

Hawks nip Wolverines 18-17

The song “Don’t Stop Believin’” by Journey was played after South O’Brien had scored during Friday night’s football game at Paullina. But by the time the game was over, Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn could lay claim to that song as its own theme.

H-M-S turned the ball over four times in the first half, two of which led to Wolverine scores. But the Hawks persevered, taking the lead in the second half and coming back to win, 18-17, on a 22-yard field goal by Daniel Kellert.

The turnaround during the Class A District 1 opener was about confidence and execution.

“We just needed to trust the things that we were doing and fix our little fundamental things,” said Hawk coach Jeremiah Delzer. “Our cornerbacks did their fundamentals and had a bunch of big pass breakups. Our O-line stuck on their blocks and did it how they’re coached. We challenged them all week that we just needed to fix the small things. Once we got those fixed, we had a lot of success.”

The offense would take control late in the game, but the defense kept H-M-S close from the start. South O’Brien drove deep into Hawk territory three times in the opening quarter, including once after an interception at the 9. But the Wolverines came up empty, missing a field goal and failing to convert on two fourth down plays.

Another interception in the second quarter gave South O’Brien the ball at midfield. They capitalized with a 17-yard run by Marshal Warnke. H-M-S then fumbled the ball, setting up the Wolverines for a 16-yard scoring pass to Jaden Kreber to make the score 14-0.

H-M-S turned the ball over again late in the second quarter, but the defense stopped South O’Brien on fourth down. Alex Vogt then connected with Isaac Schierholz for a 60-yard pass-and-run to the end zone. Kellert’s PAT made the score 14-7 at half time.

After receiving the kickoff to start the second half, Vogt passed to Graham Lux for a 60-yard scoring play. Alex Billings’ 2-point conversion run put H-M-S in front, 15-14.

The Wolverines answered



Brody Meendering (55) and Isaac Schierholz (5) combine to bring down a South O’Brien ball carrier during H-M-S’s 18-17 win.

with a 25-yard field goal by Brody Riedemann, giving them a 17-15 lead.

The Hawks needed two fourth-down stops to have a chance to win the game. Starting at their own 14 with 7:04 left, H-M-S put together a 17-play drive primarily consisting of runs by Hunter Daggett. It reached the Wolverine 3 before Kellert, an exchange student from Germany, kicked the game-winning field goal with 24 seconds to play.

South O’Brien passed the ball into Hawk territory in the final seconds, but a holding penalty and a sack on the final play ended the game.

Daggett was H-M-S’s leading rusher, gaining 94 yards on 29 carries.

“Hunter was doing a great job. He really stepped up and ran the ball well,” Delzer remarked. “We talked as coaches at half time about what was good and we saw something that we thought we could get into. We used it and we kept running it.”

Alex Vogt completed 8-of-13 passes for 142 yards and two scores. Delzer saw growth in the freshman as the game progressed.

“I just think it shows, especially for things like a freshman quarterback, where you’ve got to build that confidence,” he said. “I’m sure it would be hard to throw a lot of interceptions your first couple games, but you saw him come back and respond. That’s why we have him there, because we know he can do that.”

Schierholz led the defense with 6.5 tackles. Other tackle leaders were Luke Dagle 5.5, David Wetrich 5.0, Jackson Vogt 4.0, and Mykle Meyers and Billings 3.5. Billings was credited with two sacks.

Next up: at Sheldon
H-M-S plays its second non-district game at Sheldon on Sept. 12. The Orabs are 0-2 after losses to West Sioux and Sioux Center.

Delzer knows Orab coach Andy Cooper and expects his team to be another challenge for the Hawks.

“They’re going to be well-coached and physical. We will have to come out and respond and see how they do,” Delzer said. “Hopefully, the game falls in our favor and we can respond the same way we did on Friday.”

S-O spikers start off in new conference

Making their debut in the War Eagle Conference, Sibley-Ocheyedan made the trip to Akron-Westfield last Thursday. The Generals battled the Westerners through a four set match but came out on the short end of the 3-1final. The loss dropped S-O to 1-3 overall and 0-1 in league play.

The opening set was a white-knuckle affair that went to the Westerners 25-22. S-O bounced back to claim the second set 25-21. A-W claimed the next two sets and the match 25-16, 25-20.

As a team, the Generals put 69 of 84 service chances in play. Grace Sayler counted 14 of 17

with one ace. Lillie Marco converted 16 of 18 with a pair of aces. Hadley Crichton counted 13 of 14 with two aces; Becca Woelber 10 of 14; Jackie Ochoa six of nine with an ace; and Hailey Gacke two of three.

