

SPORTS

Crusaders shut down Bridgeport Bulldogs

By ANDREW GRIMM
For The Times Leader

STUEBENVILLE — Early in the season, Steubenville Catholic head coach Eric Meek said one of his team's goals was to win all of their home games for the seniors.

At least as far as the regular season is concerned, mission accomplished.

Meek's Crusaders pitched their third-straight shutout on defense in turning in another dominant performance for a 35-0 senior night victory over visiting Bridgeport.

"Another shutout, another great night for the rushing attack, the kids just played great," Meek said. "I've said it all year, these kids are wonderful kids. They're a great group to work with every single day."

"We said early on that we wanted to win all of the home games for the seniors, and we did. But, if we keep it going, we may be back here (in the playoffs)."

"This is great for the seniors, they're eight great young men. I've only known them for 18 months but it feels like I've known them for 18 years. They're just great young men."

The win moves them to 8-0 for the first time in a decade, and, according to Joe Eitel's rankings Saturday night, clinched a Division VII, Region 25 playoff berth for the Crusaders.

"I don't know that anyone thought we would be 8-0, but it's October and here we are," Meek said. "We'll take and we're proud. We're not going to look ahead, we're going to keep working."

See **BULLDOGS**, Page B2

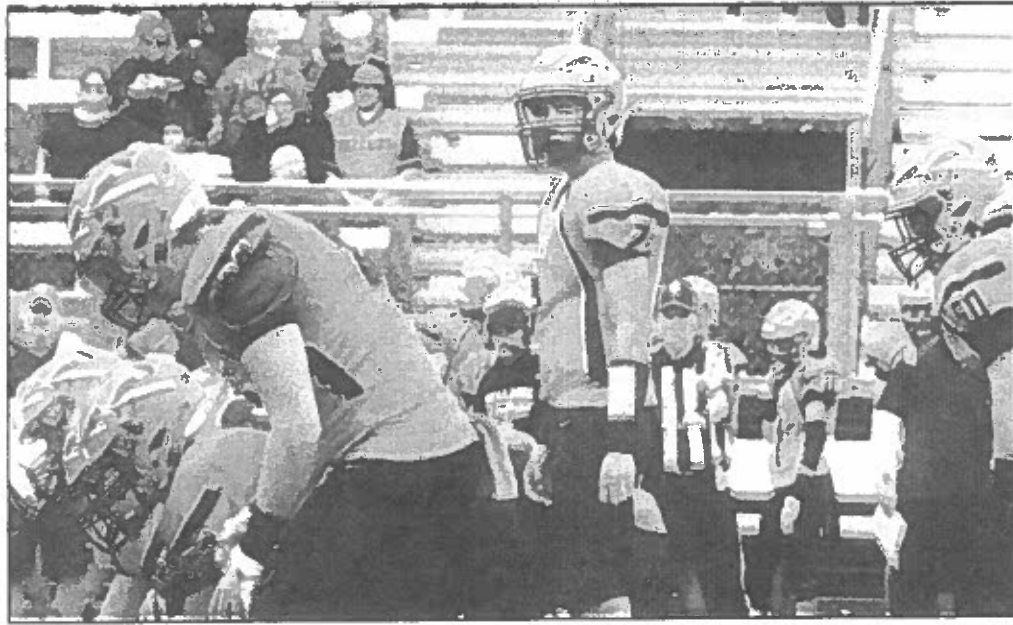


Photo by NICK HENTHORN

BELLAIRE'S LUKE Heatherington surveys the field at the line of scrimmage Saturday against East Liverpool. Heatherington threw for two touchdowns in the Big Reds victory.

Bellaire thrives in second half against Potters

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

BELLAIRE — Saying Saturday's contest between the Bellaire Big Reds and East Liverpool Potters was a game of halves is not quite right — the Big Reds began their turnaround with 30 seconds left before halftime.

After getting two big runs called back for penalties, the third time was the charm for Bellaire towards the end of the first half. Quarterback Luke Heatherington launched a deep pass down his right sideline to a streaking Mac Pettigrew for a 52-yard touchdown. With 31 seconds on the clock in the second quarter, the long strike gave the Big Reds a lead they

would not relinquish, and Bellaire left their home turf victorious, 31-14.

Pettigrew finished with four catches for 84 yards and a score, his receptions coming in big spots.

Two catches came on big fourth-down conversions, including a 13-yard out-breaking route that moved the chains on a fourth-and-10 in what turned out to be a touchdown drive for Bellaire in the third quarter.

A five-yard reception along the sideline also barely squeaked out a first down on fourth-and-five, again keeping a drive alive that would eventually result in a fourth-quarter touchdown.

Pettigrew was the gas tank for the Big Reds offense, and

running back Drew White was the engine. The senior churned out 119 yards and three touchdowns on 28 totes for Bellaire. He also tallied a sack on defense.

Heatherington also finished with 46 yards rushing, picking up gains of 12, 13 and 25 yards on designed QB runs where Heatherington rolled out after faking a handoff, while his offensive line broke downfield as if blocking for a screen pass.

"We're always going to run the ball," Bellaire head coach Mark Bonar said. "We have good runners, our offensive line is really good, people are going to have to stop our running game all game."

See **BELLAIRE**, Page B2

OSU roars back to bury Maryland 37-17

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — No. 4 Ohio State looked to be in trouble at halftime.

The Buckeyes' possessions in the first half Saturday included turning the ball over on downs, three punts and a field goal.

