

Oak Hill

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share of scoring chances early in the second half, but they failed to capitalize on their opportunities. Jake McKim headed a ball just wide of the net in the first 10 minutes, and a short time later, Sam Spiegel, forced to play in the field due to some Eastbrook injuries, stumbled on a break-away leading to an easy save for O’Blenis.

Eastbrook continued to push in the second half, putting more pressure on Oak Hill’s defense in the final 20 minutes of the contest. However, the Golden Eagles’ back line stood tall, and O’Blenis made several key saves in crucial situations.

The 2020 season is still in its fledgling stage, but four games in, the Golden Eagles look to have something special brewing in western Grant County.

“It’s great for our confidence,” Garverick said. “We’ve got three returning starters, so we’ve got a lot of inexperience. We are recognizing what we are capable of and where we can go. We have to find a way to continue to gel together and make stuff happen. I’ve been proud of how we’ve started the season.”

Giants

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score, capping it off with a 77-yard touchdown pass from McCulley to Jackson. Later, the Wildcats increased their lead to 14-0 on a 21-yard run from Hegler.

Zaimar Burnett, who played an outstanding game on both sides of the football, broke off a 73-yard touchdown run on Marion’s next possession to cut Lawrence North’s lead to seven. Burnett finished the contest with 156 yards and two touchdowns on six carries.

However, that was as close as the Giants would get the rest of the way.

Hegler went on to score two more touchdowns, as did Richardson, while McCulley added another passing touchdown along with a rushing score on a designed quarterback draw. Backup quarterback Dalys Jett scored in garbage time, while Romaro Warren scored Lawrence North’s lone defensive touchdown on a 30-yard fumble return.

Marion hits the road the next two weeks beginning Friday night against arch-rival Kokomo.



Alex Powell puts a shot on goal against Mississinewa.

Giants pick up season’s first win

By Sean Douglas

When Kyle Coryea, JD Fagan, and Alex Powell play to their full potential and in sync with one another, they are one of the most dynamic boys soccer trios in Grant County.

Their skill was on full display on Wednesday night as the Marion Giants used an offensive explosion to defeat arch-rival Mississinewa, 6-3, under the lights of Dick Lootens Stadium for their first victory of the 2020 season.

“We came to play,” Marion Head Coach Jorge Berry said. “We played hard. We played so hard. And that is how we have to play. Our kids busted their tail on both ends of the [pitch.]”

Coryea, Fagan, and Powell combined for five of Marion’s six goals, while also recording four assists. Powell shined throughout the contest, scoring twice and creating a plethora of opportunities for both himself and his teammates.

“If we had possessed the ball a little bit more, we could have beaten their defense a little bit better than what we did,” Mississinewa Head Coach Jared Reel said. “They had a good game plan. It worked, and it took us out of our game a little bit.”

While they did give up three goals and make a few defensive lapses, Marion’s young back line held firm, and Malik Smith put together a stellar performance in net, making 10 saves, several at point blank range.

“He has been our most consistent player,” Berry said of Smith. “He has been the rock in our defense. He makes saves, but he is also talking to people in front of

him. That makes all the difference in the world if you have your keeper talking to you. He’s doing an outstanding job.”

Colin Yoder played an excellent game for Mississinewa, scoring all three of their goals.

After the first 10 minutes, Marion began to dominate possession, maintaining consistent pressure on Mississinewa’s side of the pitch, and in a span of 7:10, they took control of the contest.

At the 24:33 mark of the first half, Powell scored his first goal, giving the Giants a 1-0 lead. Just over four minutes later, Powell collected an assist, firing a perfect cross to the middle to a streaking Fagan, who connected on a beautiful header to make it 2-0.

Coryea capped off the scoring barrage off a perfectly placed free kick from Fagan, giving the Giants a 3-0 advantage with 17:22 to play in the first half.

Evan Yoder, who usually plays in the field for Mississinewa, was forced to play goalkeeper due to injuries and sickness. Facing a lethal Marion offense, Yoder filled in admirably, making eight saves.

Despite the three-goal deficit, the Indians continued to battle throughout the first half. With 6:11 remaining, Colin Yoder broke through the Giants’ defense, scoring his first of the evening to trim Marion’s lead to 3-1 at the halftime break.

The Indians came out strong in the second half, recording a few high-quality scoring opportunities, but Smith stood tall, keeping it a two-goal game.

Grant County Sports Roundup

Boys Soccer

Coming off their second-place finish at the Northwestern Invitational, the Mississinewa Indians dropped their second straight match last Tuesday evening, falling to the Liberty Christian Lions 3-1. Evan Yoder scored the lone goal for Mississinewa.

On Saturday, after losing to Marion, the Indians dropped their fourth straight contest, failing to score in a 1-0 shutout loss to Delta.

On Thursday, Eastbrook’s offense came alive against Eastern in an 8-0 triumph over the Comets. Ben Moser finished with a hot trick, while Sam Spiegel, Bryan Popoca, and Joseph Kerton-Johnson also scored for the Panthers. On Saturday, the Panthers capped off their busy week with a 4-1 triumph over Woodlan on Senior Day. Moser finished with a hat trick.

Marion, fresh off their first victory over Mississinewa, recorded their first conference win of the season on Saturday afternoon, defeating longtime rival Muncie Central 3-1. Kyle Coryea scored two goals, while Alex Powell collected another for the Giants.

