

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2021

## Third game is the charm for CCHS boys first win

By AARON PETCHAL  
Sports correspondent

STUEBENVILLE — The Catholic Central boys soccer team earned its first victory of the season.

Catholic Central collected a goal in each half en route to a 2-1 victory against Beaver Local Thursday evening at the Tony Recinella Soccer Field.

"It is definitely nice to get our first win, especially against a quality opponent," Catholic Central (1-2) head coach Steve Kopcha said. "Beaver Local is always a strong and talented

team, and they were no different today. We have played a couple of games, and we have had some good practices this week. We are starting to develop good chemistry. They are starting to understand how to play. We scored a couple of goals which is nice, and we were able to come away with the win."

The Beavers scored less than 10 minutes into the second half to knot the score at 1, however, the Crusaders answered with the game-winning goal about 12 minutes later.

"It was definitely a hard-

fought game," Beaver Local (1-1-1) head coach Joseph Zirillo said. "we did not take advantage of the opportunities we had."

Leon Zaleski tallied a goal and an assist to lead the way for Catholic Central. David Kissinger also delivered a goal, while Joseph Daniel collected an assist.

Michael Duff finished with six saves in goal for the hosts.

"They moved the ball very well," Zirillo said. "They were able to switch the ball really quickly to the other side of the field."

A pair of freshmen teamed up for the Beaver Local goal as Johnny Wilson scored off of an assist from Kaleb Mays.

John Mondak made six saves in goal for the Beavers.

Zaleski scored in the first half to give Catholic Central a 1-0 lead. Kissinger assisted on the goal.

"We knew it was going to be a back-and-forth game," Kopcha said. "It was nice we were able to get that first win. It is nice to play with the lead. We knew Beaver Local is a tough team. They did not quit."

"I want to give credit to our

kids. They continued to push and play after they scored to tie it, and we were able to finish it by getting another goal."

After Wilson scored to tie the score at 1-all, Kissinger found the back of the net off of a feed from Daniel to regain the lead for the Crusaders at 2-1.

Trailing for the second time in the game, the Beavers pushed forward to once again try to tie the score. Beaver Local had a couple of good opportunities, however, the visitors from Columbiana County were

See CCHS Page 2B ⇨



Andrew Grimm

**TOUCHDOWN BRUINS** — Brooke's Braelyn Sperringer celebrates his third of four touchdowns Thursday night against Indian Creek with teammate Tanner Griffith. The Bruins improved to 2-0 for the first time in more than a decade with a 28-13 win.

## Sperringer's four touchdowns lead Brooke Bruins off to 2-0 start for the first time since 2010 with win over rival Creek

By ANDREW GRIMM  
Staff writer

WELLSBURG — If Week 1 was a breakout for Braelyn Sperringer, Week 2 showed it was no fluke.

The Brooke sophomore signal caller had another night to remember, racking up 108 yards and four touchdowns on the ground while throwing for another 88 yards in a 28-13 win over rival Indian Creek.

"He's just that kind of athlete," Brooke head coach Mac McLean said. "The kid lettered in the three major boys sports as a ninth-grader last year, he was out here at 14-years-old making plays at receiver. If his maturation keeps going the way it's going, here in a couple years you're going to be looking at something special."

"But, he'd be the first to tell you it wouldn't have happened without the guys up front and without his team."

Not only is it the Bruins first win over

their cross-river rival in a few seasons, it's the first time since the 2010 team that reached the state championship game that Brooke starts a season at 2-0.

The old saying goes winning is fun, and, according to Sperringer, the Bruins are having a blast.

"We've been preaching we won the first game last year (before losing the last 8), we didn't want to come out flat in the second game again," Sperringer

See BROOKE Page 2B ⇨

## Doege leads WVU to Maryland after strong preseason

By JARED SERRE  
Sports writer

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — When the West Virginia University football team hits the field for Saturday's season opener, all eyes will be under center.

It's been more than eight months since Jarret Doege, the Mountaineers' starting quarterback, was benched during the Liberty Bowl due to struggles and ineffectiveness. He was forced to watch from the sideline as backup quarterback Austin Kendall led the team to the win.

Those miscues fueled Doege's work this offseason and, on the eve of West Virginia's Week 1 matchup with Maryland (3:30 p.m., ESPN), early returns are that the redshirt senior has looked impressive in preseason practice.

