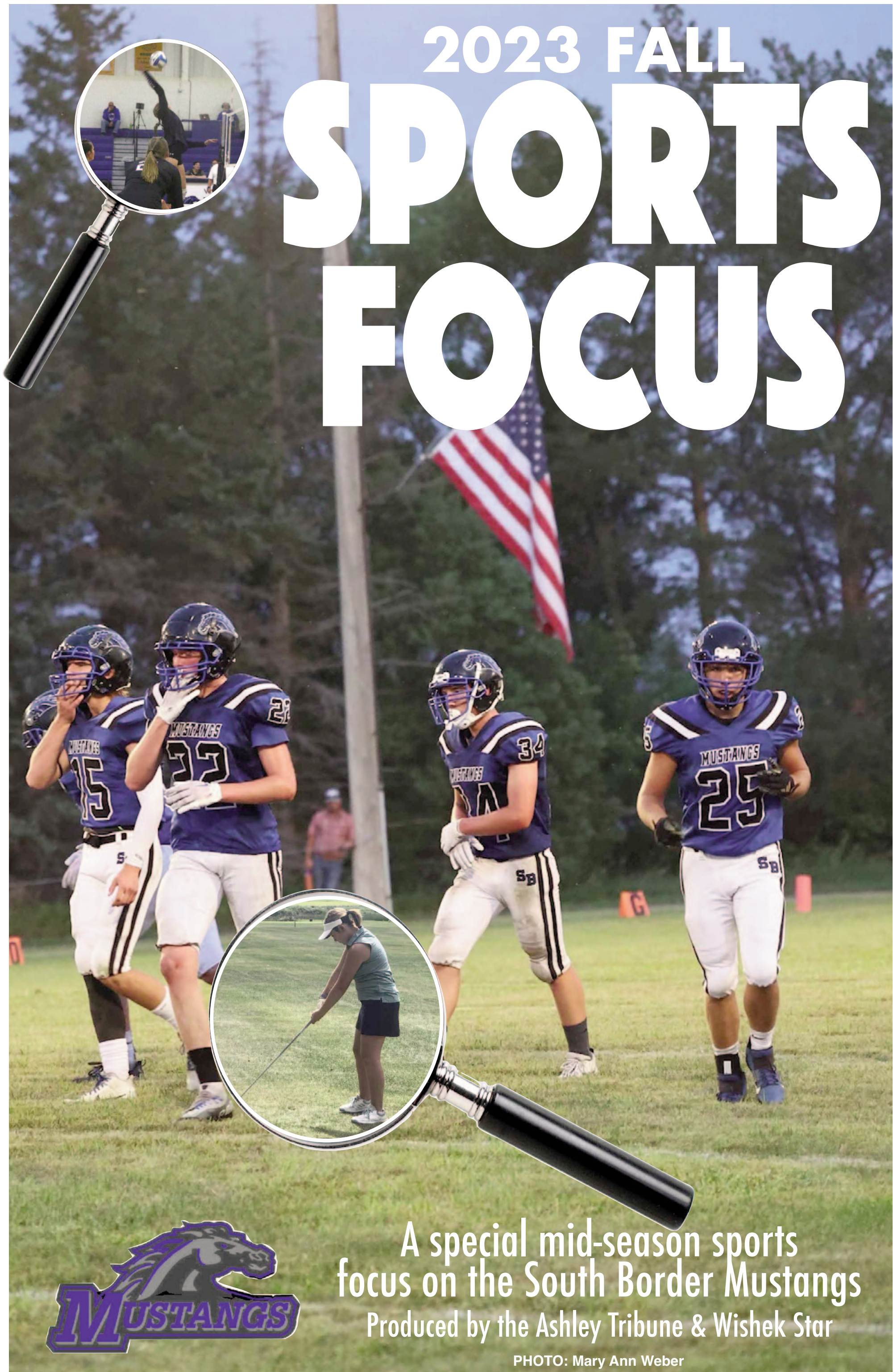


2023 FALL SPORTS FOCUS



A special mid-season sports
focus on the South Border Mustangs
Produced by the Ashley Tribune & Wishek Star

PHOTO: Mary Ann Weber

St. Aubin high on girls golf team’s work ethic

“Its really simple, I feel like we have some of the best kids, with the best work ethic and kindness in the two schools and regardless what our score will be as an individual or team, we have a choice to be the best representatives of our coop that we can be,” says South Border Head Coach Jeremy St. Aubin, who is in his 20th season as the head coach for the team.

He points to an active summer with great participation in open golf that has led to some new faces on the team and a team that has doubled in size from last year.

Leading the team this year and playing the #1 spot for the team is Senior Brylee Fast. “I’m sure the name sounds familiar as she is part of so many things and everything she joins she brings a brightness, too,” St. Aubin says. “Brylee is one of the nicest kids I have ever had the pleasure of coaching, she is kind, courteous, a proven leader, and a great example of how an infectious positive attitude can improve almost any situation.”

He adds that she is one of the top players in the region and a region favorite

to play golf with as she encourages not only her team but her competitors as well. St. Aubin says she will challenge for one of the top spots in the region. She has the low score for the team this season at the South Border Invite held at the Ashley Country Club with a 77.

Playing the #2 spot is a gritty competitor Haley Kaseman. Haley is only a freshman but has already proven over the last two years that she is force to be reckoned with. She has qualified for the state tournament by being in the top 10 in the region the last 2 years and has recently proven by her 3rd place individual finish at The South Border Classic, a tournament that featured 76 players from around the state, held at the Tom O’Leary golf course in Bismarck.

