timescitizen



Benson shows big improvements

PHOTO AND STORY BY MARISSA VANWINGEN mvanwingen@iafalls.com

efore every serve, South Hardin's Peyton Benson takes a deep breath. It's meant to calm her nerves and allows her to focus on getting the ball over the net.

The technique has worked for the junior. This season she is 182 of 191 behind the line for an efficiency of 95.3 percent and has 17 aces. Being a strong server is something that Benson has worked on

during the offseason and it's helped her get in the starting rotation. This fall, she is the leader among the starting seven in service success.

"We were coached to do that. They (the coaches) said it calms you down, and I feel like it really worked for me so I just kept doing it," Benson said. "Especially when I go back to serve, it's either close to game point, or all serves are important and to get them in is really important."

She also credits her time on the tennis courts during the spring for improving her serving. The motion is the same and it helped her get a stronger serve in both sports.

Benson has been playing volleyball since third grade. Her freshman season, SH was in a three-way tie for second in the league and made it to State. The freshman each rotated who got a varsity suit throughout the year, but once they got to Cedar Rapids, Benson suited.

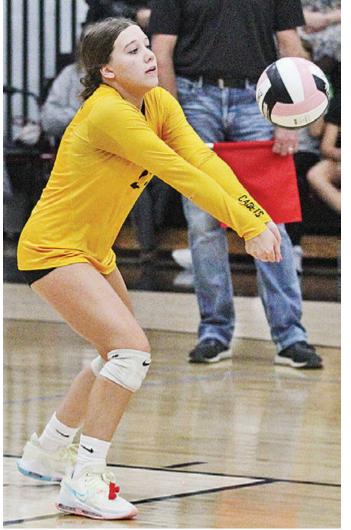
"It was a really cool experience," she said. "It was fun to be there and the atmosphere was just amazing and something I had never had before being a freshman."

Her sophomore year she also got a varsity jersey, but didn't play much. Things were different from her first year

and she learned how important it was to be on the bench, cheering on her teammates.

"I feel the bench is one of the best parts of volleyball. You get to see everything and you are more positive because you don't make mistakes. It's easier to cheer them up," said Benson. "I think the bench really has to be positive. If the bench is down, it really affects how you play on the court. I didn't think it was that big of a deal my freshman year, like 'oh me being on the bench, I can't do anything to help them out there' but

BENSON Cont'd > B3





JUSTIN ITES/TIMES CITIZEN

Libero Shelbie Risley finished Saturday's tournament in Hampton with a team-high 48 digs. The Cadets were 2-2, winning matches versus Webster City and Janesville.

Inspired play leads to revenge wins

IF-A splits four matches in Hampton

BY JUSTIN ITES ites@iafalls.com



ith the regular season coming to a close this week, the Iowa Falls-Alden girls want to build some momentum entering postseason play.

VOLLEBALL Cont'd **B3**

ECC's Jaden Davis (left) and Michael Acri surround a ball carrier during a recent home game. The Panthers led through much of the contest at Highland, before falling 37-27 to remain winless.

First win slips away

Panthers fall to 0-6

within Ellsworth Community College's

In the final 20 minutes of the contest at

It was all ECC (0-6) early in the game as the

another winless squad, Highland Community

College, the victory was snatched away as the

visitors built a 20-10 lead in the opening half.

The Panthers were on top 27-10 two and a half

minutes into the third stanza, but the Scotties

an interception. After a penalty and a run that

pushed the Panthers even further back, Joshua Bauer hit Aghogho Eyafe for a 66-yard score.

The point after try went through the uprights to

make it 7-0. ECC extended their lead to 14-0 on

their next offensive drive. With the help of five

completions by Bauer and a couple of big runs

by the signal caller, the Panthers had third and

one from HCC's 12, setting up an Ernesto Rios

To start the scoring, ECC's defense nabbed

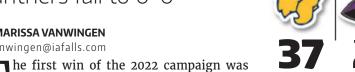
scored 27 unanswered to take the win.

BY MARISSA VANWINGEN

mvanwingen@iafalls.com

grasp.

