

Holden softball soars to district championship

By Joe Andrews
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A two-day trip south to Hartville for the Class 2 District 4 Tournament did not throw Holden softball off from its routine. In fact, according to head coach Jeff Smith, the Eagles had some of their best performances of the year.

Top-seeded Holden used that momentum to claim the Class 2 District 4 championship with an 11-0 win against No. 3-seeded Iberia on Friday, Oct. 17, at Hartville High School.

This is Holden's first district title on the softball diamond since 2021.

"These girls just really wanted it," Smith said. "I mean, they sang for three hours on the way back on the bus ride. They were pumped up."

The Eagles (19-10) finished off the win with a two-run home run from senior Mac-ey Greene in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Sophomore Bella Haggard had a three-run homer in the bottom of the first, along with two other runs put on board in the inning.

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Holden softball clinched the Class 2 District 4 championship with an 11-0 win over Iberia on Friday, Oct. 17, at Hartville High School. PHOTO COURTESY OF DARREN GREENE

Second half shutout propels Warrensburg football past Clinton

By Joe Andrews
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CLINTON — Warrensburg football shut out Clinton in the last 28 minutes of play, leading to a 28-21 win on Friday, Oct. 17, at Cardinal Stadium.

The Tigers outscored the Cardinals 28-8 in the last three quarters after giving up a pair of touchdowns during a two-minute span in the opening frame.

This is the sixth time Warrensburg (5-3, 3-2 MRVC West) has limited its opponents to 21 points or fewer in a game this year.

"We made adjustments all night long," Warrensburg head coach Chris Cavanah said. "I mean, we were making adjustments series by series. Our guys were responding to that and executing those adjustments. Some things we hadn't practiced. But, a good team can handle making adjustments on the fly."

Warrensburg and Clinton (6-2, 3-2 MRVC West) were tied 21-21 at halftime.

Clinton opened the second



Warrensburg junior Trey Murphy chases down Clinton senior Camden Westendorff on Friday, Oct. 17, in Clinton. PHOTO BY JOE ANDREWS | STAR-JOURNAL

half with the ball. The Cardinals would have driven the ball into Tigers territory, but had the ball called back due to a holding penalty.

Warrensburg forced the Cardinals to punt on fourth

and 20. The Tigers took over at their own 39-yard line.

"That started the snowball effect, man," Warrensburg senior defensive end Frank Stephenson said of the stop. "It kept us rolling. One stop led to two, and

we just kept it going. We got a bunch of players, playmakers. Once we start playing as a team, I don't think anyone can stop us once we get rolling."

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'Burg girls XC, Knight win Warrensburg Invitational

By Joe Andrews
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Warrensburg girls cross country won the Warrensburg Invitational on Thursday, Oct. 16, at the Warrensburg Activities Complex.

The Tigers had 38 team points, 16 ahead of runner-up Knob Noster. The Holden, Kingsville and Crest Ridge girls also competed in the event, but did not qualify for team standings.

Warrensburg sophomore Skyler Knight was the individual champion, finishing nearly a minute ahead of the runner-up with a time of 19:40.40. There were 74 runners in the field.

Tigers senior Falon Hudson finished eighth with a time of 21:43. The top 10 also included Knob Noster senior Lyla Stiles in ninth with a time of 21:49.50 and freshman Lililan Bridges in tenth with a time of 22:00.10.

Inside the top 25, Knob Noster senior Trinity Howard placed 15th with a time of 22:36.30, Warrensburg junior Alex Kinetzy finished 16th with a time of 22:33.60, Warrensburg freshman Molly Christensen finished 17th with a time of 22:49, Warrensburg sophomore Talita Wiederhoeft finished 20th with a time of 23:01.50 and Warrensburg senior Danielle Smith finished 23rd with a time of 23:11.

In the top 50, Warrensburg sophomore Aleya Michaels finished 26th with a time of 23:32.80, Knob Noster freshman Corrie Berislavich finished 27th with a time of 23:35.40, Knob Noster junior Charlie Miller finished 29th with a time of 23:53, Knob Noster sophomore Adeline Applegate finished 35th with a time of 24:33, Knob Noster sophomore Adelaide Sturgill finished 37th with a time of 24:43.60, Holden sophomore Jessy Stringer finished 38th with a time of 24:52 and Holden senior Malea Brewington finished 41st with a time of 24:55.40.

Holden junior Madisyn Talley finished 54th with a time of 26:41.90, Holden freshman Audrey Enneking finished 55th with a time of 26:43.10, Kingsville sophomore Peyton Kee finished 56th with a time of 26:51.80 and Crest Ridge freshman Jaycee Gower finished 58th with a time of 27:01.70.

