

LOCAL SPORTS Journal

OCTOBER 29, 2019

FREE

*Oakridge running
back Leroy Quinn*

THE MIGHTY QUINN

Leading battle-tested
Oakridge into the playoffs

Plus...



After an 0-4 start, Coach Mike Hamilton looks like he has the Lumberjacks on another roll.

SUBWAY

Because accidents happen.

OAM+ Orthopaedic
Associates
of Muskegon



Ortho Walk-In Urgent Care

At our Muskegon office: Mon–Thur: 8am – 8pm | Fri: 8am – 5pm. 231-733-1013

Our team is here for you,
no matter what sport.

Lakeshore Sports Medicine Specialists



**Same day appointments and walk-ins available,
because you just can't plan for it.**

If you experience an injury to a bone, joint, ligament, tendon or muscle, you can expect to be seen quickly by one of our two sports medicine specialists and by an orthopaedic surgeon, when needed.

Sports physicals available!

Call now to make an appointment for your son or daughter to have the required sports physical to participate in their school sports programs.

OAM offices in Grand
Haven and Muskegon.

GRAND HAVEN:
1445 Sheldon Road, Suite G1

MUSKEGON:
1400 Mercy Drive, Suite 100

231-733-1326
www.oamkg.com

PUBLISHER Jason Goorman

EDITOR Steve Gunn

ADVERTISING SALES Jim Goorman

WRITERS

Nate Thompson, Dave Hart,
Andrew Johnson, Mitchell Boatman,
Dave Tomczak, Noah Genson, Alex Plough,
Simon Miners.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Tim Reilly, Joe Lane, Eric Sturr, Michael
Banka, Kristine Tyler, Kris Rake, Scott
Stone, Leo Valdez, Mitchell Dixon, Marc
Hoeksema

Sign up for LSJ magazine deliverery!

Call Jim Goorman at 231-206-4458

LOCALSPORTS Journal

4 The Mighty Quinn

Bruising senior running back Leroy Quinn has already led Oakridge to a conference title and a 9-0 regular season. Now he and his teammate have bigger things in mind.

8 Fall Fridays, No Football?

The Holtton varsity football team only played seven of its nine scheduled games this year, due to forfeits. It's a worrisome trend around the entire state.

10 Coach Called It

The Muskegon Lumberjacks started the season 0-4 and fans feared the worst. But Coach Mike Hamilton promised a turnaround, and it's already happening.

14 Just Try Kicking a Ball Past This Guy

Western Michigan Christian soccer goalie Jameson Goorman posts a lot of shutouts, and he's been at his best during the Division 4 state tournament.

18 Reconnecting With Their Roots

The Mona Shores girls golf team had been in a funk for the past few years, before their new coach, Britni Gielow, brought her championship pedigree back to the school and got the girls winning again.



PLANS / LOCALLY GROWN

Westwind Construction • Grand Haven, MI

You have plans. And as a truly local bank, Community Shores will do whatever it takes to make those plans a reality. Because when we do, we're not only supporting local businesses like yours, we're helping all the people who live here too. Together, we're helping our community grow... and what could be better than that? Community Shores Bank. **Proud to be Locally Grown.**

COMMUNITY
SHORES / BANK

Muskegon / North Muskegon / Grand Haven

communityshores.com **FDIC**

THE MIGHTY QUINN and his Oakridge teammates responded to challenge after challenge, emerged 9-0, and have a bigger playoff goal in mind.

By Mitchell Boatman
LocalSportsJournal.com

He had to put in some hard overtime duty under stressful conditions to pull it off, but Oakridge star running back Leroy Quinn managed to lead his team to a pair of accomplishments it hadn't achieved in several years.

He led the Eagles back to the West Michigan Conference championship for the first time since 2016. He also helped them secure a perfect 9-0 regular season for the first time since 2012.



Now the 6-foot, 230 pound senior, who runs with a combination of bruising power and breakaway speed, would like to address another slump before he graduates. He and his fellow seniors want to give Oakridge its first state football championship since 2008, after 10 straight years of frustrating playoff losses.

If the ability to prevail in pressure-filled situations is any indication, Quinn and the Eagles just might pull it off.

Their first strenuous test came in Week 5 against powerful Montague, a matchup that is always a nail-biting affair that comes down to the final seconds.

The game, played at Montague in the rain, was tied 7-7 at the end of regulation. Oakridge had the first possession in overtime, and Quinn gave the Eagles a 15-7 lead with a 3-yard touchdown run and a successful conversion run.

Montague answered with a touchdown on its possession, leaving Oakridge clinging to a 15-13 lead. The Wildcats went for two to tie it. Wildcat quarterback Drew Collins attempted to run the ball in, but Quinn, who also stars at linebacker, led a swarm of Eagles that stopped him short of the goal line, sealing the thrilling victory for Oakridge.

Quinn said the Eagles were alerted before the final play when Montague sent a man in motion to the right.

"That definitely gave it away," said Quinn, who piled up 133 yards rushing in the game. "We all knew (Collins) was going to run, especially when he didn't try to fake it. I'm glad they ran that play."

Three weeks later the Eagles were home against a surprising Ravenna team, playing for the West Michigan Conference championship. Both teams came into the game 6-0 in the conference, and it was winner take all.

The situation looked dire for Oakridge, which trailed 20-7 in the fourth quarter.

But the Eagles refused to give up. Quinn scored a pair of fourth-quarter touchdowns, tying the game 20-20 and sending it to overtime.

Oakridge got the ball first in OT, from the Ravenna 10-yard line, and failed to get in the end zone on its first three tries. Then



Star Oakridge running back Leroy Quinn has rushed for 1,175 yards so far this season, with 21 touchdowns. Photos/Tim Reilly

Quinn scored on fourth-and-goal, putting the Eagles on top for good. Ravenna's possession ended in an interception by Braedyn Beattie, sealing a 27-20 victory and the Eagles' first conference title in three years.

After the game, Quinn was asked where he finds the motivation to plow through for big yards and big scores with big games on the line.

"Think of the worst thing that's ever happened in your life and just get that angry and run," said Quinn, who rushed for 165 yards in the game, including 122 in the second half. "Make it where no one can stop you. That's what I think of."

