

Sports

VOLLEYBALL

Class 3A No. 5 West Liberty eliminates Mustangs



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WEST LIBERTY — Class 3A No. 5 West Liberty put down 30 kills and had a kill efficiency of .304 during its three-game sweep of PCM's volleyball team on Oct. 17.

The Comets had no trouble advancing to the semifinal round of 3A Region 7. They downed the Mustangs 25-

13, 25-13, 25-5.

Addison Steenhoek registered five kills and seven digs to lead the Mustangs, while Sidney Shaver had 10 assists and two digs.

PCM (10-22) also got three kills and two digs from Joslyn Briles. Tori Lindsay had six digs, Skylar Burns finished with five digs and Reese Palm and Riley Johannes tallied three and two kills, respectively. The Mustangs were 27-of-33

in serves.

Brooklyn Buysse led West Liberty (30-7) with 19 assists and six digs and Maelyn Wainwright put down 10 kills. The Comets served up seven aces in the victory.

West Liberty advanced to the regional final after sweeping Grinnell on Oct. 19. The Comets play ninth-ranked Solon (26-12) at 7 p.m. on Oct. 25 in West Liberty.



Shaver

Ticket

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"She ran a fantastic race," Karr said. "I hate to say she deserved it, but she got what she worked for."

Vannoy's 30th-place finish came in a time of 22:39.34. True was 31st in 22:40.24.

The other two scoring runners were Riley DeVore (25:25.26) in 59th and Alyce Engle (26:17.21) in 66th.

Lexi Fagg (27:08.03) was 70th and Jillian Fairbanks (27:50.46) placed 76th as the Mustangs' non-scoring runners.

"Our top three ran well," Karr said. "With those three, and everyone but two seniors coming back next year, I do think we are setting up to have a big future."

Class 2A No. 3 Danville/New London won the boys' district title with 61 points. Ninth-ranked Pella Christian (73) finished second and 14th-ranked Mid-Prairie (81) took third.

Class 2A No. 8 GCGR (89) came in fourth and the rest of the 12-team field included Interstate 35 (94), Albia (146), Davis County (154), Central Lee (263), West Marshall (266), Union Community (281), Van Buren (290) and PCM (307).

There were seven ranked runners in the boys' race. Class 2A No. 7 AJ Bonnesen of Danville/New London won the race in 16:27.67 and No. 15 Kaden Van Wyngarden of Pel-



PCM's Alyce Engle competes in the girls' 5K race at the Class 2A state qualifying meet at Pella Sports Park on Oct. 20. Troy Hyde/PCM Explorer

la Christian was the runner-up in 16:41.51.

DeRaad's 34th-place finish was clocked in 19:08.23. The 15th and final qualifying time was 17:44.34.

"He wasn't happy with it, but he had a fantastic season," Karr said about DeRaad. "You can't be upset and throw away the season because you had one off race."

Carson Taylor (21:02.89) finished 70th, Charlie Ford (21:18.56) placed 72nd, Leigh-

ton McClure (21:33.83) came in 75th and Wyatt Vannoy (22:33.84) was the final scoring runner in 80th.

Carter Dudley (23:30.67) and Jacob Buys (26:13.09) were non-scoring runners in 82nd and 87th, respectively.

PCM's boys' squad includes three sophomores and four freshmen.

"We are a very realistic team and the reality on the boys' side was that we really didn't have a strong chance to qual-



PCM sophomore Carson Taylor was the second Mustang to finish the boys' 5K race at the Class 2A state qualifying meet in Pella on Oct. 20. Troy Hyde/PCM Explorer

ify," Karr said.

"That doesn't mean we don't show up and try to run our best times. It's still a race and wouldn't you rather run the best race you've had in your life or in your season, and end that way? We just had to go for it."

The only two seniors on either squad are DeVore and Fairbanks.

"That's the hardest part

about being a coach. I do not like the end of seasons for that aspect," Karr said. "It absolutely sucks to lose seniors. The two who ran tonight are fantastic human beings. They are really good kids who will be successful in life and it stinks to lose them."

Teeter will run in the 2A girls' state race at 2 p.m. on Oct. 28 at Lakeside Municipal Golf Course in Fort Dodge.

Not Enough

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"We gave up too many big plays on defense. It just wasn't our night overall," Bonnett said.

After a PCM three-and-out, Clear Lake went 80 yards in 11 plays. Ten of those 11 plays were on the ground.

Schmitt gained a pair of first downs on 12-yard runs and eventually scored on a 10-yard TD run.

Schmitt finished with 144 rushing yards and three scores on 28 carries. The Lions rushed for 167 yards in the game.

A big play highlighted PCM's next possession. The Mustangs went back in front after Stock connected with a wide open Jacob Wendt in the middle of the field. The catch-and-run play covered 45 yards and the drive also included an 11-yard run by Stock.

The Mustangs' senior quarterback finished with 91 rushing yards and a TD on 21 carries and he was 3-for-3 through the air for 88 yards and another score.

