

Football: ‘Motivated’ Alcester-Hudson Off To Unbeaten Start

Cubs Among Several Area Teams Starting Strong

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ALCESTER — Having already surpassed last year’s output, the Alcester-Hudson Cubs are off and running this season.

Unbeaten halfway through the regular season, the Cubs (4-0) are starting to put football on the map with some of the other sports the co-op has found success in over the last few years.

“We’ve had a couple teams that have gotten to the playoffs and done some nice things, but we don’t have a football tradition like a lot of these teams we’re facing,”

12th-year head coach Brian Haak said during Monday’s practice in Alcester.

So far this fall, the Cubs are making some noise in the Class 9A ranks.

Though in the same region as perennial powerhouse Howard, Alcester-Hudson has continued to improve on last season’s 3-5 record. The Cubs routed Baltic (48-14) and Irene-Wakonda (52-20) to start this season, then beat Hanson 16-6 and rolled past Chester Area 38-6 last Friday night.

“This group is just different,” Haak said. “Every kid is motivated, and they all did a

great job this summer. We were just a little more ready this year.”

Alcester-Hudson returned all but two starters from last season, including all the ‘skill’ positions. Such experience coming back led Haak to believe, “Yeah, I figured we could be pretty good.”

Not that the team would spend much time worrying about it, but Alcester-Hudson has climbed to No. 4 in the latest sportswriters poll that was released today (Tuesday).

“We always talk about ‘week by week,’ about being



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Alcester-Hudson head football coach Brian Haak, left, explains a formation to one of his players at Monday’s practice in Alcester. The Cubs are off to a 4-0 start this season, after going 3-5 last year.

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On The Run



Several area teams were in action as Alcester-Hudson and Bon Homme each hosted big invitational meets on Monday. **LEFT:** Vermillion’s Madisen Lavin runs ahead of the pack in the girls’ cross country race at the Alcester-Hudson Invitational, held Monday in Alcester. She won the girls’ race, but West Central swept the team titles. (Jeremy Hoeck/P&D) **RIGHT:** Wagner’s Nick Dion pulls away from Hartington’s Noah Noecker to win the boys’ race at the Bon Homme Invitational on Monday at the Bon Homme Country Club. The North Central (Neb.) boys and Ethan-Parkston girls won the team titles. (James D. Cimburek/P&D)



Cross Country: West Central Sweeps Alcester-Hudson Inv.

ALCESTER — West Central swept team honors at the Alcester-Hudson Invitational cross country meet, held Monday at the Alcester Golf Course.

In the boys’ division, West Central scored 20 points to edge out Sioux Falls Christian (21) and Parker (25).

Dakota Valley’s Graham Bacon finished the 5,000-meter course in 17:39.66, just over three seconds ahead of Elk Point-Jefferson’s Hunter Paulsen.

West Central had an easier time in the girls’ race, 14-28 over Dakota Valley. Sioux Falls Christian (29), Canton (39) and Elk Point-Jefferson (43) rounded out the top five.

Vermillion’s Madisen Lavin finished the 4,000-meter course in 15:59.54, well ahead of West Central’s McKayla Wiczorek (16:23.27). EPJ’s Josie Hereen was third in 16:28.86.

Bon Homme Inv.

TYNDALL — The Ethan-Parkston girls and North Central boys earned top honors at the Bon Homme Invitational cross country meet, held Monday at Bon Homme

Country Club.

Ethan-Parkston finished with 18 points on the girls’ side, nearly half the score put up by Burke-South Central (35). Bon Homme (38), Hartington, Neb. (47) and Scotland (62) rounded out the top five.

Gayville-Volin’s Laura Nelson ran away with the girls’ title, clocking a 15:18 over the 4,000-meter course. Bon Homme’s Maddison Hajek was a distant second at 16:04. Ethan-Parkston’s Taya Heisinger and Platte-Geddes’ Reganne Engebretson, each clocking a 16:57, finished third and fourth.

