

Sports



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Cahokia football player Wayne Grant is the Player of the Week. Grant led the Comanches to a surprising nonconference win over the Highland Bulldogs.

BELLEVILLE NEWS-DEMOCRAT PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Cahokia QB's leadership making a difference between this year and last

BY TODD ESCHMAN
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The Highland Bulldogs on Friday saw a lot of the same Cahokia players they saw on opening day of 2015.

But it was hardly the same team they beat, 45-8, nearly a year to the day earlier.

Behind senior quarterback Wayne Grant, the

BND Player of the Week, the Comanches rallied late to pull off the surprising non-conference win, 25-24.

The difference between this year and last, Grant says, is new energy introduced by first-year head coach John Clay and improved play by his offensive front.

"Coach has brought discipline and a plan that we were able to execute,"

he said. "Because of what he's taught our line, I had time and was able to sit back there and make my reads and make correct throws."

Clay, says another big difference Friday was his third-year starter's presence in the huddle. With the Comanches down by five points with 70 yards to go, Clay said he had little doubt that Ward would come through.

“ WE CAN DO WHAT WE DID (FRIDAY) BECAUSE WE HAVE SO MANY ATHLETES ON THIS CAHOKIA TEAM AND BECAUSE WE CAN EXECUTE THE PLAN OUR COACHING STAFF GIVES TO US.

Wayne Grant, Cahokia senior quarterback

Indeed he did. Ward

SEE PLAYER, 5B



ZIA NIZAMI znizami@bnd.com

Collinsville's Jordan Blasingame and Belleville West's Trevor Pentland close in on the ball during their game at Belleville West on Tuesday. See a gallery of photographs and a video at bnd.com.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER

Kahoks stop Maroons in SWC soccer opener

Logan Whitehead and Clay Hartman scored first-half goals and Brett Niedzwiecki made two key saves Tuesday as the Collinsville Kahoks blanked Belleville West 2-0.

BY DAVID WILHELM
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BELLEVILLE
Collinsville certainly could have scored more goals Thursday night, but after the way the season started, the Kahoks were plenty happy about a 2-0 victory over Belleville West.

Sophomore Logan Whitehead and senior Clay Hartman scored first-half goals and senior Brett Niedzwiecki shined in goal as the Kahoks won their Southwestern Conference opener.

The victory was a relief for coach Clay Smith, whose team was coming off season-opening losses to Alton Marquette (2-0) and Vianney (2-1).

"It's a good first win. It's a good road conference



ZIA NIZAMI znizami@bnd.com

Collinsville's Zane Baker and Belleville West's James Stammer go for a header during their game.

win in a tough place to play," said Smith, whose

team is 1-2 and 1-0. "It's a good Belleville West team,

like they always are. They're well-coached and they play tough. Overall, I'm happy with the result and we kept the shutout."

The Maroons, who fell to 1-3 and 0-1, played better in the second half, managing to keep Collinsville off the board. But West could muster no offense of its own.

"We were jittery at the start," Maroons coach Rob Thornberry said. "Their second goal, the ball's bouncing around in our box and we just needed to clear it. But their center back (Hartman) came up and just hit a pill. He shouldn't have even had that opportunity. We should have cleared it out."

KEY MOMENTS

Whitehead made it 1-0 less than four minutes into the game, taking a pass from junior Nick Surria and hitting a shot into the right post with West senior keeper Erik Orchard off his line.

Whitehead had another shot attempt cleared off the line by a Maroons defender in the 11th minutes, but Collinsville made it 2-0

“ IT'S A GOOD FIRST WIN. IT'S A GOOD ROAD CONFERENCE WIN IN A TOUGH PLACE TO PLAY.

Collinsville coach Clay Smith

on Hartman's goal at 32:05.

The play began with a throw-in from the right side. The Maroons were unable to clear, and Hartman ripped a shot from 28 yards out. Senior Sabas Avalos had the assist.

