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# SPORTS



Eastbrook's Logan Collins rumbles into the end zone for a touchdown against Marion on Friday night. **Photo by Sean Douglas**

## Eastbrook downs Marion in season grid opener

By Sean Douglas

Heading into the 2020 season, the Eastbrook Panthers certainly had plenty of reasons for optimism. Not only have they brought back a superb group of young talent, one that became a key part of their success and played a significant role in their run to the Class 2A state final game last November, but they also have added a dynamic athlete at the quarterback position, one with local ties and a strong football background.

After an efficient performance in all three phases on Friday night against Marion, the Panthers took the first step in their quest towards Indianapolis – and possible redemption.

Junior transfer Jett Engle put together a stellar debut, the running game was clicking on all cylinders, and the Panthers used a fast start and a dominant first half to defeat the Giants 39-18 at Jeff Adamson Stadium.

Eastbrook outgained Marion in total yardage, 349-302, while the Panthers' ground attack accumulated 220 yards of offense. Engle, in his first game under center for the Panthers, completed six of his eight passes for 129 yards, three

of which went for touchdowns.

"He's a great teammate," Eastbrook Head Coach Jeff Adamson said of Engle. "He's really good with the other guys and he fit in right away. He is a football junkie. His dad's been a coach, and he just understands things. He is going to continue to get better and better as he keeps understanding what we are doing on offense a little bit more."

Logan Collins led the Eastbrook running back rotation with 71 yards on 10 carries, while Alden Miller finished with 57 yards on 14 totes. Isaiah Dalton and Jason Hale combined for 59 rushing yards, while Justin Starr recorded a pair of big runs on Eastbrook's final drive to put the game away.

"Each one of them has a different running style, and it's nice," Adamson said. "Hale is kind of a bulldozer, Alden has a little more speed at fullback, and Starr is [also] a bulldozer. It's good having that diversity."

Eastbrook's defense was sturdy throughout the evening as well, forcing a pair of fumbles, collecting an interception, and stifling any sort of momentum that Marion tried to build as the game progressed.

"We had some miscues. We had some fumbles. We had some miscues in the kicking game. You can't have those things," Marion Head Coach James Bells said. "We just need to keep working and keep emphasizing the fundamentals. We just have to get better."

The Panthers, mostly did an excellent job of keeping the Marion offense under wraps, using their speed on the outside and their size on the inside to keep the Giants' running game from establishing any sort of rhythm.

"At times, we did all of those things really well, and then there were other times where you could tell we had cement shoes on," Adamson said. "We were just trying to contain the bootlegs and keep things on one side of the field as best we could."

Cain Richardson and Cubie Jones combined to complete nine passes for 169 yards and two touchdowns for the Giants, while Jones also recorded a receiving touchdown.

Malachi Silmons led the Giants with 62 rushing yards on six carries, while Marques Smith collected a touchdown reception.

The Panthers wasted little time putting up points on

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## Manchester tops Indians in girls soccer opener

By Sean Douglas

On paper, the Mississinewa Indians boast one of the most talented lineups in Grant County – a group that is generally stellar with ball control and possession. However, in their season opener against Manchester, the Indians uncharacteristically struggled in both of those areas, and the Squires took advantage.

The Indians' sloppy play, combined with several missed opportunities, proved costly as Mississinewa fell to Manchester by a score of 4-1.

"It definitely wasn't the team that should have been out here," Mississinewa Head Coach Andrea Wilson said. "It took us a while to get going, and I don't know why. I could even tell in warmups they were a little slow. We got beat on effort tonight."

Known for their physicality, the Squires put bodies on the Indians' top players, throwing them out of their rhythm. Mississinewa eventually started to create more scoring chances as the match progressed, but the Squires definitively set the tone with their visceral style of play.



Mississinewa's Lia Luchetti puts a shot on net in the Indian's season opener against Manchester. **Photo by Sean Douglas**

"Every year we play them, they are always very physical," Wilson said. "We struggle to start a season with a team that is physical for some reason. It takes us a while to get into that. They were so physical, and we kind of cowered to it. We started backing off the balls instead of going for 50-50 balls. We were letting them have it and then trying to get it from them."

"I thought we did a little better in the second half, but at that point, their energy

was better."

After an even start, the Squires began to dominate possession and create pressure on Mississinewa's defense consistently after the first 10 minutes.

Indians' goalkeeper Savannah Herrera stood tall early, making three saves, including two at point blank range, but Manchester senior Emma Garriott was able to break the scoreless tie with 23:06 remaining in the first half, sliding one past

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## M-G dominates in volleyball opener

By Sean Douglas

Playing in their home opener on Thursday night, the Madison-Grant Argylls sensed a tall task ahead of them in Avery Ross and the Pendleton Heights Arabians.

However, the Argylls did not give themselves much of a chance.

A combination of uncharacteristic offensive struggles, together with a stellar, all-around effort by Pendleton Heights, proved to be the Argylls' undoing as they were defeated by the Arabians in straight sets (10-25, 11-25, 12-25).

Madison-Grant had no answer for Ross, who finished the match with 15 kills and four aces. Hannah collected eight terminations, Gabby Ennis added six, and Olivia Wright orchestrated the offense with 29 assists to go along with three kills, two blocks, and four aces for the Arabians.

Even before the match began, Madison-Grant Head Coach Kayla Jump noticed that something was off. In most cases, a team's warm-up session, good or bad, can determine how they will play in the contest. The Argylls lacked any sort of fluidity during their warm-up

period, and it carried over into the match.

"Usually, everything flows pretty well," Madison-Grant Head Coach Kayla Jump said. "[Tonight,] I just noticed that it just wasn't flowing right."

Of Madison-Grant's 33 total points, only 11 came via their offense. The remaining 22 points came off Pendleton Heights errors and one block.

Madison-Grant never established any sort of offensive rhythm. They struggled making the first pass off the serve, and reliable hitters

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