

Hartington Gets First-Ever Playoff Win



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Hartington senior Nick Miller, center, splits the Pender defense of Dyllon Frederickson, 10, and Tyler Thomsen for a big gain during their Class D1 playoff game Thursday night in Hartington, Neb. Hartington won 37-6, the first-ever post-season victory for the Wildcats.

BY JEREMY HOECK

jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

HARTINGTON, Neb. — With potential history waiting for them, the Hartington Wildcats gave the ball to Nick Miller and let him go to work.

The 170-pound senior did not disappoint.

Thanks to Miller's 224 yards and three touchdowns on the ground, Hartington routed Pender 38-7 in Thursday night's Class D1 playoff opener at Russ Hochstein Field for the school's first-ever post-season victory.

Six seniors for the Wildcats had lost in the first round each of the past three seasons, and the program was making its sixth appearance in the post-season.

"It's amazing to be the ones to finally do it," Miller said later, amid a wild and brief (thanks to the cold) post-game celebration. "This is what we wanted; to make history."

All facets of the game were dominated by the purple and white, especially up front on the offensive and defensive lines.

"The kids played really well, and they should be happy with that," Hartington coach Blair Kalin said. "The goal for them was to stay unbeaten."

Miller scored on a 44-yard touchdown on his team's second possession in the first quarter, and later added a 1-yard score at the 10:22 mark of the second quarter.

He added a 4-yard touchdown run on the first play of the fourth quarter, pushing the Wildcat lead to 32-0. Miller lasted one more series and finished with 40 carries on the night.

"It was just my night, I guess," Miller said. "We're just so quick off the ball, all of us. It's hard to stop us when we do that. Some of

WILDCATS | PAGE 9A

WAUSA SENDS PANTHERS PACKING



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

The Wausa Vikings' Marcus Claussen (7) is hit by Bancroft-Rosalie's Dayne Wortmann, with the collision causing some slush on Wortmann's helmet to fly off, during Nebraska Class D2 football playoff action Thursday night in Wausa.

Vikings Roll Past B-R 70-34

BY CHRIS RILEY

sports@yankton.net

WAUSA, Neb. — A dominate rushing attack and stingy second-half defense led the Wausa Vikings to a 70-34 first-round Nebraska Class D2 playoff victory over Bancroft-Rosalie on a windy and cold Thursday night in Wausa.

Wausa senior quarterback Marcus Claussen scored four times on the ground, while junior Austin Conn added three rushing scores and a fumble return for a touchdown as the Vikings put up double digits in each quarter until letting off the throttle in the fourth.

"Our offense has been tough to stop just because the amount of skill players that we have," Vikings coach Rusty Fuller said. "When it came time to controlling the clock and moving

the ball down the field they got the job done."

Wausa, who improved to 8-1 with the victory, led the Panthers 38-28 at the half. After that, the Vikings clamped down on defense and outscored Bancroft-Rosalie 24-0 in the third quarter to break the game wide open.

"We made a nice adjustment at halftime," Fuller added. "(Panthers quarterback Carsten) Tietz is a good player and they run that option well. We brought them in at the half and we told them we needed to take Tietz out of the ballgame."

That strategy seemed to work as the Bancroft-Rosalie sophomore standout did not find the end zone in the second half after scoring four times (three runs and one pass) in the first two quarters.

While the Vikings defense stood

out in the second half, their offense was consistently gaining large chunks of yardage seemingly at will.

Claussen, who left the game after a fourth-quarter touchdown run of an apparent shoulder injury, had six runs of at least 14 yards.

"Marcus and Trevor (Wakely - who had a third-quarter touchdown run) have been great seniors all year for us," Fuller said.

Wausa, who defeated Bancroft-Rosalie 56-22 back on September 7, wasted little time jumping out front as the Vikings forced the Panthers to punt on their opening drive and then saw Claussen score on a 14-yard run up the left sideline right after Conn gained 22-yards on a similar play to take an 8-0 lead less than four minutes into the game.

Conn recovered a Panther fumble - one of four turnovers committed by

Bancroft-Rosalie - and ran it back 30 yards for another score less than 20 seconds later as the Vikings took a 16-0 lead with 8:17 left to play in the first quarter. That lead would never get back to single-digits.