"(Finishing) has been a problem for the first two games, so for us to come out and score early like that was a good thing," Smith said. "I don't think it makes our play any different. We still press on, but we're just having trouble putting the ball on goal right now. It's early in the season. It's an early season struggle. I'll take that problem over some other problems."

"We can work on that and get better. We have some weapons to put it in the net. That's why we play a lot of games."

NIEDZWIECKI ON HIS GAME

Niedzwiecki, an all-stater last season, swatted

SEE KAHOKS, 4B

Grichuk sparks Cards by Brewers

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE

Zach Duke stranded the bases loaded with a strike-out in the 10th inning after Randall Grichuk hit an RBI single in the top half of the inning, lifting the St. Louis Cardinals over the Milwaukee Brewers 2-1 on Tuesday night.

Seung Hwan Oh (4-2) pitched out of a jam in the ninth to get the win. Duke got his first save with the Cardinals by entering to strike out pinch-hitter Manny Pina after Matt Bowman walked three batters.

The Cardinals' Jhonny Peralta led off the 10th with a single off Corey Knebel (0-2) and moved to third on Yadier Molina's ground-rule double. Jeremy Hazelbaker, who pinch ran for Peralta, scored the winning run on Grichuk's flare to right.

St. Louis' Adam Wainwright and Milwaukee's Wily Peralta dueled for seven innings, leaving a 1-1 game for the bullpen.

Neither team had a hit until the fourth and neither scored until the sixth.

St. Louis' Jedd Gyorko broke the scoreless tie with a two-out home run in the sixth. The Cardinals have homered in 19 consecutive games, tying a franchise record set in July 2006.

Martin Maldonado's run-scoring double tied it in the bottom of the inning.

Wainwright retired the first nine batters until Jonathan Villar singled leading off the fourth. Wainwright gave up three hits and one run in seven innings. He struck out seven and didn't walk a batter.

Peralta retired the first nine batters before surrendering a single to Matt Carpenter, who led off the fourth.

Peralta has pitched well since being recalled from Triple-A Colorado Springs on Aug. 8 after struggling earlier in the year. He gave up three hits and one run in seven innings, walking one and striking out a season-high 10. It marked the second time in his career that he reached double digits in strikeouts.

Peralta had not gone more than six innings in a game this season.

The Brewers put two runners on in the ninth, but Oh struck out Chris Carter to end the threat. Milwaukee has lost six straight, all at home.

**CRIDDLE'S RIDDLES
BY DEAN CRIDDLE**

**Last ones
to win
U.S. Open
in singles?**



Today's question: Who are the last men's and women's tennis players from the United States to win the United States Open Tennis Championship in singles?

Yesterday's answer: The Masters and The PGA. Phil Mickelson, born in San Diego, became famous for his wide assortment of left-handed golf shots as well as his penchant for playing high risk "kamikaze" type shots. Between 2004 and 2006, Mickelson won three major championships at two courses, two Masters titles (2004 and 2006) at Augusta National, and one PGA crown (2005). "Lefty" won the 2005 PGA title at Baltusrol Golf Club in New Jersey.

FOUR-GAME PLANNER

The next four games for area professional teams.