North Central, a Nebraska co-op of Rock County and Keya Paha, posted a score of 25 points to edge Wagner (29). Hartington (35), Bon Homme (40), Burke-South Central (41) and Ethan-Parkston (42) were also in the hunt.

Wagner’s Nick Dion finished the 5,000-meter race in 18 minutes flat, edging Hartington’s Noah Noecker by four seconds. North Central’s Phillip Lewis (18:27) and Colin Erickson (18:30) finished third and fourth.

Norfolk Inv.

NORFOLK, Neb. — The Yankton Gazelles went 1-2 and put four runners in the top 10 on the way to a team victory in the Norfolk Invitational cross country meet, held Friday at Skyview Lake Park in Norfolk, Neb.

Yankton’s Annie Kruse ran away from the field on the 5,000-meter course, clocking an 18:50 to beat out teammate Savannah Woods (20:02).

“Annie Kruse proved she is one of the best runners in the Midwest by beating a quality field as badly as she did,” Yankton head coach Dave Dannenbring said of the race. “She is very talented and a very smart runner who knows how to be in control of the race from the very start.”

Madison McClure (20:21) finished sixth and Lauren Graves (21:01) placed tenth as the Gazelles beat out Papillion-LaVista South 38-47 in the team rankings. Also for YHS, Whitlee Larson (21:35) placed 19th and Ashtyn Haak (23:28) finished 54th.

“We had a great week and it was a huge day for our girls to beat Papillion-LaVista

South and Millard West,” Dannenbring said. “Those two teams have dominated the race the last three years, so for us to beat them is a big step in the right direction for us to be able to beat Rapid City Stevens and Central come state meet time.”

Brice Cowman finished the boys’ 5,000-meter race in 16:20, trailing only Millard West’s Seth Hirsch (15:52) and Austin Post (15:57). The Bucks finished sixth, with Papillion-LaVista South beating out Millard West 40-50 for the team title.

“Our boys had a good showing, finishing sixth among such a good field of teams,” Dannenbring said. “If you compare Brice’s time to the times of the past 33 years of boys’ winners, Brice wins 28 of those 33 times. That’s pretty impressive when you start listing some of the Buck greats, and Brice beats almost all of them.”

Also for the Bucks, Justin Grode (17:44) finished 21st, Andrew Peitz (18:35) 42nd, Paul Fanta (19:01) 46th and Kyle Bergeson (19:12) 49th.

Yankton hosts its annual invitational on Thursday at

the HSC grounds. Start time is 4:15 p.m.

Yankton’s JV girls finished third, led by Tessa Folkers’ third place finish in 21:57. The Yankton JV boys placed fourth, led by Brody McClure’s 19th place finish in 19:10.

Nathan Zimmerman’s runner-up finish and Riley Andrus’ seventh place finish led the Yankton Middle School boys and girls.

Vermillion Inv.

VERMILLION — South Sioux City swept team honors at the Vermillion Invitational on Friday at the Don Baker USD Cross Country Course.

SSC beat out Vermillion 14-23 for the girls’ title. Vermillion’s Madisen Lavin won in 16:18.35, nearly 40 seconds ahead of South Sioux’s Haley Fritz (16:57.84).

The Cardinals took four of the top five spots to win the boys’ title, led by Ferhan Barento’s 18:14.03. Vermillion was led by Justin Sorensen, who finished sixth in 20:02.44.

Bulldogs Beat Vermillion 3-2

VERMILLION — Madison claimed a back-and-forth Dakota XII Conference volleyball showdown with Vermillion, edging the Tanagers 20-25, 25-16, 25-17, 23-25, 16-14, on Monday.

Coley Stoller posted 21 kills, 11 assists, 13 digs and four ace serves to lead a balanced Madison attack. Preslee Jorgenson had 10 kills, 28 digs and four ace serves. Ashley Schwebach posted 25 assists and 14 digs. Morgan Skluzacek had seven kills and Serena Hopf had 11 digs in the win.

