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Local Roundup: Wing Is a Big Help for TSA Boys Soccer

Staff Reports

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Sharon — Riley Eastman really felt at home on Tuesday, even if he wasn't supposed to be there in the first place.

Eastman prowled his right wing in effective fashion to open the VPA Division IV boys soccer tournament, setting up an Upper Valley season-best four assists as ninth-ranked Sharon rolled over No. 8 Mid Vermont Christian, 6-0, in first-round play. No area player had amassed more than three assists in a game this season until Eastman's four-bagger against the Eagles (5-8-0).

Eastman went to work after Ever Toffel put Sharon (6-8-1) on the board with an unassisted strike. Taking full advantage of space down the right flank, Eastman served up assists on three Olly Skeet-Browning goals and another from Erik Younce before Skeet-Browning set up Alex Olszewski's clincher.

"In from the wing, he was super helpful," TSA coach Zach Elmore said of Eastman. "He was beating that man all game and kept getting balls in the box. As the game developed, he was having a lot of success down that (right) side."

Ben Rodis tossed a three-save shutout for the Phoenix, which visits No. 1 West Rutland for a quarterfinal match on Friday.

MVCS matched last year's program-record five wins and had a seed worthy of a home match for the first time in the Quechee school's brief athletic history. Tuesday's contest, however, was played at Sharon Academy because of the Eagles' undersize home field.

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Stan Nelson stopped four shots for Mid Vermont, which loses its two top scorers — Daniel Roberts (19 points) and Josh King (14) — to graduation.

Woodstock 3, Otter Valley 0

Woodstock — The second-ranked Wasps (10-3-1) used airtight defense from backs Min Pervis, Blake Heston, Mason Harkins and Lucas Piconi, along with goalkeeper Steven Bianchi's four-save shutout work, to overwhelm the 15th-ranked Otters (3-11-1) in a VPA Division IV tournament opener.

Tom Bissaillon's unassisted strike in the eighth minute set the tone for Woodstock's attack. Liam Brennan converted a Will Crompton cross in the 20th minute, and Andrew Gubbins added a solo strike three minutes into the second half for the Wasps' other tallies.

Woodstock will host either Mount Abraham or Stratton Mountain in a Friday quarterfinal.

Hartford 3, Missisquoi 1

Swanton, Vt. — A season of lessons learned against stout Division I competition served the 13th-ranked Hurricanes (5-10-0) in an upset of No. 4 Missisquoi in the first round of the VPA Division II tournament.

After defending an early Thunderbird corner kick, Nehemiah Arnold set up Nick Jones for a breakaway goal on Hartford's first time across midfield, four minutes into the contest. The Canes added goals from Andrew St. Martin in the 58th minute and Jake Mayotte in the 62nd, yielding only a penalty kick from Missisquoi's Mitchell Bordeau with 45 seconds left.

Jones assisted on Hartford's final two goals, and netminder Shane Miller made three saves while handling the Thunderbirds' attempts at crosses.

"We have a pretty young group; even our seniors are inexperienced, so they've had to learn on the fly," Hartford coach Kevin Guilbault said. "They learned their lessons. We call them growing pains for a reason. They continued to put in the work and it got to the point where they really learned a lot from what we've dealt with all year."

Hartford visits No. 12 Lake Region — which routed No. 5 Enosburg Falls on Tuesday, 6-1 — in Friday's quarterfinals. The Hurricanes beat the two-time defending state champs, 2-1, to open the season in late August.

Sunapee 6, Hinsdale 0

Sunapee — Michael Mullen posted a hat trick as the third-ranked Lakers (14-3-0) dominated their rain-shortened NHIAA Division IV tournament opener.

Mullen scored 25 minutes into the contest for the only goal of the first half. Sunapee's assault increased with the rain, with Mullen completing his three-goal day around strikes from Lane Smith and Jackson Cooney as well as a Hinsdale own goal. Officials stopped the game midway through the second half because of rain and lightning.

Cooney, Mullen, Jordan Chappell, Darren Hulton and Brendan Kelleher posted assists. Sunapee will host either Wilton-Lyndeborough or Profile in a Friday quarterfinal.

Woodsville 4 Colebrook 3 (ot)

Colebrook, n.h. — Tenth-ranked Woodsville fought back from a 2-0 halftime deficit to advance to the quarterfinals of the NHIAA D-IV tournament.

