



NOTRE DAME ATHLETICS

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VOLLEYBALL TAKES 16TH STRAIGHT DISTRICT TITLE; FOOTBALL TOPS SOUTH LAKE IN DISTRICT OPENER



The Notre Dame Varsity Volleyball team earned its 16th consecutive MHSAA District title, defeating top-ranked Country Day



Maria Nunning and Skylar Vanhecke both qualified individually for the MHSAA Cross Country State Finals



Zach Mylenek carried 30 times for 209 yards and two touchdowns to help lead the Irish past South Lake

IRISH SWEEP TOP-RANKED DCDS FOR DISTRICT TITLE

The Notre Dame Varsity Volleyball team earned its 16th consecutive MHSAA District title, defeating top-ranked Country Day in straight sets 25-23, 25-21, 25-17. The opening set saw the Yellow Jackets jump out to a 4-1 lead. Notre Dame came back to take the lead only to see Country Day rebound to regain a 20-17 advantage. It was then that senior Grace Wenaas took over the match, accounting for six of the final seven Irish points to secure the two point win. The Irish came out strong in the second set, leading until late in the set when Country Day forged ahead 19-17. Once again the Irish responded to take the set, led by stellar defense from Ally Berent and a Wenaas kill and block. The Yellow Jackets came out on fire in the third set, taking a 10-5 lead before the Irish called a timeout to regroup. From that point on it was Notre Dame as the Irish outscored Country Day 20-7 to secure the title and advance to the regional round. Wenaas paced the offense with 19 kills and nine blocks to go with eight service points and a pair of aces. Delaney Zielke had another strong match collecting nine kills, and three blocks. Berent finished with 28 serve receptions and 23 digs while Sophia Sermo added 14 receptions. Margo Sudzina scored 11 from the line, had two aces and a season high 21 assists. Mya Kattula chipped in three kills and 11 assists Bree Blakeslee added six kills.

IRISH TAKE PLAYOFF OPENER OVER SCS SOUTH LAKE

The Notre Dame Varsity Football team earned a 41-32 win over St. Clair Shores South Lake in its MHSAA

District playoff opener. After the Cavaliers took an early 6-0 lead, the Irish responded with the next three scores of the game. Zach Mylenek scored on touchdown runs of 53 and 14 yards and Jacob Tuttle found Joey DeCasas for a one yard touchdown to put Notre Dame up 20-6. South Lake would respond prior to the end of the half as the Irish took a 20-12 lead into the break. Notre Dame would score on the opening possession of the third quarter on a one yard pass from Tuttle to Michael Sadecki only to see the Cavaliers answer with a 69 yard touchdown pass. Tuttle added a two yard touchdown run to put the Irish up 34-18 heading into the third. Two long scoring runs (45 and 34 yards) helped South Lake to pull within 34-32, but a 95 yard scoring drive capped by a one yard run from Brandon Prater would seal the win for the Irish. Mylenek had a big game on the ground, carrying 30 times for 209 yards and two scores. Tuttle ran 18 times for 121 yards and a touchdown while also finishing 22 of 25 for 182 yards and two touchdowns passing. Jeremy Gale caught eight passes for 68 yards while Sadecki had four receptions for 45 yards and a touchdown. Defensively, Sergio Gasperoni had four tackles and recovered two fumbles to lead Notre Dame. Evan Gaeschke, Drew Heimbuch, and Billy Collins all finished with three tackles.

NOTRE DAME QUALIFIES TWO FOR MHSAA STATE FINALS

On Senior Parents' Day at the MHSAA Regional meet held at Hess-Hathaway Park in Waterford, the Notre Dame Boys Cross Country team finished seventh while the Girls took fourth. Senior Captain Ben Kinkade finished

17th overall, just missing qualifying for the state finals by one spot. Isaak Brook, Ryan Wojchowski, Chris Hunter, Nick Mardelli, John Milback, and Jack Leuchtmann all ran strong on the challenging course which featured large and rolling hills throughout. The girls were led by sophomores Maria Nunning and Skylar Vanhecke who finished fifth and 13th respectively qualifying both for the MHSAA State Finals. Mary Larocca, Erin Connelly, Addie Mikel, Sydney Schulte, and Jillian Essig rounded out the varsity lineup which missed qualifying for states by just 17 points. Connelly ran her best time of the season for the fourth week in a row. With every athlete returning next year except for Essig, the Irish should be strong contenders to qualify for states and perhaps even challenge for a regional championship next year.

IRISH TOP CRANBROOK IN MHSAA DISTRICT OPENER

The Notre Dame Varsity Volleyball team opened MHSAA District play with a straight set 25-13, 25-11, 26-24 win over Cranbrook. The Irish received contributions from all 15 players in the match. Offensively Delaney, Zielke led Notre Dame with seven kills while Grace Wenaas was right behind her with six kills to go with a team high 10 points, which included a pair of aces. Sophia Sermo, Mya Kattula, and Ellie Whalen each had five kills. Defensively, Ally Berent was solid again, leading the Irish in both serve receive and digs. Margo Sudzina dished out 13 assists, with Kattula adding seven and Erin Eby finishing with five.