For Vermillion, Josie Huber led the way with 13 kills, 22 digs and five assisted blocks. Sarah Hughes Burheim had 33 digs and four ace serves. Rachel Finnegan finished with eight kills and 24 digs. Chloe Nielson had five assisted blocks for the Tanagers.

Both teams continue in Dakota XII play next. Madison, 9-6 overall and 4-2 in league play, travels to Tri-Valley on Thursday. Vermillion, 8-4 and 1-2, travels to Tea Area today (Tuesday).

MADISON (9-6).....	20	25	25	23	16
VERMILLION (8-4).....	25	16	17	25	14

Alcester-Hudson 3, Elk Point-Jefferson 0

ELK POINT — Alcester-Hudson earned its 10th victory of the season, beating Elk Point-Jefferson 26-24, 25-21, 25-21 in prep volleyball action on Monday.

Sierra McConnell had 11 kills, seven digs and two ace serves; and Courtney McKee had 22 assists, 11 digs and three blocks to lead Alcester-Hudson. Jamie Jansen had nine kills and three blocks. Shenia Doering posted seven kills, nine digs and four blocks. Lindsey Terpstra added eight digs in the win.

For EPJ, Keely Bertram posted 11 kills, 10 digs and three ace serves to lead the way. Amy Zeller had five kills, 22 digs and three ace serves. Amber Hanson finished with five kills, 11 digs, two blocks and two ace serves. Skylore Curry added six kills and five blocks for the Huskies.

Alcester-Hudson, 10-1, hosts Freeman Academy on Thursday in Tri-Valley Conference action. EPJ, 6-5, puts its 4-1 Dakota XII Conference record to the test, traveling to Beresford today (Tuesday).

EPJ won the JV match 25-21, 25-12; and the C-match 25-13, 25-18.

ALCESTER-HUDSON (10-1).....	26	25	25
ELK POINT-JEFFERSON (6-5).....	24	21	21

Parker 3, Irene-Wakonda 0

WAKONDA — The Parker Pheasants made quick work of Irene-Wakonda, downing the Pheasants 25-20, 25-15, 25-8 in prep volleyball action on Monday.

Allison Sanner had 13 kills and 10 digs, and Jenny Smith had 27 assists and seven digs to lead Parker. McKenzie Cole had five kills and Riley Christensen had two blocks in the win.

For IW, Dana Schenk had eight kills and Bailey Hinseth had 10 assists.

Parker, 12-3, hosts unbeaten Chester today (Tuesday). Irene-Wakonda, 2-5, travels to Baltic today.

Parker won the JV match 25-11, 25-10.

PARKER (12-3).....	25	25	25
IRENE-WAKONDA (2-5).....	20	15	8

Viborg-Hurley 3, Menno 0

MENNO — Megan Knock had 26 assists and eight ace serves to lead Viborg-Hurley to a 25-13, 25-9, 25-11 victory over Menno in prep volleyball action on Monday.

Katelyn Graber had eight kills and Abby Hora had seven kills and four ace serves for Viborg-Hurley. Hannah Jorgensen had five kills in the win.

Abby Herboltd had six digs and Madison Huber had four assists and two ace serves for Menno.

Viborg-Hurley, 7-6, hosts Centerville today (Tuesday) in Viborg. Menno hosts Freeman on Thursday.

Viborg-Hurley won the JV match 25-9, 25-13.

VIBORG-HURLEY (7-6).....	25	25	25
MENNO (6-7).....	13	9	11

Stanton Tourn.

STANTON, Neb. — Laurel-Concord-Coleridge went 2-1 in the Stanton Tournament on Saturday.

The Bears, 7-4, travel to Crofton today (Tuesday).