Panthers fell 37-27.



Saturday at Highland, Kan. ECC: 20 0 7 0 - 27 HCC: 10 0 13 14 - 37 **Scoring Summary:**

First Quarter:

ECC: 10:24 Joshua Bauer 66 yd pass to Aghogho Eyafe (PAT) ECC: 6:26 Ernesto Rios 12 yd run (PAT) HCC: 4:24 Caleb Asjes 19 yd field goal ECC: 3:43 Bauer 55 yd run (PAT failed) HCC: 2:30 Tysan Robbins 10 yd

run (PAT)

Third Quarter:

ECC: 12:32 Bauer 9 yd pass to

The Scotties (1-5) cut the deficit to 14-3 after a goal line stance by ECC's defense. On first and goal from the

ECC Cont'd > B3

★ MORE SPORTS ONLINE: Can't find coverage of a particular game/meet? There's even more sports coverage online.

jailbreak for the 12-yard run.

Malcolm Gillie (PAT)

HCC: 8:21 Kason Jones 20 yd run (2 pt failed) HCC: 5:31 Tysan Robbins 52 yd pass to Darius Melton (PAT) Fourth Quarter:

HCC: 11:26 Robbins 9 yd pass to Melton (PAT)

HCC: 6:53 Jones 9 yd run (PAT)

ECC Stats:

Passing: Joshua Bauer 32-53 294 yds, 2TDs, 3INT.

Rushing: Bauer 6-74 yds, 1 TD; Ernesto Rios 5-68 yds, 1TD; Trent Lane 11-45 yds.

Receiving: Aghogho Eyafe 5-130 yds, 1TD; Keith Allen 7-62 yds; Malcolm Gillie 6-48 yds, 1TD; Micah Hobin 2-20 yds; Dominic McCarren 3-20 yds; Austin Ayobamidele 2-13 yds; Chris Ndushabandi 1-5 yds; Rios 4-(-1) yds; Lane 2-(-3) yds.

GREENBELT GRIDIRON NOTEBOOK IF-A FOOTBALL

Playoff berth on the line

IF-A/Chariton winner will make postseason

BY JUSTIN ITES

ites@iafalls.com Then the Iowa High School football playoff field was expanded a few years ago, that provided additional meaningful end of regular season games such as the one that will take place in Chariton Friday evening.

A one-win Iowa Falls-Alden squad will crack pads versus a three-win Charger team with high stakes. The winner will get the fourth and final playoff bid from Class 2A District 7, while the loser will see their season come to an end.

Coaches from both rosters will not need to say much more than that to get their teams focused on winning the contest.

"This is why a lot of coaches were in favor of expanding the playoff field a few years ago. They wanted more games to have things at stake like the game we will be playing Friday. It is what it is. Win and keep playing or lose and be done," IF-A Coach Don Anderson said. "I like the way we've

been playing the past few weeks. The kids have gotten better as the season has progressed."

Both the Cadets and Chargers own one district victory, as each has defeated Albia. West Marshall, PCM and Roland-Story have the other three playoff bids locked up from the district.

Three Things To Look For:

Sustain the Run Game. During the past two games, IF-A's ground attack has churned out a combined 485 yards during the previous two weeks. Kacen Boyer has accounted for seven touchdowns during that span. A similar effort for a third consecutive week would set-up the Cadets with a chance to win Friday's game.

Avoid mistakes. There are not many differences between the Cadets and Chargers, which means a key mistake or turnover could sway the game in the other's favor. Last week. the Cadets turned the ball over deep in their own territory and allowed a poor Albia offense a short field to score their only touchdown of the contest.



JUSTIN ITES/TIMES CITIZEN

Logan Silver pursues the quarterback during a recent home game. Iowa Falls-Alden can qualify for the postseason with a win Friday at Chariton.

Playoff pairings. Since the winner of IF-A/ Chariton will be the fourth seed out of Class 2A District 7, the victor of Friday's game will go on the road to face a one seed (district champion) on Friday, Oct. 21.

