

LOCAL COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## Lynx drop opener to Siena Heights

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ADRIAN, MICH.

The Lindenwood University-Belleville football team dropped its season opener on the road against Siena Heights University on Saturday as the Lynx fell 31-16.

Lindenwood-Belleville (0-1; 0-1 MSFA), totaled 269 yards on the day, 194 of which came through the air while 75 yards came on the ground.

The team went 4-of-12 on third down and 2-of-4 on fourth down plays. Individually, in his first start after transferring from Austin Peay, Darrien Boone went 17-of-29 for 188 yards but threw four interceptions. Christopher Henington, meanwhile, got some late minute action as he went 1-of-3 and tossed his first collegiate touchdown.

Boone also led the team in rushing with 30 rushing yards on 15 carries. Billy Arndt had five carries for 21 yards while Devon Williams had six carries for 17 yards and one touchdown. Michael Aschemann led the Lynx receivers with six catches for 85 yards and a touchdown.

Defensively, Adnan Al-Amami had a big game with a career-high 11 tackles while Cody Sands was impressive in his first game back since injury, totaling nine tackles, one sack, a forced fumble and a blocked field goal.

Vinton Harris, a Belleville native, dominated on the defensive line with his seven tackles and 3.5 sacks for 23 yards.

After a quick three-and-out by the Lynx offense, Siena Heights got the ball on the LU-Belleville 33-yard line after a 23-yard punt return by Darius Price.

It took the Saints just 3 minutes, 33 seconds to put seven on the scoreboard as Garrett Schaller capped off the nine play 33-yard drive with a 5-yard run in to make it 7-0.

Saints quarterback Lucas Barner found Deontae Rush for an 80-yard touchdown which gave them a 14-0 lead. That was Barner's biggest play of the day as he went 14-of-23 for 235 yards and two touchdowns, both of which went to Rush who finished with four catches for 123 yards.

Siena Heights went on to tally a field goal and through the end of one quarter of play the Saints were on top 17-0.

Starting off in the second quarter the Lynx defense came up big with a defensive stop on the Saints' 34-yard line. The Saints came on out to punt but there was a bad snap which allowed Sands to rush in and make the tackle, giving LU-Belleville the ball on the Siena Heights 13-yard line with 9:50 on the clock.

Five plays later, the Lynx got on the score sheet as Devon Williams rushed in from 1-yard out to cut the deficit down to 17-7.

Siena Heights had the chance to extend its lead out to 20-7 before the break but Brady Tanguay's field goal attempt was blocked by the outstretched arm of Sands which kept the scoreboard at 17-7.

Barner found Rush once again for a 26-yard score to give them a 24-7 advantage through three quarters of play.

The Saints tacked on another rushing touchdown from Schaller, this time it was from 11-yards out, extending the lead out to 31-7 with 8:48 left.

Henington came in for Boone and it paid off as he found Aschemann on fourth and goal for the 6-yard score, cutting the lead down to 31-14. LU-Belleville later earned a safety for two more points but that proved too be the final score as the Lynx fell by 15.

The team will return to action in front of the home crowd Saturday night as they'll host Olivet Nazarene University. Kickoff is at 6 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS, GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

## Edwardsville, O'Fallon win titles

BY DEAN CRIDDLE  
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GRANITE CITY

After finishing up a sensational cross country season with a solid freshman year in track and field last spring, Waterloo's Jenna Schwartz was understandably excited as she stepped to the starting line at the Granite City Cross Country Invitational on Saturday.

Reaffirming her position as the top Class 2A harrier in the metro-east and one of the very best in the state, Schwartz got off to a quick start and breezed to a 24-second win as she led the way for the Bulldogs in the first major competition of the school year.

An all-state runner when she placed 24th at the Class 2A state finals last November at beautiful Detweiller Park in Peoria, Schwartz finished in a

time of 18 minutes, 10 seconds. Highly touted Edwardsville freshman Abby Korak was a distant second in 18:34 at Wilson Park in Granite City.

"It was the first big meet of the season and I was happy and excited about that. I've worked hard to get ready," Schwartz said. "The time 18:10 was good today. My goal was to run three six minutes miles. I came close to doing that."

