

Go-Hawks stay hot with 52-10 win over Mason City

BY NICK THOMPSON
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Mason City- The Go-Hawks were looking to keep the perfect season alive on Friday night against Mason City.

The Riverhawks started the game with the ball but the Go-Hawk defense only gave up 5 yards during the three-and-out series.

Waverly-Shell Rock got the ball at their own 41-yard line and wasted no time in getting the ball into the endzone. The five play, 59-yard drive was capped off with a 1-yard touchdown run from McCrae Hagarty.

Mason City came out in the next drive and went 80 yards in six plays. Quarterback Kale Hobart threw his first touchdown pass of the game to Kaden Tyler for 46 yards. The teams were tied up 7-7 with 5:24 left in the first quarter.

The Go-Hawks responded on the next drive with a four play, 65-yard drive. Cole Marsh set W-SR up with a 29-yard pass to Sam Roose and Tyler Gayer plunged it in from 2-yards out. Simon Ott converted the extra point to give W-SR the 14-7 lead.

W-SR's defense stood strong on the next drive, forcing a three-and-out that only gained 3 yards for the Riverhawks.

The Go-Hawks got the ball at the Mason City 45-yard line after the punt and Ott found the edge for a



BY JENNIFER WALKER

Tyler Gayer drags a defender on a rush attempt.

41-yard rush. Asa Newsom rushed into the endzone from 6 yards out and Ott rushed in the two-point conversion to give W-SR the 22-7 lead with just over a minute left in the first quarter.

Mason City was forced to punt after a five-play drive and Marsh

threw a 57-yard bomb to Ott on the first play of the drive. The extra point was good giving W-SR the 29-7 lead at the start of the second quarter.

Another three-and-out from the Riverhawks allowed the Go-Hawks to get the ball on their own 24-yard

line.

The four play, 58-yard drive was finished when Newsom found the edge yet again, this time with a 50-yard touchdown run. Ott passed the point after attempt to Gayer to give the Go-Hawks the 37-7 advantage.

Mason City was finally able to answer back with a 29-yard field goal that sailed through the uprights to cap off an eight play, 53 yard drive.

With just under five minutes left in the first half, W-SR got the ball back on their own 34-yard line. The six play drive was ended when Hagarty found the endzone for the second time, this rush for 6 yards. Marsh ran in the two-point conversion to give W-SR the 45-10 lead to end the first half.

There were only three drives in total in the second half. W-SR received the second half kickoff and drove down 68 yards in 10 plays. Gayer found the endzone on his second rushing touchdown from 20 yards. The extra point was good, giving W-SR the 52-10 lead.

Mason City was stopped after a six play drive and punted the ball back to the Go-Hawks with 11:10 left in the game. W-SR ran the game for the last 11 minutes of the game and secured the 52-10 lead.

The win pushed W-SR to a 7-0 record on the season and they will close out their home schedule against Western Dubuque on Friday.

Waverly-Shell Rock..... 22 23 7 0-42
Mason City..... 7 3 0 0-10



BY JENNIFER WALKER

Far left: Sam Roose makes a catch near the endzone. Left: Simon Ott celebrates with Asa Newsom and Kellen Pugh after a touchdown run.

'I can say with all my heart the Wildcats haven't quit' Eastman says after 50-0 loss to Clarksville



BY NICK THOMPSON
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Janesville- The Janesville Wildcats welcomed the Indians from Clarksville for the final home game of the 2022 campaign.

The Wildcats opened up the game by receiving the opening kick but went three-and-out on the first drive, a sign of things to come.

Clarksville's MaKade Bloker opened up the scoring with a 55-yard rush on the first play but Janesville stuffed the two-point

conversion to put the score at 6-0 with 10:14 left in the first quarter.

Janesville quarterback, Keegan Eastman, threw an interception that was returned to the Janesville 7-yard line.

Carter Tesone plunged it in from 1 yard out, the conversion was good giving the Indians the 14-0 lead.

The Wildcats got their first first down on the next drive and crossed their own 25-yard line. Janesville ended the drive by punting the ball down to the Indian 20-yard line. The first quarter ended with Clarksville on the Wildcat 20-yard line with a big

third down play upcoming.

Janesville stopped the Indians and Keegan Eastman blasted through the line on fourth down. Janesville failed to score on the drive.

The Indians scored two more times in the second quarter to take a 30-0 lead into halftime.

Clarksville continued to dominate, scoring two more times but Janesville halted the conversion attempt both times, going into the final frame down 42-0.