S-O’s offense counted 119 of 153 attacks with 39 kills. Crichton led the way, converting 26 of 30 attacks with nine kills. Woelber was good on 21 of 27 with seven kills; Taylor Langstraat 25 of 28 with seven kills; Ochoa 17 of 23 with six kills; Gacke was nine of 13 with a kill; Marco nine of 12 with three kills; and Amelia Hoekstra six of 12 with two kills. Woelber recorded 18 assists while Ochoa had 15.

Marco and Gacke each posted nine digs to lead the defense.

Hoekstra led the offense counting each of her 10 attacks with a pair of kills. Gacke put down five of 10 attacks with four kills. Langstraat counted five of seven with a kill. Sayler and Ochoa each had four assists.

Sayler recorded seven digs and Woelber three.



Amadelaid Benitez finished 15th in Class B at the Iowa Great Lakes Invitational.

Eric Kleinwolterink rounds a curve on his way to a 14th place finish at the Iowa Great Lakes Invitational.



S-O runs at Lakes Invite

To say Sibley-Ocheyedan’s girls’ cross country team made a statement in the Iowa Great Lakes Invitational cross country meet would be a vast understatement. Five of the local girls finished in the top 11 in Class B and in the top 53 in the field.

“This was a very big meet with 25 teams, including several ranked teams. This meet is unique as all the teams/runners run together and the teams are scored separately in Class A (big schools) and Class B (small schools). So it’s a blend of great competition with team scoring against other Class B schools,” Coach Ryan Wiersma explained.

Had the teams competed in a single class, and all else being the same, S-O’s girls would have finished second to Sioux Center and ahead of MOC/FV.

S-O finished the night with 35 points to win the Class B title. Sioux Central (Sioux Rapids) was second with 42 points followed by Lake Mills with 65, MMCru (Marcus) 96 and Emmetsburg 102.

Aleah Marco cut 12 seconds from her time last year to finish fourth in 22:32. Riley Childs finished fifth in her first

high school race, posting a time of 23:07. Also competing in her first high school meet, Gracie Odens took sixth in 23:14. Competing in her first ever cross country meet, Mya Pohlen finished ninth in 23:57. Amadelaid Benitez, who, according to Wiersma was “very sick” turned in a valiant effort. She claimed 11th place in 24:10.

• **Boys**
On the boys’ side, S-O was one runner short of a complete team, with four runners.

With stand out Ben Byers still recovering from an ankle injury, Eric Kleinwolterink cut 2:14 from last year’s time to finish 14th in 19:46. This was his first sub-20:00 finish. Carter Vos was 17th in 20:07; Triston Vos was 27th in 21:49; and Roland Rusche 42nd in 27:46.

• **Schedule**
Monday the Generals hosted their own invitational meet. Saturday the squad travels to Holstein for the Ridge View Invitational, which starts at 10 a.m. Next Tuesday, September 16, the team will run in the Sioux Central Invitational, which will be contested at the Little Sioux Golf and Country Club.

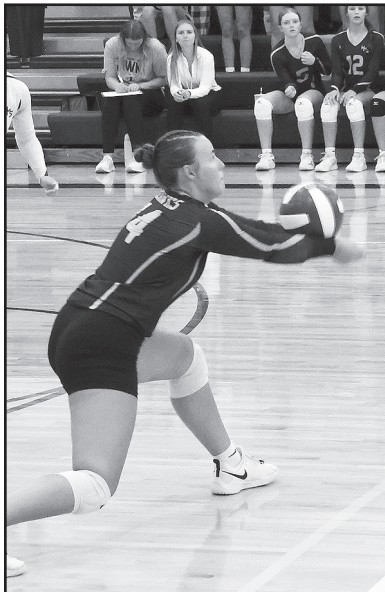
South O'Brien sweeps H-M-S

Leads at the start of each set gave Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn early momentum against South O’Brien during their War Eagle Conference volleyball match. But the Wolverines were too strong down the stretch, coming back to earn a 3-0 sweep on Sept. 4 in Hartley.

The Hawks scored the first four points of the opening set and also led 8-4 before South O’Brien edged in front. H-M-S came back to tie the score at 19-19 but faltered late in a 25-20 loss. H-M-S built an early 10-3 lead in the second set and still led 16-14 before the Wolverines again finished strong to claim the 25-21 win.

The final set saw H-M-S take the early lead and South O’Brien then edge out to a small advantage. The Wolverines broke a 12-12 deadlock and began to pull away, completing the sweep with a 25-19 win.