Edwardsville, led by a runner-up finish from Korak, a sixth-place finish from sophomore Abby Schrobilgen and two other top 24 finishes, took the team title in the 37-team meet, finishing with 49 points. Southwestern Conference rival O'Fallon was second with 105 points, while Freeburg (124) and Waterloo (190) rounded out the top four teams.

With his young team expected to battle O'Fallon for supremacy in the

Southwestern Conference all year, Edwardsville coach George Patrylak liked what he saw from his Tigers.

"It's all about getting ready for late October and November. It was a good start to the season today, but I think one of the things we accomplished today was that we got O'Fallon mad at us," Patrylak said. "But I was pleased with how we ran today. We didn't get out to that good of a start but we found each other during the race and packed it together very well."

Other metro-east area runners placing in the top 10 were Samantha Hengehold of Highland (fifth), Breanna Chandler of Freeburg (seventh), Seleiya Wilson of Belleville East (eighth) and Jaycie Hudson of Edwardsville who was tenth.

BOYS RACE

Like Schwartz in the girls race, Jerseyville senior Ben Flowers also picked up where he left off last season in the boys race.

A Class 2A all-state performer last season, Flowers simply ran away from the field as he covered the tough 3-mile Wilson Park course in just over 15 minutes to post a 24-second win over Ben Durr of Chatham-Glenwood.

"I felt good and I just went out fast today and was able to sustain it. It was a great day to run," Flowers said. "My goal for the season is to be in the top three at state. I've got a big meet next week in Peoria and that will give me an idea of where I stand in relation to some of the other top 2A runners."

While Flowers was the individual standout in the boys division, the O'Fallon



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Belleville West's Blake Williams battles for possession of the ball with Gibault's Ryan Gool and Robert Luge late in the second half. Williams scored both goals for the Maroons, who won the game 2-1. See a gallery of photographs and a video at [bnd.com](#).

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER

## Maroons' Williams scores twice in win

BY DAVID WILHELM  
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BELLEVILLE

Saturday was special for Blake Williams and the Belleville West boys soccer team.

Williams, a junior midfielder, banged in his first two goals of the season and the Maroons earned a 2-1 victory over Gibault, avenging a 3-2 loss to the Hawks in the fifth-place game of the Metro Cup Tournament the previous Saturday.

"They were both off good balls from my team-

mates," said Williams, who scored each time into an empty net when Gibault senior goalie Luc Epplin came off his line to attempt a play on the ball. "It's a great experience because they were my first two goals of the season. It was a good moment for me."

The Maroons snapped a three-game losing skid and improved to 2-4. Gibault, whose only goal came on senior Dalton Scace's second-half penalty kick, fell to 3-3-1.

"We capitalized on some opportunities, which we struggled to do last time," Maroons coach Rob Thornberry said, also crediting

the work of seniors Max Oplt and Ryan Herling. "It was great to see Blake get a couple of goals. It's always a good game against Gibault."

Williams' second goal, scored at 77 minutes, 38 seconds, came after the Hawks had been pressuring the Maroons and senior keeper Erik Orchard.

Williams ran onto a bouncing ball served by junior Isaac Goodman and tapped it past Epplin, who was starting for senior Trevor Davis. Williams extended a fist into the air as the ball slowly rolled over the line and into the netting.

"I think it's going to

boost (our confidence)," Williams said.

West won despite missing two starters: senior defender Trevor Pentland, who received a red card against Waterloo, and junior defender Justin Araiza, who had to attend a wedding.

"The guys stepped it up, and that was great to see," Thornberry said.

CHANGE IN GOAL

Gibault coach Matt Reeb started Epplin in goal for senior Trevor Davis, explaining that Epplin needed minutes. Epplin made several dazzling saves, particularly in the second half. But he appeared to be caught in-between on both of Williams' goals.

"That comes with not getting all the reps," Reeb said. "When you're the backup, that's what happens. He was a little unsure of himself: 'Shall I go? Shall I stay?' It happens. When you don't get the in-game reps ... There's a

Panthers returned to the championship circle by using their depth to score 91 points, 35 less than Chatham-Glenwood (126). St. Louis University High (142 points), Edwardsville (158) and Freeburg (173) rounded out the top five teams.

Senior Chris Conrad, a standout 800-meter runner in track and field, led O'Fallon by placing seventh while sophomore Kyle Dismukes was 10th. O'Fallon had five runners in the top 32.

