

‘Burg XC wins Knob Noster Invite

By Joe Andrews

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Warrensburg cross country won both sides of the Knob Noster Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 13, at the Royal Oaks Golf Course in Knob Noster.

The Warrensburg girls had 53 points, seven ahead of Knob Noster.

Warrensburg sophomore Skyler Knight was the individual champion, winning with a time

of 20:35.4. Top-10 finishes also included Warrensburg senior Falon Hudson, who finished sixth with a time of 22:00.4, Knob Noster sophomore Summer Stiles, who finished seventh with a time of 22:09.8, and Knob Noster senior Lyla Stiles, who finished tenth with a time of 22:38.8.

Inside the top-25, Knob Noster sophomore Adeline Applegate finished 11th with a time of 22:51.9, Warrensburg freshman Rachel Wetzel finished 17th with

a time of 23:28.4, Warrensburg sophomore Talita Wiederhoeft finished 20th with a time of 23:57.3, Knob Noster freshman Lillian Bridges finished 22nd with a time of 24:06.3, Knob Noster sophomore Adelaide Strugill finished 23rd with a time of 24:06.7 and Warrensburg sophomore Aleyna Michaels finished 24th with a time of 24:10.3

In the top-50, Knob Noster junior Charlie Miller finished 26th with a time of 24:36.9, Warrensburg junior Alex Kinetzy

finished 27th with a time of 24:42.1, Warrensburg freshman Molly Christensen finished 28th with a time of 24:46.9, Knob Noster senior Trinity Howard finished 37th with a time of 25:47.4 Knob Noster junior Jena Berislavich finished 38th with a time of 25:48.7.

In the top-75, Warrensburg sophomore Stella Cone finished 57th with a time of 27:51.5, Knob Noster junior Lilly James finished 58th with a time of 27:55.9 and Warrensburg freshman

Paige Beasley finished 65th with a time of 28:58.3.

Kingsville sophomore Peyton Kee finished 79th with a time of 30:41, while Crest Ridge freshman Jaycee Gower finished 80th with a time of 30:52.1.

The Warrensburg boys won with 36 points, 29 ahead of runner-up St. Michael the Archangel. Kingsville finished fifth as a team with 135 points while Knob Noster finished 11th with

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Warrensburg senior running back AJ Smith runs down field for a touchdown against Moberly on Friday, Sept. 12. Smith ran for 365 yards and six touchdowns in the game. PHOTO BY JOE ANDREWS | STAR-JOURNAL

Smith's six touchdowns propel Warrensburg over Moberly

By Joe Andrews

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WARRENSBURG — Though it's what goes down on the stat sheet, the path to an in-game statistic never truly involves just one or two athletes.

With the help of the offensive line and handoffs from sophomore quarterback Camden Mannering, Warrensburg senior running back AJ Smith ran for 365 yards and six touchdowns on 31 carries in a 42-7 win against Moberly on Friday, Sept. 12, at the Warrensburg Activities Complex.

"It was great," Smith said. "The O-Line dominated all game. They just allowed me to read the gaps and get upfield. It was just one-on-one with the safeties and some of the linebackers. It was smooth stuff from there."

The foundation to the run game began fast, when the Tigers (2-1) capped their opening drive with a 10-yard touchdown run from Smith.

The score brought his yardage total up to 63 yards on five carries.

Smith finished the game averaging nearly 12 yards per touch.

"A lot of credit to our entire offense for their efforts tonight, especially the offensive line and what they were able to do, opening up holes for our running back," Warrensburg head coach Chris Cavanah said.

Warrensburg had a miscue on the extra point that came after Smith's touchdown, leaving 'Burg's lead at 6-0.

The defense turned around to force Moberly into a punt, setting up another offensive series for the Tigers.

That series included a 22-yard connection between Mannering and junior Theo McCracken, a 5-yard connection between Mannering and sophomore Dominik Maham and a 5-yard completion from Mannering to McCracken.

Smith had runs of 15, 12 and four yards before capping the drive with a 2-yard score, making it 13-0.

"When we come off our blocks and see AJ downfield, it's an amazing feeling knowing that we did something right," junior offensive lineman Tyler Fox said. "He praises us [on the sideline] knowing we do things right."

Warrensburg held Moberly (0-3) scoreless again, but fumbled in its own territory to set up a Spartans possession that ended with a 2-yard touchdown from senior running back Ka'Von Tiger.

The Tigers went on to shut out Moberly through the remainder of the game, a feat that included four different fumble recoveries, and two forced turnovers on downs.

"It's one of our weekly goals to swarm the football," Cavanah said. "When you swarm the ball, you create turnovers."

Senior Jaidon Williams had two fumble recoveries, while junior Trey Murphy had one and senior Frank Stephenson had one.