The Indians put the final touchdown on the board in the fourth quarter, giving it the 50-0

BY NICK THOMPSON

Gabe Meaney gets a strip sack on Clarksville's Aiden Morrison.

See WILDCATS, A10

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Boys
Ethan Schoville, Denver

Ethan Schoville has been Denver's workhorse running back this season. Last week against Dike-New Hartford in a big district game, Schoville rushed for 251 yards and three touchdowns in the 30-20 win. Schoville averaged 9 yards per carry and had four-and-a-half tackles on defense. Schoville received 72% of the total votes.

Girls
Channing Johnson, Denver

Channing Johnson continued her outstanding freshman season as Denver's setter. Johnson had 83 assists, two blocks, 14 digs and four aces last week. Johnson helped lead the Cyclones to a second place finish in the North Iowa Cedar League conference tournament and a 3-2 tournament record this weekend. Johnson received 41% of the total votes.

To vote, go to Waverly Newspapers Twitter, @wavnewspapers.



BY NICK THOMPSON

Ethan Schoville rushed for 251 yards and three touchdowns against Dike-New Hartford.



BY NICK THOMPSON

Channing Johnson finished the week with 83 assists, two blocks, 14 digs and four aces.

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Big second half propels Cyclones to 30-20 win over D-NH

BY NICK THOMPSON
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Dike- With a tie for the top spot in the district on the line, the Cyclones took their two game winning streak into Dike for a matchup against Dike-New Hartford.

In the first quarter, the Cyclones forced a safety from the Wolverines, but gave up a touchdown to end the first quarter down 7-2.

The second quarter saw Tye Bradley score on a rushing touchdown before exiting the game due to concussion concerns. D-NH responded with a touchdown of their own to end the first half up 14-8.

The injury to Bradley saw back-up Jaxson Sanderson come into the game and play meaningful snaps for the first time this season.

Denver started the second half with the ball and wasted no time gaining ground on the Wolverines. Ethan Schoville broke out for a 24-yard rush to push the ball across midfield and on the next play scored on a 38-yard touchdown run.

On the ensuing kickoff, the Wolverines fumbled the ball to give Denver the ball back at the Wolverine 26-yard line. Schoville found the endzone for the second time in the half on a 20-yard touchdown run. D-NH was off-sides on the extra point attempt and the Cyclones went for two and Schoville converted giving Denver the 23-14 lead with 9:09 left in the third quarter.

The 15 unanswered points to start the second half kickstarted the Cyclones and gave them a cushion to play the second half with.

"It was huge," head coach Rhett Barrett said. "We made some mistakes and we can't do that against a number three ranked team. They [D-NH] are very disciplined and very well coached. Schoville and our offensive line worked all week on the I-formation and working down hill."

On the next possession, the Wolverines barely converted a fourth-and-inches play to continue the drive. Ethan Reiter leaped up for a big interception to give the Cyclones the ball on their own 24-yard line.

Sanderson didn't shy away from the moment after being thrust into the most important game of the season. He tossed a ball high up for Reiter and completed it to cross midfield.

"It makes a big difference when you bring in a backup quarterback that has played some reps," Barrett said. "He made a huge play on the throw to Reiter and did a nice job."

Schoville barreled his way to a 20-yard rush after that play but the Cyclones were stopped on a fourth-and-four play at D-NH's 10-yard line to start the fourth quarter.

The Wolverines moved the ball down the field, aided by a Cyclone personal foul, but a wide open pass on third down was dropped to force a punt. The short punt gave Denver the ball at their own 40-yard line.

Schoville found the edge on the first play of the drive for a 60-yard touchdown run and the extra point gave Denver the 30-14 lead with 9:36 left in the game.

D-NH moved the ball down the field strictly through the air and ended the drive with an 18-yard floater pass. Denver stuffed the two-point conversion attempt to make the score 30-20 with 7:54 left in the game.

The Cyclones got the ball near midfield after a short pooch kick from D-NH but were forced to punt after a three-and-out.

Reiter wasted no time in getting the ball back with his second interception of the second half, and third overall to



Ethan Reiter leaps up for his second interception of the game.

BY NICK THOMPSON



Ethan Schoville finds the edge on his 60-yard touchdown run.

put Denver at their own 23-yard line.

D-NH used all three of their timeouts on the drive and Denver was forced to punt after a fumbled snap.

A huge pass from the Wolverines was negated due to holding. The penalty plus a huge sack from freshman Cody Koepke put D-NH in a fourth-and-35 situation.