In the boys race, Warrensburg led the area team in third with 108 team points. Kingsville finished fourth with 121 points, Knob Noster finished ninth with 250 points, Crest Ridge finished 13th with 341 points and Holden finished 14th with 344 points.

Senior Luke Youngblood led the local boys individuals in seventh out of 100 runners with a time of 17:21.40. Kingsville junior Avery Barnes was also in the top 10, posting a time of 17:59.70.

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Eight turnovers doom UCM at Washburn

By Joe Andrews
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Central Missouri football turned the ball over eight times in its 37-17 loss to Washburn on Saturday, Oct. 18, at Yager Stadium in Topeka, Kansas.

Redshirt sophomore starting quarterback Donovan Omomlo threw five interceptions, redshirt sophomore quarterback Mac Harper threw one interception, junior running back Latravious Boyd fumbled the ball once and junior wide receiver Marlon Lindsey Jr. fumbled the ball once.

"I'm extremely disappointed," Central Missouri head coach Josh Lamberson told Greg Hassler postgame on the UCM Sports Radio Network. "Obviously, one of the things that we talk about all the time is ball security. That was not at a high quality today, unfortunately."

Central Missouri (3-4, 3-2 MIAA) never held the lead, falling behind within the first five minutes.

Lindsey fumbled the ball following a 15-yard reception from Omolo on UCM's second offensive snap of the game.

Washburn (2-5, 1-4 MIAA) gained possession at the UCM 45-yard line, and nine plays later, redshirt freshman quarterback Logan Madden ran it in from 10 yards out. The Ichabods missed the PAT, making it 6-0.

The score was the first of five Washburn had off a UCM turnover.

"I've never heard of eight turnovers, especially winning a football game with eight turnovers," Lamberson said. "De-



Central Missouri football's Donovan Omomlo scrambles against Northwest Missouri State on Oct. 11, at Walton Stadium. PHOTO BY JOE ANDREWS | STAR-JOURNAL

fensive scores. I'm extremely disappointed from that perspective."

Despite the turnovers, the Mules were within 13-10 at halftime.

The Mules scored off a 36-yard field goal from redshirt sophomore kicker Will Peacock and a 13-yard touchdown pass from Omolo to senior tight end Bo Reeves.

On Omolo's first pass attempt of the second half, Ichabods junior linebacker L.J. Minner Jr. picked him off for a 26-

yard touchdown.

The Mules ended up trailing 30-10 before putting their final score of the game up through an 8-yard touchdown run from redshirt sophomore running back Keyon Butler.

"I thought our offense put our defense in some really bad positions," Lamberson said. "That's not good complementary football. That's not team football ..."

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HOLDEN

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Holden outhit Iberia (13-13) 11-4.

“We had everything going defensively, we played lights out,” Smith said. “Then obviously, we put up some of the biggest numbers against Iberia that they’ve had thrown against them all year. And then Liv [Olivia Wooster] pitched lights out again, like she’s been doing the past month.

Olivia Wooster pitched the shutout for Holden, allowing no runs on four hits, one walk and six strikeouts.

Iberia did not have more than one runner on base at a single point after the first inning.

“They never really got a lot of pressure on us,” Smith said. “Defensively, she made the pitches she needed to. Our whole game plan for most of their batters was to stay on the outside corners, and she really hit her spots. She hit her spots really well.”

Holden did not waste any time in capturing momentum, taking a 5-0 lead in the bottom of the first.

Along with Haggard’s three-run homer that scored herself, senior Bobbie Diibon and senior Addilyn Wooster, freshman Lily Kephart had an RBI single to score senior Haley Brooks and Diibon had an RBI single to score Kephart.

“That was one of my goals for them in the championship game — to get off to a big start and put them down early and lower their momentum,” Smith said. “We definitely did that. Haley got us started there with a double; Lily got her in. Then we started a little hit parade there and ended with Bella with that big home run. It wasn’t just a barely over-the-fence home run, either; it was a bomb. Really big to see her stepping up big these last, really, two weeks. She’s been on a tear.”

The Eagles did not have a runner reach in the bottom of the second, third and fourth innings.

Holden broke the drought in the bottom of the fifth with two-out singles from Diibon and Wooster.

Haggard went on to tally an RBI single, bringing home freshman pinch runner Kendyl Uhlig. The rest of the scoring included an RBI single from sophomore Jillyan McHenry to score Wooster, a two-RBIs single from senior Adasyn Yoder to score Haggard and McHenry, and Greene’s two-run homer.

