-qualifying berth, but sought to go out with personal-best times.

"What more can you ask?" Stillman said. "Go out and do your absolute best."

Ashley Borkovec led the Bulldogs with a 60th-place time of 18:20, and Kellie Becker was 68th (18:38). Phoebe Krawczyk was 72nd and Amy Morois took 101st.

Stillman was impressed by Alexa Rajala's determined attempt to break 23 minutes for the first time. The first-year runner just missed breaking the 23-minute barrier, but will be back next year, along with every teammate except Rachel Badgley.

Waupaca's Maggie Edlebeck won the race with a time of 15:12. Tomahawk won the sectional title with 81 points.

Freedom — coached by former Marine runner Ed Maxwell — claimed the other state-qualifying berth with 108 team points.

Tiger boys earn their state stripes

WAUSAU, Wis. — The Gillett boys' cross country team left little doubt this time.

A year after missing a Division 3 state berth by a single point, the Tigers ran to the Edgar sectional title with 56 points Friday at Nine-Mile Recreation Area.

Josh Clark paced the team, finishing second overall in a time of 17:05. Trent Smits (17:44) and Dusty Raatz (17:47) were seventh and eighth overall, respectively. Josh Kohn (18:11) took 16th, while Curtis Horsens (18:23) rounded out the Gillett top five in 23rd overall. Andrew Clark (18:23) was the sixth Tiger, taking 26th.

The Tiger girls' team was not quite as fortunate, placing seventh out of 13 teams. Gillet was led by Katie Collins' seventh-place overall finish in 16:59. Chelsea Baranczyk

(17:30) and Molly Hischke (17:52) were 31 and 37th overall.

Rosholt's Jon Trzebiatowski set a scathing pace to win the boys race in a time of 16:31, while Auburndale's Becky Kane won the girls' competition in a time of 15:35.

Host Edgar (60) won the No. 2 spot in the boys' team bracket, with Iola-Scandinavia (77) and Edgar (81) taking the girls' team berths.

SEVASTOPOL Sectional

SEVASTOPOL, Wis. — Lena/ St. Thomas Aquinas Academy's Beth Beyer and Jenna Jagiello, and Niagara's A.J. Thew earned trips to Wisconsin Rapids for the state finals.

Their respective teams will have to stay home.

Beyer and Jagiello repeated as individual qualifiers for

the Division 3 finals, finishing third (16:07) and seventh (16:34) overall in the girls' competition on Saturday.

As a team, Lena/STAA was fifth overall with 124 points. Stephanie Demmith (18:34) finished 34th, Vanessa Baldwin (18:35) was 35th and Stephanie DeWindt (19:26) 51st.

Thew also made the cut, placing eighth overall with an 18:00 run for the fourth of five individual state berths in the boys' race.

Lena/STAA's Cory Graef (18:36) and Travis Carlson (19:25) came up short, despite 16th and 32nd finishes, respectively. The Titans' boys were 13th with 257 team points. Kelly Scheffen (21:36) was 66th, Luke Wilke (22:19) 71st and Jordan Preman (22:43) 74th overall for the co-op team.

Jets defend U.P. title

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — The North Central Jets got healthy and held off a down-to-the-wire challenge from L'Anse at the Division 3 U.P. Finals Saturday.

Sophomore Katie Granquist led four medal-winners for the Jets as they finished with 54 points to nip the Purple Hornets by two points.

Granquist, last year's individual champion, took second in 20:59 to lead North Central to its second straight crown. Krystal Piotraschke was seventh (23:08), followed by junior Brooke Granquist (11th, 23:52), freshman Amanda Arnold (15th, 23:59) and freshman Nikki Kleiman (17th, 24:18).

Lions grab 4th victory

DETROIT (AP) — A snap slipped through Jeff Garcia's hands, and a handoff ended up on the turf.

The Detroit Lions took advantage of both uncharacteristic miscues with touchdowns to beat their former quarterback and another NFC team with a winning record.

Calvin Johnson scored on a 32-yard run midway through the fourth quarter after Garcia's second fumble, and the spectacular play proved to be the difference in a 23-16 win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Sunday.

The Lions used to hurt their chances with untimely mistakes, but seem to be turning things around in Rod Marinelli's second year as coach and Matt Millen's seventh season as an executive.

Detroit (4-2) pulled within a game of idle Green Bay in the NFC North, improving to 3-0 at home and surpassing

Freshman Erin Holmberg of Rapid River won the title with a time of 20:13.

LeAnnah Anderson of Carney-Nadeau closed out her stellar cross country career by earning a seventh-place medal in 23:04.

David Dugree raced to an eighth-place time of 18:54, and Tyler Veraghen also earned a medal with his 12th-place time (19:04) to lead the North Central boys to a fifth-place finish with 127 points.