Though the game was tied at halftime, largely because of safety Josh Proctor's Pick-6, Maryland and quarterback Taulia Tagovailoa had the momentum.

But the Buckeyes were a different team in the second half, scoring 27 straight points to pull away from Maryland 37-17.

Kyle McCord passed for a career-high 320 yards and two touchdowns for the Buckeyes (5-0, 2-0 Big Ten) and Marvin Harrison Jr. had eight catches for 163 yards.

"Early on, I feel like I missed some opportunities or just saw (things) a second late, so that's on nobody else but myself," McCord said. "If we could replicate what we did in the second half, and just do that in the first half, I think that's a completely different game."

The Buckeyes didn't lead until Jaden Fielding kicked a field goal to put them up 20-17 late in the third quarter.

After a Maryland punt, McCord tossed a 44-yard TD pass to tight end Cade Stover.

The Terps (5-1, 2-1) gave up the ball on downs on their next possession, and four plays later McCord found Harrison for a 17-yard touchdown to push the Ohio State lead to 34-17.

A late 41-yard field goal capped the



AP Photo

MARYLAND DEFENSIVE back Dante Trader, left, tackles Ohio State receiver Marvin Harrison during the first half of their game Saturday in Columbus, Ohio.

"It was like one of those things — OK, what's going on here?" Ohio State coach Ryan Day said of the sluggish start. "But that's the game, and you got to respond. So I thought we did respond well in the second half. Good rhythm."

Tagovailoa was 21 for 41 for 196 yards and a touchdown and ran for another score. But he was intercepted twice, the first a 24-yard Pick-6 by Proctor that gave the Buckeyes their only touchdown of the first half.

Chip Trayanum was the main running back for the Buckeyes with TreVeyon

Trayanum was mostly bottled up by the Terps, carrying 20 times for 61 yards. His best run was a scurry around the right end for a 4-yard TD in the third quarter.

The Terps broke the 10-10 tie early in the second half when Tagovailoa weaved his way through traffic from 9 yards out for a touchdown.

The Buckeyes then went to work, with McCord connecting with Emeka Egbuka and Julian Fleming to set up Trayanum's 4-yard touchdown run. It was all Buckeyes the rest of the way.

"We talked all week about getting the game into the fourth quarter and then seeing where we fit," Maryland coach Mike Locksley said. "We were able to do that, and I just didn't like the way we finished."

Maryland: The Terps entered the game having won each of their first five games by at least 18 points, and they looked capable of pulling the upset before Ohio State's superior depth took over.

THE TAKEAWAY

Ohio State: Buckeyes mounted a great rally after a sluggish start and continued issues with the run game. McCord hit some critical passes, and the Buckeyes' defense held Maryland to 106 rushing yards and managed to contain Tagovailoa.

NO TREVEYON

Ohio State's top running back, Hender-son, apparently was injured and held out of the game, according to Day, who did not provide further details.

He rushed for 104 yards and a TD

University dominates OVAC Meet

• St. C. 4A champs

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

CAMBRIDGE — It was an all-Monongalia County Day Saturday as the OVAC Cal Pokas Boys Cross Country Championships were held at the chill-filled 3.1-mile course at Cambridge High School.

University High, with four runners leading the pack, amassed a miniscule 20 points to 70 for runnerup Morgantown atop the Class 5A field.

The Hawks and Mohigans each had seven runners earn all-OVAC status by finishing in the top 30.

Senior Drew Zundell, the 2022 overall runnerup, moved up to the top spot by running a 15-minute, 49.49-second race.

He was followed by teammates Tyler Umbright (15:51.20), Jacob West (15:56.62) and Ethan Conroy (16:00.87) before Wheeling Park's Seth Franke clocked in at 16:03.97 for a fifth-place finish. St. Clairsville's Ben Shields was right behind in 16:08.91.

See **OVAC**, Page B2

• Zervos tops field, Red Devils and Purple Riders class runners-up

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

CAMBRIDGE — John Marshall's Zoe Zervos won the 2023 OVAC Cal Pokas Girls Jr. High Cross Country Championship. Saturday at chill-filled Cambridge High School's 3.1-mile course, the Monarchs freshman broke the tape first in the OVAC Cal Pokas Girls High School Championships.

Zervos, who won the Ogden Wellness Weekend's 5K Run earlier this summer, clocked in at 18-minutes, 50.93-seconds. She finished nearly four seconds ahead of University's Abigail Rogers and almost 10-full seconds in front of Morgantown's Sophie Renner.

"Right now I'm tired, but I'm feeling pretty good," Zervos said when asked how it felt to be an OVAC champ.

The Monarchs' phenom broke out early and gradually moved out front.

"I tried to stay in the top pack at the start. Those girls were amazing," she recalled. "I think I was in fourth. I just wanted to keep pushing through and not let my time slip down. I wanted to keep it consistent."

That she did in the form of a season's personal-best 5:40 mile.

"About a mile-and-a-half into the race I was running at the front with Abby (Rogers). We pushed each other to about the 2-mile mark. That's when I made my move and then tried to hold the lead from there," she recalled.

• Bellaire

Continued from Page B1

Bellaire went into the half ahead 12-7 after Pettigrew's long touchdown catch, but outscored the Potters 19-7 in the second half.

The Big Reds ran more effectively in the second half while shutting down East Liverpools' own running attack, the Potters rushing for 123 yards in the first half and four in the second.

Bellaire also intercepted East twice in the second half. Heatherington and Raekwon Pettigrew each coming down with picks. The Big Reds held the Potters to sub-50% completion on passes.