Reiter intercepted his fourth ball of the game on a pass that was basically a punt to give Denver the ball at midfield. The Cyclones ran out the clock to give it the 30-20 win and a tie at the top of the district.

Reiter was pushed into the safety position with the injury to Bradley and may have played himself into a starting spot after the big game.

"He is learning how to read the defense and play that," Barrett said. "He had to play it because Tye was out but I think Tye might get some rest on defense this week because I think that Reiter earned himself a spot."

The Cyclones rushed for 309 yards and followed the game plan for the week. Logan Beatty played well on both sides of the ball and understands that the game is won in the trenches.

"That has been our goal all year," Beatty said. "We have wanted to get the ball up the middle. Our heart comes from our o-line and everything is won within the trenches."

Denver's defense allowed multiple big passing plays from short punts but made the big plays when it counted the most.

"We were just playing deep to

short," Schoville said. "We let them take the short 3-4 yard plays but didn't let them score the touchdowns."

Beatty had multiple big QB pressures late in the game and the energy from the team helped him make those plays.

"I got energy from our team," Beatty said. "It is a great feeling to be in that position. It is an amazing feeling that really powers you through the end of the game."

According to the BCMoore prediction, D-NH was favored by 26 points to win the game but the Cyclones put everyone on notice with their big win.

"We have to keep grinding," Schoville said. "We played to our potential and now we have a target on our back now. After losing to A-P and beating these guys it is going to raise some eyebrows."

Barrett accepted the underdog role this week and ran with it on the way to a win.

"We talked about this all week," Barrett said. "There wasn't anyone that believed that we could do this. We really had to come together and we had a really great week of practice. We talked about it and executed it. After we lost to A-P, we were in the red zone four or five times, and we didn't score. We knew that we could do better than that and that is what we were practicing and preparing for."

Denver..... 2 6 15
7 - 30

Dike-New Hartford..... 7 7 0
6 - 20

'I can say with all my heart the Wildcats haven't quit' Eastman says after 50-0 loss to Clarksville

CONTINUED FROM A9



Keegan Eastman reaches the ball out for a first down.

win over Janesville on the Wildcats' homecoming.

Head coach, Dale Eastman, had nothing but praise for his opponent and the work the Indians have done throughout the offseason.

"You have to give a lot of credit to Clarksville," Dale said. "They have gotten better these last few years. They have been in the weight room and Bloker is the real deal. He is big and fast and their offensive and defensive lines have been really tough all year long."

The Wildcats are going into their final game of the season against Dunkerton with a 1-7 record, having dropped seven straight games after a season opening win over GMG. This will be only the second time in 11 seasons that a squad coached by Dale Eastman will have a losing record.

"It is something we aren't used to at Janesville," Dale said. "This is only the second losing season in my 11 years. We aren't used to losing but we are trying to do stuff to keep the morale up. They just brought the physicality to us and we had a great game plan coming into the game."

The Wildcats are fielding a very young team, with only four seniors and three juniors. Dale feels good about what has happened during the week of practice leading up to the games, but the older teams are using their experience to their advantage.

"Our JV has played some great games the last two weeks," Dale said. "We are doing a lot of good things which is a good thing. You don't lose, you learn and that is 100% true for the Wildcats this year. We are learning what we can and can't do with our team."

Injuries have struck the Wildcats this season, losing two players for the year and have had players miss games throughout the year.

"We have lost two players for the season and when you have an inexperienced team it is tough," Dale said. "I can say with all my heart that the Wildcats haven't quit. When they are still upset after a loss that shows that the players still care about the team. We are learning as a staff and as players. We are getting better and we hate to use rebuild but that is what this year has been."

Friday's game against Dunkerton will be the final game of the season for Janesville. It will also be the final game for four seniors, Keegan Eastman, Peyton Trees, Noah Muller and Rogan Gergen, who has been out for the last few games with a shoulder injury. Dale is hoping that a big game on Friday will be the boost the team needs going into offseason workouts and beyond.

"I would love for our younger kids to have some success," Dale said. "It is going to be four of our players last games but we have 20 players returning to the team next year. You know after we won the first game we have dropped seven straight and that stings. Friday's game against Dunkerton is a building block to the offseason and we are hoping to end it with a win."

Janesville..... 0 0 0 - 0
Clarksville..... 14 16 12 8 - 50



Peyton Trees attempts to tackle Carter Tesone.

Cyclone, Go-Hawk offensive lines shine in wins

BY NICK THOMPSON
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The game is won in the trenches and that adage is as old as the game itself.