"When he came back (in January), we had a one-on-one meeting and he was in a great mindset," quarterbacks coach Sean Reagan said. "I forget what his exact quote was, but it was along the lines of 'I'm ready to get better.' He had a vision, he had a plan, and he executed it and it's really showed. He's playing with

See WVU Page 2B ⇨

## Ohio State outlasts Minnesota 45-31 in C.J. Stroud's debut

By DAVE CAMPBELL  
AP sports writer

MINNEAPOLIS — C.J. Stroud passed for 294 yards and four touchdowns in his debut as the Ohio State starter and the fourth-ranked Buckeyes kept coach Ryan Day unbeaten in Big Ten play with a 45-31 victory over Minnesota on Thursday night.

The Buckeyes flashed their five-star speed with two 70-plus-yard scores in the opener, one early on a run off right end by Miyan Williams and one late on a third-down screen to true freshman TreVeyon Henderson. Day, starting his third full year on the job, is 24-2 overall and 16-0 in conference games.

Chris Olave had touchdown catches of 38 and 61 yards, and Garrett Wilson scored on a 56-yard reception that gave Ohio State the lead for good at 24-21 midway through the third quarter. Less than three minutes later, Haskell Garrett grabbed a fumble from a strip-sack that Zach Harrison delivered on Tanner Morgan and ran it in for a 32-yard touchdown.

More painful for the Gophers than their fade down the stretch was the loss of star running back Mo Ibrahim, who hurt his lower right leg late in the third quarter, limped off and did not return. The second team preseason Associated

Press All-American had 30 carries for 163 yards and two scores, both giving the Gophers the lead.

Ohio State trailed at halftime (14-10) for the first time in a regular season game under Day, who took over for Urban Meyer. The Buckeyes have won 12 straight games over the Gophers and 28 of 29.

The Gophers were probably never going to have a better opportunity to topple the mighty Buckeyes than this, fielding one of the most experienced teams in the country at home — and at night — to open the season against a newbie quarterback.

With fans allowed back in the seats at what's now called Huntington Bank Stadium, after the virus emptied them out for an abbreviated 2020 schedule, Minnesota enjoyed its third straight sellout dating to the Penn State and Wisconsin games in November 2019.

Already a time-of-possession team, the Gophers needed to play keep-away more than ever to make this a game. They were tentative at times but bold at others, including a fourth-and-1 play from deep in their own territory when Ibrahim ripped off a 56-yard run.

That set up a touchdown throw by Morgan to Texas A&M transfer Dylan Wright, who had five catches for 57

See OHIO STATE Page 2B ⇨



Associated Press

**WINNING DEBUT** — Ohio State quarterback C.J. Stroud passes against Minnesota in the first quarter of Thursday's game in Minneapolis.

## Toronto gets a big win over Big Red

From staff reports

STUEBENVILLE — The Toronto volleyball team improved to 4-1 on the season with a four set win over Big Red.

The Red Knights won, 25-13, 25-20, 20-25, 27-25.

Hannah Dobbs led the way with 20 kills and 34 digs. Ashton Thomas had nine kills and

nine blocks, Taylie Thomas 78 digs, Andrea Reeves 33 assists and six blocks and Brianna Burruss three aces and 24 digs.

Toronto hosts Wheeling Central on Tuesday with a 5:30 jayvee start.

**CCHS tops Brooke in five**  
STUEBENVILLE — The Catholic Central volleyball

edged Brooke in a five set battle, coming back from a 2-0 hole to win 12-25, 24-26, 25-13, 25-10, 15-7.

Leading the way for the Crusaders was Clara Symington with 23 kills, Ava Marcino with 12 assists, Karsen Blake with 17 assists and Gianna Scugoza with seven digs.

See WIN Page 2B ⇨

## Madonna's game with Carrick Saturday off

From staff reports

WEIRTON — Madonna's football game with Carrick scheduled for Saturday night at Jimmy Carey Stadium will not be played.

The Blue Dons athletic department announced Thursday evening that Carrick had forfeited for a non-COVID related reason.

The next game for Madonna is Sept. 11 at Bridgeport.



# CCHS

not able to get a second shot past Duff.

"We were able to come out fast in the second half and get one," Zirillo said. "We were able to exploit their defense. We had an opportunity to score another one, but we were unable to."

Beaver Local kept up the offensive pressure late in the game, but Duff and the Catholic Central defense stood strong preventing the Beavers from tying the score.

"We did not know too much about them," Kop-

cha said. "It is still early in the season, and we are trying to develop who we are. They had a couple of guys with speed that we had to worry about. It was a pretty even game."