Even with the conference trophy secured, the Eagles still wanted to sew up a perfect regular season. To gain that, they had to beat traditional state power Traverse City St. Francis in Week 9 in the first ever meeting between the two legendary programs.

Again things looked worrisome for the Eagles when TC carried a 20-19 lead into the fourth quarter.

Oakridge got the ball almost two minutes into the fourth and

faced a dire fourth-and-three at its own 27. The Eagles decided to go for the first down, knowing full well that failure might cost them the game.

But Quinn and his blockers did not let them fail. The senior took the handoff and broke loose for 42 yards and a first down. Five plays later he scored from five yards out, and the Eagles had a 25-20 lead.

St. Francis threatened one more time, driving to the Oakridge five-yard line with 25 seconds left. The Gladiators faced a fourth-and-goal and threw an incomplete pass into the end zone, and Oakridge walked away with the win and its first 9-0 regular season since 2012.

Quinn led the Eagles with 189 yards and three touchdowns and topped the defense with 13 tackles.

"It's an amazing experience," Quinn said, when asked about playing in so many heart-stopping games in one season. "I love games like that, games that are serious and exciting and a fight until the end."

One more task on the checklist

Through the regular season, Quinn amassed an impressive 1,175 yards on the ground, including 21 touchdowns. That brought his career totals to 4,807 yards and 69 touchdowns, with at least one playoff game still to go.

No matter what happens in the postseason, it's already been a memorable senior year for Quinn. He broke David Nelson's school record for career rushing yards, and Jamie Potts' career record for rushing touchdowns.

"It's what you want to do," he said about making the record book. "You want to set records and push the younger generation of kids playing football to break the records."

After the North Muskegon game this fall, Oakridge coach Cary Harger made sure to introduce Quinn to Nelson, who now coaches for the Norse.

"When we were going through the (handshaking) line, I doubled back and found Leroy," Harger said. "I stopped him and said 'Leroy, this is David Nelson."

The guy whose record you broke.' It was pretty neat."

Harger knew that Quinn was a special talent when he watched him play in middle school. That's why Quinn was the first, and only, freshman that Harger has ever called up to varsity.

"Ever since we saw him in middle school, just the size of him, we knew this kid could be something special," Harger said. "When he was going to be a freshman we talked and said 'Do we pull this trigger? Do we invite a freshman up to varsity?' It had never been done before."

The plan was to start Quinn on defense, which they did, but his offensive potential was too hard to ignore, so Harger worked him into the game plan more and more.

"It was just easing him into it in certain formations," Harger added. "Mostly it was a defensive thing. That's how we got him into the rhythm of things, and then we figured out he could punt pretty well, too. He can boom 'em. He's just one of those kids, we feel like we could put him in any spot."

Anyone who has seen Quinn play over the past four seasons



Quinn, shown tackling a North Muskegon ball carrier, is also a top defender for the Eagles.

knows how hard he is to tackle. He runs with an almost violent aggressiveness, bowling over defensive backs and handing out stiff arms like they're free samples.

Off the field, though, you won't find a more humble athlete, or one with a bigger smile.

"Once you're in between the white lines, you become a different person," Quinn said. "That's football. It's what my coaches have taught me. They push that out of me every single day."

Quinn and the Eagles have one more big challenge to face, by far the most daunting. They want to bring a state championship home to Oakridge for the first time since 2008.

The team has qualified for the playoffs for 15 straight seasons, but have been stopped short of the ultimate goal for the last 10 years.

Last year's playoff loss was probably the most painful, because Oakridge built a huge 35-8 lead over Hudsonville Unity Christian in the Division 6 district finals, but collapsed in the second half and ended up losing 40-37.

Expectations going into this year were actually quite low for the Egelston Township squad, due to heavy graduation losses from last year's team. But the young team responded to the doubters with authority, outscoring opponents 357-101.

While Quinn is clearly the featured back, the addition of sophomore Corey Vanderputte to the lineup added a second dimension to the running game. Vanderputte has rushed for 794 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Against a tough North Muskegon squad, Vanderputte ran for 203 yards and two touchdowns while Quinn had 178 yards and three scores in a 34-7 victory.

The Eagles actually go even deeper in their running game, with Shawn Raymond and Gage Lamadline both totaling more than 100 yards this season.

Quarterback Ethan Dailey had completed 35 of 69 passes for 800 yards and eight touchdowns. The leading receivers are Coco Watson (6 catches, 177 yards), Vanderputte (7 catches, 169 yards) and Jacob Danicek (7 catches, 143 yards).

The top tacklers for Oakridge are Nate Fair (68), Luke Martin (48), Quinn (47), Vanderputte (44) and Ethan Carmean (40).

Their success was noticed around Michigan. Oakridge finished the season ranked No. 1 in the state in Division 6, and now heads into the playoffs with a boatload of expectations.

That's all right with Quinn, because he has one more chance to lead his team to state glory, and he thinks the possibility of getting there is real.

"With it being my senior year and having such short playoff runs in the past, it's been motivating me and the rest of the seniors," he said. "We want to make the longest run in the playoffs."



Corey Vanderputte, Quinn's sophomore running mate.

Guaranteed Best Price
AND FREE
LIFETIME
WARRANTY
ON ALL NEW
AND USED.



*SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS

Deur Speet
FREMONT



GUARANTEED

\$ CREDIT APPROVAL

Have you been turned down
for an Auto Loan?

WE GUARANTEE YOUR APPROVAL

Call Abbey or Tom Mills today! 231-924-3640

33 WEST DAYTON • DOWNTOWN FREMONT

Noordhoff

PLUMBING

Residential • Commercial

Fast Reliable Service

Licensed Master Plumber



231-798-2777

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED FOR OVER 50 YEARS

ARNOLD'S
AUTO GLASS INC.

Mobile Service

480 W. Sherman Blvd, Muskegon, MI 49444

Phone 231.733.5544 Toll Free 800.754.1211 Fax 231.733.5574

MOBILE SERVICE 231.733.5544

SSB | Shelby State Bank

Where Banking is Still a People Business!