For Bellaire's own signal-caller, Heatherington finished 5/10 for 95 yards, two touchdowns and one interception. He connected with Mac Pettigrew in the

second quarter, and with Jayson Lemley on an 11-yard score in the fourth quarter, the Big Reds' final score which sealed the win.

"I think we have some really good players who played very well," Bonar said. "Some guys played through injuries today. I think our quarterback grew up a lot in this one, that was one of the big things. He had an unfortunate pick to make the game close, but then he came back and made some big plays for us. I feel like he grew up a lot today."

East Liverpool got out in front early Saturday, scoring on a fumble recovery in the endzone. Potters quarterback Gavin Wright rushed into the endzone but the ball came loose, recovered by Trent Davis for six.

• Bulldogs

Continued from Page B1

As it has done all season, Steubenville Catholic did most of its offensive damage on the ground, racking up 309 yards and four touchdowns rushing, led by one of the seniors in tailback BJ Fallon.

He led the way with 115 yards and three trips to the endzone on 13 carries, while hauling in another score on a 19-yard pass. He scored on runs of 3, 4 and 22 yards.

Junior Tyler Pergi also passed the century mark, racking up 111 yards on 10 totes and scoring on a 30-yard run in the fourth quarter that started the running clock.

Senior QB Tyler Ialenti had 101 total yards, rushing for 67 and throwing for another 34, including the TD to Fallon.

"If you saw how hard these kids work in practice, how focused they are every day, their work ethics, it's amazing," Meek said. "I'm just very, very proud of each of them and our program."

The Bulldogs, who fall to 3-5 and dropped to 13th in the Division VII, Region 27 rankings, were able to move the ball at times, finishing with 181 yards of offense, but turned the ball over three times and had another promising drive end in a turnover on downs in the Steubenville Catholic end in the first quarter when the deficit was 14-0.

"We didn't play well at all," Bridgeport head coach Fred Ray said. "We didn't show up ready to play and that's part of the problem, so we'll fix it."

"The youth shows up at times unfortunately. We've got a lot of freshmen and sophomores out there and (Steubenville Catholic) has a lot of seniors and juniors, that happens. We're going to be OK."

Jaki Threet finished with 67 yards on 13 carries and was 4 of 6 passing for another 51 yards. Aiden Kinsey saw the bulk of the time at QB for Bridgeport, finishing 6 of 17 for 38 yards, but was picked off twice.

Jimmy Herson and Brayden Rauch had the INTs for the Crusaders defense, which also racked up four sacks for a combined loss of 21 yards.

The Bulldogs went three-and-out on their first two drives, while Steubenville Catholic's first two possessions ended in Fallon's 5-yard run and his 19-yard catch for a quick 14-0 lead.

His third TD, the 4-yard run, capped a long, nine-play drive in the second quarter. The Crusaders also missed a field goal and had a drive stall in the red zone in the final minute of the half to keep it a 21-0 game at the break.

Fallon broke free for the 22-yard score three plays into the third quarter and Pergi's 30-yard run midway through the fourth capped the scoring.

Bridgeport heads to Shadyside Friday. Steubenville Catholic finishes the season on the road against Region 25 foes, starting with a trip to Conotton Valley on Friday.

• OVAC

Continued from Page B1

"It feels pretty good to be an OVAC champion, but I'm more happy for my team than I am for myself," he downplayed his victory. "My teammate Tyler (Umbright) had a really good run. He was right behind me the whole time and we worked together for the first mile or so."

After placing second last year to a graduated teammate, Zundell used the runnerup spot as motivation, along with being definitive.

"Last week I was fourth on my team (in a race) which is uncharacteristic. People talk about defining moments in sports like a big win, but defining moments can also be your biggest loss. A defining moment is how you respond to that bad moment. You come back in your next race

• Zervos

Continued from Page B1

"I was really pleased with my time. I wish my place would've been more consistent, but the fast start is what allowed me to win the race."

The top 30 individuals earned all-OVAC laurels.

River's Mara Beard was the first Ohio-side finisher as she timed out at 19:08 which was good enough for fourth. Morgantown's Madeline Gump rounded out the top 5.

With four runners in the top 8, the Mohigans easily outdistanced city rival University, 31-75. Dover (161) was third. Wheeling Park (205) fourth and Warren Local (208) fifth. John Marshall was sixth with 230.

Other local all-OVAC

Madonna crushes Beallsville

WEIRTON — The Madonna football team bounced back in a big way on Friday, taking down visiting Beallsville 38-0 on homecoming night at Jimmy Carey Stadium.

The win snaps a three-game losing streak and gets the Blue Dons' record back to the .500 mark at 3-3.

"I am very proud of the kids," Madonna head coach Troy Fetty said. "They bounced back in a big way after three weeks of extremely tough opponents with a combined 17-2 record going into (Friday)."

Chase Littleton had a huge night to get Madonna's offense going again, scoring all five of the Dons TDs.

He scored on runs of 2, 8, 15 and 28 yards and threw for a

and make it your biggest. That's what I did today."

He ran the race with a bandage across the bridge of his nose with the word, 'definitive' on it.

Wheeling Park's Redick Moore (16:21.83) and Isaak Nizami (16:43.41) finished eighth and 15th, respectively, to make the all-conference team, as did Wheeling Central's Aidan Scott (16:25.37) who checked in ninth.

Magnolia's Landen Davis (19th); St. Clairsville's Caleb Bryniarski (23rd); Barnesville's Conner Starr (28th) and Brooke's Gavin Scott (29th) rounded out the local all-OVAC honorees.