In western Grant County, the Golden Eagles continued to roll, shutting out the Taylor Titans 9-0 at home on Thursday. Dalian Leach scored four goals, while Grant Elzinga, Evan Pearce, Daniel Jackson, Wyatt Drollinger, and Pedro Perez each added one.

On the road against Maconaquah on Monday, Oak Hill kept their unbeaten streak alive, shutting out the Braves 5-0. Leach and Mark Sevier each scored a pair of goals, while Weston Seybold collected two assists in the victory.

Boys Cross Country

At the Taylor Invitational on Saturday, Eastbrook, Marion, and Mississinewa competed and battled hard against a loaded field of runners. The Panthers were led by Thane Syswerda, who placed 42nd in a time of 18 minutes, 45.1 seconds, while Marion’s Jonathan Reynolds led the Giants with a time of 20:13.5. Jon Alsup of Mississinewa led the Grant County field with a time of 18:39.3.

Football

Coming off their stellar performance against Marion in week one, the Eastbrook Panthers dropped their first game of the young season on Friday night, falling to the Delta Eagles by a score of 42-28. Jett Engle finished 4-for-6 for 108 yards, a touchdown, and two interceptions, Alden Miller led the rushing attack with 99 yards on 23 carries, and Hayden Raikes caught two passes for 90 yards and a touchdown.

After missing its first game due to COVID-19, Madison-Grant put together an outstanding performance Friday, defeating the Cloverdale Clovers 52-22. Tanner Brooks scored three touchdowns in the Argylls’ victory, while Clayton Powell and Trey Vetur each scored twice.

Despite a hard-fought valiant effort at New Haven, the Mississinewa Indians fell to 0-2 on the season with a 22-14 loss to the Bulldogs on Friday evening. Carson Campbell scored on a 78-yard touchdown pass from Landry Rock late in the fourth quarter and opened the second half with a kickoff return touchdown. The Indians’ defense forced three turnovers – two fumbles and an interception.

Playing on the road against Southwood, the Golden Eagles dropped to 0-2 with a 35-13 loss to the Knights. Oak Hill compiled 222 yards of offense, including 132 passing yards from quarterback Clay McCorkle. Kian Hite led the team with four catches for 67 yards and a touchdown.

Girls Cross Country

At Taylor University on Saturday, several Grant County runners stood out in a tough field. Eastbrook’s Olivia Howell led the Grant County runners with a 20th place finish (21:10.2), while the Panthers finished in 10th overall with a score of 279. Marion finished in 16th place with a score of 460 and were led by Emily Luckey (25:40.5). Mississinewa’s Faith Bolden finished with a time of 28:06.6.

Girls Golf

In a three-way meet last Tuesday evening, the Argylls emerged victorious, defeating Oak Hill and North Miami 201-211-240. Individual scores for Madison-Grant were not readily made available. Hope Mygrant finished as the medalist, firing a 43.

The next night, the Argylls recorded their seventh victory of the season, defeating Eastern 194-234. Abbie Hostetler was Madison-Grant’s low scorer with a 43. On Thursday, the Argylls recorded their fourth victory of the week, defeating conference foe Elwood 208-235. Hostetler was the medalist, firing a 48.

At Meshingomesia last Tuesday, both Savannah and Bayley Grieve put together strong performances for Marion in their match against the Peru Tigers. Savannah led the way with a 50, while Bayley finished in second with a 56. Against Taylor on Thursday, Bayley fired a personal best 49, while Grieve finished with a 57. On Saturday at the Lebanon Invitational, Savannah finished with a 110, while Bayley fired a 113.

After losing to Frankton in their second conference match of the season, Mississinewa was defeated by Bluffton, 199-211, on Wednesday evening. Ashlynn Brubaker finished with a career-low 42.

Grant County girls golf capped off the week with the CIC Invitational, which the Argylls won with a team score of 367. Oak Hill came in second (372), Mississinewa third (394), and Eastbrook fifth (406). Oak Hill’s Hope Mygrant finished as the individual CIC champion with a 77, while Hostetler finished in second with 87. Eastbrook’s Abbie Cansler finished third with an 89, and Mississinewa’s Maggie LaBarr was fourth with an 89.

Girls Soccer

After being shut out by Eastbrook, the Giants were shut out once again this past Tuesday, falling to NCC rival Kokomo by a score of 7-0. However, on Saturday afternoon at Dick Lootens Stadium, the Giants recorded their first win of 2020, defeating Muncie Central 3-2. Aliya Willhide, Talia Alsup, and Anirah Esparza each scored for the Giants.

With injuries beginning to pile up, the Indians also struggled to find any offense this past Tuesday, falling to the Huntington North Vikings 7-0. On Saturday, however, the Indians put a halt to their three-game losing streak, playing the Wabash Apaches to a 2-2 tie. Lia Luchetti and Audrey Spencer each recorded a goal and an assist in the draw.

Going against one of the top teams in the state on Wednesday, the Eastbrook Panthers battled valiantly, but fell to the Homestead Spartans, 3-0, for their first loss of the season.

After a full week off, the Golden Eagles recorded their first victory on Wednesday evening, defeating CIC foe Blackford by a score of 3-1. Carlee Biddle collected two goals and an assist, while Kristen Travis finished with a goal and an assist. Sierra Bakehorn made six saves in goal for the victory. The next night against Manchester, the Golden Eagles were shut out in a 3-0

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