PROFESSIONAL SPORTS				
CARDINALS	Wed. Aug. 31 Brewers 7:10 p.m. FS Midwest KMOX-AM 1120	Fri. Sept. 2 Reds 6:10 p.m. FS Midwest KMOX-AM 1120	Sat. Sept. 3 Reds 3:10 p.m. FS Midwest KMOX-AM 1120	Sun. Sept. 4 Reds 12:10 p.m. FS Midwest KMOX-AM 1120
GRIZZLIES	Wed. Aug. 31 Miners 7:05 p.m. KJFF-AM 1400	Thu. Sept. 1 Miners 7:05 p.m. KJFF-AM 1400	Fri. Sept. 2 Otters 7:05 p.m. KJFF-AM 1400	Sat. Sept. 3 Otters 7:05 p.m. KJFF-AM 1400
FIGHTING ILLINI FOOTBALL	Sat. Sept. 3 Murray State 2:30 p.m. BTN, BTN 2 KQOZ-AM 1190 WQOZ-AM 1490	Sat. Sept. 10 North Carolina 2:30 p.m. BTN, BTN 2 KQOZ-AM 1190 WQOZ-AM 1490	Sat. Sept. 17 Western Michigan 3 p.m. ESNN KQOZ-AM 1190 WQOZ-AM 1490	Oct. 1 Nebraska 2:30 p.m. TBA KQOZ-AM 1190 WQOZ-AM 1490
MISSOURI TIGERS FOOTBALL	Sat. Sept. 3 West Virginia 11 a.m. FSI KTRS-AM 550	Sat. Sept. 10 Eastern Michigan 6:30 p.m. SECN KTRS-AM 550	Sat. Sept. 17 Georgia 6:30 p.m. SECN KTRS-AM 550	Sat. Sept. 24 Delaware State TBA KTRS-AM 550

Gray indicates away game

ON THE AIR

HORSE RACING

3 p.m. FS2 — Saratoga Live, With Anticipation Stakes, at Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

noon MLB — Tampa Bay at Boston OR Oakland at Houston (2 p.m.)
3:30 p.m. MLB — L.A. Dodgers at Colorado OR Arizona at San Francisco (5 p.m.; games joined in progress)
7 p.m. ESPN — Pittsburgh at Chicago Cubs

TENNIS

noon ESPN — U.S. Open, second round, at New York
5 p.m. ESPN2 — U.S. Open, second round, at New York
6 p.m. ESPN2 — U.S. Open, second round, at New York

LOCAL SCHEDULE

HIGH SCHOOLS

CROSS COUNTRY

Columbia Relays, 4 p.m.
Murphysboro Invitational, 4 p.m.

BOYS GOLF

Alton vs Belleville East at Clinton Hill GC, 3:30 p.m.
Edwardsville vs Granite City at Legacy G, 4 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER

Belleville East at Mehlville, 7 p.m.
Mater Dei at Centralia, 4:30 p.m.
Salem at Carlyle, 4:30 p.m.
Marquette at Gibault, 6:30 p.m.

FIELD HOCKEY

Visitation at Edwardsville, 4:15 p.m.

GIRLS GOLF

Columbia vs Alton vs Althoff, 3:30 p.m.
Marquette vs Edwardsville vs Roxana, 4 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS

Alton at Althoff, 4 p.m.
Belleville East at Gibault, 4 p.m.
Metro East at Jerseyville, 4 p.m.
Roxana vs Waterloo at Wood River, 4 p.m.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Civic Memorial at Marquette, 6:30 p.m.

FROM PAGE 3B

KAHOKS

away the Maroons' most dangerous scoring chances of the game in a 2 1/2-minute span in the second half.

At 48 minutes, 1 second, West junior Blake Williams dribbled around a defender and had only Niedzwiecki to beat, but Niedzwiecki knocked out Williams' attempt in front of the left post.

"To me, that was a golden opportunity," Thornberry said.

At 50:27, Maroons senior Trevor Biver had a free kick from about 25 yards out. Biver struck it well, but Niedzwiecki dived to his right and pushed the ball away.

"Brett's one of the best goalies in the state," Smith said. "He came up huge on that breakaway to keep us (in control) of the game. It's his senior year, he's the captain and he knows what

it takes to lead this team. Those are two saves we expect Brett to make, and he knows that."

With the Kahoks' offense still struggling to find itself, Niedzwiecki's saves were critical.

"Goals are definitely going to come as we work harder and harder," Niedzwiecki said. "As long as we're solid in the back, we'll find a way to score."

Hartman and seniors Jordan Blasingame, Jared Brooke, Zach Stenger and Jesus Valverde anchored the defense in front of Niedzwiecki.