In the team races, St. Clairsville (Class 4A); Shenandoah (Class 3A) and Trinity Christian (Class 1A-2A) were crowned champions.

awardees included Oak Glen's Hannah Kliner finished ninth in 19:38.06; Shadyside's Chloe Mehovolitch (14th); Edison's Josie Lesnansky (17th); John Marshall's Rilee Storm (22nd); Wheeling Park's Mckenna Guthoerl (23rd); and Weir's Naomi Young (30th).

In addition to Morgantown, other team champs were Edison (Class 4A); Fort Frye (Class 3A); and Trinity Christian (Class 1A-2A).

St. Clairsville finished as Class 4A runnerup, with Weir third. Oak Glen fourth and Indian Creek fifth.

Martins Ferry was second in Class 3A, with Barnesville right behind.

Shadyside finished second in the Class 1A-2A field.

24-yard score as well.

Overall, he carried the ball 26 times for 194 yards and four scores while going 6 of 11 passing for another 125 yards.

"Chase Littleton played a tremendous game offensively and defensively," Fetty said. "Koleton (Grishkevich) and Jonah (McKay) spread the field very effectively to open the running game and the O-line had their best effort and dominated a good Beallsville team."

Grishkevich hauled in three passes for 52 yards and the score, while McKay, making his return from an injury, had 59 yards on two catches.

Madonna out-gained the Blue Devils, who fall to 5-3, 354-101 in the game.

OVAC Cross Country

TEAM SCORES

BOYS

Class 5A

1. University 20; 2. Morgantown 70; 3. Wheeling Park 113; 4. Dover 124; 5. Warren Local 235; 6. Parkersburg South 387; 7. John Marshall 477; 8. Brooke 591

Class 4A

1. St. Clairsville 165; 2. Beaver Local 438; 3. Edison 577; 4. Cambridge 555; 5. Oak Glen 672

Class 3A

1. Shenandoah 274; 2. Fort Frye 296; 3. Linsly 297; 4. Bellaire 365; 5. Barnesville 307; 6. Magnolia 416; 7. Martins Ferry 476; 8. Wheeling Central 529; 9. Union Local 570

Class 1A-2A

1. Trinity Christian 371; 2. Southern Local 458; 3. Steubenville Catholic 585; 4. Clay-Battelle 703

GIRLS

Class 5A

1. Morgantown 31; 2. University 75; 3. Dover 161; 4. Wheeling Park 205; 5. Warren Local 208; 6. John Marshall 230; 7. Parkersburg South 464; 8. Steubenville 468

Class 4A

1. Edison 282; 2. St. Clairsville 359; 3. Weir 428; 4. Oak Glen 435; 5. Indian Creek 441; 6. Beaver Local 563

Class 3A

1. Fort Frye 161; 2. Martins Ferry 300; 3. Barnesville 310; 4. Shenandoah 342; 5. Linsly 381

Class 1A-2A

1. Trinity Christian 279; 2. Shadyside 352; 3. Southern Local 544

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

BOYS

(Top 30 Overall earn all-OVAC honors)

1. Drew Zundell (Univ), 15:49.49; 2. Tyler Umbright (Univ), 15:51.20; 3. Jacob West (Univ), 15:56.52; 4. Ethan Conroy (Univ), 16:00.87; 5. Seth Franke (WP), 16:03.97; 6. Ben Shields (StC), 16:08.91; 7. Luke Jones (Dov), 16:18.39; 8. Redick Moore (WP), 16:21.38; 9. Aidan Scott (WC), 16:25.37; 10. Gavin Whorton (Univ), 16:27.64; 11. Quinn Mudry (Mtown), 16:31.93; 12. Andrew Carlton (Mtown), 16:32.12; 13. Zachary Workman (Mtown), 16:32.45; 14. Jack Overfield (Univ), 16:39.10; 15. Isaak Nizami (WP), 16:43.41; 16. Dinlay Lorimar (Mtown), 16:45.01; 17. Logan Conroy (Univ), 16:52.17; 18. Donald Adjeroh (Mtown), 16:54.60; 19. Landen Davis (Mag), 17:00.53; 20. Phinn Spindler (FF), 17:01.70; 21. Chase Daniel (Dov), 17:02.44; 22. Maddox Roach (EL), 17:02.74; 23. Caleb Bryniarski (StC), 17:03.51; 24. Jeremiah Moore (Beav Loc), 17:08.61; 25. James Stacy (Mtown), 17:10.42; 26. Carson Roberson (Dov), 17:10.88; 27. Jarrett Wentworth (Shen), 17:12.56; 28. Conner Starr (Barn), 17:12.73; 29. Gavin Black (Brk), 17:16.03; 30. Logan Redfern (So. Loc.), 17:16.53

