



NOTRE DAME ATHLETICS

VOLUME XV | ISSUE X | NOVEMBER 13, 2020

**THIS WEEK AT
NOTRE DAME
(HOME GAMES)**

IRISH TAKE FIVE SET THRILLER OVER NORTH BRANCH; LATE TOUCHDOWN LIFTS DCDS OVER NOTRE DAME

Saturday November 14
Girls VAR Swimming
SMISL Meet 12:00



The Notre Dame Varsity Volleyball team outlasted North Branch in five sets to take its fourth straight MHSAA Regional title



Wade Robinson, Maddie Monaghan, and Lexi Fraser represented Notre Dame at the MHSAA Cross Country Finals

IRISH TAKE REGIONAL OVER NORTH BRANCH

The Notre Dame Varsity Volleyball team kept its season alive with a thrilling five set win over North Branch in the MHSAA Regional Final round. The win improves the Irish's record to 36-9 and marks the fourth straight Regional title and the 12th overall in the history of the program. North Branch took the first set 26-24 and Notre Dame responded by taking the next two sets 25-23 and 25-17 behind great defensive plays from libero, honorable mention All-American, Olivia Kowalkowski. With their backs against the wall North Branch responded with a fourth set win, 25-21. The final and decisive set looked like it was going all Notre Dame's way as the Irish jumped out to an 8-4 lead, but North Branch chipped away at and tied the game at 10. After an Irish timeout the Broncos promptly scored an ace for their first lead in the final set. The Irish came back to take a 14-12 lead only to see North Branch tie it up again. Notre Dame turned to two veteran hitters to close out the set and match as Aly Borellis put down a kill to get to match point and, fittingly, Bianca Giglio picked up her career-best 30th kill of the match to finished off the Broncos. Kowalkowski had 30 serve receptions and 38 digs in the match while Borellis finished with 15 serving points, 21 kills, six blocks, 37 assists and 15 digs. Josie Bloom added 26 serve receptions, 30 digs, and 12 serving points, Sophia Sudzina had 17 kills, and

Margo Sudzina contributed with six points, 31 assists and 10 digs. Notre Dame now advances to the Elite Eight level of the MHSAA tournament at St Clair Community College, where they will take on Warren Regina.

IRISH FALL TO DCDS IN DISTRICT SEMIFINAL

The Notre Dame Varsity Football season came to an end in the MHSAA District Semifinal round as the Irish fell 21-14 to Detroit Country Day. Notre Dame got off to a fast start, scoring on its opening possession on a 44 yard pass from Jacob Bendtsen to Clayton Bone to take a 7-0 lead. The remainder of the first half was a defensive struggle with neither team putting any additional points on the board. Bone came up with an interception with the Yellow Jackets threatening near the end of the second quarter to keep the Irish ahead. Country Day would score on their opening possession of the second half, scoring on a 10 yard run on a fourth down play. However, Notre Dame would answer right back and retake the lead on a Bendtsen 54 yard pass to Trevor Tuttle to go up 14-7 heading into the fourth quarter. Controlling time of possession, the Yellow Jackets put together two scoring drives in the quarter which both ended in two yard touchdown runs. The Irish would get one final possession down 21-14 but would turn the ball over on downs. Bendtsen finished the night 15 of 26 for 180 yards and two touchdowns, Tuttle caught five

passes for 84 yards while Bone had six receptions for 69 yards. Caleb Webb had six solo tackles and eight assists while Evan Noga added five solo tackles. Also contributing on the defensive side were Johnny Dreer, Andrew Philippart, and Billy Newman with four tackles each. Notre Dame finishes the season with a 6-2 record.



Trevor Tuttle hauls in a 54 yard touchdown pass from Jacob Bendtsen against Country Day

IRISH RUNNERS HEAD TO MHSAA FINAL

The Notre Dame Cross Country teams were represented by individual qualifiers Lexi Fraser, Maddie Monaghan, and Wade Robinson at the MHSAA State Finals meet held at Michigan International Speedway. In the Girls race, Fraser finished 68th with a time of 20:19 and Monaghan was 125th with a time of 21:09. In the Boys race, Robinson finished third among all Freshmen and 54th overall with a time of 17:00. Both races featured a field of over 250 runners.



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IRISH BEST DCDS IN FIVE SETS TO TAKE DISTRICT; FOUR SENIOR ATHLETES SIGN TO PLAY IN COLLEGE



The Notre Dame Varsity Volleyball team took its 23rd District title in the history of the program and 14th straight with a five set win over Detroit Country Day

IRISH OUTLAST DCDS FOR DISTRICT TITLE

The Notre Dame Varsity Volleyball team took its 23rd District title in the history of the program and 14th straight, downing sixth ranked Detroit Country Day in a five game thriller 25-12, 20-25, 23-25, 25-21, 15-7. The Irish started off the night strong, only trailing once the opening set (2-3) before Country Day took the second set behind strong play at the net. Notre Dame led for much of the third set before the Yellow Jackets came back to tie the score at 21 before taking four of the next six points. Facing elimination, the Irish fell behind early in the fourth set but slowly clawed their way back, taking the lead for good at 12-11 and forcing the fifth and final set to determine the district champion. Country Day lost the toss but proceeded to convert the first service reception into a kill out of the middle. Notre Dame knotted the score at one on hitting error and scored the next three points, forcing a Country Day timeout. Grace Wenaas came up with a huge block out of the timeout to give the Irish a 5-1 lead and Notre Dame went on to outscore the Yellow Jackets 10-6 to take the tile and advance to the next round of the state tournament. The balanced Notre Dame offense was led by Aly Borellis, who had 21 kills with 24 assists and nine digs. Bianca Giglio added 23 kills and eight digs while Sophia Sudzina had 18 kills and five digs. Defensively, Olivia Kowalkowski had 29 digs and three aces, while Josie Bloom had

11 digs and two aces. Hanna Rutila added nine points and 10 digs and Margo Sudzina had 24 assists and 14 digs.

FOUR NOTRE DAME ATHLETES SIGN NLI

This past Wednesday, Notre Dame celebrated the first of three national letter of intent signing days as four senior student-athletes signed on to play athletics at the college level. Jacob Anderson has signed with Michigan State University to play baseball; Lindsey Creek signed to swim for the University of Toledo; Kaden Hovey signed to play lacrosse at Colorado College; and Olivia Kowalkowski signed to play volleyball at Georgia State University.



Jacob Anderson, Lindsey Creek, Kaden Hovey, and Olivia Kowalkowski all signed to play collegiate athletics this past week

IRISH ADVANCE PAST LUTHERAN NORTH

Notre Dame Varsity Volleyball team (35-9) defeated Lutheran North in straight sets 25-23, 25-21, 25-13 to advance to the MHSAA Regional Final where they will face North Branch on the Broncos home court. The Irish started off

sluggishly and had trouble finding their rhythm against a hard-working Mustang team until the third set, when the Irish led start to finish. Olivia Kowalkowski led the way defensively with 11 points, two aces, 20 serve receptions, and 17 digs while Josie Bloom added 10 receptions and 14 digs. Aly Borellis finished with 13 kills, 19 assists and 13 digs and Hanna Rutila contributed 13 points, three aces, nine receptions, and nine digs. Margo Sudzina and Kendall Smith each had 11 assists and Sophia Sudzina (six kills) and Grace Wenaas (eight) also had strong games offensively for Notre Dame.



Olivia Kowalkowski finished with 29 digs for Notre Dame against Detroit Country Day