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AREA ROUNDUP

Cougars get first win under McCorkle

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Coaches, please send results to joe.andrews@warrensburgstarjournal.com.

Crest Ridge football claimed its first win underneath the leadership of head coach Joseph McCorkle by beating Southeast KC 41-20 on Friday, Sept. 12, at Southeast KC High School.

Senior quarterback Wesley Taylor had six total touchdowns for the Cougars (1-2), completing 17-of-23 passes for 168 yards and four touchdowns. He also ran for 129 yards and two touchdowns on 16 carries.

Junior Cabe Shippy caught six passes for 79 yards and three touchdowns. Sophomore Jace Troubough had two receptions for 58 yards and a touchdown. Junior Jackson Hoppenthaler had five catches for 57 yards.

Senior Carsen Hursh ran for 65 yards on 14 carries.

On the defensive side, Hoppenthaler had one interception. Senior Logan Duffy and junior Gabe Barker each had a sack.

The Cougars host Cole Camp in their homecoming game Friday, Sept. 19, at Crest Ridge High School.

Holden shuts down Adrian

Holden football beat Adrian 21-0 on Friday, Sept. 12, in Adrian.

Senior Wes Brown ran for 79 yards and a touchdown on 10 carries. Senior Justin Brown ran for 35 yards and a touchdown on five carries.

Sophomore Truman Wamsley

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Central Missouri redshirt senior wide receiver Jack Pospisil makes his way down field following a late reception from Jordan Pachot on Thursday, Sept. 11, at Walton Stadium.

PHOTO BY JOE ANDREWS | STAR-JOURNAL

UCM falls to No. 14 CSU Pueblo

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WARRENSBURG — Three yards separated Central Missouri football from locking in a probable game-winning lead against No. 14 Colorado State — Pueblo.

But a lot can happen in under 45 seconds. An incomplete pass, a chop block penalty, a sack and two additional incomplete passes kept the Mules from taking the go-ahead lead in the final seconds, falling to the ThunderWolves 29-24 on Thursday, Sept. 11, at Walton Stadium.

"When you get the ball down there, the 3-yard line, there's 41 seconds left — that's plenty of time left," Central Missouri head coach Josh Lamberson said. "We didn't execute in those moments. And did some uncharacteristic things that didn't allow us to get in the end zone."

Central Missouri (0-2) may not have had the opportunity to be in the situation if Lamberson and the Mules had not opted to punt the ball away, facing fourth and seven from its own 28 with 2:09 remaining.

The defense, which is in its first season under defensive coordinator Rich Wright, proceeded to force CSU Pueblo (2-1) into a three-and-out.

The defensive series began with redshirt junior defensive lineman Jaylen Harris and redshirt sophomore defensive lineman Kyan Franklin dropping junior running back Moosah Alsaffar for a loss of four yards.

The tackle for loss ended up leading to a third-and-14 scenario, where Devin Cross made a 12-yard gain. CSU Pueblo was still two yards short, and ultimately punted the ball

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293 points and Crest Ridge was 16th with 418.

Warrensburg junior Carson Hennrich paced area runners, finishing second with a time of 17:39.2.

Also in the top-10, Warrensburg senior Travis King finished fifth with a time of 18:10.4, Warrensburg senior Luke Youngblood finished seventh with a time of 18:28.9, Kingsville

junior Avery Barnes finished ninth with a time of 18:40.4 and Warrensburg senior Elias Morgan finished tenth with a time of 18:40.7.

Inside the top-25, Warrensburg junior Ross Broeker finished 12th with a time of 18:53, Kingsville freshman Cole Smith finished 19th with a time of 19:26.5, Warrensburg junior Evan Wittmair finished 20th with a time of

19:40.2 and Knob Noster sophomore William Cramer finished 25th with a time of 19:57.5.

Remaining in the top-50, Kingsville junior Gideon Melling finished 27th with a time of 19:58.6, Crest Ridge sophomore Clayton Gower finished 34th with a time of 20:13.7, Kingsville sophomore Jack Ewing finished 42nd with a time of 20:25.2, Kingsville sophomore Levi Den-

nis finished 45th with a time of 20:32.6 and Kingsville senior Emmanuele Levegue finished 46th with a time of 20:39.1.

Inside the top-75, Warrensburg senior Carson Ruhnke finished 55th with a time of 21:08.8, Warrensburg junior Tyler Leneave finished 58th with a time of 21:14.5 and Knob Noster senior Ethan Gentry finished 64th with a time of 21:35.6.

Summit Christian Academy sophomore Leo Butler won the boys race with a time of 16:46.4.

Warrensburg competes in the Lee's Summit North Kris Solberg Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 20.

Knob Noster, Crest Ridge and Knob Noster will be at the Odesa Invitational.

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

ROUNDUP

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completed 9-of-13 passes for 91 yards. Wes Brown had five catches for 65 yards. Truman Wamsley also ran for 62 yards on nine attempts.