GIRLS

1. Zoe Zervos (JM), 18:50.93; 2. Abigail Rogers (Univ), 18:54.67; 3. Sophie Renner (Mtown), 19:00.50; 4. Mara Beard (Riv), 19:08.50; 5. Madeline Gump (Mtown), 19:13.50; 6. Claire Von Boetticher (Univ), 19:17.03; 7. Jennifer O'Palko (Mtown), 19:18.47; 8. Maraid Johnson (Mtown), 19:28.76; 9. Hannah Kliner (OG), 19:38.06; 10. Ida Estadt (Shen), 19:50.04; 11. Jenna Barnett (TC), 20:00.56; 12. Allison Hawkins (Mtown), 20:05.34; 13. Cadence Waller (FF), 20:07.334; 14. Chloe Mehovolitch (SS), 20:10.81; 15. Lauren Hawkins (Mtown), 20:17.72; 16. Sydney Stevenson (Dov), 20:17.72; 17. Josie Lesnansky (ED), 20:25.51; 18. Addie Hindman (Dov), 20:40.33; 19. Camryn Huck (FF), 20:46.50; 20. Ava Huck (FF), 20:47.93; 21. Sophia Bell (Univ), 20:49.60; 22. Rilee Storm (JM), 20:51.39; 23. Mckenna Guthoerl (WP), 20:51.54; 24. Elizabeth West (Univ), 20:51.83; 25. Megyn Amsler (Mtown), 20:54.86; 26. ShaTyra Turner (Univ), 21:01.22; 27. Sophia Schneider (Univ), 21:03.55; 28. Jusdena Clark (Shen), 21:06.01; 29. Megan Lowe (Cald), 21:10.45; 30. Naomi Young (Weir), 21:18.16.

PREP FOOTBALL STATS

Bellaire 31, East Liverpool 14

Bellaire 0 12 7 12 - 31
East Liverpool 7 0 7 0 - 14

EL-Davis 0 run (Miller kick)

B-White 3 run (run failed)

B-Pettigrew 52 pass from Heatherington (pass failed)

B-White 21 run (Lemley kick)

EL-Jones pick-six (Miller kick)

B-White 3 run (pass failed)

B-Lemley 11 pass from Heatherington (kick no good)
RUSHING: Bellaire 39-182-3tds (White 28-119-3tds, Heatherington 7-46, Beckett 3-9, M. Pettigrew 1-8). East Liverpool (Wright 13/81, Davis 10-39-td, Ramsey 4-7, Kirby 1-0).

PASSING: Bellaire 5-10-95-2tds-int (all by Heatherington). East Liverpool 12-25-99-2ints (all by Wright).

RECEIVING: Bellaire 5-95-2tds (M. Pettigrew 4-84-td, Lemley 1-11-td). East Liverpool 12-99 (Burchett 4-23, Jones 2-21, Conrad 2-18, Adkins 2-6, Davis 1-25, Kirby 1-5).

FIRST DOWNS: Bellaire 17, East Liverpool 11

PENALTIES: Bellaire 3-10, East Liverpool 3-40

FUMBLES: Bellaire 0-0, East Liverpool 0-0

Steubenville Catholic Central 35, Bridgeport 0

Bridgeport 0 0 0 0 - 0
Steubenville Catholic 14 7 7 7 - 35

SC-Fallon 3 run (Bolster kick) 8:38

SC-Fallon 19 pass from Ialenti (Bolster kick) 5:00

SC-Fallon 4 run (Bolster kick) 2:01

SC-Fallon 22 run (Bolster kick) 10:31

SC-Pergi 30 run (Bolster kick) 6:28

RUSHING: Bridgeport 26-92 (Threet 13-67; Marshall 7-34; Kinsey 6-(-9)); Steubenville Catholic 41-309-4tds (Sprochi 2-16; Fallon 13-115-3tds; Pergi 10-111-td; Ialenti 15-67; Mihalyo 1-0)

PASSING: Bridgeport 10-23-89-2ints (Threet 4-6-51; Kinsey 6-17-38-2ints); Steubenville Catholic 2-7-34-td (all by Ialenti)

RECEIVING: Bridgeport 10-89 (Jackson 2-37; Marshall 3-13; Brown 2-17; Threet 1-11; Lewis 2-11); Steubenville Catholic 2-34-td (Fallon 1-19-td; Hough 1-15)

FIRST DOWNS: Bridgeport 12; Steubenville Catholic 16

PENALTIES-YARDS: Bridgeport 4-20; Steubenville Catholic 5-60

Best of the Ohio Valley 2023 Timeline

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FINAL VOTING ROUND FOR THE TOP 3 OCT. 4TH-10TH

OVAC CAL POKAS CROSS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

JM's Zervos Wins OVAC Title

Freshman Bests Runner-Up By About 4 Seconds

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

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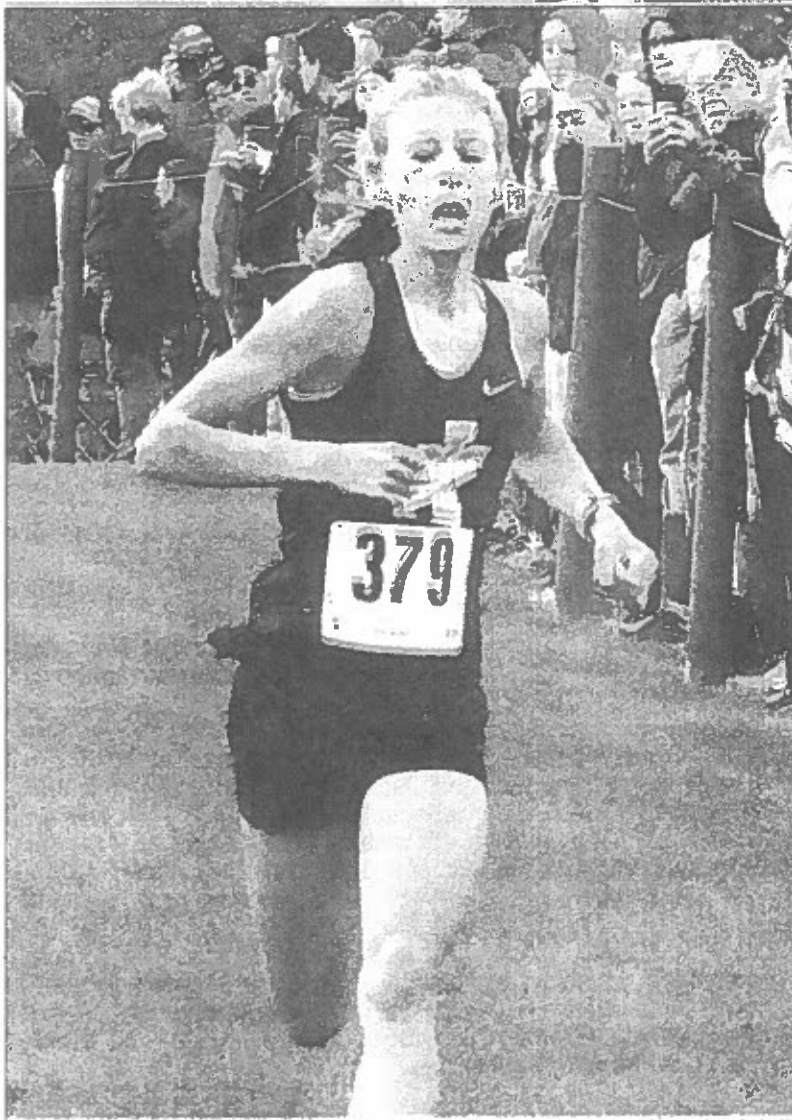