**THE COMMUNITY BANK
FOR SPORTS LOVERS.**

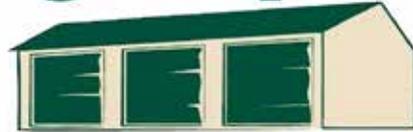


GREAT CATCH!

www.shelbybank.com

Member FDIC

THE storage group



Proud supporters of Fruitport sports!

Beltone

Helping the world hear better

Larry D. Williams

Beltone Hearing Centers

231-755-3920

843 WEST SUMMIT Muskegon



We offer **4%** APY
on checking accounts!
Call for details.

231-726-4871

www.muskegoncoop.com

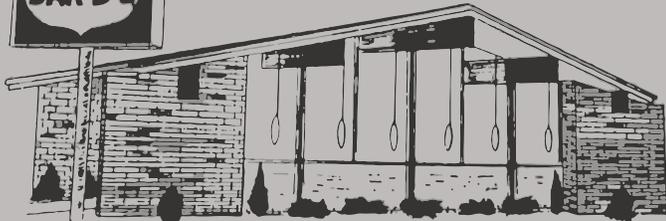
2 Convenient Locations

1051 Peck Street, Muskegon, MI 49440
1920 Laketon Ave., Muskegon, MI 49442

MUSKEGON
CO-OP FEDERAL CREDIT UNION



**151 W. Muskegon Avenue
Muskegon, MI 49440**



MONDAY - THURSDAY 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
FRIDAY & SATURDAY 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Closed all day on Sunday

George Buris

Phone: 722-3948

BOWEN LAW OFFICES

Attorneys & Counselors
1042 TERRACE ST.
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN 49442

BUSINESS PLANNING \ COLLECTIONS \ CONTRACTS \ ESTATE PLANNING \ LAND LORD - TENANT

LITIGATION \ ELDER LAW & MEDICAID \ PROBATE \ REAL ESTATE \ TAX

PHONE: (231) 726-4484

DAVID T. BOWEN
dbowen@bowen-law.com

JONATHAN R. HOOGSTRA
jhoogstra@bowen-law.com

OF Counsel: DAVID K. FATH, JR.

KraftMaid
KITCHENS FOR THE REAL LIVING ROOM™



Free
standard sink base
cabinet with
purchase of 5
or more cabinets.
Expiration 11/30/19



BUILDING CENTER

1053 Jackson St. | Grand Haven

616-842-5600

www.Rycenga.com



**WADDELL
& REED**
Financial Advisors™

380 West Western Ave

Suite 120

Muskegon, MI 49440

(231) 727-8176

waddell.com

SHERRY BECKER

Financial Advisor

&

ROGER GARRETSON

Financial Advisor

Brett Thorsen

Owner

2591 McCracken Street
Muskegon, MI 49441

E lakeshorecl@yahoo.com

T 231.755.6978 F 231.755.7330

www.carpetone.com

LAKESHORE
CARPET ONE FLOOR & HOME™



FALL FRIDAYS, NO FOOTBALL?

Too many high school football games, in the lakeshore area and across Michigan, are being lost to forfeits.

By Steve Gunn
LocalSportsJournal.com

Just one year ago, the Holton High School football program was experiencing one of the most exciting seasons in its long history.

The 2018 Red Devils did not have a spectacular regular season, but managed to sneak into the Division 8 state playoffs with a 5-4 record.

Then they got hot in the postseason, winning three games, including a huge 14-6 upset victory at home over perennial state power Mendon in the regional round. They were finally eliminated in the Division 8 state semifinals, but the school and community still buzzed about the team that made it so far after a so-so regular season.

The 2019 season has been dramatically different for Holton, and not just because the team is far less successful.

When the season wrapped up on Oct. 25, the Red Devils had only played seven of their nine scheduled games, because two were lost to forfeits – one they forfeited themselves due to a lack of healthy bodies, and one against a conference opponent that cancelled its entire season due to a general

lack of players.

The Holton experience is a perfect example of how dwindling participation numbers are deeply impacting high school football in Michigan.

In a game like football, where injuries are common, having enough depth to cover for hurt players is critical. At very small schools like Holton, which started the season with only 16 players, there is little breathing room, and a few key injuries can change everything.

This fall Holton opened the season with a tough 48-40 loss to Hart in overtime, and experienced several key injuries. The next Friday the Red Devils lost to Carson City Crystal 38-0 and had a few more injuries. Then came a 52-14 loss to archrival Hesperia, and a few more guys went down.

By then there were barely enough healthy bodies left to put on the field, and the coaches and school officials had an agonizing choice to make – raid the junior varsity team for players who were not ready for varsity competition, or go the forfeit route and allow the team to get healthy.

They chose the forfeit route, which meant three weeks off in the middle of the football season. Holton forfeited its Week 4 game against Morley Stanwood, and also missed its Week 5 game because its scheduled opponent, White Cloud, decided against having varsity football in 2019.

For a small town like Holton, a Friday night without the lights – at home or on the road – seems unnatural.

“It was definitely odd that first Friday,” said first-year Holton head coach Mike Jados, who has been with the program in various roles for many seasons.

Holton tried to keep pace with the injuries and fill in the gaps, but that became too much of a challenge when key players were lost.

“In overtime against Hart, our quarterback (Drew Trygstad) took a shot to the knee and came out with a strained MCL, and he was out for the second game,” Jados said. “Against Carson City Crystal, we moved Kaleb Kitchka, who had gained 172



Holton defender Joe Crowell pursues Hesperia' QB Logan Balkema in the Red Devils' last game before they had three weeks off due to forfeits.

yards against Hart, to quarterback, then he breaks his collarbone in the third quarter and is out for the year. So we lost two of our main glue guys right there.

“Against Hesperia, Austin Hawkins severely sprained his ankle on his third carry of the game. Our returning All-State lineman, Anthony Crabtree, also went out in the Hesperia game. When those kind of things happen over and over again, putting together

a lineup becomes very difficult.”

Jados said the decision to pull the plug on the Week 4 Morley Stanwood game, and give the team a long midseason rest, was agonizing but necessary. One option would have been to call numerous players up from the struggling junior varsity squad, but he felt like it was better to leave that team intact while it worked to improve at the lower level.

“We would have had only 11 healthy players against Morley, and our quarterback would have been limited,” Jados said. “It would have been a struggle.