Waverly-Shell Rock and Denver both showed the importance of good offensive line play on Friday night.

The Cyclone offensive line has hit its stride the last three games, blocking for a total of 1,028 rushing yards in three straight wins.

Logan Beatty, a junior offensive lineman for the Cyclones, is happy with the squad's play of late and understands the importance of a strong front on both sides of the ball.

"It has been our goal all year," Beatty said. "We've wanted to push the ball up the middle. Our heart comes from our o-line and everything is won between the

trenches."

Ethan Schoville has been the benefactor of the great o-line play, racking up 546 yards in the last three games. Schoville also leads the team with 997 yards and 16 touchdowns.

"The line did their job [on Friday]," Schoville said. "They opened up holes and had some good blocks on the outside. At that point it is just a track race for me."

The I-formation was a big point of interest for the Cyclones this past week in practice and they made the plays needed for the big 309 rushing yard game they had.

"Schoville and our o-line worked all week on the I-formation, coming down hill, running hard and playing till the whistle," head coach Rhett Barrett said.

Chris Haislet, a senior on the

offensive line for Denver, has seen a lot of improvement from the squad upfront as the season has progressed.

"We have been getting after it at practice pushing each other and making each other better," Haislet said. "We have been getting off the ball a lot better and it's been a team effort all around. We had to change our mindset and know before every play that you are going to win that play and drive your guy off the ball! We have been working as a cohesive group and we all push each other and rushing for over 300 yards over a good Dike-New Hartford team really gets us fired up! It shows what we are capable of when we play to our potential!"

The Go-Hawks have relied



W-SR's o-line looks to make a hole on the goal line.

FILE PHOTO/BY NICK THOMPSON

See WINS, A11

Weekend volleyball update

BY NICK THOMPSON
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Waverly-Shell Rock, Denver and Janesville volleyball were all in action this past weekend at various tournaments around the state.

W-SR made the trip to Mason City and started off with a tough test against Osage. The Go-Hawks dropped their first match of the day, 2-1, losing to Osage 13-21, 21-18 and 7-15.

Match two saw the Go-Hawks match up against Humboldt. W-SR got back on track with a 2-1 win of their own. The Go-Hawks beat the Wildcats 21-17, 20-22 and 15-10.

W-SR was looking to keep the momentum against host school, Mason City, in match three of the day. The Go-Hawks continued to roll with a 2-0 win, 22-20 and 21-16.

Central Springs was next on the list for W-SR and the Go-Hawks rolled to a 2-1 win by scores of 21-14, 16-21 and 15-10.

The last match of the Saturday tournament was against Clear Lake. W-SR ended the day with a 4-1 record after



FILE PHOTO/BY NICK THOMPSON

Ellie Thompson goes up for a kill against Charles City.

beating the Lions 2-0, 21-15 and 21-12.

The Cyclones had the long trek to Hull for their weekend tournament. Denver faced off against Boyden-Hull for its first match of the day and came

away with the 2-0 win, 21-10 and 21-9. Sergeant Bluff-Luton put up a tougher fight against the Cyclones, but Denver pulled out a 2-1 win, 20-22, 22-20 and 15-7.

Denver dropped their first match of the day against Hinton, 2-1, falling 21-15, 17-21 and 13-15.

Up next for Denver was perennial South Dakota powerhouse, Dakota Valley. The Cyclones edged out a 2-1 win, 21-25, 25-10, 15-7.

The final tough task of the day was against number two ranked Western Christian. The Cyclones were swept 0-2, 13-25 and 19-25 to end their day 3-2.

Janesville travelled to Hampton-Dumont and had a tough day, going 0-3.

Its first match was against Iowa Falls-Alden, which Janesville lost 0-2, 16-21 and 19-21.

Kuemper Catholic was next for the Wildcats. Janesville fell again 0-2, 16-21 and 11-21.

The final match of the day for Janesville was against Webster City. The Lynx won 2-0, 19-21 and 17-21.

Area regional volleyball pairings

BY NICK THOMPSON
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With the playoffs just over a week away, the regional volleyball pairings have been released.

1A
Clarksville, Janesville, Nashua-Plainfield and Tripoli will all be in the same region, Region 5. All games will be played on Oct. 17 with a 7 p.m. start time.

Clarksville will begin their playoff push against Dunkerton at Dunkerton High School.

The Huskies from Nashua-Plainfield will travel to Riceville to take on

the Wildcats.

Janesville will face off against BCLUW at the BCLUW High School.