Week 8 Game

IF-A (1-6, 1-3) at Chariton (3-4, 1-3) Where: Chariton Kickoff: 7:30 p.m. Social Media: Follow Times Citizen Sports Editor Justin Ites on Twitter (@Twinkieites) for game updates. Radio: KIFG 95.3 FM.

IF-A Stat Leaders

- Rushing: Kacen Boyer 91-495 yards 7 TDs; Jaden Damiano 81-295 2 TDs; Quinton Jaeger 49-218.
- Passing: Ethan Bartlett 39-92 397 yds 1 TD 10 INTs.
- Receiving: Andrew Bicknese 19-233 yds; Nathan Schmitz 4-93; Boyer 9-71 TD.
- Tackles: Carter DeBates 44.5; Damiano 30.5; Kaden Steffen 27.
- **Chariton Stat Leaders** Rushing: Brock Oxenreider
- 120-624 yards 7 TDs; Mason Smith 47-183 2 TDs.
- Passing: Smith 36-75 381 yds 3 TDs 4 INTs. Receiving: Jayden Allen
- Winston 12-156 yds 2 TDs; Kasyn Paige 8-22.
- Tackles: Ryder McGee 44.5; Jace Gwinn 42.

Week 8 Game

- South Hardin (3-4) at Denver (5-2) Where: Denver Kickoff: 7 p.m. Social Media: Follow Times **Citizen Assistant Sports** Editor Marissa VanWingen (@mvanwingen) on Twitter for updates **SH Stat Leaders:** Passing: Josh Vander Wilt 82-41 1,134 yds, 10TDs, 8INT. Rushing: Kayne Harrell 73-473 yds, 5TDs; Vander Wilt 67-264, 4TDs; Jaxson Drury 42-212, 2TDs. **Receiving:** Ryan Walters 45-625 yds, 6TDs; Ethan Klendworth 13-216, 1TD; Bo Starr 12-212, 4TDs. Tackles: Logan Faris 45; Sean May 31.5; Harrell 29. **Denver Stat Leaders:**
- Passing: Tye Bradley 37-69 497 yds, 4TDs, 3INTs. Rushing: Ethan Schoville

SH FOOTBALL

Tough test in regular season finale

SH travels to Cyclone alley **BY MARISSA VANWINGEN**

mvanwingen@iafalls.com

aced with back-to-back mustwin games, South Hardin did exactly what it needed to.

The Tigers recorded two routs in a row, outscoring Central Springs and East Marshall by a total of 58 points. SH had its best offensive output in both games as well. Against the Mustangs, they totaled 481 yards of offense, including 292 through the air. Defensively, the Tigers held EM to just 72 yards on the ground and 186 passing in the victory.

They are going to need those kind of numbers this week as they travel to Denver. The Cyclones are coming off a huge win over ranked Dike-New Hartford, 30-20. An upset by the Tigers would go a long way in momentum and possible seeding in the expanded playoff system that begins next Friday.

Three Things To Look For:

Score first and often. Denver has put up a lot of points this season. In their five wins, they have averaged nearly 42 points and outscored their opponents 209-53. SH will have to continue its scoring surge from the last two weeks to keep up.

Slow down the run. The Tigers defense has done a good job this season against the run, it's been the passing games that have hurt them. The Cyclones are averaging 333 yards on the ground this fall with Ethan Schoville, who is getting Division I looks, just three yards shy of breaking 1,000 for the season



test as the underdogs and while they have alpostseason, they are looking to play seed. A victory would give third seed.

MARISSA VAN WINGEN/TIMES CITIZEN

Upset-minded. SH is SH's Caden Steding eyes the Central Springs signal caller in heading into the con- a previous home game. The Tigers travel to Denver Friday.

ready secured a spot in next week's spoiler and to get a better them the tiebreaker for the

106-997 yds, 16TDs; Bradley 47-263, 2TDs. Receiving: Ethan Reiter 8-149 yds, 3TDs; Isaac Larson 10-127. Tackles: Evan Dom 56; Larson 41.5; Micah Grier 24.