Senior Seth Wright tallied a pick six on the defensive end. Sophomore Tucker Wamsley had a fumble recovery.

Sophomore Jack Thomas led Holden with 14 tackles while Tucker Wamsley had 10, senior Tucker Kauffman had 10 and senior Chasen Hall had 10. Wright and Tucker Wamsley both tallied sacks.

Holden (3-0) travels to St. Francis Borgia on Friday, Sept. 19.

Knob Noster wins battle with St. Pius

Knob Noster football defeated St. Pius X Festus 21-20 on Friday, Sept. 12, at Knob Noster High School.

The Panthers (3-0) came up with a defensive stop in the final seconds to secure the win.

No stats were available via Hudl as of 11 a.m. Monday, Sept. 15.

Holden softball finishes second in Chillicothe Tournament

Holden softball finished runner-up in the Chillicothe Tournament after losing to Pleasant Hill 7-6 in the championship game Saturday, Sept. 13, in Chillicothe.

The Eagles (6-6) led by two runs heading in the top of the sixth. Pleasant Hill went on to score three runs in the inning to take the go-ahead lead.

Holden struck out in two at-bats, while grounding out another, in the bottom of the inning, ending the game.

Pleasant Hill (8-6) initially took a 2-0 lead in the top of the first, but the Eagles tied it up through a two-out RBI triple from senior Addilyn Wooster, scoring senior Haley Brooks and senior Bobbie Diibon.

Holden jumped ahead 5-2 in the bottom of the second after senior Adalyn Campbell tallied a single that turned into an error, bringing home sophomore Jillian McHenry and senior Adasyn Yoder.

Haley Brooks tallied an RBI single in the next at-bat, bringing home Campbell.

Pleasant Hill added two runs in the top of the third, though Holden expanded its lead to 6-4 in the bottom of the inning through an RBI double from McHenry, scoring sophomore Bella Haggard.

Holden outhit Pleasant Hill 9-8.

Campbell and McHenry went 2-for-3 with one RBI. Haley Brooks had one RBI while Addilyn Wooster had two.

Senior Olivia Wooster pitched all six innings, allowing five earned runs on eight hits, three walks and four strikeouts.

Holden also had a 6-0 and 6-5 win against South Harrison in the tournament.

The Eagles walked off against South Harrison, scoring two runs in the bottom of the sixth through a pair of wild pitches.

Olivia Wooster pitched the shutout against Chillicothe, allowing five hits while walking one and striking out four.

Warrensburg softball concludes home tournament

Warrensburg softball went winless in its home tournament between Friday, Sept. 12, and Saturday, Sept. 13, losing to Lafayette County 9-8, Lexington 7-5 and St. Michael the Archangel 7-6.

Warrensburg (0-8) led at some point in time during all three games. It outhit its opponents in two out of the three games.

In its loss to St. Michael, which concluded the weekend, the Tigers led by three runs heading into the bottom of the seventh.

Warrensburg outhit the Guardians 11-8. Sophomore Kenzie Crouch, sophomore Aaliyah Derritt, junior Ripley Laws, and Aspen Osborn each went 2-for-4 at the plate. Derritt had one RBI to go along with one from junior Olivia Johnson and two from freshman Savannah Jacobs.

Freshman Katie Evans pitched six innings, allowing three earned runs on eight hits, three walks and one strikeout. Junior Aspen Osborn pitched the final 2/3 of an inning, allowing one earned run on no hits, two walks and two strikeouts.

Knob Noster finishes Warrensburg Tournament

Knob Noster softball went winless in the Warrensburg Tournament between Friday, Sept. 12, and Saturday, Sept. 13, falling to Sherwood 15-1, Capital City 18-2 and Clinton 17-0.

Knob Noster (0-10) had seven hits through the entirety of the tournament.

OTHER RESULTS

Thursday, Sept. 11

Warrensburg girls tennis 9, Center 0
Carrollton girls tennis 6, Knob Noster 3
St. Michael the Archangel boys soccer 2, Warrensburg 0
Knob Noster volleyball 3, Warsaw 1
Crest Ridge volleyball 3, Green Ridge 1
Harrisonville volleyball 3, Holden 0
La Monte volleyball 3, Kingsville 2

Saturday, Sept. 13

Holden volleyball 2, Lexington 0
Northland Christian volleyball 2, Holden 0
Holden volleyball 1, Wellington-Napoleon 1
Stover volleyball 2, Holden 0

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

FOOTBALL

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“The defensive line does a good job of playing their techniques and doing their jobs, which frees up the linebackers and safety to make plays in the run game,” Cavanah said.

Warrensburg led 13-7 at the end of the first quarter. Smith and ‘Burg tacked on scores of five yards, two yards and 35 yards to make it a 34-7 halftime score.