Photo by Kim North
John Marshall freshman Zoe Zervos won the girls portion of the OVAC Cal Pokas Cross Country Championships Saturday at chilly Cambridge High School. She ran 18:50.93.

town's Madeline Gump rounded out the top 5.

With four runners in the top 8, the Mohigans easily outdistanced city rival University, 31-75. Dover (161) was third, Wheeling Park (205) fourth and Warren Local (208) fifth. John Marshall was sixth with 230.

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Morgantown Boys Run Away From Field; Wheeling Park's Seth Franke Finishes In Fifth

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Please see BOYS, Page 10

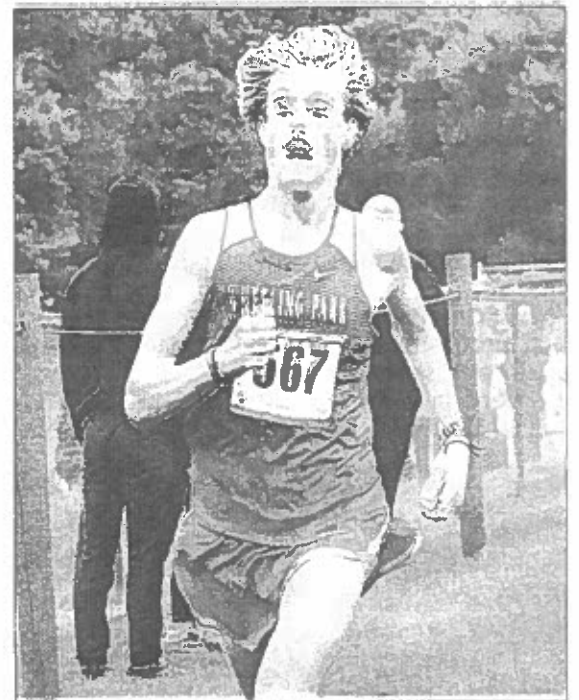


Photo by Kim North
Wheeling Park's Seth Franke ran a 16-minute, 3.97-second race to finish fifth in the OVAC Cal Pokas Boys Cross Country Championships Saturday at chilly Cambridge High School. He earned all-OVAC honors.



AP Photo
Pittsburgh Steelers tight end Rodney Williams (87) celebrates a safety with George Pickens (14) in the second half against the Baltimore Ravens in Pittsburgh on Sunday.

Steelers Rally To Stun Ravens

Pickett Throws Late TD To Pickett, Sinking Mistake-Prone Baltimore

By WILL GRAVES
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — Mike Tomlin spent a portion of the week showing the Pittsburgh Steelers clips of their longtime rivalry with the Baltimore Ravens.

It was filled with big hits, iconic plays and career-defining performances. But for the better part of three hours on Sunday, there was little to add to the reel.

Until, that is, the end, when a precocious play by a rookie whose father knows a thing or two about beating the Ravens led to a pair of throws that erased 56 minutes of offensive ineptitude, the last a 41-yard rainbow from Kenny Pickett

to George Pickens with 1:17 to go that helped the Steelers rally to an improbable 17-10 victory.

"We found a way to win down the stretch," Pickett said. "I think that's all that matters. You know, we're nowhere near as good as we need to be."

Not even close. Yet it didn't matter. Not with the Ravens (3-2) intent on giving the game away.

Baltimore turned it over three times, allowed a blocked punt for a safety that sparked Pittsburgh's late surge and squandered a handful of other opportunities to bury the Steelers (3-2), the last coming when Lamar Jackson's lob to the end zone to Zay Flowers with 4:10

to go ended up in the hands of Pittsburgh cornerback Joey Porter Jr., son of former Steeler linebacker and coach Joey Porter Sr.

Pickett, whose erratic play over the opening month of the season has offered little proof he's ready to "kill it" in his first full year as the starter, gathered himself enough to drive the Steelers 80 yards in eight plays.

Pickens beat veteran Ravens cornerback Marlon Humphrey down the sideline to give Pittsburgh its first touchdown in nine quarters and help the Steelers put a blowout loss to Houston the previous week firmly in the rearview mirror.