Catholic Central is scheduled to play Cambridge at noon Saturday on the road. Catholic Central also scheduled a game against East Liverpool for 5 p.m. Tuesday at home.

Beaver Local is slated to play county rival Salem at 6 p.m. Saturday at home.

**Weather strikes Madonna-CCHS match up again**

WEIRTON — Mother Nature continues to have her say in when and where games are being played.

The Madonna and Catholic Central girls soccer teams were scheduled to play Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the J.C. Williams Soccer Complex, however, it was announced Tuesday the game would be postponed to Thursday due to all of the rain. Thursday came, and the game was once again postponed. This time

the game between the Blue Dons and the Crusaders was postponed due to unsafe field conditions.

"The field was not safe to play on," Madonna (2-2-1) head coach Bob Kolanko said.

The game has been rescheduled for 5:30 p.m. Sept. 19.

"I think the girls were disappointed the game was postponed," Kolanko said. "We were looking forward to the rematch of the OVAC Championship Game. They understand the decision, it is not worth getting some-

one hurt."

Madonna defeated Catholic Central, 1-0, in the Class 1A/3A Final last year at Red Devil Stadium in St. Clairsville. The Crusaders defeated the Blue Dons during the season in a game played at the Tony Recinella Soccer Field.

"We're 2-2-1, and we are still developing," Kolanko said. "We had some injuries right off the bat resulting in us getting off to a bit of a slow start. We had a player get a concussion in the win against Wheeling Central.

Continued from Page 1B

Our younger players are developing. We have got 15 girls this season."

Madonna is scheduled to play at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday up at East Liverpool.

"I am proud of our seniors," Kolanko said. "They are the leaders of the team. They are doing a real good job of leading the team. We are still moving kids around. We are trying to find the right positions for them."

Catholic Central is slated to play Ridgewood at 11 a.m. Saturday at home.

# Win

**Harrison tops Edison in four**

RICHMOND — Harrison Central topped Edison in four sets in varsity volleyball action Thursday, 19-25, 19-25, 25-20, 16-25.

The Wildcats lost in 4 sets by scores of 19-25, 19-25, 25-20, 16-25. Audrey Scott had eight points, Katelin Kowalczyk had seven points and seven assists.

Rebecka Evans had six points, six assists and six kills and three blocks.

For the Huskies, McKayla Dunkle had 19 kills, Logan Johnson 23 assists and Maddy Butler 16 digs.

Continued from Page 1B

The Wildcats will be back in action on Saturday at home against Steubenville at 11 a.m.

**John Marshall stops Beaver Local, Oak Glen**

NEW CUMBERLAND — John Marshall took the top spot with 161 in a quad match at Woodview Golf Course Thursday, while Beaver Local took second with 170 and Oak Glen placed third with 203, and Weir finished fourth with 247. The medalist was Luke Eyster with a 36.

Oak Glens next match is 4 p.m. Tuesday at Woodview versus Toronto and Lisbon.

# WVU

very high confidence right now, and he's playing at a high level."

Doege's offseason improvements will be tested against the Terrapins defense, a unit that boasts a strong secondary. The group returns two defensive backs, Jordan Mosley and Nick Cross, who ranked among the team's top three tacklers last season.

According to co-offensive coordinator Gerard Parker, that unit is capable of executing a multitude of skills at a high level.

"They should feel good about (their) secondary, they're good," Parker said. "They've done a good job

in the back end. They're coached well, they have good instincts... They play the ball really well, they're aggressive, they're willing tacklers. They do a great job in coverage being able to collision and get on you and match routes in their man coverage. They do a good job disguising things."

The Mountaineers are hoping that Maryland may find itself in a similar situation, given how explosive the Terrapins are at the wide receiver position. New offensive coordinator Dan Enos will be able to utilize the team's top five pass catchers from last season, including a former

five-star recruit.

That would be Rakim Jarrett, who totaled 252 yards last season in only five games. Senior Dontay Demus Jr., will also see a handful of targets as he's coming off a season leading the team in touchdowns with four.

"Receiver-wise, (they are) very talented," head coach Neal Brown said. "Maybe as talented as anybody we're gonna play this year. There are probably four to six quality guys there at the receiver position. It starts, for them, at receiver with Demus and Jarrett, and I think those guys are NFL players."

This weekend marks

Continued from Page 1B

the first time WVU will open the season with a true road game during Brown's tenure. He's hoping the team's performance will be a step in the right direction after going winless on the road last year.