Tripoli is the only area 1A team that will host their first regional game when they play Newman Catholic.

2A

The state was kind to the North Iowa Cedar League, splitting them up into different regions.

Denver will get a bye for the first round in Region 5 and will play the winner of South Winneshiek and Postville. The Cyclones first game will be played on Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. in Denver.

Sumner-Fredericksburg will also

host after getting a first round bye in Region 6. The Cougars will face the winner of East Buchanan and Postville on Oct. 19 at 7 p.m.

Wapsie Valley will host in Region 7. The Warriors received a first round bye and will face the winner of Cascade and Columbus on Oct. 19.

4A

Waverly-Shell Rock is the only area team that is in the 4A class. The Go-Hawks will play in the first round against Gilbert on Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. The winner of that game will travel to Cedar Rapids to take on Xavier on Oct. 20.

Cyclone, Go-Hawk offensive lines shine in wins

CONTINUED FROM A10



BY NICK THOMPSON

Denver's offensive line waits for the snap against Dike-New Hartford.

heavily on the run game on the way to a perfect 7-0 record on the season.

Against Mason City on Friday night, W-SR rushed for 354 yards as a team. This is the most yards in a game this season for W-SR and the second time the team has rushed for over 300 yards, the last time being in the season opener against Waukon where the team rushed for 334 yards.

In an interview earlier this season after a win over Crestwood, running back McCrae Hagarty gave credit to his offensive line after his standout performance.

"My o-line did a great job," Hagarty said. "They work hard every day of the week. They lift every day of the week and they do the best job ever."

Being on the offensive line is a thankless job most of the time. It is tough, gritty work that most players aren't cut out for. The area running backs clearly understand where their success starts and ends, which is the offensive lines, and thank them for the hard work they do inside the trenches.

Through the Lens: Playoff football is nearly here

BY NICK THOMPSON
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With Denver's big win over Dike-New Hartford on Friday, it has me very excited about the upcoming playoffs for the area teams.

Waverly-Shell Rock is rolling and it doesn't seem to be slowing down at all. The Go-Hawks have outscored its opponents 297-38 throughout the season. W-SR ended last season in the semifinals and it seems that coach Mark Hubbard has the team set on winning the state championship this season.

Denver has been rolling the last three weeks, outscoring its opponents 142-26 after dropping two straight games. After the Cyclones lost to Sumner-Fredericksburg and Aplington-Parkersburg this season, it seemed that the Cyclones had lost their way, but the recent wins have proved me wrong, and I am happy about that.

The Wildcats from Janesville have fallen out of playoff contention with its 1-7 record on the season. Janesville will be scary in the coming years with all the experience the younger players are gaining. The team will be returning up to 20 players next year that now have valuable varsity experience.

The Iowa football playoffs are different than Minnesota and I am not sure how I feel about it. In Minnesota, every team makes it to the playoffs and the teams play in a section tournament before the section champions make it to the state tournament.

The playoffs separate the contenders from the pretenders and I believe that the area football teams that will make the playoffs have a real shot at going very far in the postseason this year.



NICK THOMPSON
SPORTS REPORTER

Cyclones finish 2nd, Warriors 3rd at NICL conference tournament

BY NICK THOMPSON
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Fairbank- The gym at Wapsie Valley High School had the feel of a small state tournament with all four teams in the semifinals of the North Iowa Cedar League conference tournament ranked in the top-five of their respective classes.

Denver vs Wapsie Valley

The first semifinal game was between the fourth ranked Cyclones and the third ranked host school, Wapsie Valley.

The Warriors started the match off with a slim 5-4 lead and Denver took a timeout shortly after, down 9-5. Wapsie Valley's Hannah Knight had four kills by the time Denver took their second timeout down 14-8.

Cyclone Jessica Gergen rose up for a huge block at the net to cut the lead to five, 15-10 before the Cyclones continued to cut the lead to three, 18-15.

Denver got as close as two, 21-19 before Wapsie took a four point lead, 24-20 to put the Cyclones on the ropes.

The Cyclones continued to put the ball into their best players hand, Kayla Knowles, down four and it worked as Knowles put constant pressure on the Warrior defense and brought Denver back to 24-23.

Wapsie Valley took a timeout down 25-24 before dropping set one 29-27.

When the Cyclones were on the ropes and down to set point, head coach Jamie Johnson continued to tell the players to trust each other and play with confidence.

"I told them to have confidence and believe in each other," Johnson said. "Staying calm, cool and collected was important, which they did and I am proud of them. They traded points there, but we put the brakes on Wapsie there when we were down to set point. I am proud of them to believe in themselves enough to play error free volleyball for that long."