Smith ran for 297 yards and five touchdowns on 25 carries in the first half.

His longest run of the game led to a 43-yard touchdown with 10:17 left in the third quarter.

Senior Ethan Hook converted 4-of-5 PAT attempts. Senior Cruz Villegas ran the ball in for a two-point conversion following Smith’s last touchdown, locking in a running clock for the game’s remainder.

Along with Smith’s rushing yard total, Mannering threw for 41 yards while running for 28. McCracken had two catches for 32 yards.

“I felt like we got out pretty hard,” Fox said. “We got out physical, got the first two touchdowns. Then the defense produced the fumbles for us to respond to on that.”

The 477 yards of offense are the most ‘Burg has posted so far this season.

The win sends the Tigers onto MRVC West Play, which opens at Harrisonville on Friday, Sept. 19.

“I think it was a total team effort tonight,” Cavanah said. “Offense, defense, special teams, young guys. Everybody contributed to a win.”

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UCM

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away from its own 43.

UCM took possession of the ball at its own 18 with 1:45 left.

“I have so much confidence in Rich and those guys,” Lamberson said. “I liked the look in their eyes. I trusted them to get a three-and-out. I knew we had the two-minute warning, too. So, essentially, we were going to get another timeout there. I was just really pleased with how everything played out in that moment. They came in there and they did their job with exactly what they were supposed to do and gave the ball back to the offense with an opportunity to win.”

Senior quarterback Jordan Pachot, who replaced redshirt sophomore quarterback Donovan Omolo on UCM’s first series of the fourth quarter, connected with junior Jake Weber on a 7-yard pass for the first play of the Mules’ final drive.

Pachot’s next pass fell incomplete before hitting redshirt sophomore Hogan Wasson for a 6-yard gain, bringing UCM to its own 31. Another incomplete pass followed before Pachot found redshirt senior Jack Pospisil for what developed into a 66-yard gain.

The play brought UCM to the CSU-Pueblo 3-yard line. It never gained any additional yardage, and saw a first-and-goal situation from the three turn into fourth and goal from the 27.

“We really shot ourselves in the foot,” Lamberson said. “You can’t get a high-low [chop block] in that situation. The first play we called, we had a guy open and



Central Missouri redshirt sophomore defensive back Malachi Howard tackles Colorado State Pueblo sophomore wide receiver Marcellus Honeycutt, Jr. on Thursday, Sept. 11, at Walton Stadium.

PHOTO BY JOE ANDREWS | STAR-JOURNAL

missed him.”

Failing to score when in the red zone was a common issue throughout the night for UCM, finishing 3-for-7 in the game.

The misses included an unsuccessful 37-yard field goal from redshirt sophomore Will Peacock, Omolo throwing one of three interceptions and two of three turnovers on downs that took place in the game.

Omolo played in the first, second and third quarters, completing 22-of-42 passes for 263 yards and three interceptions. He also ran for 105 yards and a touchdown, while catching a 16-yard pass from redshirt sophomore running back Keyon Butler on a trick play.

Following the third, the Mules opted to go with Pachot, who completed 11-of-20 passes for 160 yards and a touchdown.

Wolves to 122 yards in the first half, including just 16 on the ground. CSU-Pueblo finished the game with 250 rushing yards.

“Our defense played really well in the first half,” Lamberson said. “The offense struggled to get anything going in the third quarter, which really had the defense playing a lot of snaps.”

Pospisil led UCM in receiving yardage, tallying 12 catches for 252 yards. Wasson had 128 yards on 12 receptions.

Central Missouri’s defense tallied three sacks, including one from Franklin for a loss of seven yards, one from senior defensive lineman Jayden Rauls for a loss to 10 yards and one from redshirt senior defensive lineman Michael Harris for a loss of seven.

Redshirt senior Garrett Hormann paced UCM with 13 tackles. Redshirt junior Drew Kaufman had 11.

Central Missouri travels to Missouri Western for its MIAA opener on Saturday, Sept. 20.

“[In the locker room], I said ‘hey, it’s in these moments where we have to be who we say we are, and where we really find out in life, you just really find out when adversity, trials and tribulations come your way, who’s real and who’s not,’” Lamberson said. “With these two losses that we’ve had, they’ve kind of been gut-wrenching losses. I know the guys hurt. I know the coaches hurt. We all do. It’s in these moments that you really find out who’s all in it with what we talk about on a daily basis.”

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Warrensburg sophomore Hunter Michel goes in for a tackle against Moberly on Friday, Sept. 12, at the Warrensburg Activities Complex.

PHOTOS BY JOE ANDREWS | STAR-JOURNAL



Warrensburg senior AJ Smith crosses into the end zone for a touchdown against Moberly on Friday, Sept. 12, at the Warrensburg Activities Complex.