Please see STEELERS, Page 10

Bellaire Thrives In Second

Crusaders Rout Bridgeton To



so that's on nobody else but myself," McCord said. "If we could replicate what we did in the second half, and just do that in the first half, I think that's a

Tagovailoa was 21 for 41 for 196 yards and a touchdown and ran for another score. But he was intercepted twice, the first a 24-yard Pick-6 by Proc-

quarter and then seeing where we fit," Maryland coach Mike Locksley said. "We were able to do that, and I just didn't like the way we finished."

Maryland defensive back Dante Trader, left, tackles Ohio State receiver Marvin Harrison during the first half of their game Saturday in Columbus, Ohio. AP Photo

STEELERS

(Continued from Page 9)

"The resiliency from the game we just played was incredible," said Pickens, who caught six passes for 130 yards.

Baltimore certainly helped. The Ravens dropped a handful of passes, including two in the end zone, and turned it over three times, including twice in the last five minutes to lose a game they seemingly had under control from the opening coin toss.

"They came out and played their game and ended up getting one," Flowers said. "But we let them take that one."

PICKETT'S ... PROGRESS?

Pickett's game-winning drive will help ease — momentarily anyway — some of the heat surrounding the offense and embattled coordinator Matt Canada.

While early game issues remain very much a problem, the Steelers did manage 201 yards and scored three times in the second half. Pickett completed 18 of 32 for 242 yards and the touchdown,

struggling with his accuracy except when throwing the ball up to the 6-foot-4 Pickens.

While the chants of "Fire Canada" popped up at times, by the end they were replaced by a collective roar — and maybe an exhale or two in the coach's box — as Pickett put together a game-winning drive in the final minutes for a second straight meeting with the Ravens.

"You get to this level, there's so many outside factors that try to get into a team and try to pull a team apart, whether it's media-related, fan-related, whatever it may be," Pickett said. "You have to stay together because it's the ultimate team game."

JUMPING ON JACKSON

Jackson appeared on the verge of a breakout against the Steelers, a team he has struggled against since entering the league in 2018. He had a 26-yard run early and found open receivers while

moving the ball with ease early.

It didn't last. The Ravens mustered just 91 yards after halftime and allowed four sacks, including a strip-sack by Alex Highsmith with 1:02 remaining that led to Chris Boswell's third field goal. Jackson finished 22 of 38 for 236 yards and the late interception and 45 yards rushing while falling to 2-4 in his career against Pittsburgh.

"We had (the Steelers) beat," Jackson said. "(On) offense, we had to find our groove; we didn't find it. The defense played a great game — kept stopping, kept giving us opportunities. We've just got to do what we do (and) finish drives."

COSTLY MISTAKE

Baltimore was up 10-3 and driving late in the first half when it faced fourth-and-2 at the Pittsburgh 23 with the clock ticking.

Rather than have Justin Tucker come on for a very makeable field goal, Ravens

center Tyler Linderbaum snapped the ball to a surprised Jackson, who rolled to his right and threw the ball away.

The original plan was to kick, but Linderbaum thought he saw one of the Steelers jump into the neutral zone and started the play expecting a penalty that would have resulted in Baltimore a first down.

Instead, the Ravens ended up with nothing.

"It was my fault not being aware and putting our team in a bad situation," Linderbaum said.

INJURIES

Ravens: OL Patrick Mekhari left with a chest injury.

UP NEXT

Ravens: Travel to London next week to face the Tennessee Titans at Tottenham Hotspur.

Steelers: Are off next week then head to Los Angeles to play the Rams on Oct. 22.

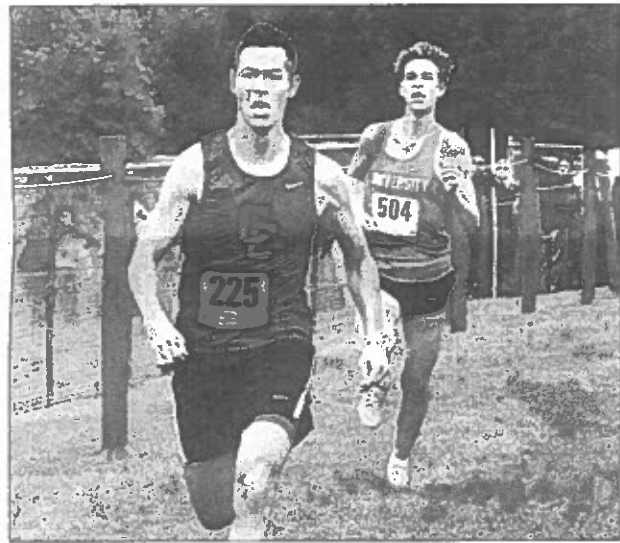


Photo by Kim North

Wheeling Central's Aidan Scott competes in Saturday's OVAC Cal Pokas Cross Country Championships at Cambridge.

BOYS

(Continued from Page 9)

"It feels pretty good to be an OVAC champion, but I'm more happy for my team than I am for myself," he downplayed his victory. "My teammate Tyler (Umbright) had a really good run. He was right behind me the whole time and we worked together for the first mile or so."

After placing second last year to a graduated teammate, Zundell used the runnerup spot as motivation, along with being definitive.

"Last week I was fourth on my team (in a race) which is uncharacteristic. People talk about defining moments in sports like a big win, but defining moments can also be your biggest loss. A defining moment is how you respond to that bad moment. You come back in your next race and make

it your biggest. That's what I did today."

He ran the race with a bandage across the bridge of his nose with the word, 'definitive' on it.