Knowles played lights out volleyball to end the first set and was confident in her ability to bring the team back but realized she isn't the only one out there making plays.

"It feels great to be trusted on a team like that," Knowles said. "I am not the only one out there. It was a team effort because while I may get the kills on the scoreboard, I need a pass, I need a setter and it was just a team effort all around."

Denver had all the momentum going into set two, taking 5-4 and 10-7 leads after Knowles notched her 10th kill of the match.

Elaina Hildebrandt got in on the action as well, killing the ball to give Denver the slim 15-13 lead. Wapsie Valley took a timeout down 19-14 and Denver took a timeout after the Warriors scored three straight.



BY NICK THOMPSON

Kayla Knowles and Jessica Gergen celebrate after a Channing Johnson kill.

An ace from Wapsie Valley's Anna Curley tied the set at 21-21 but it wasn't enough as the Cyclones took set two 25-23. Knowles ended the match with 14 kills.

Wapsie Valley vs Union

After Dike-New Hartford beat the fifth ranked team in 3A, Union, in two straight sets, the Warriors had to face off against Union in the third place consolation match.

The Warriors played like it had something to prove, taking a 4-0 lead in set one. Sydney Matthias slammed the ball down to give Wapsie Valley the 12-6 lead.

Knight notched her fifth kill of the set to give the Warriors the 16-9 advantage. Union took their second timeout down 21-14 but it wasn't enough as the Warriors took set one 25-20.

Wapsie Valley continued the strong play, taking a 5-3 lead in set two before Union took a timeout down 8-5. Knight continued to punish the ball, killing it to give the Warriors the 13-12 lead. The tight set continued with the Knights taking a 19-18 lead. Union held Wapsie Valley at arms length, winning set two 25-23 and forcing a set three.

The third and final set started off tied at 5-5 before Union took a timeout down 10-7. The Knights took their second timeout down 13-7 and Wapsie Valley won set three 15-8 to beat Union 2-1 and finish in third place.

Denver vs Dike-New Hartford

The Cyclones made it to the championship match and their reward was a match against top-ranked Dike-New Hartford.

Denver started off set one slow, taking a timeout down 4-0. The timeout helped a little bit as they closed the gap to 10-5 and keeping it within five, 15-10.

The Cyclones scored three straight to force the Wolverines to take a timeout up 17-14. Denver took their second timeout down 23-18 but D-NH took set

one 25-20. Knowles finished the first set with seven kills to lead both teams.

D-NH began set two up two, 6-4 and a kill from Gergen kept the lead at two, 10-8. The Cyclones took a timeout down 16-11 and its final timeout down 22-14. The Wolverines finished off Denver after a net violation, giving them the 25-15 win and the first place finish. Knowles finished the match with 10 kills and Gergen finished second with seven.

Knowles finished the day with 24 kills, the majority assisted from freshman Channing Johnson, who came into the day second in the state in assists across all classes.

"It is awesome having a setter like that," Knowles said. "She is so young and has so much potential to get better and grow. You can bring up her confidence and she keeps getting better and better every game."

The Cyclones faced off against D-NH earlier in the season but made the match on Thursday night much closer.

"I was proud of our girls," Johnson said. "We terminated more balls than we normally do against Dike but they are just phenomenal and it is hard to beat them."

Denver was close to breaking through, but lost focus at key points throughout the match.

"We feel like we had a let up in our focus," Johnson said. "When you are playing against a team like that we have to play pretty flawlessly to beat them. So there is definitely work to do as we move forward."

Knowles copied the sentiment that Johnson made regarding the team's focus.

"I think we came out with great energy," Knowles said. "We just couldn't quite execute what we wanted to. We knew that we had some good plays and some good strategy, but we just lost focus a little bit and that is what got us down and we ended us losing."

AREA SPORTS SCHEDULE

Area sports schedule for Waverly-Shell Rock, Denver, Janesville, Tripoli, Wapsie Valley and Clarksville.

Tuesday, October 11

Waverly-Shell Rock

W-SR volleyball vs Dike-New Hartford, Union and Nevada 5 p.m.

Denver

Denver volleyball at Grundy Center 7 p.m.

Janesville

None

Tripoli

None

Wapsie Valley

None

Clarksville

None

Wednesday, October 12

Waverly-Shell Rock

None

Denver

None

Janesville

None

Tripoli

None

Wapsie Valley

None

Clarksville

None