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VIDEO

See a video of Collinsville goalie Brett Niedzwiecki talking about the game at bnd.com.

BY DEAN CRIDDLE
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GRANITE CITY

One of the coaching legends in the Southwestern Conference and mentor to whose lives he touched through the sport of wrestling, William "Red" Schmitt died on Saturday.

The Granite City coach was 94.

"The metro-east area lost a great man this weekend," Granite City High School Athletic Director John Moad said. "Coach Schmitt was a coaching legend. He was a wrestling icon not only in southern Illinois but he was an icon throughout the state."

A 1940 graduate of Alton High School, Schmitt coached at Granite City High School from 1950 until 1985 where he helped turn the Warriors into one of the top programs in the nation. Under Schmitt's coaching, Granite City had a 605-82-5 record.

In his 34 years, Schmitt led Granite City to 18 conference titles and 26 sectional championships. The Warriors, who won the 1965 state championship, also placed in the top 10 at the state tournament 15 times. Schmitt also had 47 individual state place winners and coached four state champions.

George Nemeth won state championships in both 1957 and 1958. Bill Fuchs captured a state crown in 1967 and Bob Miller won the state title in 1969.

One of the thousands of young athletes Schmitt worked with over the years was former Warriors coach Mike Garland. The oldest of three Garlands to wrestle along younger brothers Steve and Greg, Mike Garland was an assistant coach under Schmitt before taking over the Warriors head coaching duties.

All three Garland brothers, spurred on by the lessons both on and off the wrestling mat by Schmitt, went on to become coaches.

"We were talking about this recently, trying to add



News-Democrat file photograph

Longtime Granite City High School wrestling coach William "Red" Schmitt died on Saturday. Schmitt was 94.

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Granite City loses coaching legend

up how many of us went on to become head coaches. There were several of us," Mike Garland said. "Coach Schmitt was a great wrestling coach, but the lessons in life are what he passed on. I feel very thankful that I had a chance to wrestle under coach and then be on his coaching staff."

"I remember many times when I was the head coach at Granite City. There would be many times when I called coach for advice when different situations came up. He would never tell me what I should do, but he was always there to listen and for support. He was a great man. A man who taught life lessons that helped me become a better man."

Garland said Schmitt was a very competitive person who always did

what was best for his athletes. And because of that, his athletes always gave everything they had when competing.

Schmitt's success as a coach speaks for itself. Still one of the most successful and famous high school wrestling in the nation with more than 1,400 dual match victories, Granite City athletes achieved success through hard work, dedication and discipline — three elements in which Schmitt strongly believed.

"Coach Schmitt was the kind of coach that as an athlete you wanted to run through the wall for," Garland said. "One of the most amazing was the number of dual matches his teams won. Back then, teams didn't wrestle more than 12 to 15 dual matches a year. For him to win as

“ COACH SCHMITT WAS A COACHING LEGEND. HE WAS A WRESTLING ICON NOT ONLY IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS BUT HE WAS AN ICON THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

Granite City High School Athletic Director John Moad

many as he did was an amazing number.

"Some of it had to do with tradition, maybe a lot of it. Coach Schmitt built such a good program and was such a strong part of his athlete's lives that as an athlete or a team, you didn't want to be the one or the team to let him down, to let the program down."

Garland said Schmitt remained close to the Warriors' program. The annual Granite City holiday tournament — held in December — was renamed in his honor a few years ago. The tournament is annually one of the best midseason tournaments in the Midwest, if not the entire nation.

"Coach Schmitt loved wrestling and loved coaching kids. The one thing he always told me was to never go outside the rules when working with kids. He believed in doing things the right way, Garland said. "And what a coach. In all my years of being around him during match when after the first period, you flip to see what position you start the second period in, I never saw him make a bad choice. Never."

"Coach Schmitt's memory and his mind were wonderful. He could remember wrestlers and different matches that happened years and years ago. Coach Schmitt was the Dan Gable of high school wrestling. He will be missed and remembered forever."