“It was awful for me. I took this job telling the seniors that we could do the same thing as last year, that we had the talent to do it. To take that away from them was difficult. I only took the job because I wanted them to be successful.”

Drew Trygstad, the senior who also quarterbacked last year’s state semifinal team, said it was depressing to skip two games, but he understood the rationale behind the decision.

“If we would have played it would have made it worse. We would have had people playing in spots where they hadn’t practiced, and more people would have been hurt.” - Holton QB Drew Trygstad



“It was disappointing, but thinking about it, if we would have played it would have made it worse,” he said. “We would have had people playing in spots where they hadn’t practiced, and more people would have been hurt. It’s my senior season, and I want to make more memories, but logically it was the right decision.”

Holton returned to the field in Week 6 for a road game against Lakeview and lost 38-19. The Red Devils got close in the second half, pulling within four points, but again injuries popped up and the game got away.

“It was good to play again,” Trygstad said. “We were in it until two of our starters went out again. We’ve just been plagued by injuries this year.”

Holton would have missed its game in Week 5, anyway, regardless of injuries, because conference foe White Cloud announced in late August that it would skip the entire season due to a lack of upperclassmen playing football.

“We only had seven or eight juniors or seniors,” White Cloud coach Dick Hance told MLive, a statewide news network, in late August. “We did not want to bring

enough sophomores up to make a viable team.”

A growing issue

White Cloud’s decision had a profound impact on all of the other teams in the Central State Activities Association Silver Division – Holton, Kent City, Morley Stanwood, Hesperia and Lakeview.

Kent City Coach Bill Crane said he certainly understood why White Cloud made the move, out of concern for the safety of its players.

But Crane said he felt bad for his players, because in football there just aren’t a lot of games.

“The kids only have so many opportunities to play,” said Crane, whose team finished 6-3 and will be making another state playoff appearance. “We don’t have a ton of kids who will be going on to play at the college level, so losing a game is hard for them.”

Crane said a lack of players is becoming more common at smaller high schools. While that has yet to result in a ton of forfeits, what’s more common is for teams to raid junior varsity rosters to fill holes on the varsity squad, particularly after a few injuries.

That was the case with Calvin Christian, the team the Eagles beat 62-14 in Week 8.

“They folded their JV team after the third week of the season,” said Crane, who is also the principal at Kent City High School. “That helped their numbers on varsity, but put the younger kids maybe in a situation that they were not ready for.”

Morley Stanwood came very close to being even more deeply impacted by the forfeit bug, because the Mohawks couldn’t play Holton or White Cloud, through no fault of their own. Luckily they found a match, Flint Hamady, to fill the open date in Week 6, when they were scheduled to play White Cloud.

“Losing the Holton game was tough on us, because we lost a home game, and



“We would have had only 11 healthy players against Morley, and our quarterback would have been limited. It would have been a struggle.” - Holton Coach Mike Jados

The forfeit problem has not been limited to small schools.

Kelloggsville High School, based in Wyoming, is a big school with a successful football history. As recently as 2017 its varsity team posted a perfect 9-0 regular season and advanced to the district final round of the playoffs.

But the Rockets lost their first six games this season, then forfeited their last three. They didn’t drop out just because they were losing. Once again it was a case of losing players to injuries and other problems, and not having enough depth to fill the holes.

Another big school, Grand Rapids Union, forfeited its Week 5 game against Reeths-Puffer. The Red Hawks were reportedly down to 14 players due to injuries and illness, and decided that wasn’t enough to field a competitive team that week.

Geoff Kimmerly, an official with the Michigan High School Athletic Association, said there were a total of 30 forfeits in Michigan this year, up from 24 in 2018.

“We always have a team or two that starts the season with low numbers, and sometimes those teams can’t finish because of injuries or players leaving the team,” Kimmerly said.



“The kids only have so many opportunities to play. We don’t have a ton of kids who will be going on to play at the college level, so losing a game is hard for them.” - Kent City Coach Bill Crane

“But to have five teams not finish this year was a surprise. Especially for someone like Kelloggsville, which has had success. It seems that it’s trending that way, with lower numbers and more forfeits. It’s something that I’m going to take a closer look at.”

Coach called it

When the Muskegon Lumberjacks started out 0-4, Coach Mike Hamilton said the team had lots of talent and would turn things around. Suddenly the Jacks were 6-4 and the hottest team in the USHL.

By Steve Gunn
LocalSportsJournal.com

Mike Hamilton had an incredible honeymoon during his first season with the Muskegon Lumberjacks in 2018-19.

The roster was loaded with experience and talent, so the framework was there to have a winner. And Hamilton, the new coach, added his positive, intense, spark-plug approach that motivated the players.



It didn't take long for fans to notice Hamilton's obvious passion, as he shouted, waved his arms, pumped fists with players and generally displayed his emotions from his spot behind the bench.

"That's just me," said Hamilton, 46, who came to Muskegon after a long, successful career at the elite youth hockey level in the Detroit area. "I've always had a very energetic, bubbly attitude. Passion is a big

thing with me. My job is to make these guys better hockey players and individuals. I challenge them to give it their full energy.

"We all put a lot of time into this. You have to be all in, and when you're all in, you can't hide the passion or the disappointment."

The Lumberjacks soared under Hamilton's leadership. They had the best regular season in franchise history, posting a 41-17-4 record, which was good for 86 points in the standings. They finished the season as Eastern Conference champions, earned a bye in the first round of the playoffs, and beat Dubuque in the second round.

Muskegon fans responded, setting a new franchise record for attendance, with the average crowd increasing by about 500 fans per game over the previous season. It also helped that the Jacks were playing in a newly-renovated L.C. Walker Arena, which featured many new comforts and amenities.

The season of good feelings came to a disappointing end in April, when the Jacks were upset in the Clark Cup playoff semifinals by the Chicago Steel. But overall it was a very good year for Muskegon's Tier 1 junior hockey franchise.

"It was awesome, a great run, but at the end of the day it was still disappointing," Hamilton said. "I thought we had enough talent to go all the way. I can't really put a finger on what happened. It certainly was not a lack of effort. But it was exciting to work with such a talented group that worked so hard."