BATTLE CREEK DEF. LCC 25-23, 25-15: Ellie Arduser had five kills, Taylor Piggy had nine assists and Candice Rastede had eight digs for LCC.

LCC DEF. ELKHORN VALLEY 25-15, 25-15: Erin Gubbels had six kills, Ellie Arduser had five kills and Cameron Eddie had 10 assists and three ace serves for LCC. Candice Rastede added three ace serves and six digs in the win.

LCC DEF. WEST POINT-BEEMER 25-18, 25-21: Cameron Eddie had 18 assists, Candice Rastede had four ace serves, Erin Gubbels had six kills and Ellie Arduser had 10 digs in the win.

Tennis: Gazelles Split Pair At Madison

MADISON — The Yankton Gazelles moved to 14-9 on the season with a split of a girls’ tennis triangular at Madison on Monday.

Both of Yankton’s matches ended with scores of 8-1, as the Gazelles beat Madison and fell to Brandon Valley.

Anne Knoff was the lone Gazelle to go 2-0 on the day. Sarah Rockne, Taylor Rothenberger, Kaitlyn Frank and Alexa Bryan each won singles matches against Madison. The Gazelles also went 3-0 in singles play against host Madison.

The Gazelles host Sioux Falls

Washington on Thursday at 2 p.m., the final home match of the season.

YANKTON 8, MADISON 1
SINGLES: Sarah Rockne Y def. Mackenzie Dixon 8-0; Taylor Rothenberger Y def. Simone Droge 6-4; Kaitlyn Frank Y def. Hannah Olson 9-0; Alexa Bryan Y def. Sydney Swenson 8-2; Lacey Fedeler M def. Anna Kokesh 8-4; Anne Knoff Y def. Katie Berghelm 8-4

DOUBLES: Rockne-Rothenberger def. Dixon Droge 8-1; Knoff-Bryan def. Olson-Swenson 8-6; Frank-Kokesh def. Fedeler-Berghelm 8-4

JV: Mimi Garcia Y def. Allison Heim 8-2; Morgan Wray M def. Sophie Kouri 9-8; Garcia-Kouri Y def. Heim Wray 8-6

BRANDON VALLEY 8, YANKTON 1
SINGLES: Erin Buse BV def. Sarah Rockne 10-3; Jessica Sadler BV def. Taylor Rothenberger 10-3; Hanna Mutschelknaus BV def. Kaitlyn Frank 10-6; Mackenzie Marso BV def. Alexa Bryan 10-4; Leandra Marais BV def. Anna Kokesh 10-1; Anne Knoff Y def. Emily Konz 10-7

DOUBLES: Buse-Sadler BV def. Rockne-Rothenberger 10-5; Mutschelknaus-Marso BV def. Bryan-Knoff 10-6; Marais-Konz BV def. Frank-Kokesh 10-4

JV: Kate Ellis BV def. Mimi Garcia 10-7; Logan Hawkins BV def. Sophie Kouri 10-1; Hawkins-Ellis BV def. Garcia-Kouri 10-2

Twins Shut Down Mauer For Rest Of Season

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Twins are playing it safe with All-Star catcher Joe Mauer after having seen up close the damage concussions can do to a player.

The Twins shut Mauer down for the rest of the season on Monday, saying it wasn’t worth the risk to try to get him back on the field with the team far out of contention and Mauer still experiencing some symptoms of a concussion he sustained on Aug. 19.

The Twins have seven games left in what has been another miserable season for them, and Mauer’s injury only adds to the disappointment. He was

hurt when he took a foul ball off his mask against the New York Mets and hasn’t played since. Mauer said he has seen big improvement over the last week, but there are still some lingering symptoms, including sensitivity to light, that tell him it’s not worth risking a setback by trying to get back for the final seven games of the season.

“It’s frustrating that I’m not on the field and not able to play the game that I love,” Mauer said after a workout at Target Field. “But I have to take care of this and make sure that I’m healthy and ready to go next year.”