"What was the difference today? It was our depth. In a meet with so many top teams and individuals to have five in the top 32 is good," Panthers coach Jon Burnett said. "Joey (Black) has been our No. 1 runner and today he was our No. 5. On any given day, any one of our top seven runners could step up as our No. 1."

Freeburg's top runner — senior Charlie Parrish — was fourth, just ahead of Edwardsville's Frankie Romano who was fifth. Granite City sophomore Andrew O'Keefe was eighth.

little bit of indecision for any keeper, and then when you add that on top of it, that's what you have. Tough plays for him.

"He did fairly well the rest of the game. He came out on some flighted balls and cleared them off his line. He made a couple of saves. One was kind of a point-blank save. I was pleased."

SCACE STRIKES AGAIN

Williams made it 1-0 in the 12th minute, and the Maroons held the lead until the second half when Scace drilled the game-tying penalty kick.

Scace got behind the Maroons' defense and was in a dangerous spot when officials called a handball in the box against West senior James Stammer.

Scace scored inside the right post in the 50th minute for his second penalty kick in three attempts against the Maroons. Scace, who has three goals, scored the game-winning PK against West in the teams' first meeting. Earlier in the same game, Scace misfired on a PK.

"Scace really created that opportunity for the PK," Thornberry said. "He turned on the jets and got behind our defense and they played a great ball in."

Reeb thought the Hawks should have had more.

"It was a little disappointing because we created a lot of chances and didn't put enough (of them) away," he said. "We didn't do enough when we got in those dangerous situations."

"But at the end of the day, it wasn't a bad result because we were down our center back (junior Aaron Grohmann) in the second half. He got hurt in practice the other day. He tried to play the first half, but couldn't go. That hurt us in the second half, but that's the way the ball bounces."

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VIDEO

See a video of Belleville West junior Blake Williams, who scored both goals in the Maroons' win over Gibault, taking at [bnd.com](#)

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

## Edwardsville wins its tourney for first time in nine years

BY TODD ESCHMAN  
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EDWARDSVILLE

It's been nine years since the Edwardsville volleyball team won its own Tiger Classic and just as long since it started 6-0.

But the Tigers achieved both with one two-set win over O'Fallon Saturday.

Tournament Most Valuable Player Rachel Pranger put down 13 kills and two blocks to lead Edwardsville to the 25-23, 25-21 win.

It was the host team's first Tiger Classic championship since 2007 and its seventh in the 14-team tournament's 33 years.

"All the teams in this tournament are really strong," said Edwardsville coach Jami Parker.

"The girls improved and cleaned up the details from one match to the next and that was important."

After years of participation in the annual Carbondale Tournament, O'Fallon made the move to the Tiger Classic hoping to amp up the quality of its

schedule. The Panthers placed third in 2015.

Head coach Melissa Massey said she saw glimpses of the team she believes the 6-1 Panthers will eventually be, but was overall disappointed in Saturday's outcome.

"There were times I'd look out and think we were really doing some good things and other times I'd see things we need to work on," she said. "We couldn't string anything together. I've got six seniors on my team and none of them are the super vocal type. It's like

we're still trying to find our niche and how we want to run our offense."

O'Fallon battled back from an eight-point deficit late in the first set. Imani Williamson, an all-tournament pick, and Alison Fournie served four points each in a 9-3 run. Then Cassie Reno, O'Fallon's other all-tournament team selection, scored a pair of kills to even the set at 22-all.

Pranger ended the rally with a big strike that hit an O'Fallon defender and bounced into the gym's second level.

The second set was a near replay of the first, with the Panthers playing from behind despite very few lengthy runs by either team. Pranger got side out for the Tigers with a block on Reno, then three more

consecutive points on kills to give her team a 16-12 advantage.

O'Fallon chased again late, getting four points on serves by Elise Smith, but Pranger sealed the set, match and championship with her 13th kill.

Reno led O'Fallon with nine kills, while Smith added four kills and a match-high eight service points. Fournie led the Panthers with 17 assists.

O'Fallon next faces Mater Dei — the team it defeated in the Tiger Classic semifinals and eventual fourth-place finisher — at home Tuesday.

Edwardsville will be at home against St. Joseph's Wednesday.

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