Diibon went 2-for-3 with one RBI, Haggard went 2-for-3 with four RBIs and Greene went 2-for-3 with two RBIs

Iberia pitched three different arms in the game. Sophomore Paylyn DeVore threw 1/3 of an inning, allowing two runs on two hits. Junior Jaylyn Pigott pitched the next 4 1/3 innings, allowing eight runs on eight hits, one walk and one strikeout.

Freshman Honey Mayhew entered for the last at-bat, giving up Greene’s homer.

“You could tell their game plan was really to keep us off balance for sure,” Smith said. “They threw the girl who had thrown the night before against New Covenant ... She came in, and as soon as she gave up two or three hits there in a row, they immensely pulled her and put the other girl in. That’s when Bella hit that home run. She did keep us off balance for the second, third and fourth innings until we got two outs in the fifth and we put up six more runs after that.”

Holden began the tournament with an 8-1 win against Hartville on Thursday, Oct. 16.

Brooks went 3-for-4 with one RBI, Addilyn Wooster went 3-for-4, Haggard went 2-for-4 with one RBI, Kephart went 2-for-3 with two RBIs, senior Adalyn Campbell went 1-for-3 with one RBI and Greene went 1-for-3 with two RBIs.

Olivia Wooster pitched all seven innings, allowing one run on five hits, two walks and 10 strikeouts.

“We kind of dominated our district this year,” Smith said. “That was good to see.”

Holden moves on to travel east to the Jefferson City region to face Linn or New Bloomfield in the state quarterfinal round on Saturday, Oct. 25.

Linn (25-5) and New Bloomfield (15-12) played in the Class 2 District 3 championship on Monday, Oct. 20.

Joe Andrews can be reached at 660-747-8123.

TIGERS

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A 39-yard connection between sophomore quarterback Camden Mannering and sophomore wide receiver Dominik Maham set Warrensburg up at the Clinton 22-yard line.

Mannering went on to tally an 8-yard carry before senior AJ Smith barreled the ball in from 12 yards out for a score.

The touchdown ended up being what went down as the game-winner.

“To come out and get a stop, and get a score to start the second half, it set the tone for the rest of the game,” Cavanah said.

Clinton came within reach of scoring in the final two minutes of the third quarter.

The Cardinals faced a third-and-1 from the Warrensburg 4-yard line, but Stephenson tallied a tackle for a loss of two yards. Stephenson went on to tackle a Clinton runner just short of the first down, leading to a turnover on downs.

“That was huge,” Stephenson said. “That’s toughness right there. That took a lot. We didn’t give up. I’m very proud of my guys for that. Staying mentally strong, not giving up on the plays.”

Warrensburg had a chance of its own to add points to the scoreboard in the final two minutes.

Senior kicker Ethan Hook missed a 27-yard field goal, bringing the defense back to the field.

Clinton advanced the ball to its own 38-yard line, but stalled out, leading to a turnover on downs that locked in a Warrensburg win.

“That was a gutty win by our team against a tough opponent,” Cavanah said. “I’m proud of our guys for making the plays we needed in the second half to put it away.”

Warrensburg trailed 13-0 after a quarter. In the first two minutes of the second quarter, it came within 13-7 following a



Warrensburg senior AJ Smith breaks away against Clinton on Friday, Oct. 17, in Clinton. PHOTOS BY JOE ANDREWS | STAR-JOURNAL



Warrensburg sophomore Hunter Michel celebrates a touchdown against Clinton on Friday, Oct. 17, in Clinton.

7-yard touchdown from Smith.

Five minutes later, sophomore Hunter Michel ran it in from 50 yards out, giving Warrensburg a 14-13 lead.

“Hunter’s a good back,” Ca-

vanah said. “He happens to be behind a first-team All-State kid, but Hunter is a proven runner. If we find ourselves with No. 1 in the backfield, we feel good about where we are.”

MULES

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Butler’s touchdown run capped the first possession with Harper at quarterback.

Omolo completed 25-of-32 passes for 217 yards, a touchdown and five interceptions. He ran for a net of 12 yards on three carries.

Harper completed 8-of-13 passes for 52 yards and had one interception. He ran for 43 yards on nine carries.

Junior wide receiver Jake Weber had

eight catches for 60 yards. Redshirt sophomore wide receiver Daylon Washington had four catches for 40 yards.

Boyd ran for 80 yards on 14 carries.

UCM had 465 yards of offense compared to Washburn’s 370. The Ichabods did not turn the ball over.

The Mules are the first MIAA team to have lost to Washburn this season. The Ichabods previously beat Truman State

in non-conference action before losing five straight.