While the Panthers see their season end with a record of 3-6, the Vikings will travel to 7-2 Sterling next Wednesday for a second-round matchup.

Conn said that in order to advance, the Vikings offense will need to conduct business as usual while the defense must step up.

"We need solid defense like we had in the second half tonight," Conn said. "There is no one person that keeps us going; we play together and we have all year."

You can follow Chris Riley on Twitter at twitter.com/ChrisCRiley

San Francisco Stops Tigers 2-0 For 2-0 Series Lead

BY BEN WALKER

AP Baseball Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A Giant dose of small ball, and suddenly San Francisco finds itself in a most unique position — way ahead in a post-season series.

Madison Bumgarner shut down the Detroit Tigers for seven innings, then the Giants took advantage of a bunt that stayed fair to eke out the go-ahead run in a 2-0 win Thursday night for a 2-0 edge in the World Series.

Gregor Blanco's single trickled to a stop inches fair on the infield dirt, setting up Brandon Crawford's run-scoring double-play grounder in the seventh. Hunter Pence added a sacrifice fly in the eighth, and that was plenty for the Giants.

Game 3 will be Saturday night in Detroit and for once, the masters of the October comeback aren't playing from behind. The Giants overcame a 2-0 deficit to beat Cincinnati in the best-of-five division series and escaped a

3-1 hole against St. Louis in the NLCS.

The loss certainly left the favored Tigers wondering what else could go wrong. Prince Fielder was thrown out at the plate by a hair and moments later starting pitcher Doug Fister was struck squarely in the head by a line drive.

The 6-foot-8 Fister managed to stay on the mound, and even excelled. Bumgarner more than matched him, however, allowing just two hits before the San Francisco

bullpen closed it out before another pulsating crowd.

Santiago Casilla pitched a perfect eighth and Sergio Romo worked the ninth for a save in the combined two-hitter, leaving Triple Crown winner Miguel Cabrera in a huge hole heading back to Comerica Park. Anibal Sanchez will start for the Tigers against Ryan Vogelsong in Detroit.

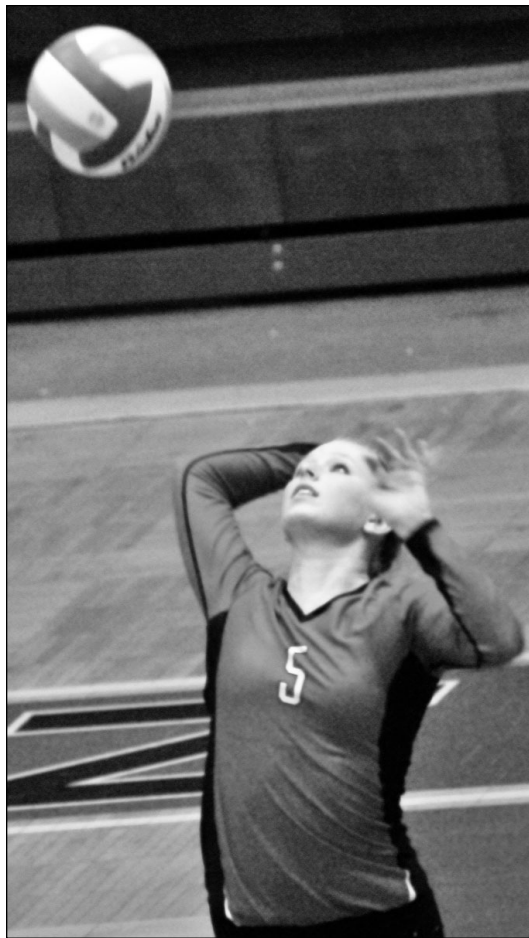
The Tigers looked foggy at the plate, maybe still lost following a five-day layoff after an ALCS sweep of the Yankees. Cabrera hopped up

and twisted away after third baseman Pablo Sandoval, who homered three times in the opener, snared his early line drive.

Bumgarner had something to do with the Tigers' troubles, too.

