

INDEPENDENT SPORTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2022

Fast start powers unbeaten Humboldt past Gilbert, 31-6

District title on the line Friday night at Nevada

By PHIL MONSON

Humboldt senior quarterback Will Orness has mastered the learning curve in a short amount of time.

Orness, playing only his fourth full game at the position after playing wide receiver the last two and one-half seasons, accounted for 286 yards of offense to lead the top-ranked Wildcat football team past the Gilbert Tigers, 31-6 at Mason Maach Field in Humboldt last week (Oct. 7).

Orness passed for 135 yards and rushed for 151 yards as Humboldt improved to 7-0 overall, 3-0 in Class 3A District 2. It was Humboldt's final regular season home game where the seniors were recognized prior to kickoff.

Orness has provided a dangerous rushing element to the Humboldt offense, similar to what Caden Matson meant to the Wildcats a year ago when Humboldt reached the state semifinals.

"Will has really grown. I am

very proud of the way he has embraced the move to quarterback," Humboldt fifth-year head coach Derrick Elman said.

"He is such a competitor and you can see that every time the ball is in his hands. Will never gives up on a play and his teammates keep working because they know what he's able to do," Elman said.

"I feel that this team has really come together. I had a rough start to quarterback but am slowly getting more comfortable," Orness said. "The biggest transition for me is I have more responsibility than I'm used to having."

Humboldt scored on each of its first three possessions to take a 21-0 lead midway through the second quarter.

On its first play from scrimmage from its own 45, Orness found a hole on the left side and then dashed 55 yards for the score. Trever Beach kicked the extra point.

Humboldt's defense stuffed the Tigers on the next series, which included a sack by Hunter

Dery to force a punt. Humboldt mounted a 65-yard, seven-play drive which finished on an 11-yard pass from Orness to Beach for a 14-0 lead.

Gilbert's next drive ended at the Wildcat 20. Humboldt took over and ran 10 plays covering 80 yards, capped by Lance Coon's four-yard scoring run. Beach kicked the point-after for a 21-0 lead with 6:31 left in the first half, a lead which they took into halftime.

"Some weird things happened tonight that I've never seen before," Elman said. "We had some completions where Will kept the ball alive by scrambling and was able to get down the field. Gilbert came in and played us a tough game. They gave a tremendous effort and had kids that worked really, really hard. Hats off to them."

"When we scored on every drive in the first half, it helped a ton. It set the tone for the game," Elman said. "When they got the inside kick to start the second half, we had talked about that before but when it happens,

CLASS 3A DISTRICT 2 FOOTBALL STANDINGS	
Dist.	All
Humboldt	3-0 7-0
Nevada	3-0 6-1
North Polk	2-1 5-2
Algona	1-2 4-3
Ballard Huxley	0-3 1-6
Gilbert	0-3 1-6

Oct. 7 games
Nevada 38, Algona 14
Humboldt 31, Gilbert 6

Oct. 14 games
Humboldt at Nevada
Algona at Ballard Huxley
North Polk at Gilbert

Oct. 21 games
Humboldt at Algona
Nevada at North Polk

it's so different when you are out on the field." "But we got a stop after that with the interception, but we couldn't capitalize on that."

"I'm super proud of the kids. I'm super excited for the seniors to get a win in their last regular season game," Elman said.

Gilbert successfully executed the inside kick to start the second half but their hopes were deflated on the very next play when Humboldt's Gage Allen intercepted an Owen Kautman

SEE FOOTBALL, 3B



Humboldt quarterback Will Orness follows one of his blockers, teammate Christian Lee (50), for an outside gain in the Wildcats' 31-6 victory over the Gilbert Tigers on Oct. 7 at Mason Maach Field in Humboldt. The Wildcats visit Nevada Friday, Oct. 14, in a game with district title implications. Independent photo by Phil Monson. To buy this photo and more, visit our photo gallery at www.humboldtnews.com.