“I think all in all, a pretty disappointing performance,” Lamberson said. “It’s my job to fix it. We’ll go back to the drawing board and see what we can do.”

Central Missouri hosts Emporia State in its homecoming game at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25.

Joe Andrews can be reached at 660-747-8123.

XC

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The top 25 included Warrensburg junior Hayden Hunter in 19th with a time of 18:39.70, Warrensburg junior Ross Broeker in 20th with a time of 18:39.70, Kingsville junior Gideon Melling in 21st with a time of 18:53.60, Holden sophomore William Claxton in 22nd with a time of 18:58.70 and Kingsville junior Jack Ewing in 23rd with a time of 19:03.

In the top 50, Knob Noster sophomore William Cramer finished 26th with a time of 19:21.10, Warrensburg junior Evan Wittmaier finished 27th with a time of 19:25.70, Kings-

ville freshman Cole Smith finished 33rd with a time of 19:42.30, Kingsville sophomore Levi Dennis finished 34th with a time of 19:46.10, Warrensburg senior Carson Ruhnke finished 35th with a time of 19:49.20, Kingsville senior Emanuele Levegue finished 37th with a time of 19:55.80, Knob Noster senior Andrew Collier finished 38th with a time of 20:00.90, Crest Ridge sophomore Clayton Gower finished 41st with a time of 20:17.40 and Knob Noster junior Tyler LeNeave finished 49th with a time of 20:28.10.

Holden junior Evan Robinson finished 65th with a time of 21:45.80, Knob Noster senior Ethan Gentry finished 68th with a time of 22:07.90, Crest Ridge freshman Ryker Williams finished 78th with a time of 22:50, Crest Ridge freshman Beck Brandes finished 80th with a time of 23:03.40, Knob Noster sophomore Caleb Collier finished 81st with a time of 23:04.80, Crest Ridge freshman Ethan Gamblin finished 82nd with a time of 23:08, Knob Noster sophomore Anthony Heppler finished 83rd with a time of 23:08.90, Crest

Ridge freshman Brayden Weaver finished 84th with a time of 23:09.30, Kingsville senior Julian Molina finished 87th with a time of 23:24.30, Holden sophomore Nicholas Moore finished 93rd with a time of 24:05.70, Holden sophomore Paxton Zeikle finished 94th with a time of 24:12.60, Kingsville freshman Elisha Terrell finished 95th with a time of 24:15.90 and Holden freshman Luke Tebbenkamp finished 100th with a time of 24:35.90.

Joe Andrews can be reached at 660-747-8123.

Jennies bowling picked fifth in GLVC Preseason Coaches’ Poll

The University of Central Missouri Jennies Bowling team has been selected fifth in the 2025-26 Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) Women’s Bowling Preseason Coaches’ Poll, the league office announced Thursday, Oct. 16.

The Jennies, who are coming off another strong campaign in 2024-25, earned 27 points in the poll voted on by GLVC head coaches. UCM will look to build on last season’s success under head coach Ron Holmes, returning a talented core of student-athletes and adding key newcomers to the roster.

Maryville University was picked to win the conference, receiving 49 points and seven first-place votes. McKendree followed in second with 42 points and one

first-place vote, while Oklahoma Christian (38) and Newman (29) rounded out the top four ahead of Central Missouri.

The full 2025-26 GLVC Women’s Bowling Preseason Coaches’ Poll is below:

1. Maryville – 49 (7)
2. McKendree – 42 (1)
3. Oklahoma Christian – 38
4. Newman – 29
5. Central Missouri – 27
6. Lewis – 19
7. Indianapolis – 13
8. Quincy – 7

The Jennies continue their 2025-26 season Oct. 25-26 at the Jayhawk Collegiate Classic in Topeka, Kansas, hosted by Baker University.

Release courtesy of the UCM Athletics.

Mules, Jennies golf ranked in initial DII National Collegiate Golf Rankings

The University of Central Missouri Mules and Jennies Golf teams are both ranked in the first version of the 2025-26 NCAA Division II National Collegiate Golf Rankings presented by clippd, it was announced last week.

The Mules check in at No. 11 with 42.22 points, while the Jennies are No. 20 with 23.78 points.

In the NCAA-II Cen-

tral Region, the Jennies are the top team, ranking first, and the Mules are second, trailing only Central Oklahoma, which is first with 59.66 points.

Individually, both the Jennies’ Mia Rallo and the Mules’ CJ Phillips are ranked fourth in all of NCAA Division II golf.

Release courtesy of the University of Central Missouri.