AGWSR FOOTBALL

Goals change in last game

Playoffs out, Cougars look to finish even

BY COREY MEINTS

cmeints@iafalls.com

riday's Senior Night home loss to Nashua-Plainfield knocked AGWSR out of the playoffs and

kept them from winning one more Class A, District 3 game than last season. Both were the goals the Cougars had at the top of the list heading into the season.

Now 3-4, and with those goals

off the table, head coach James Koop said the goal has changed entering this week's non-district contest at West Fork.

"We definitely want to be .500 and not 3-5," Koop said. "We've got to prepare this week to end the season on a positive note and get these seniors their final win."

Three Things To Look For:

Healthy Bodies. Already without two starting linemen, the Cougars lost two more for much of their loss last week. Their leading rusher was also on and off the field much of the night. What that might mean is new and different numbers on the field wearing the Cougar

whites.

Fight. Koop said he applauded the effort his team put forth on Friday. It came down to physi-

cally not being able to match up with N-P in the second half. He expects that kind of fight to be there again this week.

Taking Advantage. The Warhawks haven't won a football game since week seven of the 2020 season and have only found the end zone four times this season. Expect the Cougars to take advantage of that futility as a parting gesture to the season.

Week 8 Game

Week 8 Game AGWSR (3-4) at West Fork (0-7) Where: Sheffield Kickoff: 7 p.m.

Social media: Follow Ackley World Journal Sports Editor Corey Meints on Twitter (@mcmeints) for updates.

AGWSR Stat Leaders

Passing: Bo Gerbracht 24-76 267 yds. 2TD 7INT

Rushing: Kaden Abbas 148-893 yds. 10TD; Gerbracht 41-177 yds. 3TD; Noah Clikeman 39-136 yds.; Collin Willems 14-105 yds. 1TD

Receiving: Gabe Nederhoff 9-94 yds. TD; Ben Puente 8-67 yds.; Bradly Roder 3-51 yds.;

Tackles: Ben Puente 94; Abbas 37; Roder 30; Gerbracht 26.5.

WF Stat Leaders

Passing: Sage Suntken 29-59 300 yds. 1TD 6INT Rushing: Brody Reich 64-162 yds. 1TD; Josiah

Chibambo 46-156 yds. 1TD Receiving: Trevo Guritz 17-182 yds. 1TD

Tackles: Chibambo 43.5; AJ Anderson 27, Owen Schmidt 22.5

2022 DISTRICT FOOTBALL STANDINGS

CLASS 2A, DISTRICT 7

	District	Overall	PS	PA
West Marshall	4-0	7-0	242	83
PCM	3-1	4-3	180	96
Roland-Story	3-1	4-3	195	174
Chariton	1-3	3-4	153	139
Iowa Falls-Alden	1-3	1-6	78	237
Albia	0-4	2-5	93	131

Abbas

Oct. 7 Results

Iowa Falls-Alden 21, Albia 7 West Marshall 41, Roland-Story 7 PCM 42, Chariton 7

Oct. 14 Games Iowa Falls-Alden at Chariton Roland-Story at PCM Albia at West Marshall

CLASS 1A, DISTRICT 3 District Overall

Oct. 7 Results

Denver 30,

South Hardin 53,

East Marshall 20

Central Springs 7

	DISCILL	Overall	- 3	ГЛ
Aplington-Parkersburg	g 3-1	6-1	271	96
Dike-New Hartford	3-1	5-2	226	109
Denver	3-1	5-2	216	86
South Hardin	2-2	3-4	167	180
Central Springs	1-3	2-5	129	282
East Marshall	0-4	0-7	75	322

Oct. 14 Games

South Hardin at Denver East Marshall at Aplington-Parkersburg 48, Aplington-Parkersburg Central Springs at Dike-New Hartford **Dike-New Hartford 20**