Bumped from the NLCS rotation after two poor post-season starts, he returned with a flourish. The left-hander struck out eight and looked as sharp as he did in

SERIES | PAGE 9A



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton's Rylee Smith serves up the ball during the Gazelles' regular season finale match with Sioux Falls O'Gorman on Thursday at the Summit Center. Second-ranked O'Gorman swept the Gazelles, 25-23, 25-17, 25-23.

No. 2 Knights Sweep YHS

Volleyball: Gazelles Still Claim Second Seed In 2AA

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE

sports@yankton.net

The O'Gorman's Lady Knights swept the Gazelles in Thursday night volleyball action in three games at the Summit Center, 25-23, 25-17, 25-23.

Despite the Gazelles' quick lead in the first set with an 11-5 score over O'Gorman, the Lady Knights were able to close the gap. With Yankton still ahead 22-15, O'Gorman quickly took the lead and won set one 25-23.

A tight second set put Yankton and Sioux Falls at an 11-11 tie until O'Gorman jumped ahead 22-16. O'Gorman would keep the lead and go on to win set two 25-17 over the Gazelles.

The Lady Knights would lead 11-6 in set three with Yankton catching up to tie the game 14-14. The match stayed tight with another tie at 20 points for each team, but O'Gorman would come out on top taking set three 25-23.

Although the Gazelles couldn't overcome the Lady Knights, head coach Leasa Woodward said the team played well.

"I thought we came out and played set one extremely aggressive, and we did everything we needed to do," she said. "We just had a breakdown in serve-receive that allowed O'Gorman to come back. You can't have a mistake against a team that has the record that they do."

For senior Kelsey Butler, playing with her teammates for their senior night was a great opportunity, but coming back after the first loss in set one was the biggest challenge of the night.

"It's a tough loss, but we love playing as a team and the emotion we have together," she said. "After our first loss to O'Gorman our momentum fell, and it's always hard to pick back up after something like that."

Woodward said coming back from a loss in the beginning can be difficult for the players involved, but the Gazelles were able to offer some positives.

"This game is absolutely brutal - it can absolutely change on you in a second," she said. "When we get down is when we play our tightest, and that's when we need to play our loosest. It's something we will definitely learn from."

"We have good momentum even though we lost to a very good Sioux Falls O'Gorman team. Offensively we did a nice job of killing the ball and had some more touches on the ball. When we got a pass to Maria she did a good job of delivering it, and we were doing what we needed to get the ball where we needed to score."

Butler recorded two digs and two kills for the night, with Mikala Hora leading the way with 16 kills, eight digs, three blocks and one ace. Kelsey Fitzgerald put up eight kills and nine digs and Maria Binder made 25 assists, eight digs and one ace.

For O'Gorman, Jess Mieras had 10 kills and 2 blocks, Dalee Stene made 23 assists, Taryn Cloth recorded five aces and Erin Beacom had 10 digs.

The Gazelles will face Brandon Valley at home Thursday night in round one of the district games. Woodward said the two teams have played virtually the same schedule, and is expecting a great match.

"Our records show the parody that we have," she said. "Because of that parody we're going to have to play well."

The junior varsity match against the Lady Knights ended in their favor, sweeping Yankton 25-19 and 25-20. Emily Bos put up eight kills for the night, and Becky Frick had six kills and one block. Ellison Fedders also contributed 14 assists and one ace.

O'Gorman won in the sophomore games as well, with scores 27-25 and 25-13. Meggie Steiner had nine digs and two aces, Morgyn Tuquith had eight digs and Presley Pasco recorded three kills.

Yankton's freshman "A" and "B" teams were able to defeat the Lady Knights, with the "A" team scoring 25-18, 19-25, 25-22, and the "B" team scoring 25-18, 25-22.

Julie Soto had 20 assists and nine digs, Darian Miller put up 10 kills and Danielle Salvatori made six aces, six kills and six digs. Kate Weindandt recorded 10 assists and four aces, Dani Dvorak had seven digs and Sydney Ingalls and Amy Doering each made four kills.

You can follow Emily Niebrugge on Twitter at twitter.com/ENiebrugge