A whole new set of challenges loomed for Hamilton and the Lumberjacks as the 2019-20 season dawned, and prospects for another great season seemed dim at best.

Most of the top players from last season moved on to the college ranks, and the Lumberjacks were left to rebuild with a largely new group. Only five returned from the previous season, and most of the



Hamilton, an intense coach who came to Muskegon after years of coaching elite youth league teams, won big last season, and could be headed for more success.

new guys were younger and lacked experience at the USHL level.

To complicate matters even more, the Jacks couldn't seem to find adequate goalies in training camp to replace last year's standout netminder Brandon Bussi. They tried out six, let them all go, and traded for two more in the final days before the season opener, with no assurance that either would be better than those they released.

One of the six who were cut was Ryan McInchak, who was Bussi's backup last year, and seemed to casual observers like a logical choice to inherit the No. 1 job this fall.

"It was very frustrating," Hamilton said. "McInchak was a kid we obviously loved as a young man, but we questioned whether he could be our number one. We got to the point where we felt we had to go out and try to find a true number one."

A lot of fans feared that the Jacks would experience a sharp decline in their performance this season, and perhaps even struggle to make the league playoffs.

Their fears were compounded over the first two weeks of the season, when the Lumberjacks limped out of the gates with four straight losses. The first two defeats came on Sept. 26 and 27 at the USHL Fall Classic in Pittsburgh, 4-1 to Dubuque and 4-2 to Lincoln. The following weekend the Jacks dropped two games on the road to Youngstown, 4-2 and 3-2.



Tanner Edwards

road it appears that Hamilton knew what he was talking about.

The Lumberjacks finally broke into the victory column on Oct. 11 in Plymouth, Michigan, posting a convincing 8-1 victory over the Team USA Under-17 squad.

It was a much-needed offensive performance for a team that had been struggling to find the net. Forward Oliver MacDonald got things going in a very big way, scoring a three-goal hat trick in the first period alone, and finishing with four on the night.

The Jacks had their home opener in Muskegon the following night, against the same opponent, and posted a 7-4 win. It was another hopeful night for the offense, with forward Danil Gushchin netting two goals and five teammates scoring once.

The Jacks kept it up the following weekend, posting a 5-3 victory in Chicago over the Steel, then coming home on Oct. 19 and beating Green Bay 3-2. Both were come-from-behind victories, and the win over Green Bay ended in dramatic fashion when Alex Gaffney scored the game winner with 58 seconds remaining in regulation.

On Oct. 25-26 the Jacks traveled to Sioux Falls, South Dakota and picked up two more wins, 4-2 and 6-1. Forward Tanner Edwards had a big weekend with three goals.



Oliver MacDonald

son of a youth hockey coach, and started playing the game at a very young age.

Despite his smaller size, Hamilton earned a reputation as a skilled and gritty forward and was drafted into juniors after his youth hockey days. He played for three years for the old Detroit Freeze in the North American Hockey League, then earned a partial hockey scholarship to Minnesota State University.

He did well right away in college hockey, cracking the lineup as a freshman and earning a reputation for his hustle, grit and smart

To rub a little salt on the wound, McInchak started in goal for Lincoln in the second game and beat the Jacks.

But Hamilton remained positive and upbeat, like he always seems to be. He said there was great potential on the roster, and boldly predicted a turnaround at some point in the season.

“Last year the guys were just older and more mature, but we have more skill and talent this year,” he said.

That kind of confidence seemed like wishful thinking at the time, but six games down the

road it appears that Hamilton knew what he was talking about.

The Lumberjacks finally broke into the victory column on Oct. 11 in Plymouth, Michigan, posting a convincing 8-1 victory over the Team USA Under-17 squad.

It was a much-needed offensive performance for a team that had been struggling to find the net. Forward Oliver MacDonald got things going in a very big way, scoring a three-goal hat trick in the first period alone, and finishing with four on the night.

The Jacks had their home opener in Muskegon the following night, against the same opponent, and posted a 7-4 win. It was another hopeful night for the offense, with forward Danil Gushchin netting two goals and five teammates scoring once.

The Jacks kept it up the following weekend, posting a 5-3 victory in Chicago over the Steel, then coming home on Oct. 19 and beating Green Bay 3-2. Both were come-from-behind victories, and the win over Green Bay ended in dramatic fashion when Alex Gaffney scored the game winner with 58 seconds remaining in regulation.

On Oct. 25-26 the Jacks traveled to Sioux Falls, South Dakota and picked up two more wins, 4-2 and 6-1. Forward Tanner Edwards had a big weekend with three goals.

Suddenly the Jacks were 6-4, on a roll and only four points out of first place.

“Ultimately every day the guys are starting to buy into the little things,” Hamilton said. “It’s fun to watch these guys progress and come along.”

Staying close to the game

Ironically, Hamilton first dove into coaching as a young man in his early 20s because his own playing career was cut short.

He grew up in River Rouge in the metro Detroit area, was the

play.

“My freshman year I played in most games, I was steady in the lineup, had a good number of points, and was good at getting the puck to guys who could score,” he said.

Then life got in the way. Hamilton and his girlfriend learned that a baby was on the way, so he moved back to Michigan, got married, finished college close to home, and said goodbye to his still developing playing career.

“It was a life decision I had to make,” Hamilton said. “At that time my girlfriend, who turned out to be my wife, was almost done with nursing school, and it made more sense for me to go home to finish school rather than having her go there.”

He knew he wanted to stay close to hockey, but wasn’t sure how to do that at first. He ended up spending a year as an assistant coach at River Rouge High School, then became a head coach at the youth level for the highly respected Little Caesars organization, where he spent seven seasons.

From there he moved on to the Honeybaked youth hockey organization, where he coached until he came to the Lumberjacks last season.

Hamilton had a great deal of success at various levels of youth hockey for more than two decades, winning 15 state championships and three national championships.

“I never knew if I wanted to be a coach until I dove into it,” he said. “I got completely hooked on it, loved it from day one. To have an impact on so many guys, on and off the ice, there was nothing I could find to replace that.”

Hamilton had his first contact with the Lumberjacks as a youth hockey coach, and stayed in touch over the years. The connection became more intimate when his son Trevor - that baby that was on the way during his sophomore year of college - came to play with the Jacks in 2014-15, the year they advanced to the Clark Cup finals for the only time in their history.