CLASS A, DISTRICT 3

	District	Overall	PS	PA
Grundy Center	5-0	7-0	237	43
Wapsie Valley	4-1	5-2	234	89
Nashua-Plainfield	3-2	5-2	196	126
BCLUW	2-3	4-3	123	163
Hudson	2-3	3-4	77	129
AGWSR	2-4	3-4	104	163
North Tama	0-5	1-6	66	192

Oct. 7 Results Nashua-Plainfield 42, AGWSR 8 Wapsie Valley 41, North Tama 0 Grundy Center 56, BCLUW 8 North Linn 35, Hudson 0

Oct. 14 Games AGWSR at West Fork Wapsie Valley at BCLUW Hudson at Nashua-Plainfield Grundy Center at North Tama



Sports Briefs

Regional VB Pairings

Tough draws for two of the three Greenbelt area teams highlight the release of postseason volleyball brackets by the Iowa Girls Athletic Unon.

Iowa Falls-Alden (10-21) was placed in Class 3A Region 6, and will travel to face third-ranked Mount Vernon (28-5) on Monday, Oct. 17. The winner of that Regional Quarterfinal would play either West Marshall (17–14) or Benton (17-22) in a Regional Semifinal back in Mount Vernon on Wednesday, Oct. 19. Other teams in Class 3A Region 6 are 15th-ranked Vinton-Shellsburg (26-11), Anamosa (15-19), Roland-Story (16-11) and South Tama (12-20).

South Hardin has the opportunity to qualify for the Class 2A State Tournament for a third consecutive season, but to realize that goal, they would likely need to pull off a massive upset. The Tigers (24-12) open Class 2A Region 4 play by hosting a Wednesday, Oct. 19 Regional Quarterfinal versus the winner of Interstate 35 (1-19) or Madrid (11-16). A win there would give SH another home postseason match (Oct. 24) versus either Grand View Christian (26–18) or West Central Valley (15-10).

The top seed in the top half of the bracket is multiyear defending state champion Dike-New Hartford (36-2). The Wolverines swept the Tigers during last year's Class 2A State Quarterfinal, and are heavy favorites to win another state championship in November. SH would likely face D-NH in a Regional Final on Wednesday, Oct. 26.

Other teams in Class 2A Region 4 are Woodward-Granger (6-13), Ogden (6–16), Manson Northwest Webster (21-7) or South Hamilton (11-17).

Twelfth-ranked AGWSR (14-23) begins Class 1A Region 3 play by hosting a Regional match versus West Hancock (2-23) on Monday, Oct. 17. The Cougars have the opportunity to host three postseason matches if they keep winning. Teams in their half of the bracket include North Iowa (12-11), GTRA (2-21), Glidden-Ralston (18-4), Storm Lake St. Mary's (5-16), West Bend-Mallard (11-11) and South O'Brien (5-18). Sixth-ranked Newell-Fonda (24-4) is the top seed in the Class 1A Region 3 bracket. They are in the top half along with Paton-Churdan (0-16), St. Edmond (4-17), Ar-We-Va (4-14), Bishop Garrigan (17-9), Harris-Lake Park (0-22), Trinity Christian (14-9) and George-Little Rock (6-16). The State Volleyball Tournament will take place from Monday, Oct. 31 through Thursday, Nov. 3, at the Xtream Arena in Coralville.

SH VOLLEYBALL Hitting blemishes show in losses

Tigers fall to ranked foes, finish 3-2 **BY MARISSA VANWINGEN**

mvanwingen@iafalls.com

n the final regular season tournament of the season, South Hardin went 2-1 in pool play to finish second heading into bracket action at the Hampton-Dumont/CAL Tournament.

The Tigers then defeated Independence and lost to No. 13 Kuemper Catholic to finish the

day 3-2 overall and improve their record on the year to 24-12.

SH opened with a 21-15, 21-4 win over Ames High. The Tigers had 22 kills in the victory, led by Ellie Anderson with six. Ava Salvo and Peyton Benson Salvo both had four hits each. SH's kill efficiency was .314. Serving was also spot on, going 34 of 38 with seven aces, two by both Abby Teske and Ava Paige.

