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SPORTS



Dalian Leach takes a shot against the Eastbrook defense. He scored the game’s lone goal in Oak Hill’s win.

Oak Hill continue hot start

By Sean Douglas

Despite losing 10 seniors from a 13-win team a season ago, the Oak Hill Golden Eagles’ start to the 2020 campaign has exceeded expectations. Coming off their first-ever victory over defending Class 1A state champion Argos, Oak Hill remained red hot on Tuesday with a 1-0 triumph over Grant County rival Eastbrook. Dalian Leach scored the lone goal of the contest 14 minutes in, while Seth O’Brien held his own in the box, making four saves for his second shutout of the season. “I thought we did a really good job of executing some of the things we talked about before the game and some of the stuff we’ve

been struggling with in the past couple of games – playing quick, limiting our touches, and finding switches through our mid-field and backs,” Oak Hill Head Coach Joel Garverick said. “I think that really opened up the game for us.” For much of the opening 40 minutes, Oak Hill dominated possession, making crisp, effective passes while hampering the Panthers’ offensive push. “We were a little flat, and Oak Hill is disciplined,” Eastbrook Head Coach Adam Hallis said. “They possess the ball well, and they have won some big games already this year. They are a good team.” The Golden Eagles’ consistent pressure led to several quality scoring chances throughout the evening, and

at the 26:14 mark of the first half, that pressure paid off. After finding some room in the middle of the field, Leach fired a gorgeous shot from 15 yards out, scorching it past Eastbrook goalkeeper Tytus Anthony and breaking the scoreless tie. “I actually had to drop him in a little bit deeper, and he looked like a natural there,” Garverick said. “I think anywhere you put Dalian on the field in an attacking position, he is going to find a way to get shots off and create good chances. He did that tonight. He’s always a danger.” Oak Hill’s defensive back line held firm the remainder of the half, allowing just one Eastbrook shot. The Panthers had their

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Giants drop home football opener

By Sean Douglas

After their tough season opening loss to Eastbrook, James Bell and the Marion Giants anticipated the juggernaut they would face at Dick Lootens Stadium – the No. 4 ranked Lawrence North Wildcat. Armed with Indiana-commit Donaven McCulley, a lethal group of running backs and receivers, and both size and speed along the offensive and defensive

lines, the Wildcats dominated all phases of the contest from start to finish in a 70-14 rout. “It’s not just the quarterback, he has a great surrounding cast,” Bell said. “He has good receivers, he has a great offensive line, and they are better than they were last year.” Lawrence North compiled nearly 600 yards of offense and scored on all but one of their offensive possessions. McCulley completed 18 of

his 21 passes for 339 yards, and a pair of touchdowns passes, while running backs Trevon Hegler and Ali Richardson combined for 144 rushing yards and five touchdowns on just 13 carries. Jordan Jackson and Omar Cooper combined for 226 yards receiving and a touchdown on six receptions. “You watch the passing game and you watch the blocking, they are just a better football team,” Bell

Indians drop first VB match of 2020 season

By Sean Douglas

In a battle of unbeaten teams at Northfield on Wednesday, the Mississinewa Indians were hoping to keep their momentum going after a 7-0 start, which included impressive five-set triumphs over Eastern and Western and a first place finish in the Elwood Invitational. However, behind a slow start in the first set and an inability to close out the final two, the Indians suffered their first loss of the season, falling to the Norse in a sweep (11-25, 25-27, 20-25). “It was a disappointing night,” Mississinewa Head Coach Jody Havens said. “You always want to bring your game and you want to play it from the first point to the last point. The letdowns we had tonight were unacceptable. That should have been a great match. Win or lose, it should have gone further than it did.” The Indians held a seven-point advantage in the second set and a five-point lead in the third, but each time, the Norse had an answer, using their stout core of Addi Baker, Kenzie Baer, Kyra Kennedy, and Abigail Hunter to turn the tide in their favor. Baker finished the match



Carly Bolser gets set to serve at Northfield.

with 13 kills to lead all players, while Baer and Kennedy combined for 10 terminations. Along with her five kills, Hunter orchestrated the Northfield offense with 23 assists. “This isn’t a group that usually can’t handle pressure,” Havens said. “That’s actually something they have successfully demonstrated this season. They have a couple of strong hitters, and I think that shock and awe is more of a momentum stealer for us.” Northfield came out strong, building a 9-5 lead early and increasing that advantage to 18-8 with a 12-3

run. Mississinewa managed to score just three more points in the opening set. The Indians came out swinging in the second set. A kill and two blocks from Darah Watson, combined with multiple errors by the Norse, helped the Indians build a 13-7 lead. After the Norse scored four straight points to cut Mississinewa’s lead to two, a 5-0 run for the Indians put them back in control. Later, back-to-back kills from Watson, together with a termination from Mackenzie Alexander, gave the Indians a 23-16 lead. However, the Norse came roaring back, outscoring the Indians 11-3 the rest of the way to win 27-25. The third set was a near carbon copy of the second. Four kills from Carly Bolser helped Mississinewa build a 15-10 lead midway through the set, but Northfield put together another rally, outscoring the Indians 15-5 to close out the contest, which included a 5-0 surge to tie it at 18-18 and the final four points of the match. “We struggled to mentally regain our focus,” Havens said. “[If we] make an error, we have to move on instead of letting it compile into two and three and allow a run that eventually

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Marion quarterback Cubie Jones takes off on a designed quarterback run against the Lawrence North defense on Friday. On their ensuing possession, Lawrence North needed just four plays to

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