Trevor was the Lumberjacks’ captain in his second season in Muskegon, before being traded to Chicago later in the year. But his dad stayed close to the Jacks, and served as video coach for one season under former coach John LaFontaine, while he was still coaching youth hockey.

LaFontaine was fired by the Jacks following the 2017-18 season, and Hamilton was offered the job. He said it was a tough decision, because of his commitment to his family back home, his long involvement in youth hockey, and the fact that he owns an investment firm in Grosse Pointe.

“We talked about it as a family,” he said. “I needed the support of everybody to make it happen. It was a tough decision, but I knew it was something I would love.”

These days Hamilton lives in Muskegon while others manage his company. His son, who played last season for the Grand Rapids Griffins, is now playing professional hockey in Austria.

He also has two daughters, one who is on the softball team at Boston College, and one who is in high school and plays youth hockey.

The coach is focused on getting everything he can out of his youthful team. And he’s going at it with the same trademark passion and energy that he always employs while teaching and correcting, but also motivating, encouraging and rewarding.

“Not many coaches are giving fist pumps to players after their shifts,” he said. “Some people think it’s quirky. But that’s just how I’m wired. I like to celebrate little things with the players because I think those things are important. Solid checks, blocked shots, those are the things that win hockey games.”



Noah Giesbrecht



THE LAKES CHURCH

wishes good luck to
Calvary
CHRISTIANSCHOOLS

thelakeschurchmi.com



Est. 1987

MARIO FLORES

5906 COMMERCE CENTRE | MUSKOGON, MI 49444

231.332.6505
231.638.0200



National Mortgage Lender Member Equal Housing Lender
NMLS #103962
CRMP 1001141000 | www.vandykmortgage.com

At i'move, we have one goal:

For ourselves and our communities to be their best!

Being your best can mean different things to different people. Whether you're recovering from an injury and just want to make it up the stairs, or you're looking to run a pain-free ultra-marathon, we're with you every step of the way!

i'move

Physical Therapy
Musculoskeletal
Wellness Solutions

Locations in: Grand Haven, Grand Rapids, Holland, Rockford, & Spring Lake

www.imovedaily.com
616.847.1280



Accepting all new patients!

PORT CITY PEDIATRICS

1455 Farr Rd.
Located near the Lakes Mall
231-737-0411



Richard Golz, M.D.



Elizabeth Fisher Pallante, M.D.



Jessica Pedersen, M.D.



Alison L. Fox, M.D., F.A.A.P.



Karl F. Nicles, M.D.



Paul T. Alban, M.D.

We provide comprehensive primary care, including pediatric preventative care, sports physicals, and acute illness care.

PortCityPediatrics.com



Dustin J. Miller, M.D.



BAD BOYS BAIL BONDS

FUGITIVE RECOVERY AND INVESTIGATIONS

TOLL FREE 24 HOUR HOTLINE **866-728-6400**

"If we can't get you out, you aint gettin' out".



EMBROIDERY • SCREENPRINTING
CORPORATE APPAREL • TEAM UNIFORMS
PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS

**STOP IN TODAY
FOR YOUR SCHOOL APPAREL!**



EMBROIDERY • SCREENPRINTING
CORPORATE APPAREL • TEAM UNIFORMS
PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS

BRING IN
THIS COUPON
FOR

20% OFF

YOUR PURCHASE OF \$50.00 OR MORE

MONDAY - FRIDAY
9:00- 5:30

SATURDAY
9:00- NOON

6979 GRAND HAVEN RD.
NORTON SHORES, MI

616-935-7099

SHORELINE MOTORS

SERVICE CENTER

- Oil Change - Batteries - Tune ups - Radiators - A/C
- Brakes - Suspension - Exhaust - Steering - Electrical



2221 Henry St.
231-755-2116

231-755-8600

Lakeside Cafe

Muskegon's finest American cuisine

1/2 OFF

BREAKFAST, LUNCH OR DINNER

With coupon. Buy 1, get the 2nd
1/2 off. (of equal or lesser value)
Dine-In only. May not be
combined with any other offers or
coupons. Valid thru 12/1/19



Home of the Stuffed Hashbrown



Breakfast served ALL DAY!

1384 Laketon • Muskegon
(just west of Catholic Central)

Check out our delicious menu at
lakesidetogo.com



Just try kicking a



soccer ball past this guy



WMC senior goalkeeper Jameson Goorman has a school record 44 career shutouts, including four in a row this fall to start the state tournament.

LocalSportsJournal.com

A player can have a ton of skills, but being raised with a winning mentality can be just as important.

Western Michigan Christian soccer goalie Jameson Goorman can check both of those boxes, and the results have been pretty impressive.

The last name of Goorman is legendary at WMC, starting with Jim Goorman, the longtime varsity basketball coach who won five Class D state championships in his career. He's Jameson's grandfather.

His uncle, Jeremy Goorman, is the successful third-year coach of the WMC girls basketball team and a former All-State and state champion hoopster for the Warriors. His cousin, Aubrey Goorman, was an All-State

basketball player before graduating in 2018.

The Goormans have also played a role in the successful history of WMC's boys soccer program, which has captured six state titles since 1988. Jameson's father, Jamie Goorman, played on the 1988 squad that shared a state championship with Detroit County Day after the teams played to a 2-2 tie in the Class C-D finals.

So athletic success has been ingrained into Jameson's mentality from the time he started playing sports as a little boy, and not surprisingly he's helped his teams win a lot.

Goorman, an extremely athletic senior goalkeeper, already has a school record for shutouts with 44, including 11 this season. He played a big role in helping the Warriors win the championship this fall in the very challenging Lakes 8 Conference, but he's done his best and most important work in the past few weeks.

Goorman started the Division 4 state tournament by shutting out all three opponents in districts - Eau Claire 8-0, Hudsonville Libertas 6-0, and Holland Black Rivr 6-0 in the district finals.

He then shut out a strong North Muskegon squad 3-0 in the regional semifinals.

He finally gave up a goal early in the regional championship game on Oct. 24 against Calvin Christian, the No. 1 ranked team in the state. But his team managed to tie the game in the second half, and the contest ended up going to overtime, and finally a shootout.