Humboldt girls dominate Cadets



Livy Becker serves the ball into play for the Humboldt volleyball team in their victory over Iowa Falls-Alden last week (Oct. 6) in the Humboldt gym. Independent photo by Phil Monson.

Wildcats to 5-1 in North Central Conference

By PHIL MONSON

Humboldt won its ninth straight match on the volleyball court by sweeping Iowa Falls-Alden in three sets in the Humboldt gym on Oct. 6.

In their final home match of the regular season, Humboldt easily dispatched the Cadets by scores of 25-10, 25-12 and 25-6. The triumph moved Humboldt to 16-8 overall, 5-1 in the North Central Conference.

The Wildcats had impressive stats on the night, including 27 ace serves. Livvy Becker and Kayla Gieber each had 10 aces.

"Overall, they did the job they needed to do. We limited errors and were aggressive, especially the serving and passing," HHS coach Kara Waldorf said. "On offense we have tried some different things in practice and it was fun to get out there and control the whole match."

"Our serving was great tonight. Every single girl served aggressive and put them (IFA) on their heels. We have to be right up there with the record for aces in one game," Waldorf said. "It's hard to keep that level of intensity. Sometimes you play with your competition and tonight we didn't do that. We dominated and controlled."

"We didn't have streaks of errors which we have seen this season. Our offense was really

good. Everyone was swinging hard and aggressive," Waldorf said. "This is what we want to see this time of the season."

Humboldt visits Algona on Oct. 13 in their final match of the regular season. Class 4A regional tournament action begins on Tuesday, Oct. 18, with Humboldt to host Spencer in a 7 p.m. match. The winner plays at Bondurant-Farrar on Oct. 20 in a regional semifinal.

The other half of 4A Region 3 has Carroll hosting Storm Lake with the winner visiting North Polk on Oct. 20. The regional final will be played Oct. 25 at a site to be determined. The highest ranked team will be the host school.

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Humboldt vs. IFA
Iowa Falls 10 12 6...0
Humboldt 25 25 25...3

HUMBOLDT STATISTICS
Sets: Darby DeWinter 3, Addie Thompson 3, Jennika Beach 3, Livvy Becker 3, Taylor Wempen 3, Morgan Mann 3, Shelby Heinz 3, Ashlynn Works 3, Kayla Gieber 3.

Attacks (kills): Thompson 16-17 (8), Becker 1-1, Wempen 10-11 (6), Heinz 6-8 (4), Works 5-5 (5), Gieber 5-8 (2). Totals: 43-50 (25).

Assists: Becker 15, Beach 4, Works 1.

Digs: Beach 7, Becker 6, DeWinter 4, Thompson 4, Heinz 3, Mann 2, Gieber 1, Wempen 1.

Blocks (solo-assist): Heinz 0-2, Works 0-1, Wempen 0-1, Becker 0-1.
Serves (aces): Becker 21-22 (10), Thompson 9-11 (2), Gieber 19-20 (10), Heinz 10-11 (4), Mann 9-9 (1), Beach 4-4, Totals: 72-77 (27) for 93.5%.



Mia DeWinter is shown here competing for the Wildcat cross country team. Humboldt hosts a state qualifying meet on Oct. 19. Independent photo by Phil Monson.

Malo wins title at EG cross country

Girls 2nd, boys 5th

By PHIL MONSON

Brynn Malo was the overall winner to lead the Humboldt girls' cross country team to a runner-up finish in the Eagle Grove Dick Bell Invitational on Oct. 4 at Eagle Grove Golf Course.

Malo finished first in 21:15 as Humboldt totaled 62 points, second to first-place Gilbert (23).

Humboldt's boys placed fifth in the large-school boys field, also won by Gilbert. Gabe Thumma led Humboldt by placing 19th in 19:18.

Humboldt's other counting varsity girls include Meg Zweibohmer (16th), Joslyn Orr (19th), Alana Malo (22nd) and Bella Metli (23rd).

"The last few meets the kids have been competing a lot better and they did so again tonight," Humboldt veteran coach Dean Clasen said.