In the 23-21, 19-21, 15-10 loss to 14thranked in Class 4A Charles City – SH hit just .101 with 17 errors. Anderson tallied eight kills and Paige had five. The Tigers

then easily defeated St. Edmond 21-15, 21-8 to round out pool play. In the victory, SH had 24 kills and seven errors. Anderson tallied 11 spikes. The Tigers were able to get everybody in the match as well. They were 38 of 40 behind the service line with six aces - led by Paige's four.

In the first round of bracket play, SH knocked off Independence with 22 kills. Six different players finished with hits, led by Anderson's seven. Clara Below and Paige each had four. That set up the third meeting between the Tigers and Knights. Kuemper Catholic got the 21-15, 21-23, 15-12 win over SH with 10 solo blocks. The Knights were also superb from the service line with 15 aces. The Tigers struggled hitting, with a kill efficiency of .036. They finished with 23 hits on 83 attempts and 20 errors.

Overall, Anderson finished with 39 kills for the tournament. Paige, Alli Sheldahl and Salvo all had 18. Salvo distributed 61 assists, followed by Paige's 41. Defensively, Teske had 43 digs. Anderson (28), Sheldahl (24) and Salvo (22) all had over 20 passes. Sheldahl (5.5) and Paige (5.5) led with blocks.

Hampton-Dumont/CAL Invite **Saturday at Hampton**

South Hardin: def. Ames 21-15, 21-4, lost to Charles City 23-21, 19-21, 15-10, def. St. Edmond 21-15, 21-8; def. Independence 21-19, 21-14; lost to Kuemper Catholic 21-15, 21-23, 15-12.

SH Stats:

Kills: Ellie Anderson 39; Ava Paige 18; Alli Sheldahl 18; Ava Salvo 18; Clara Below 15; Peyton Benson 8.

Assists: Salvo 61; Paige 41; Abby Teske 1; Lila Warburton 1; Benson 1.

Digs: Teske 43; Anderson 28; Sheldahl 24; Salvo 22; Paige 17; Benson 9; Below 2.

Blocks: Sheldahl 5.5; Paige 5.5; Below 3.5; Benson 2; Anderson 1.5; Salvo 1.

Aces: Salvo 6; Paige 6; Benson 5; Teske 5; Sheldahl 5; Anderson 3.



Peyton Benson admitted she needs to improve her blocking and hitting. While she doesn't have many errors, she'd like to have more go down for kills.

BENSON CONTINUED FROM B1

then, sophomore year I realized that really affects how they play. My energy affects them on the court."

Now in her junior season, Benson has been playing in the starting rotation. She admitted throughout the year the game really changed for her. She didn't feel much pressure at first, but she was nervous because she didn't want to touch the ball. With just a week left in the regular season, both she and her teammates are more comfortable and they all

VOLLEYBALL **CONTINUED FROM B1**

That goal was achieved during a 2-2 performance at Saturday's Hampton-Dumont/CAL Invite.

trust her playing ability. She has also grown in her knowledge and handling the pressure.

'I think I've improved my confidence and knowing my rotation," said Benson. "At the start of the season, Ellie (Anderson) was the middle but Ellie and I shared middle and we'd go from right, to middle, to left almost in one rotation and learning that and building confidence in that, that has helped me improve. And with serving, blocking and hitting."

Benson said she would like to improve on her blocking - four solo and seven assists - and hitting. While she doesn't have many errors (18) a lot of her hits don't go down for kills. She has 34 kill shots on 156 attempts this year.

"I would say blocking and hitting are the two things I think I can improve more," said Benson. "I wouldn't say I have a problem erroring, I would say they're just not kills all the time."

She comes in and out of the lineup but admits that helps her throughout the match. Being off the floor gives her a chance to refocus and forget any bad play that might have transpired earlier.

"It's just like basketball, if you were to get subbed out, you forget everything and then you get ready to go back in and you just let your mistakes go when you come off the court. Once you go back in, you're focused and you pay attention to what's happening," said Benson. "I feel like, that's why I'm able to respond to what they tell me to do. When I come out, I see what they're talking about and what I couldn't see on the court."