Offensively, Moriah Otto led H-M-S with five kills, Eva Stammer had four, Kenadie Van Loon had three and Hannah Tessum added two. Van



Kenadie Van Loon makes the play on the ball during the Hawks’ match against South O’Brien.

Loon recorded nine set assists.

The Hawks had several defensive touches on the ball at the net. Otto had a solo block and an assist, Laura Vargas had three block assists and Tessum and Van Loon each had two.

In the back row, Lindsey Van Es had eight digs, Natalie

Hawks runners are strong at Lakes Invitational



Brooklyn Erickson finished 33rd in the Class B girls’ race at the Iowa Great Lakes Invitational.

Senior Carter Dolphin competes at the Iowa Great Lakes Invitational at the Brooks Golf Course.

A great week of practice leading up to the Iowa Great Lakes Invitational paid big dividends for Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn cross country runners. The meet was held Sept. 4 at Brooks Golf Club in Okoboji.

The meet featured teams from as far away at Forest City and Carroll, as well as from the Lakes, Siouxland and War Eagle conferences. Although the schools were divided into two classes, all runners competed together in races that featured up to 135 participants.

“I thought we looked more confident in how we ran. Our mental approach was a lot better and with some of our newer runners, they looked more comfortable,” Hawk coach Naet Hoaglund said. “It would have been easy to be shell-shocked with a meet this size and as many runners as there were. I thought our athletes had good focus and controlled the things

they needed to.”

The Hawk boys finished fourth in the Class B team standings, scoring 111 points. Lake Mills won the team title with 23 points, Sioux Central finished second with 38, and South O’Brien was third with 100. MMCru (128) and Harris-Lake Park (143) finished fifth and sixth, respectively.

“[The boys] just continue to work hard. They are extremely coachable and want to keep getting better,” Hoaglund noted. “They viewed this meet as just another opportunity to compete. They aren’t afraid of a challenge.”

Individual results were: Easton Teal, 15th, 19:56; James Carlin, 19th, 20:19; Dylan Boynton, 31st, 22:43; Karter Zimmer, 33rd, 23:01; and Carter Dolphin, 40th, 26:34.

“Easton and James were really consistent throughout their race,” Hoaglund noted.

Three H-M-S girls competed in the varsity race. They were Viviana Delacruz, 13th, 23:57; Delilah Boynton, 32nd, 27:14; and Brooklyn Erickson, 33rd, 27:28.

“I thought Viviana ran a really good race. I was pumped to see her growth,” Hoaglund commented. “She ran with more confidence and really had the focus to just run her own race.”

The Hawk JV girls finished eighth as a team, scoring 201 points. Individual finishes were: Trinity Tovar, 56th, 29:11; Jozelyn Romero, 68th, 30:44; Evelyn Steffen, 72nd, 31:25; Jessica Diaz, 81st, 32:41; and Ellie Pals, 88th, 35:31.

Competing in the JV boys’ race were Emilio Brown-Martinez, 62nd, 21:49; Clement L’helgoualch, 115th, 23:36; Tre Rohlfen, 152nd, 25:55; and Hayden Dolphin, 168th, 30:41. “I thought our JV runners improved lot. I look forward to continued growth from that group,” Hoaglund said.

Three middle school runners saw their first competition of the season. Kate Carlin finished 36th among the girls (17:34), while Johrden Martinez finished 56th (16:10) and Kalvin Sadler was 64th (16:40) in the boys’ race.

H-M-S will compete in the Sioux Central Invitational at Sioux Rapids on Sept. 16.

THE OCHEYEDAN PRESS-MELVIN Press-News

THE PRESS-NEWS (USPS 402680) is published weekly by The Press, Inc., 859 Main Street, Ocheyedan, Iowa 51354-0456. Periodicals postage paid at Ocheyedan, Iowa. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE PRESS-NEWS, P. O. Box 456, Ocheyedan, IA 51354-0456.

THE OCHEYEDAN PRESS-MELVIN NEWS

859 Main Street, P. O. Box 456,
Ocheyedan, IA 51354-0456

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Phone: 712/758-3140

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

In Osceola, one year \$27.75; Other Iowa and Minnesota counties, one year \$30.75; Outside above areas, one year \$36.75; Single copy 75¢

Official legal paper for Osceola county, the cities of Ocheyedan and Melvin and Sibley-Ocheyedan Community School, Member of Iowa Newspaper Association, National Newspaper Association and American Newspaper Representatives.

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