

PREP WRESTLING

# Oilers roll over Saginaw Heritage

Mt. Pleasant squad takes care of business in final home docket of the season

By Jim Lahde  
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It was a strong showing in the final home dual of the 2024-25 regular season.

On Wednesday evening the Mt. Pleasant High School wrestling program closed out the home portion of the docket with a dominating 62-13 victory over Saginaw Heritage in Saginaw Valley League action.

The Oilers won 11 of the 14 bouts on the card and had five pins and one technical fall. They also benefitted from four voids en route to the win.

Mt. Pleasant is now 9-7 in duals overall and 2-1 in Saginaw Valley League action.

It was also 'Senior Night' as all seven Oiler seniors were recognized and honored prior to the meet.

On paper the Oilers are a super-young team this winter as 33 of the 40 wrestlers on the roster are underclassmen. One season ago the Oilers sent three wrestlers to the Division 2 individual state finals in Noah Webster, Felicia Saunders and Chloe Churchman.

Webster earned All-State honors via a fourth-place finish in the D2 finals at 120 pounds. Saunders advanced to the girls state finals at 120 pounds while Churchman competed in the 130-pound individual finals, albeit neither placed. Both Webster and Saunders have since graduated

leaving Churchman, a sophomore, as the only returning state qualifier on the roster. Senior Lucas Frost also returns after advancing to the regional round in each of the last two seasons.

Going into the final stretch of the regular season the hope is to get as many wrestlers as possible through to the state meet next month.

"We knew coming in that we were young, but we're growing and it's good to see the development as we go" said 11th-year Oiler head coach Tyler Cline following Wednesday's win. "We're definitely a better team right now than where we were earlier in the season. Our kids work hard ev-



JIM LAHDE — MORNING SUN

Mt. Pleasant won 11 of the 14 bouts in Wednesday's 62-13 Saginaw Valley League win over visiting Saginaw Heritage. It was the Oilers' final home meet of 2025.

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NFC Divisional Round: Lions vs. Commanders

# CONFIDENCE COMES WITH EVERY CARRY

Running back David Montgomery feeling good, on track to return against Washington

By Nolan Bianchi  
The Detroit News

DETROIT » The Detroit Lions will welcome back an important member of their offense at practice this week.

Running back David Montgomery (knee) and cornerback Terrion Arnold (foot) were listed as full participants on Tuesday's practice report. The team held a walkthrough to begin the week of preparation for Saturday night's prime-time meeting with the Washington Commanders, but provided an estimated report with injury designations.

"I'm confident," Montgomery said Tuesday night. "I mean, I wouldn't be out there if I wasn't ready. So I'm confident I'm ready to go, really."

Montgomery suffered a serious knee injury in the team's Week 15 loss to the Buffalo Bills. The team initially believed his season was over, but got encouraging outside opinions that opened the door for his return.

Lions coach Dan Campbell seemed confident Montgomery would be able to make his return in Saturday's game against the Commanders, and being listed as a full participant on the practice report is the first step toward making that hope a reality. Before the injury, Montgomery had totaled 1,116 yards from scrimmage (775 rushing) and 12 touchdowns over 14 games.

On the flip side, several Lions players were listed as "no practice" coming off an extra week of recovery. Right guard Kevin Zeitler (hamstring), cornerback Ennis Rakestraw Jr. (hamstring/illness) and defensive lineman Pat O'Connor (calf) were all listed as nonparticipants on the report.

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NFC DIVISIONAL ROUND

LIONS VS. COMMANDERS

The NFC's top-seeded Lions host Washington in Saturday's divisional round at Ford Field. Kickoff is 8 p.m. Catch all the action on FOX.



DUANE BURLESON — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Detroit Lions running back David Montgomery runs the ball against the Jacksonville Jaguars during the first half of a 2024 game in Detroit. Montgomery hopes to return to the field against the Washington Commanders on Saturday following a knee injury during Detroit's Week 15 loss to the Buffalo Bills.