The Engineers' Conner Maccini scored two goals and added two assists. Brendan Walker scored once. Alex Enderson scored the game-winner seven minutes into overtime and added one assist. Corey Bemis also contributed one assist.

"We picked up the intensity in the second half," Woodsville coach Matt Taylor said. "We were more aggressive with 50-50 balls. Kids had a sense of urgency because they wanted to extend the season. (The game) shows what hard work can do."

Woodsville (9-7-1) travels to face second-ranked Littleton on Friday.

Leland & Gray 3 Thetford 2

Townshend, Vt. — Three goals in a 17-minute span of the first half — the first two coming 50 seconds apart — propelled the fourth-seeded Rebels (11-4-0) past the upset-minded Panthers (2-12-1).

Ethan Steingas put 13th-ranked TA on the board, finishing a Tate Linehan pass in the ninth minute. Leland & Gray took over shortly after that: Jordan Persson tied the match in the 17th minute, Riley Barton put the hosts ahead less than a minute later, and Barton added a second goal in the 34th minute as the Rebels took command.

William Bugg converted a 67th-minute penalty kick for Thetford, which got 10 saves from senior goalkeeper Jake Colby.

"Our record didn't indicate what our team was," Thetford co-coach Ray Thorburn said. "We were in a lot of close games. We had a tendency to give up goals in a short span. The boys finished really strong today. We unfortunately didn't get the win."

TA loses eight to graduation: Colby, Ethan Steingas, Tate Linehan, Carter Blain, Seth Boyce, William Bugg, William Bosco and Aiden Cudhea.

Winooski 11, Oxbow 2

Winooski, Vt. — Albert Busimba threw down a four-goal performance and Bishal Limbu added a hat trick as the third-ranked Spartans (14-1-0) made quick work of the 14th-seeded Olympians (3-11-0).

Timothy Hodges and Trevor Moore accounted for Oxbow's goals. Hodges, Jarret Rock, Orin Mahikoa, Garrett Gadapee and Calvin Cook played their final matches for the O's.

Peoples 9, Windsor 0

Morristown, Vt. — Twelfth-ranked Windsor fell in a VPA D-III first-rounder, unable to put a dent in second-ranked Peoples.

Windsor (3-11-1) graduates seniors Hunter Grela, Dan Cardillo, Tyler Wright, Colby Darrell, Jacob Harriman and Elliott Richardson.

Girls Soccer

Lamoille 3, Hartford 1

Hyde Park, Vt. — Morgan Burnham scored twice for eighth-ranked Lamoille as it advanced past ninth-seeded Hartford.

Lezah Gannon scored first for the Lancers, assisted by Phoebe Loomis. Ryley Cota added the only other assist. Lamoille goalkeeper Grae Verner made five saves.

Alice Dwyer scored Hartford's lone goal off an assist from Abigail Koff. Kaylyn Bills made nine saves.

Hartford (7-8-0) graduates seniors Jasmine Wilson, Lynzie Nichols, Jenna Klotz and Alice Dwyer.

Field Hockey

Hartford 5, Burlington 0

White River Junction — Kennedy Mullen scored all five goals en route to a lopsided win for seventh-ranked Hartford.

"It was a great team effort; the kids played really connected and had each other's backs," Hartford coach Heather Scudder said. "Kennedy got open, and the whole front line was just clicking."

Elsie Davis, Maliya Sinclair, Greer McCarty and Emily Ricker each contributed an assist. Bailey Cameron made four saves for the Hurricanes.

Hartford (7-6-2) visits second-ranked South Burlington (12-1-1) on Friday.

Volleyball

MVCS 3, Rice 2

Quechee — The 10th-ranked Green Knights stretched Mid Vermont Christian (6-7) to the limit before the seventh-ranked Eagles prevailed in a five-setter (22-25, 25-19, 25-23, 20-25, 15-4).

Sydney Goodwin and Isabelle Peterson keyed Mid Vermont's defensive effort, and Hannah Blankenship and Hayley Goodwin both recorded seven kills on the attack. Kyla McCoy secured the match with her first set service work, producing a long scoring run for the

hosts.

MVCS advanced to the state quarterfinals for the second straight year with the win. The Eagles will travel to No. 2 Champlain Valley for their next match on Friday afternoon.