This season the Tigers are still figuring out their identity. SH lost five seniors off a team that won back-toback NICL-West titles and made it to state two years in a row. All five were major part of the resurgence of Tiger volleyball. While the 2022 squad still has aspirations and goals of making it back to State, the biggest thing is figuring out who they are as a team.

"Just playing our hardest at this point," said Benson. "I think playing to our potential and like we know we can, like what we had at AGWSR the first time, I felt like we played really well and we knew we could play that way and if we can continue to play that way without the ups and downs, just consistently, that would make the season successful."

Hampton-Dumont/ **CAL Invite**

Saturday at Hampton

IF-A(2-2): def. Janesville 21-16, 21-19; def. Webster City 21-18, 14-21, 19-17; lost to Kuemper Catholic 15-21, 11-21;



Parks/Rec Women's VB **Standings**

Victorious Secrets	5-0
Nut Crackers	3-2
I'd Hit That	2-2
Serves of Steal	2-3
Chaos	1-2



WEDNESDAY, OCT. 12 **VOLLEYBALL-**

Southeastern at ECC 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCT. 13 CROSS COUNTRY-

NICL Conference Meet at LaPorte City 3 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL-Clear Lake at Iowa Falls-Alden 7:30 p.m. Marshalltown at ECC 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCT. 14 **FOOTBALL-**

Iowa Falls-Alden at Chariton 7:30 p.m. South Hardin at Denver 7 p.m. AGWSR at West Fork 7 p.m.



six, the Panthers kept the hosts out of the end zone, forcing a 19-yard field goal attempt that was good.

The visitors responded almost immediately. In just three plays, Bauer broke free for a 55-yard sprint to the end zone. The point after attempt failed, but the Panthers led by a 20-3 score late in the first frame. HCC added a 32-yard drive capped by a 10-yard run by their quarterback – Tysan Robbins - to split the difference in half (20-10). Neither team would score in the second quarter, going into the break with the 10-point differential.

Another big defensive play set up ECC's first touchdown of the second half, a forced fumble. In four plays, the Panthers had first and goal and Bauer found Malcolm Gillie for a nine-yard score and the 27-10 lead. That would be the

AGWSR VOLLEYBALL

final score for the visitors as the momentum completely swung in favor of the Scotties. HCC took eight plays and ate up 68 yards to score. The two-point try failed, making it 27-16. After a three and out by ECC, the hosts had a 52-yard bomb from Robbins to Darius Melton to cut the difference to 27-23 with 6:23 left on the clock in the third.

The Panthers had just 41 yards of offense the rest of the game as the Scotties took the lead on a nine-yard pass from Robbins to Melton. For insurance, HCC added another touchdown in the fourth quarter. Twice the Panthers were driving and both times the Scotties defense intercepted Bauer. On second and goal from the nine, HCC secured the pick and were able to get three first downs to run out the clock.

ECC will continue a three game road trip as they travel to Dodge City (2-4) on Saturday.

The Cadets (10-21) gained sor venge versus a pair of opponents that saddled them with losses earlier in the season.

During pool play, IF-A swept Janesville 21-16, 21-19, as well as North Central Conference rival Webster City in a three-set thriller by scores of 21-18, 14-21, 19-17.

The team finished 2-1 in pool play, as they also lost to Kuemper Catholic in two sets.

Charles City was the opponent in bracket play, and the Comets won both sets by scores of 21-17, 21-12.

IF-A Coach Brook Tuttle said she wanted her team to play carefree and without pressure. She was pleased with the performance.

"I've seen so much improvement in these girls this weekend, and I think it will give us a confidence booster to take on Clear Lake on Thursday. This week at practice I told the girls let's have fun this weekend, and I think they did just that," Tuttle said. "We had nothing to lose so they went all out, and girls were getting to balls we wouldn't normally get to. It was so fun to watch these girls perform the way I know they have been able to."

The win over the Lynx was particularly satisfying since the first meeting was likely IF-A's worst performance of the season in a three-set sweep defeat in Webster City.