Goorman was at his best when the game and the season were on the line. He made two huge saves early in the second overtime to keep the Warriors alive, then made two more in the overtime shootout to seal WMC's thrilling 2-1 victory in front of a big crowd on its home field.

His biggest save came on the final shot of the shootout, when Calvin Christian's Andrew Gruppen sent a high shot at Goorman,



who leaped and tipped it over the net to nail down the win.

The 2-1 victory gave WMC a berth in the Division 4 state semifinals on Oct. 30 against Dansville, with the winner advancing to the state championship game. WMC had not been in the semifinals since 2016.

"He was looking like he was going right, then he swung his hips over, so I just dove that way and tipped it over the bar," Goorman said moments after his team accepted the regional championship trophy.

Goorman is fully aware of the dual legacy that surrounds him. He understands that his family and his school have a long history of winning championships.

Western Michigan Christian won boys state soccer championships in 1988, 1995, 2003, 2004, 2007 and 2010.

"My dad won a state title at WMC, so that motivates me a lot," Goorman said. "Soccer means a lot to all of us because it's a huge part of our school's legacy. It drives me and my teammates to want to win a state championship. It's been too long, and we want to be the team that does it."

A successful state tournament run would be a big deal to the entire family, according to Goorman.

"My dad would definitely be excited to see us win a state title, I think because his team was so good and seeing me do it too would bring back a lot of good memories," he said.

"My grandpa was the basketball coach at WMC too, so I know our whole family gets excited when we get into any tournament."

If any team is going to knock WMC out of the state tournament,

it will have to figure how to get shots past Goorman, and that's not an easy thing to do.

His speed and fast reflexes allow him to move to his left and right quickly and make diving stops on shots that appear to be certain goals. His 6'4" height and 30-inch vertical leaping ability allow him to get his hands on shots that would sail over most goalie's heads.

He also has a powerful right leg, which allows him to kick the ball all the way down the field, from his own box into the opponent's box, on a regular basis.

That turns what are usually routine goalie kicks into instant scoring opportunities for the Warriors.

"I've been able to create a lot of offensive opportunities," said Goorman, who was called up to varsity as a freshman, shared time in goal as a sophomore, and has been the No. 1 goalie for the past two years.

"Most of the time I have direction when I'm kicking it. It's hard to hit it far and accurately. I try to place the ball where my teammates can get

to it and have momentum on their side."

Goorman even assisted on a goal this season, after booming a ball all the way down the field against Fruitport.

"It should have been my goal because it hit off of their defender," he said. "That felt good because Fruitport is a good team from a much bigger school."

Veteran WMC soccer coach Dave Hulings said most of Goor-



Goorman makes the game-winning save in the regional finals against Grandville Calvin Christian. Photo/Randy Riksen

man's saves appear to be pretty routine, because he knows how to position himself and prepare for what's coming.

"He knows the game and is able to interpret what he sees so quickly, that he's able to do what he needs to do," Hulings said.

Goorman also makes his share of jaw-dropping stops, particularly in big games when the pressure is on. That was certainly the case in the regional finals, but he's been doing it all season long, against other quality opponents.

"This year he had two really great saves, one against Reeths-Puffer that kept us in the game and allowed us to finish with a tie," Hulings said. "The other was against Leland in the last five minutes of the game. He made a tremendous save and we won 1-0."

"Jameson is very good 1-on-1. In our first game against Orchard View, they had seven breakaways and Jameson saved every one of them. I don't know of a goalkeeper in my nearly three decades of coaching who is better 1-on-1 than Jamo."

Both Goorman and Hulings are quick to note that the Warrior defenders play a huge role in limiting goals, and make the goalie's job a lot easier.

"The defense in front of him is good, really good," the coach said. "Brandon Fles, Jake Betton, Nick Mosher and Brevin Byrne do a tremendous job. When you have someone like Fles in front of you, it helps your stats, no doubt."

Familiarity with the defenders is a big plus, according to Goorman.

"Fles and I have been playing together our entire lives," he said. "We play well together, so if I mess up he's there to cover up my mistakes."

"He's an incredible defender. Everything in the air, he gets it. He clears so well, can catch anyone. He's incredibly strong and he's fun to play with on top of that. So he's a great general to have on the field."

"Having a good defense in front of you is key. You have to communicate with your defenders, and we communicate so well because it's been built over years of playing with these guys."



Goorman and teammate Brandon Fles celebrate the regional title. Photo/Randy Riksen

Zehr CHIROPRACTIC

Upper cervical care

a sound solution for better health



Dr. Jeffrey Zehr



Dr. Jared Plemon

*No area of the spine is more important than the **Atlas** and there is no better way to treat it than the **Atlas Orthogonal** technique.*

3620 Henry St., Norton Shores

www.zehrchiropractic.com

231-780-9900



Norton Pines Athletic Club

231-798-7173

NORTONPINES.COM



Hearthstone

bistro · bar · grill



European/American Bistro

Corner of Business 31
At Norton Ave.

231-733-1056

www.HearthstoneRestaurant.com

Steaks • Seafood • Fish • Pastas
Sandwiches • Salads & Our Famous
Magical Cheese Soup • Fine Wines
Beers • Cocktails • Outdoor Terrace Dining
(Family Friendly)

RECONNECTING WITH THEIR ROOTS

The Mona Shores girls golf team, under a new coach who starred at the school, broke out of a three-year slumber.

LocalSportsJournal.com

The Mona Shores girls golf team just needed to reconnect with its roots a little bit.

Britni Gielow made sure that happened.

For years, the Sailors were dominant at the local level, winning nine straight titles at the Greater Muskegon Athletic Association City Tournament, which is kind of the Super Bowl of the local high school golf scene. But that streak ended in 2016, and the dry spell continued through 2018.

The Sailors were also a state power, qualifying for the Division 2 state finals for eight straight years – including a four-year run as state champions - dating back to 2008. That streak also ended in 2016 and the drought continued through 2018.



Logan Potts, who won the individual title at the GMAA golf tournament.

Then Gielow returned to her alma mater and became the coach this fall, and brought that old Sailor magic with her. Suddenly the team sprang back to life, regaining the championship at the city tournament, posting an undefeated record in O-K Black Conference competition and winning the championship, and qualifying for the state finals once again and finishing 13th.