Senior All-Star Golf Tournament to feature players from local courses

BY DEAN CRIDDLE
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BELLEVILLE

The organizer of what was the highly successful Belleville News-Democrat All-Star Golf Tournament, Ken Bunetic thinks he knows the reason players lost interest and the event ended a decade ago.

And it wasn't because of it didn't have a permanent site.

"I think some of it had to do with the fact that the younger players were coming up and blowing the ball past a lot of the older guys and some of them didn't know if they could compete any longer," Bunetic said. "Well, it's been about 10 years since we had the last one and a lot of these guys who played in that one are now at the age where they could compete in a Senior All-Star Tournament. So we're going to have one.

"I've been talking to a lot of golfers I know and they think it's a good idea. A lot of these guys are still really good players."

Thus the Senior All-Star Golf Tournament — an event for 50-and-over golfers — kicks off on Oct. 16 at the Orchards Golf Course in Belleville.

The tournament will begin with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. with at least four players — two two-man teams — competing. Each course can enter three two-man teams. Play is individual with the four low 9-hole totals from each course going into tabulation of the final totals.

Teams of two will be paired with twosomes from another course. No handicaps will be used and no touring professionals or club professionals will be allowed to compete. The event is open for amateurs who want to represent their home courses for the

chance to win a little money, prizes and to earn bragging rights for the next year.

"I remember when we had the other all-star tournament and we used the format of where you would use your low nine-hole totals, we really has some close finishes. The last one may have even been a tie," Bunetic said.

"But I remember a few years where we had three or four courses within five or six shots of each other. Counting the low four scores is the same format they use in high school matches."

"The first year we would like to get at least 12 to 15 teams. We're starting at 1 p.m. and it will be light until 6:30 p.m. or so and in the middle of October it shouldn't be that warm. Just as long as we can stay away from the rain."

TOURNAMENT DETAILS
The cost is \$65 per play-

er and includes greens fees and a meal ticket which will be used after the tournament. First place will pay \$600 with the second-place team earning \$300 and the third-place team earning \$240. Prize money is based on 60 players. A \$500 skins game will be distributed and prizes for closest to the pin will also be awarded.

Hole sponsorships at \$50 or \$100 each will be accepted with the proceeds going to the ALFA Foundation (Abundant Living for All). Sponsorship checks should be made payable to the ALFA Foundation and mailed to Ken Bunetic, 700 St. Joseph Drive, Collinsville, Ill. 62234.

Those interested in playing in the tournament can call Ken Bunetic at (618) 401-7397 or email at Goodtimegl-tourn@aol.com. The team entry fee check should be payable to Good Time Golf, 700 St. Joseph Drive, Collinsville, Ill. 62234.

All checks must be received by Oct. 10.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Freeburg grad helps Lady Lynx start fast

News-Democrat



Emily Schaller

BELLEVILLE The Lindenwood University-Bellefonte women's volleyball team is off to its best start in

program history at 3-0 and the American Midwest Conference (AMC) rewarded them by naming freshman Emily Schaller as AMC Defender of the Week.

Schaller, a 5-foot-3 freshman from Freeburg, averaged 5.23 digs per set on the week — a mark that is good for 26th in the NAIA — in her first colle-

giate action. She had consecutive 25-dig outings against John Brown (Ark.) and Benedictine (Kan.) to finish the week, as the Lady Lynx won their first three matches of the campaign.

LU-Bellefonte returns to action on Wednesday night in front of the home crowd as they'll look to stay unbeaten against

Missouri Valley College. First-serve is set for 7:30 p.m.

Fans make sure to stay updated on lindenwoodlynx.com on Wednesday afternoon for a full preview of its game against the Vikings.

Make sure to stay up to date on all our social media accounts: Twitter (@Lindenwoodlynx), Facebook (Lindenwoodlynx), and Instagram (@lublynx).