"You can't control the talent that's in each meet but you can control how hard you compete. I've been really impressed with the large number of kids who are really starting to have those little races within the races," Clasen said.

"Our girls had a good night to finish second. Brynn won by quite a large margin over some Gilbert girls who are

pretty good," Clasen said. "She's been hovering around the 21:00 mark and on a course like Eagle Grove that's hilly and challenging, it's a real testament to how she has improved and come on as of late."

"Meg Zweibohmer was 15 seconds faster tonight than she was at Algona. Tori (Gargano) had been running with shin splints and ran eight seconds faster. The girls overall ran faster on a tougher course," Clasen said. "Bella Metli has been coming on. Joslyn Orr is coming out faster and that's encouraging to see."

"Allison Lensing and Reagan Lee are two other girls who continue to improve. Again, those girls improved their times from the Algona meet," Clasen said. "Claire Weydert had some oxygen problems but was able to fight through that and her last mile was faster than her middle mile."

"Lillian Holm has been competing hard. Sarah Numedahl has been much more competitive the last couple of races. Tyley Smith reduced her time. Abby Bruening had a tough thing with her allergies but I can't say enough about how our girls fought through some

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Humboldt's Claire Weydert shown here competing for the Wildcat cross country team in a meet last month. Independent photo by Phil Monson.



Mia Sanchez is shown here for Humboldt in recent cross country action. Independent photo by Phil Monson.

Malo, Thumma win titles at Boone

Humboldt hosts qualifying meet Oct. 19

Brynn Malo and Gabe Thumma both finished first in their respective races to lead the Humboldt cross country team at Boone on Oct. 6.

The meet, added to the schedule at the start of the season, provided another opportunity for the Wildcats to prepare for post-season.

Malo won the girls' race in 20:25 and Thumma won the boys' race in 17:49.

The Wildcat girls totaled 30 points to finish behind Gilbert at 25. Boone didn't field a full squad. Gilbert won the boys' portion with a score of 24. Boone (24), Ogden JV (78) and Humboldt (92) followed.

"We've had kids who were hurt and missed some early season meets so tonight was helpful for us to get the extra race," Humboldt coach Dean Clasen said.

"It was a fast, flat course and we had a chance to get a fast time so mentally we can run faster and break some barriers psychologically," Clasen said.

"I think only two or three kids didn't have a season's best or a personal record, which we had a lot of tonight," Clasen said. "Brynn ran very well for being out in front by herself. Meg Zweibohmer had a good night and Joslyn Orr is getting more consistent with her miles and approach to the race."

"Bella Metli and Alana Malo had good races. All five of our varsity girls ran under 23:00, which is a real plus for us," Clasen said. "Reagan Lee took 50 seconds off of her time. Just her fifth race of the season coming back from injury."

"Sarah Numedahl and Tori Gargano were our leaders on the JV. We had a lot of girls run faster tonight," Clasen said.

"Gabe went out and ran a personal best by over 30 seconds to finish in 17:49. For him to break 18:00 is really big. It puts him in good company. Austin Little broke 20:00 at 19:47. He's another one who is coming back from an injury."

"Our boys had a 2:19 differential from one to five. Everybody was under 21:00 in our top five. Collin Vik ran a 21:20. It's amazing where he had come from in his career," Clasen said.

"Our JV guys continue to make progress and run faster times. Our varsity boys have two seniors so the rest of the guys are coming back next year. We have a lot of underclassmen on our girls' team, so that will be important for us being more competitive moving forward," Clasen said.

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Humboldt varsity girls
Brynn Malo 1st, 20:25, Meg Zweibohmer 6th, 22:19, Joslyn Orr



Humboldt's Peyton Van Pelt maintains his pace in a recent cross country meet for Humboldt. Independent photo.



Humboldt senior Jace Goodell shown here running in a recent cross country meet. Independent photo.

7th, 22:34, Alana Malo 9th, 22:46, Bella Metli 11th, 22:59, Reagan Lee 15th, 24:10, Elsie Stattelmann 16th, 24:14.