That was much closer to the type of success that Gielow experienced during her days as a Mona Shores golfer. She said she took over a team this year with obvious potential, but lacking a bit in confidence and vision.

“They didn’t even set getting to state as a team goal – it wasn’t on their radar,” Gielow said. “I thought we had to do something about that. We had to create that extra team bond, and just show them that they could be good enough. Obviously they could, because they made it back to state and that was really special for them.”

Gielow already knew how much fun it could be to win big at the high school level.

She was a key component of the greatest era of Mona Shores golf, when the Sailors set a Lower Peninsula record by winning four



Britni Gielow, right, who played on four state title teams for Mona Shores, came back this fall and helped the girls golf team restore its winning ways. Photos/Jason Goorman

straight state championships between 2009 and 2012. The really amazing part is that the four main golfers during that era - Gielow, Hailey Hrynewich, Kelsey McKinley and Morgan Smith - came up together as freshmen and won state titles every year of their high school career.

They were dominant, winning their first three titles by wide enough margins – 27, 26 and 15 strokes – then finished things off in 2012 by outdistancing runner-up Battle Creek Lakeview by a pretty amazing 41 shots.

“That team was something special,” said Gielow, 24, who was a three-time All-Stater at Mona Shores. “We all became best friends. Morgan Smith just shared a Facebook post of us at state during our senior year, and it feels like yesterday.

“I remember after winning state our freshman year, we never thought we would do that again. But I remember thinking that it was so cool, and if I ever could experience that again, I would do it in a heartbeat. We started and ended together, and that made it really special.”

Gielow’s contribution to that team was actually pretty remarkable, considering she didn’t even like golf as a youngster and only started playing in the seventh grade, two years before she reached varsity and became a state champion.

She disliked the sport despite the success of her older brother, Brendan Gielow, a four-time All-Stater at Mona Shores who went on to star at Wake Forest University and play on the PGA tour.

“I had to watch my brother play growing up, and I really thought golf was boring,” she said. “It was just not my thing growing up. I danced for 13 years, I just wanted to twirl around. I didn’t pick up the game until just before going into high school. I’m not good at other sports. I’m a little slow, but I talked to my parents and said what about golf?”

“My team was so good, I had to get good fast because I knew who was in my grade. I practiced every day, all day. I got pretty good quickly and that helped a lot.”

Gielow said her development was greatly assisted by her nationally-respected swing coach Patti Butcher, the owner of Patti Butcher Golf Enterprises in Grand Rapids.

“My brother went to her and we just rolled with her,” said Gielow, who now works for Butcher Golf Enterprises. “She is definitely one of the best mentors I’ve ever had.”

Gielow studied and played golf at Hope College after high



The Mona Shores girls golf team stands in the clubhouse at Stonegate Golf Club after being awarded the GMAA title trophy. Members include (left to right): Taylor Quick, Chloe Knowlton, Morgan Ralston, Logan Potts, Olivia Kasher, Riley Trygstad and Coach Britni Gielow.

school, and her success continued. The team qualified for the national finals for three straight years, and Gielow earned All-American honors in 2016 during her junior year, after finishing seventh individually at the NCAA Division 3 national tournament in Houston, Texas.

"Those were the best rounds I've ever played," she said. "I still pinch myself. It was my best score."

After finishing college, Gielow became an LPGA-certified teaching pro, then opened the Gielow Golf Academy at Stonegate Golf Course in Twin Lake. That was quite an accomplishment for someone who did not like golf as a youngster.

Earlier this year Gielow heard that the Mona Shores coaching position was open, got the job, and started working on turning the Sailors into a big winner again. After watching her team win city and conference championships and qualify for state with a third-place finish in regionals, she can claim success.

"It was very exciting to get the job at my alma mater," she said. "Once a Sailor, always a Sailor. Going into the job, I didn't know the potential of the team. I just knew we were going to try to play the best we could at the right times."

"All the girls are great, so I didn't have to do too much motivating. I just wanted to create a fun atmosphere at practices and a supportive feel at tournaments."

Perhaps the highlight of the season for the Sailors was regaining the city tournament title at Stonegate on Sept. 26.

Mona Shores senior Logan Potts won her first individual city title while shooting a 73, the best round of her four-year varsity career. She shot an impressive one-over par 37 on the front nine and an even-par 36 on the back nine. She outdistanced Whitehall's Rylee Woodring by an impressive 11 strokes.

After a slow start, going three over on the first four holes, Potts answered on No. 5 with an Eagle. From that point on, she continued to get better, finishing with a pair of birdies on holes 17 and 18. Her hot shooting down the stretch helped her team claim the overall championship.

The Sailors won with a team score of 372, four strokes better than second-place Whitehall.

"It showed the girls what they were capable of and how good they could play," Gielow said. "It's exciting to see that as their coach. I can't wait for next year to see what we can do as a team!"

Potts, who went on to finish eighth overall at the Division 2 state finals, gave a lot of credit to Gielow for breathing new life into the program.

"It's really awesome having her as a coach," she said. "It's nice for her to have been be a Mona Shores athlete, to hear her advice and to know she's been through these things, and recently too. She gives great advice."

"She caught on quick with us. It was like she was doing it forever. She knew the time it took, the hard work it took and she used that in her coaching style and it was super helpful."

MIDWEST PROPERTIES OF MICHIGAN



Brad Richards
Realtor®
Cell: 231-638-0097



950 Taylor St., Suite 230B • Grand Haven, MI 49417
Email: bradjojr@gmail.com



McDonald's
CANDIES
handcrafted since 1941

Buy 1 pound of candy, get 1/4 pound free
expires 11/30/19

1064 S. Getty St. - Muskegon
231-773-0319

Sports Medicine



Be game ready.



Exceptional Care for Athletes of All Ages

Our team of sports medicine experts work to keep athletes safe. Our licensed athletic trainers specialize in injury prevention, rehabilitation, concussion programming and return to play. They collaborate with coaches, physicians, parents and the athlete to get them back in the game.

For more information, visit [MercyHealth.com/sports-medicine](https://www.MercyHealth.com/sports-medicine)

BeRemarkable.®