Offensively, Ella Sharar pounded down 27 kills, and she was joined in home floor of the Mustangs.

lost to Charles City 17-21, 12-21. **IF-AStats**

Aces: Leah Allen 7; Ella Sharar 4; Shelbie Risley 3; Angel Sharar 3; Ali Ackerson 1; Aubrey Johnson 1.

Kills: E. Sharar 27; Johnson 15; A. Sharar 10; Tessa Lorenz-Neumann 4; Allen 4; Risley 1; Paige Danger 1.

Assists: Ackerson 50; Risley 2; E. Sharar 2; Danger 1; Adessa Gillespie 1.

Blocks: A. Sharar 4; Allen 4; E. Sharar

Digs: Risley 48; E. Sharar 23; Ackerson 21; Johnson 10; Gillespie 10; Danger 7; Allen 5; A. Sharar 5; Abbie Andrews 1.

double figures by Aubrey Johnson's 15 and Angel Sharar's 10.

Ali Ackerson distributed a teamhigh 50 assists to the team's offensive hitters.

From the service line, freshman Leah Allen recorded seven aces. E. Sharar added four while Shelbie Risley and A. Sharar produced three apiece.

Defensively, A. Sharar and Allen blocked four balls apiece at the net. From the back row, Risley - the team's libero - dug 48 balls. E. Sharar finished with 23 and Ackerson 21.

IF-A closes the regular season and conference slate at home versus Clear Lake (16-14) on Thursday.

The team does not have an easy opponent to start Class 3A Regionals on Monday, Oct. 17. The Cadets must make the long trip to play thirdranked Mount Vernon (28-5) on the

Cougars prep for postseason

AGWSR goes 1-2 at Hudson

BY COREY MEINTS cmeints@iafalls.com

anked 12th in Class 1A, the Metzgar AGWSR girls finished 1-2 at Saturday's Hudson Tournament. They fell to 1A number-eight Don Bosco but picked up the opening set (21-15, 15-21, 9-15). They also got one from Apling-

ton-Parkersburg in another three- Smith set loss (16-21, 21-18, 10-15). They ended the day going three with East Buchanan, winning the first and third (21-8, 19-21,

Brynn Smith, who booked 1,000 career kills earlier this season, led the Cougars with 38 one-timers on Saturday. She also reached the 1,000 dig plateau, with a team-high 27. Karis Lippert missed on just three of her 45

serves, adding five aces in the process. The day put the Cougars at 14–23 on the season with the postseason opening on Monday, Oct. 17. The Cougars are slated to host the first three rounds, beginning with West Hancock. The winner sees either North Iowa or Graettinger-Terril-Ruthven-Ayrshire in a Class 1A, Region 3 quarterfinal in Ackley on Oct. 19. That winner goes on to the semifinals to face either Glidden-Ralston, Storm Lake St. Mary's or South O'Brien in Ackley on Oct. 24.

Hudson Tournament Saturday at Hudson

AGWSR: lost to Don Bosco 15-21, 21-15, 15-9; lost to Aplington-Parkersburg 21-16, 18-21, 15-10; def. to East Buchanan 21-8, 19-21, 15-6.

AGWSR Stats

Kills: Brynn Smith 38; Karis Lippert 13; Lila Vaughn 7; Trevyn Smith 6; Ava Olson 4; Brylea Metzgar 4.

Assists: T. Smith 56; Tessa Sperfslage 6; B. Smith 3; B. Metzgar 2.

Blocks: B. Metzgar 5; B. Smith 3; Vaughn 3; T. Smith 3; A. Olson 2; Lippert 2.

Digs: B. Smith 27; Sperfslage 24; T. Smith 20; Lippert 13; Elise Olson 12; Tori Metzgar 6; Vaughn 6; B. Metzgar 3; A. Olson 2.

Serving: Lippert 40-43-5 aces; B. Metzgar 26-28-3; B. Smith 24-25-2; T. Smith 18-22-1; E. Olson 13-15-2; Sperfslage 24-25-2.