Humboldt varsity boys
Gabe Thumma 1st, 17:49, Austin Little 22nd, 19:47, Daylin McDaniel 24th, 20:01, Jayden Gargano 25th, 20:06, Hayden Hansen 28th, 20:08, Collin Vik 41st, 21:20, Justin Ash 46th, 21:29.

Humboldt JV girls
Sarah Numedahl 18th, 24:19, Tori Gargano 20th, 24:25, Allison Lensing 21st, 25:28, Tielry Smith 22nd, 25:28, Lillian Holm 27th, 26:39, Jadelyn Greene 28th, 26:49, Claire Weydert 29th, 27:52, Mia Sanchez 30th, 28:41, Mia DeWinter 31st, 28:42.

Humboldt JV boys
Henry Bormann 48th, 21:33, Sterling Scranton 56th, 22:17.

Graham Bakken 58th, 22:25, Keaton Taylor 65th, 23:38, Joel Thurm 70th, 24:15, Kaden Caquelin 72nd, 24:36, Mack Harklau 76th, 26:14, Jason Oxlaj-Mejia 79th, 28:33.

Wildcat volleyball team rallies past Fort Dodge

Humboldt hosts Spencer in Class 4A regional opener Oct. 18

Humboldt overcame a loss in the first set and rallied for a 3-1 victory over the Fort Dodge Dodgers in non-conference volleyball in Humboldt on Oct. 4.

Humboldt dropped the first set, 25-19, then won by scores of 25-10, 25-18 and 25-15 to improve to 14-8 overall before a Senior Night home crowd.

"We started off the night slow dropping the first set. We made a lot of errors and did not play with the intensity level we needed to be playing with to start the night," HHS coach Kara Waldorf said.

"We regrouped after that and controlled the rest of the match. Our passing improved tremendously as the night went on and we were terminating balls instead of making errors," Waldorf said.

Addie Thompson led Humboldt with 16 kills. Livvy Becker had 41 assists. Jennika Beach had 17 digs.

"Livvy had a great game. She controlled the offense and was able to mix her setting choices up to help generate holes for our hitters to put balls away. She hustled hard and was a leader out on the court," Waldorf said.

"Jennika Beach did a really nice job passing in serve receive. Overall it was a good win and it was nice to see them buckle down after a slow start," Waldorf said.

Seniors recognized include Kayla Gieber, Shelby Heinz, Livvy Becker, Jennika Beach, Addison Thompson and Darby DeWinter.

Humboldt visits Algona in their regular season finale on Oct. 13. The Wildcats will host Spencer on Oct. 18 in a first

round Class 4A regional tournament match at 7 p.m. The winner plays Bondurant-Farrar at Bondurant on Oct. 20.

The other half of 4A Region 3 has Carroll hosting Storm Lake with the winner visiting North Polk on Oct. 20. A regional final is set for Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. at a site to be determined. The highest ranked team will be the host school.

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Oct. 4 in Humboldt
Fort Dodge 25 10 18 15.....1
Humboldt 19 25 25 25.....3

HUMBOLDT STATISTICS
Sets: Darby DeWinter 1, Addie Thompson 4, Macey Varangkounh 1, Jennika Beach 4, Livvy Becker 4, Tayla Wempen 4, Ella Olson 3, Morgan Mann 3, Larson Bonnstetter 1, Shelby Heinz 4, Ashlynn Works 3, Kayla Gieber 4.
Attacks (kills): Thompson 28-33 (16), Beach 1-1, Becker 5-5 (2), Wempen 9-11 (5), Olson 2-2 (1), Mann 2-2 (2), Bonnstetter 2-2, Heinz 12-15 (7), Works 8-10 (6), Kayla Gieber 19-23 (8). Totals: 86-104 (47).

Assists: Becker 41, Beach 1, Varangkounh 1, Mann 1.
Blocks (solo-assist): Thompson 1-0, Wempen 0-1, Heinz 1-1, Works 1-1, Gieber 1-0.