"We need to get a bad taste out of our mouth," Brown said. "We didn't go on the road and perform as well (last season). That hadn't been the case historically, we played our best football on the road in '19 winning at Kansas State and winning at TCU... I don't think it's an issue, but we still got to go out and win on the road, which we didn't a year ago."

# Ohio State

yards.

**POLL IMPLICATIONS**

Ohio State will surely at least stay put at No. 4 but likely would only move up if a top-three team stumbled badly on opening weekend.

**THE TAKEAWAY**

Ohio State: For all their talent at wide receiver, size on the offensive line and depth at running back, the Buckeyes were still turning over their offense to a player who'd never attempted a pass in a college game. Stroud delivered some strong throws and was shaky with some others, just as any fresh-

man often would in his first Big Ten road game, but the succession from NFL first-round draft pick Justin Fields went about as smooth as could reasonably be expected.

Minnesota: Regardless of the outcome, this was precisely the type of performance the Gophers were seeking in their attempt to get back on track after a frustrating 2020 season.

**UP NEXT**

Ohio State: The Buckeyes return home to face No. 11 Oregon on Sept. 11.

Minnesota: The Gophers host Miami of Ohio on Sept. 11.



**BIG HIT** — Indian Creek's Sam Coleman throws a big hit on Brooke's Gavin Moore during the first quarter of Thursday's game at Brooke Memorial Stadium.

Andrew Grimm

# Cubs beat Pirates 6-5 on Difo error in 11th

CHICAGO (AP) — Sergio Alcántara scampered home when second baseman Wilmer Difo mishandled a popup in the 11th inning, and the Chicago Cubs beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 6-5 on Thursday night for their third straight win.

Rafael Ortega and Ian Happ homered for Chicago, and Alcántara logged the first three-hit game of his career. Codi Heuer (6-2) got three outs for the win.

Alcántara began the 11th on second base and advanced on Ortega's sacrifice bunt against Sam Howard (2-3). Happ then sent a high fly to second, where Difo committed the game-ending error.

It's the first three-game win streak for the Cubs since a five-game run from June 8-13.

The last-place Pirates wasted a stellar start by Mitch Keller, who struck

out eight in six scoreless innings. Colin Moran hit a three-run homer in the first, and Bryan Reynolds finished with two hits.

The Cubs rallied after Keller departed. Ortega tied it at 3 with a three-run shot against Chad Kuhl in the seventh. Frank Schwindel then singled and Happ connected for his 18th homer, sending a drive deep to right-center.

The Pirates tied it in the ninth against Rowan Wick. With one out and the bases loaded, Michael Perez drove in two runs with a pinch-hit single to right. But Cole Tucker then bounced into a double play.

Rookie right-hander Keegan Thompson got just five outs for Chicago, allowing three runs and four hits. He also struggled in his previous start, yielding four earned runs in two-plus innings in a 17-13 loss to the White Sox.

# McFadden kicks YSU past Incarnate Word

YOUNGSTOWN (AP) — Colten McFadden kicked a 41-yard field goal as time expired in regulation then converted from 27 yards out in overtime to give Youngstown State a 44-41 win over Incarnate Word in the season opener on Thursday night.

Demeatric Crenshaw put Youngstown State in front, 38-34 with his second touchdown run of the game, scoring from nine-yards out with 2:15 to play, but Cameron Ward threw a 2-yard touchdown pass to Trevor Bagley with 39-seconds left to lift Incarnate Word to a 41-38 lead.

The Penguins answered with a 45-yard pass from Crenshaw to Jaleel McLaughlin to reach the Cardinals' 23, setting up the game-tying field goal.

McLaughlin carried 29 times for 242 yards and two touchdowns, including a 72-yard dash, to lead the Penguins. Crenshaw added 81 yards and two touchdowns on 20 carries and added a third score on a five-yard pass to Bryce Oliver in the first quarter. Youngstown State ran for 351 yards and four touchdowns, Ward completed 28 of 47 pass attempts for 352 yards and four touchdowns to lead Incarnate Word.

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# Brooke

said. "We had a great game. This year we have a very strong bond, on the sideline, even the injured guys are jumping and cheering. The fans are great and the cheerleaders, the band, the dance team, everybody. It's great."

His first touchdown was a big answer to overcome a tough start.

After Indian Creek's Sam Coleman ran the opening kick 73 yards to the Brooke 17, the Redskins (0-3) wasted little time opening the scoring with a 1-yard Jadyen Irizarry scoring run. A fake on the extra point came up short, making it 6-0 Creek.

