

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Mustangs fall to Orchard Lake St. Mary's

Lutheran North can't get past Eaglets' momentum and second set swing

By Brayden McAtamney
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Already leading 1-0, the Orchard Lake St. Mary's Eaglets could have easily looked ahead to the third set when the Lutheran North Mustangs went ahead 24-20 late in the second.

Instead, they scored three-straight points before an LHN timeout then four of five after to win the second set 27-25 before closing the third out, 25-21, and beat the Mustangs in straight sets.

"I think it's huge, especially for the girls," said OLSM head coach Allison Winiarski of the second set comeback. "I think that takes a lot of men-

tal toughness, which I'm very proud of them for showing that. They kind of struggled with that at the beginning of the season. So to see that really come out and shine was an awesome moment."

After losing the first set 25-19, Lutheran North didn't take their first lead of the game until they went up 16-15 in the second and used that momentum to stay ahead until the end. Head coach Paul Drdul strategically used two of his timeouts in the set while up 22-20 and 24-23, but not even the breaks in action were able to halt the Eaglets' momentum.

That charge, too, was aided by the energy in the gym — Lutheran North students packed one side of the bleachers and were countered by the Eaglets' JV team on the other side, launching playful banter across the middle sections loaded with friends and family of the players.

It made for a loud environment — something the Eaglets have prepared for.

"We work on that in practice every day," Winiarski said. "We practice in a loud facility. Obviously, the energy in the gym was out of control tonight, so (we) practiced in a loud facility for that reason, so they can focus in on the game and get their job done."

Miniarski credited Kadie Tarasiewicz, Avery Kapeller and Miriam Czarnek as players who made big impacts in big moments for OLSM in the win.

It bumps the Eaglets to 11-6 in the regular season and 4-0 in the Catholic League AA — just one win shy of an unbeaten slate in league play. They haven't surrendered a set to CHSL divisional rivals.

"It's huge," Winiarski said. "We got one more to go undefeated in VOLLEYBALL » PAGE 2



BRADY MCATAMNEY — MEDIATEWS GROUP

Lutheran North's Claire Leinberger (14) gets up for a hit against Orchard Lake St. Mary's Lindsey Schwegman (1).

TIGERS

WILDCATS!

'We're getting closer and closer by the day': Detroit rallies past Rays, slice magic number to 2



PHOTOS BY CARLOS OSORIO — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Detroit Tigers' Matt Vierling reacts after beating the throw to Tampa Bay Rays catcher Ben Rortvedt to score during the eighth inning of Thursday's game in Detroit.

By Chris McCosky
The Detroit News

DETROIT » Manager AJ Hinch hasn't really let his hair down much during this mind-blowing march toward the playoffs. But he came pretty close Thursday after Jason Foley struck out Jose Siri to secure the Tigers' dramatic 4-3 win and series sweep of the Tampa Bay Rays.

"Just a huge win for us," he said. "Especially how the game started and where we are in the season. We know what's at stake. This is an unbelievable experience and we don't want it to stop. It doesn't have to stop if we can keep playing this way."

It was the Tigers' fifth straight win and it shrunk their magic number to clinch a wild-card spot to two. And pending the outcome of the Twins-Marlins game Thursday night, it could be down to one and they could be popping corks tonight.

"I know what it feels like to accomplish something," said Hinch, who managed the Astros to a World Series title in 2017. "And I want so desperately for these guys to get to taste it. We're getting closer and closer by the day."

The Tigers (85-74) have gone 30-11 since Aug. 11. And all the elements, all the characteristics of this late-season rampage were on display Thursday. It was their 36th comeback win and like so many of the others, it was a full-roster effort.

"Yeah, it was kind of on par for us," said rookie Colt Keith



Detroit Tigers' Colt Keith reacts after sliding for a RBI triple during the sixth inning.

who had the two biggest swings in the game. "We love to grind the whole game, grind out at bats and play to the end. We've done it so many times. I love that about us. We never give up. AJ always says, play the whole game."

"This was a good win for us, especially in the situation we're in."

The Tigers were completely stymied by old friend Tyler Al-

exander for five innings and fell into a 3-0 hole. The crowd of 27,867 was dying for something to yell about.

"We were just not finding anything early," Hinch said. "We just needed something positive to happen."

Enter Keith. Right-handed reliever Hunter Bigge got the first two outs in the sixth inning and Matt Vierling, who manages to put his versatile fingerprints on

THE SCORE

TIGERS 4, RAYS 3

Up next: Detroit hosts the Chicago White Sox today. First pitch is 6:40 p.m.; catch the action on BSD. **MAGIC NUMBER:** At press time, the Tigers needed two more wins to clinch a wild-card berth. However, that number could be one if the Miami Marlins managed to beat the Minnesota Twins Thursday night.

most Tigers' wins, drew a walk. Keith, who had two unpleasant at-bats against Alexander, ripped a triple into the corner in right and Vierling hustled around to score.

That's when Hinch started pulling strings. He sent up Kerry Carpenter to pinch-hit for Spencer Torkelson. Carpenter responded with an RBI single to make it a 3-2 game and bring the crowd right back into it.

"Just a selfless at-bat," catcher Jake Rogers said. "That's what we kept doing, stringing selfless at-bats together."

Hinch was wary of the four left-handed relievers in the Rays' bullpen. He had to be judicious when he played his lefty cards and he also had to make sure he had a right-handed bat available late in the game. He played lefty Carpenter at exactly the right time in the sixth.

In the seventh inning, the Rays went to right-hander Kevin Kelly, who, with his funky arm angle is tough on right-handed

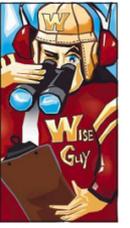
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PREP FOOTBALL

Rivalries, matinees make for a fun slate

It feels like we say this every week in Macomb County, but man — what a slate of games we have coming up this week.

There are three absolutely premier matchups — you'll see what I mean soon — that feature either a historic rivalry, a battle between the most talented teams in the district or a combination of both. It doesn't take a Wise Guy to get excited about these.



Wise Guy

Week 5

Who's wrapping up the first half of the regular season with a win? Here are five picks.

Eisenhower Eagles (4-0) at Stevenson Titans (2-2)

Every year, Stevenson has a few of the same goals: Win the division, go to the playoffs and beat Ike.

They have a shot to do it this year. Their defense has been among the best in the county, and though they're coming off a loss to Dakota, the game was competitive down to the final few minutes. If the Titans are able to

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PREP CROSS COUNTRY

Utica boys squad, Romeo girls win MAC Red titles

By George Pohly
For MediaNews Group

Utica's boys cross country team got the mid-season boost it wanted.

Harper Wesley finished first and Luke Morehouse third to lead the Chieftains to the championship of the Macomb Area Conference Red Division meet at Dakota on Wednesday.

Utica runners also finished fifth, ninth and 23rd as the Chieftains scored 41 points to turn the tables on Dakota, which won the division jamboree over runner-up UHS on Sept. 4 and will be one of the teams Uta expects to have to challenge for honors at Macomb County and regional meets in October.

"Having my teammate beside enabled me to push harder, and knowing he beat me at the jamboree — I just had to get him back at this one," a smiling Wesley said. "It was pretty hot, I'm not gonna lie, but you've got to push through sometimes."

Utica also finished behind Dakota at the Jackson Invitational last Saturday.

"We really wanted this, to show that we can beat Dakota," Wesley said. "We've been thinking about

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