Erik Jenkins' 41st-place time of 21:06 led Carney-Nadeau.

Tyler Crossman of Rapid River defended his Division 3 title to lead the Rockets to the title with 71 points.

last season's win total.

"We have the pieces to win," said quarterback Jon Kitna. "We just had to put it altogether."

Detroit ran the ball effectively and threw it efficiently. Defensively, a bend-but-don't-break defense worked well.

Marinelli downplayed his emotions about playing the Bucs, who gave him his first NFL job in 1996.

"Honestly, my only focus is getting the franchise turned around," he said. "That's what I'm locked in on."

Timberjacks fall to Rebels in playoffs

OOSTBURG, Wis. — Defending champion Oostburg ended the M&M Timberjacks' inaugural season with a 28-8 playoff win Saturday.

"Their experience really showed and our inexperience showed," said coach Joe Plautz. "They're an original member of the league and a lot their guys have been together seven years."

The Rebels, who have three of the last four Wisconsin State Football League titles, held a precarious 7-0 edge until midway through the third period.

Plautz noted that his team failed to convert from inside the 10 and had an interception returned for a touchdown.

"We kept shooting ourselves in the foot," he said.

The Timberjacks (7-4) foiled the shutout with four minutes left in their season when Dan Ries tossed a 10-yard pass to Randy Hoheneder. Aric Chaltry flipped a conversion pass to Dale Svoboda.

"I made a point of getting Ed (Demeuse) in the end zone last week and I wanted to do it for Dale in this game," Plautz said of 41-year-old players.

Chaltry rushed for 35 yards on five carries. Ries had 26 yards on 12 carries, and Alphonso Smith rushed for 26 yards on just six carries. Drew Buyarski gained 22 yards on six carries.

Ries connected on four of seven passes for 41 yards.

Demeuse had 10 tackles and a solo, Ryan Wortner had eight tackles and two solos, and Joel Wortner collected nine tackles with five solos. Jim Ahrndt had six tackles with four solos and recovered a fumble.

Plautz said the team wants to improve its passing game, toughen the offensive line and get better containment on defense in the Timberjacks' second year.

"It's been an amazing experience," he said. "I really think we have a bright future. Our attendance is something you didn't see anywhere else. That shows that football tradition we have in this area."

MEMORY LANE

By Jon Wangerin of The EagleHerald

1993

■ The Marinette Catholic Central Cavalettes defeated the Marinette Marines 60-48. Jackie Lieveense and Christy Roberts had 15 points apiece for Central. Jenni Westphal led Marinette with 17 points. The Cavalettes went on to win the state championship, with a win over Brookfield Academy.

■ Menominee defeated Peshtigo 65-43. Mark Bertrand led Menominee with 21 points. Adam Olson had 14 points and Steve Sturm had 11 points for Peshtigo.

■ The Crivitz girls defeated Niagara 58-51. Becca Deschaine led the Wolverines with 21 points. Anna DeForge led Niagara with 22 points. DeForge graduated from the University of Nebraska. She is now one of the best and prettiest players in the WNBA. DeForge was a starter in the 2007 All-Star game.

■ Marinette lost to the Clintonville Truckers 72-71. Tory Wettstein led the Marines with 27 points.

■ UW-Marathon defeated UW-Marquette 76-65. Jason Wagner had 19 points and Jason Strohl had 13 points. Joe Blaskowski and Pat Baxter kicked in with 11 points each.

■ Menominee defeated Stephenson 66-48. Shawn Seaberg led Menominee with 17 points and Andy Barker had 13 points for the Maroons. Nathan Pollard led the Eagles with 14 points and Mark "Sparky" Lesperance kicked in with 13 points.

■ Coleman defeated Oconto 57-48. Matt Greason's 18 points and Kevin Conrad's 13 points led the Cougars. Bob Jepsen had 16 points and Scott Janquart had 12 points for Oconto.

■ Wausaukee defeated Suring 74-48. Anthony Pieper led Wausaukee with 33 points and in the process broke the state of Wisconsin career scoring record. Wausaukee went on to defeat Cassville in the state championship game. Pieper scored 3,391 points for his career, breaking the old record by 667 points. That is a record that should stand the test of time. To even think about breaking this record you would have to average 848 points per year in your four-year high school career.

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IN BRIEF

Maroon JVs turn back Eagles

STEPHENSON — The Menominee junior varsity volleyball team downed Stephenson 25-19, 15-13, 15-7 Thursday.

Tia Dollhopf had four digs, three kills and three aces. Brianna Bawyn collected three kills and two aces, Abby Aderman had three kills, Tate DeDamos collected three aces, Hilary Wilke had three kills and a dig, and Anne Mellon had three kills and an ace.



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