A very short kick set the Bruins up on the Creek side of the 50, and three plays later Sperringer scored from 26-yards out, knifing through the Creek defense after tucking the ball and keeping it himself. Bailey Serevitz's boot made it a 7-6 Brooke lead, which they would not surrender.

"That's something else we're doing right now... we've developed the ability to let those things roll off our back," McLean said. "We're shrugging things like that off and we get focused and get rolling. That's got me excited."

Sperringer added scoring runs of 1 and 6 yards

in the second quarter, the second of which was of the spectacular diving variety, also converting on a two-point run to make up for a blocked extra point to make it a 21-6 Bruins lead.

The Redskins marched down to the Brooke 8, but stalled out and turned the ball over on downs with less than a minute to go before halftime, trailing 21-6 at the break.

Creek again marched deep into Brooke territory on its first possession of the second half, but this time stalled out at the Bruins' 24 and turned it over on downs again.

"I feel bad, I feel like at some point here I'm cheating the kids," Indian Creek head coach Andrew Connor said. "I know they're trying. I have got to do a better job. I feel bad for the school, I feel bad for the kids."

"The same mistakes we've been making we keep making and that falls on me. I told the kids I'm going to do a better job."

On the ensuing possession, Brooke compiled a drive for the ages.

McLean's offense got the ball with 6:33 remaining in the fourth quarter, and ended the march 22 plays later with 6:38 remaining in the fourth quarter when Sperringer again found a running

lane and crossed the goal line from 6 yards away.

The drive took 11:42 off the clock and all but sealed the Bruins win as Serevitz's kick split the uprights in front of the student section chanting her name to make it 28-6.

"That hasn't happened for us in a long, long time," McLean said of the drive. "I'm proud of my staff and proud of my kids. I'm very happy right now."

A late Eli Powell touchdown run gave Creek its final points of the night.

"It showed the kids are playing hard," Connor said of the last score. "That's all I can ask of them. They played hard for 48 minutes of football and that's a start. We have to find things for us to move forward and that's a way to move forward."

**NOTES:**

- Prior to the touchdown to cap the long drive, Brooke's Zach Byard was injured making a tackle on Brooke's Gavin Moore and left field on the stretcher, exiting the stadium in an ambulance.

"We took a lot of injuries," Connor said. "Hopefully the kids are alright. That's my first priority is to make sure the kids are OK."

- Before the game, a moment of silence was

Continued from Page 1B

held to honor fallen U.S. Navy Corpsman Max Soviak, an Ohio native and former multi-sport athlete for Milan Edison killed in last week's suicide bombing attack at the Kabul, Afghanistan airport during the U.S.'s evacuation mission.

**UP NEXT**

Indian Creek: Will look to right the ship with a trip to Weir High.

Brooke: Faces its toughest test yet hosting University.

"We've got a monster coming here next week," McLean said.

Brooke 28, Indian Creek 13

Indian Creek 6-0-0-7 - 13

Brooke 7-14-0-7 - 28

**FIRST QUARTER**

IC: Irizarry 1 run (pass failed) 10:42

B: Sperringer 2-15; Brooke 45-20-4TD (Sperringer 18-108-4TD; Moore 11-48; Campinelli 16-45).

**SECOND QUARTER**

B: Sperringer 1 run (kick blocked) 10:20

B: Sperringer 6 run (Sperringer run) 3:46

**THIRD QUARTER**

None

**FOURTH QUARTER**

B: Sperringer 6 run (Serevitz kick) 6:38

IC: Powell 5 run (Gross kick) 2:30

**RUSHING:** Indian Creek 36-136-2TD (Irizarry 14-59-TD; Powell 14-44-TD; McGee 6-18; Spencer 2-15); Brooke 45-201-4TD (Sperringer 18-108-4TD; Moore 11-48; Campinelli 16-45).

**PASSING:** Indian Creek 3-7-38 (all by Powell); Brooke 6-10-88 (all by Sperringer).

**RECEIVING:** Indian Creek 3-38 (Coleman 2-12; Bodo 1-26); Brooke 6-88 (Moore 4-56; Campinelli 1-22; Bachinski 1-11).

**FIRST DOWNS:** Indian Creek 11; Brooke 15.

**FUMBLES-LOST:** Indian Creek 0-0; Brooke 0-0.

**PENALTIES-YARDS:** Indian Creek 3-15; Brooke 9-65.

**PUNTS:** Indian Creek 1-27; Brooke 1-30.