Wheeling Park's Redick Moore (16:21.83) and Isaak Nizami (16:43.41) finished eighth and 15th, respectively, to make the all-conference team, as did Wheeling Central's Aidan Scott (16:25.37) who checked in ninth.

Magnolia's Landen Davis (19th); St. Clairsville's Caleb Bryniarski (23rd); Barnesville's Conner Starr (28th) and Brooke's Gavin Scott (29th) rounded out the local all-OVAC honorees.

In the team races, St. Clairsville (Class 4A); Shenandoah (Class 3A) and Trinity Christian (Class 1A-2A) were crowned champions.

BELLAIRE

(Continued from Page 9)

A five-yard reception along the sideline also barely squeaked out a first down on fourth-and-five, again keeping a drive alive that would eventually result in a fourth-quarter touchdown.

Pettigrew was the gas tank for the Big Reds offense, and running back Drew White was the engine. The senior churned out 119 yards and three touchdowns on 28 totes for Bellaire. He also tallied a sack on defense.

Heatherington also finished with 46 yards rushing, picking up gains of 12, 13 and 25 yards on designed QB runs where Heatherington rolled out after faking a handoff, while his offensive line broke downfield as if blocking for a screen pass.

"We're always going to run the ball," Bellaire head coach Mark Bonar said. "We have good runners, our offensive line is really good, people are going to have to stop our running game all game."

Bellaire went into the half ahead 12-7 after Pettigrew's long touchdown catch, but outscored the Potters 19-7 in the second half. The Big Reds ran more effectively in the second half while shutting down East Liverpool's own running attack, the Potters rushing for 123 yards in the first half and four in the second.

Bellaire also intercepted East twice in the second half. Heatherington and Raekwon Pettigrew each coming down with picks. The

Big Reds held the Potters to sub-50% completion on passes.

For Bellaire's own signal-caller, Heatherington finished 5/10 for 95 yards, two touchdowns and one interception. He connected with Mac Mac Pettigrew in the second quarter, and with Jayson Lemley on an 11-yard score in the fourth quarter, the Big Reds' final score which sealed the win.

"I think we have some really good players who played very well," Bonar said. "Some guys played through injuries today. I think our quarterback grew up a lot in this one, that was one of the big things. He had an unfortunate pick to make the game close, but then he came back and made some big plays for us. I feel like he grew up a lot today."

East Liverpool got out in front early Saturday, scoring on a fumble recovery in the endzone. Potters quarterback Gavin Wright rushed into the endzone but the ball came loose, recovered by Trent Davis for six.

Davis finished with 39 rushing yards and the score, while Wright rushed 13 times for 81 yards, throwing for 99 as well.

With East Liverpool becoming more pass-happy playing from behind in the late game, Bellaire's defense forced 10 incompletions to stymie a comeback.

"Their coaches do a great job, he's building that program down there, they're going to be fantas-

CRUSADERS

(Continued from Page 9)

"I don't know that anyone thought we would be 8-0, but it's October and here we are," Meek said. "We'll take it and we're proud. We're not going to look ahead, we're going to keep working."

As it has done all season, Steubenville Catholic did most of its offensive damage on the ground, racking up 309 yards and four touchdowns rushing, led by one of the seniors in tailback BJ Fallon.

He led the way with 115 yards and three trips to the endzone on 13 carries, while hauling in another score on a 19-yard pass. He scored on runs of 3, 4 and 22 yards.

Junior Tyler Pergi also passed the century mark, racking up 111 yards on 10 totes and scoring on a 30-yard run in the fourth quarter that started the running clock.

Senior QB Tyler Ialenti had 101 total yards, rushing for 67 and throwing for another 34, including the TD to Fallon.

"If you saw how hard these kids work in practice, how focused they are every day, their work ethics,

it's amazing," Meek said. "I'm just very, very proud of each of them and our program."

The Bulldogs, who fall to 3-5 and dropped to 13th in the Division VII, Region 27 rankings, were able to move the ball at times, finishing with 181 yards of offense, but turned the ball over three times and had another promising drive end in a turnover on downs in the Steubenville Catholic end in the first quarter when the deficit was 14-0.

"We didn't play well at all," Bridgeport head coach Fred Ray said. "We didn't show up ready to play and that's part of the problem, so we'll fix it."

"The youth shows up at times unfortunately. We've got a lot of freshmen and sophomores out there and (Steubenville Catholic) has a lot of seniors and juniors, that happens. We're going to be OK."

Jaki Threet finished with 67 yards on 13 carries and was 4 of 6 passing for another 51 yards. Aiden Kinsey saw the bulk of the time at QB for Bridgeport, finishing 6 of 17 for 38

yards, but was picked off twice. Jimmy Herson and Brayden Rauch had the INTs for the Crusaders defense, which also racked up four sacks for a combined loss of 21 yards.

The Bulldogs went three-and-out on their first two drives, while Steubenville Catholic's first two possessions ended in Fallon's 5-yard run and his 19-yard catch for a quick 14-0 lead.

His third TD, the 4-yard run, capped a long, nine-play drive in the second quarter. The Crusaders also missed a field goal and had a drive stall in the red zone in the final minute of the half to keep it a 21-0 game at the break.

Fallon broke free for the 22-yard score three plays into the third quarter and Pergi's 30-yard run midway through the fourth capped the scoring.

Bridgeport heads to Shadyside Friday. Steubenville Catholic finishes the season on the road against Region 25 foes, starting with a trip to Conotton Valley on Friday.

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