Adrien Robbins gave PCM prime field position when he snagged an interception from Stephany.

That gave the Mustangs a short field and they took advantage with a 33-yard, three-play scoring drive that included a Stock 1-yard TD plunge.

The Mustangs led 27-14 at halftime. But the pick-six early in the third and a 75-yard scoring drive late in the period pushed the Lions back in front.

PCM's first drive of the second half ended on the Nelson interception and touchdown.

The second drive finished with a punt and included five runs by Van Gorp.

The Lions' 75-yard drive featured 11 plays. Clear Lake converted a third and six with a 34-yard pass play from Stephany to Nelson and then picked up a fourth and five with an eight-yard passing play from Stephany to Loge.

Schmitt capped the drive with a 4-yard TD run, but he also had runs of 11 and 13 on the possession.

The Mustangs (5-4) had three possessions after losing the lead. The first one ended in a turnover on downs after 12 plays.

The drive featured 11 runs and back-to-back false-start penalties halted momentum. PCM had a fourth and two from around the 20-yard line but threw an incompleteness on fourth and 12 after the two penalties.

The officials also flagged PCM multiple times for ineligible men downfield.

"They were not penalties. They were called by the other sideline," Bonnett said. "Then they called illegal man downfield when we had a 900 drop back protection? There is no way. There was some stuff going on tonight."

"I don't know if someone was star-struck because Jared DeVries was over there or what. I know one thing, you need to have a backbone if you are going to be a side official. How many calls came from that side of the field? A lot. How many came from our side? Not very many."

The next three possessions ended in punts. That gave the ball back to PCM one final time with the margin still at 28-27.

The drive started at the PCM 20-

yard line with 2:33 to play in the game. Van Gorp connected with Robbins for 10 yards on the first play, but an illegal-man-downfield penalty pushed the Mustangs back five yards.

Four plays later, a tipped pass on fourth and six led to a game-clinching interception by Schmitt.

PCM lost the game despite outgaining Clear Lake 294-266 in total yards.

"I do believe there absolutely was some bad officiating. I think it's important to note that," Bonnett said. "I'm not blaming it all on that. I will watch the film and look again. The bottom line is we just didn't play well."

William Vanderpool rushed for 39 yards on seven carries, Robbins rushed for 20 yards and hauled in one pass for 10 yards and Wendt and Fenton had catches of 45 and 33 yards, respectively.

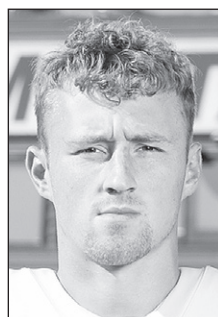
Van Gorp rushed for 52 yards and a TD on 12 carries but was 1-of-6 through the air for four yards and two picks.

PCM rotated Stock and Van Gorp at quarterback throughout the game. The coaching staff even changed QBs in the middle of drives.

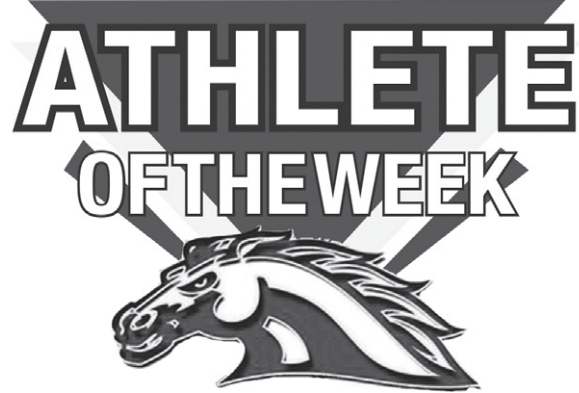
"When we're in a situation where there's a decision to be made on the play we would rather have Van Gorp in there," Bonnett said. "When we know we are going to run the ball or we have a single route called, we like to have Augie in there."

Trenner Van Dyke led the defense with 5.5 tackles, while Donovan Nickelson registered five tackles. Finn Wilson tallied 4.5 tackles, Ayden Camu tallied four tackles and Gavin Van Baale and Kaden Clark each collected 3.5 tackles.

Griffin Olson, Vanderpool and Robbins each had three tackles and Robbins snagged an interception.



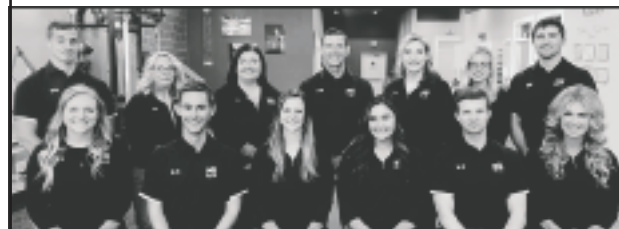
Stock



Joslin Briles



PCM senior Joslin Briles finished her prep volleyball career with 90 kills, 15 assists, 50 digs and 22 aces. She was 105-of-119 in serves for a percentage of 88. The 90 kills ranked second on the team.



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