Digs: Beach 17, Gieber 7, Thompson 6, Mann 5, Heinz 5, Becker 4, Wempen 4, DeWinter 1, Varangkounh 1, Works 1.

Serves (aces): Thompson 12-13 (2), Varangkounh 4-6, Beach 15-15 (2), Becker 25-28 (5), Olson 5-5, Mann 5-7 (1), Heinz 12-15 (3), Gieber 2-4 (1). Totals: 80-93 (14) for 86%.

NORTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE VOLLEYBALL STANDINGS
As of Oct. 14

Team	Conf	All
Clarion-Goldfield-Dows	6-0	21-3
Humboldt	5-1	16-8
Algona	4-2	12-14
Webster City	4-2	14-9
Clear Lake	2-3	14-10
Iowa Falls-Alden	1-5	8-19
Hampton-Dumont-CAL	1-5	3-18
Fort Dodge St. Edmond	0-5	4-13

Oct. 6 matches
Humboldt def. Iowa Falls-Alden 25-10, 25-12, 25-6.
Webster City def. Hampton-Dumont-CAL 25-13, 25-22, 25-7.
Clarion-Goldfield-Dows def. Algona 25-13, 25-19, 25-19.



Ashlynn Works (right) slammed the ball over the net for a point against Iowa Falls-Alden last week in the Wildcats' volleyball victory over the Cadets. Independent photo by Phil Monson. To buy this photo and more, visit our photo gallery at www.humboldtnews.com.

Wildcat JV girls move to 7-0 in NCC

Wildcats move record to 9-2 overall on the season

Victories over Fort Dodge and Iowa Falls-Alden last week improved the Humboldt junior varsity volleyball team's season record to 9-2 overall, 6-0 in the North Central Conference.

The Wildcats downed Fort Dodge (21-10, 21-16) in non-conference play on Oct. 4 in Humboldt. The Wildcats hosted Iowa Falls-Alden on Oct. 6 and swept the Cadets by scores of 21-13, 15-12, 21-13 and 15-12.

"We played Fort Dodge earlier this year but JV rosters change so frequently I never expect to see the same lineup from a team we play a second time," Wildcat coach Kathi Beach said. "Aside from a five-point run we allowed in the middle of the second set, we played well."

"Our offense continues to improve as we had 17 kills as a team. Our serving has also really come on with players hitting zone serves well and compiling seven aces as a team. It was a good win," Beach said.

"Iowa Falls was our annual pick out night match. This continues to be my favorite night as the environment is so positive. I love that we can play a sport we enjoy while giving to a worthy cause," Beach said.

"And, without a doubt, this was the best all-around match we have played all season. Two complete sets with no letdowns and high intensity," Beach said. "My second JV squad also competed very well and won in the extra time allotted, 21-13, 15-12."

Humboldt travels to Algona on Oct. 13. Their regular season ends on Oct. 15 in the Lake Mills tournament.

HHS vs. Fort Dodge
Kills: Mia Schluter 8, Morgan Mann 3, Assists: Ella Olson 14, Ace serves: Schluter 3, Olson 2, Alivia Goodell 1, Macey Varangkounh 1. Serving: Schluter 9-9, 3 aces, Olson 1-1, 1 ace, Mann 6-6, 1 ace, Varangkounh 6-6, 1 ace. Digs: Schluter 5, Mann 4, Olson 4, Varangkounh 3.

HHS vs. Iowa Falls-Alden
Kills: Larsen Bonnstetter 6, Schluter 4, Olson 3, Assists: Olson 12, Ace Serves: Olson 2, Varangkounh 2, Schluter 1, Goodell 1. Serving: Schluter 3-3, 1 ace, Ava Fischer 1-1, Alivia Goodell 7-7, 1 ace, Morgan Mann 6-6, Sami Varangkounh 4-4, Macey Varangkounh 14-14, 2 aces. Digs: Sami Varangkounh 8, Schluter 6.

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