# Detroit hopes to put a stop to QB Daniels' field mobility

Commanders rookie has made a big splash

By Nolan Bianchi  
The Detroit News

ALLEN PARK » There were a handful of talented running backs to enter the NFL in 2024, and Jayden Daniels might've had a better season running the football than almost all of them.

Daniels, the Washington Commanders' rookie quarterback, finished the season ranked second in rushing yards (891) among all rookies and set the new record for rushing yards by a rookie quarterback. In this weekend's divisional-round matchup, the Detroit Lions will have to be wary of Daniels' scrambling ability as they look to lock up a spot in next weekend's NFC Championship game.

"Man, he has taken this league by storm by some of the things that he can do," Lions defensive coordinator Aaron Glenn said of Daniels.

Daniels is one of these new-age, do-it-all-type guys under center who can make defenses pay in a multitude of ways. It's rare for a guy to possess Daniels' rushing ability while entering the league with pinpoint precision as a passer. Daniels finished sixth among all quarterbacks this season in completion percentage (69%), the second-highest mark in NFL history for a rookie quarterback through 17 games.

But it's the threat of his legs that makes the whole thing tick. Daniels has five games this season with 70-plus rushing yards, including an 88-yard performance — his second-highest total of the season — with two rushing touchdowns in Sunday's playoff win. A few weeks prior, in Washington's 30-24 overtime win against the Atlanta Falcons, Daniels put up a career-high 127 rushing yards.

"Running quarterbacks are hard ... to defend, and it's like, somebody tells you that, 'We don't handle running quarterbacks very



Daniels

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SPORTS BROADCASTING

# 'Mr. Baseball' Bob Uecker, legendary Brewers announcer, dies at age 90

The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE » Bob Uecker, the voice of his hometown Milwaukee Brewers who after a short playing career earned the moniker "Mr. Baseball" and honors from the Hall of Fame, has died. He was 90.

The team announced Uecker died Thursday morning, calling it "one of the most difficult days in Milwaukee Brewers history." In a statement released by the club, Uecker's family said he had battled small cell lung cancer since early 2023.

"Even in the face of this challenge, his enthusiasm for life was always present, never allowing his

spirit to falter," the family said.

Uecker was best known as a colorful comedian and broadcaster who earned his nickname during one of his numerous appearances on Johnny Carson's late night show.

Born and raised in Milwaukee, Uecker was a beloved member of the baseball community and a pillar of the sport in Wisconsin.

When the Brewers clinched the NL Central title in 2024, manager Pat Murphy threw an

arm around Uecker in the locker room, pulling him in tight as players white-knuckled their corks, ready to shower "Mr. Baseball" in Champagne.

"There is no one — there is no one — who epitomizes a champion the way this man does right here," Murphy proclaimed as the players chanted "UUUUUECKER."

"What an example for us to be with every single day — Bob Uecker."

Uecker signed his first professional contract with the Milwaukee Braves in 1956 and reached the majors in 1962. He'd last six seasons in the big leagues as a backup catcher, finishing with a

.200 average and 14 homers.

He won a World Series ring with St. Louis in 1964 and also played for Atlanta and Philadelphia.

"Career highlights? I had two," he often joked. "I got an intentional walk from Sandy Koufax and I got out of a rundown against the Mets."

Uecker also befriended former Brewers owner and MLB commissioner Bud Selig, who initially hired him as a scout. Selig liked to joke about how Uecker's initial scouting report was stained with mashed potatoes and gravy.

Selig eventually brought Uecker to the broadcast booth. Uec-

ker became the voice of the Brewers in 1971, in the second year after the team moved from Seattle.

Uecker remained with the club from that point on and became one of the Brewers' most indelible figures. Brewers manager Craig Counsell grew up in the Milwaukee area and remembered spending summer days throwing a baseball against the roof and catching it while listening to Uecker's broadcasts.

"There's no single person in this franchise's history who has been as iconic and as important as Bob Uecker," said Jeff Leverage,

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Uecker