“Haley has a great game. She is long off the tee, has a great touch when putting and has worked hard over the summer to develop an iron game that is more consistent to compliment the other parts of her game,” said St. Aubin. “She’s definitely one of those kids you have to challenge with



The South Border Mustangs Girls Golf Team: Left to right Madison Malinowski, Megan Mondon, Macey Monson, Angel Newman, Haley Kaseman, Brylee Fast. Below, is Kiarra Opsahl.

drills and course management as she demonstrates by her off season work that she wants to be one of the top players and it is our job to do just that.”

The third spot is showcased by the most improved member to this point in Angel Newman. “I always tell Angel that she will be one of the best athletes at every meet she is at and that if she can

simplify and control the golf swing she possesses good things will come her way. She showed up for the first meet of the year at Bully Pulpit with the word confidence and she has played that way all year,” said St. Aubin.

Newman who started off the year with a score down 26 shots from the year past, has demonstrated that she is up to the challenge of the third spot and wants to be a scoring leader for the young team. St. Aubin finished by saying that it's not going to be much longer before you will see Angel in the Top 10 at the meets. “She is too dynamic of a player and has gained so much touch around the greens for anything but good to start to be the norm for her.”

The 4th spot is held by a 1st year golfer but a Junior Macey Monson. Macey joined the team looking for a sport she could play for the rest of her life and initially found the sport bringing her sister to the open golf in the summer.

“Macey is one of the most coachable kids I have ever come across and really keeps things in perspective. If I told her that she had to hit the golf ball with her eyes closed while standing on only her left foot she would do just that, she has demonstrated that she is an outstanding teammate by playing a spot and a game she is not use to, dual sporting, and while constantly trying to improve to assist her team in scoring the best they can,” finished St. Aubin. “She, too, is one of those kids that really emulate what it is to not only be a great kid but a great Mustang representing the co-op in a positive fashion.”

Playing the 5th spot is Junior Kiarra Opsahl. Kiarra came into camp with a renewed interest after taking last year off and a great confidence within herself.

“It’s obvious Kiarra is a great teammate as she does a



great job communicating and being our leader on the Wishek side with the younger girls, but the growth that I see in who Kiarra is and how she swings the golf club has been so much fun to watch. I always tell her that those characteristics will lead to a great employee someday,” praised St. Aubin.

Playing the final varsity spot is freshman Megan Monson. Monson is also a first year player but has proven that she is up to the challenge of a game that does not always come easy. “Megan has worked so hard on her game. She too has really been coachable and done everything we have asked of her and her willingness to play the 6th spot has helped us have that full varsity team that we have not had the last two years. I have seen so much growth and confidence in her game over the last week and feel like that will lead to a lot of success in the seasons ahead,” said St. Aubin.

Madison Malinowski is a 7th grader and is also on the team. She is a 1st year golfer but like so many on this team carries herself with a great spirit and a smile that brightens all situations. St. Aubin said, “Madison has a very competitive nature to her and wants to be as good as the older girls and indicates that when we get together next year she wants to be on that varsity team

and there is no doubt in my mind if she spends some time on the course this summer she will be ready for that challenge.”

The final addition to this team is Paision Becker. Becker is a 6th grader so is only eligible for JH competition but has really taken the cues and teaching seriously. She has demonstrated that she likes structure and routine and her routine, although a 6th grader, is very solid and she will challenge for one of the varsity spots in years to come.

St. Aubin and Assistant Coach Ali Harriman said the group has worked very hard all year and are rated 5th in a competitive Region 1 as a team. St. Aubin said, “It's been fun to watch the girls improve and grow as the season has went along and if we play good golf, great, but I know each time we go to a meet we will represent South Border and our communities as well as any team South Border has ever has.”

St. Aubin and Harriman added that they hope to see continued growth in numbers for the golf team and welcome all girls to come join the team.

“It’s a welcoming group, we can provide the equipment, it’s a sport you can play for the rest of your life and there are some pretty neat lessons learned along the way. What more can you ask for?”

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SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

Golfers place well in recent contests

South Border was the host at Tom O Leary Golf Course in Bismarck ND where the South Border Classic was held on September 1.

Annually, the tournament pulls teams from all over the state and the level of play is very similar to a State Tournament. This year 74 participants from 15 different teams were represented. South Border also makes an effort yearly at this tournament to bring awareness to a topic that needs even more attention and this year all participants including coaches wore pink to bring attention to Breast Cancer Awareness.

South Border battled the long course for a 7th place finish at 465 as a team and Haley Kaseman finished 3rd overall with a 90. Others competing for the Mustangs were Megan Monson, Angel Newman, Kiarra Opsahl, and Brylee Fast.

The Mustangs traveled to Kulm on September 7 and had a great showing. Although the Mustangs did not feature a team that day due to illness and a host of other reasons they were able to place two individuals in the top 10 with Fast tied for 4th with a 92 and Kaseman the Medalist with an 82.

Opsahl, Monson and Macey Monson competed in the JV division. "The girls had a great day from top to bottom and I feel like we are moving in the right direction and improving weekly," said Assistant coach Ali Harriman.

The Mustangs traveled to Oakes on September 11 for a tightly contested Regional Tournament.

Volleyball squad expects good season in tough region

Coming off a 14-15-3 year, South Border Mustangs Head Coach Chris Doane says, "I expect to have another good year. We

have five seniors returning and all five will make a big impact in the success of this volleyball season."

Doane is in his first year

as head of the program after Kara Salzer resigned last year. The team has opened the season with a 1-3 mark. Josie Lippert is the

Mustangs assistant coach

Doane said, "As usual our District and Region will be tough again this year; we feel that it is wide open as

far as talent and at the end of the season there a number of teams that will be in the mix to take the region championship—including the Mustangs."

Doan provided insight into key Mustang players:

- Senior Allie Engelhart is a 6'2" who makes her presents known with big block and even bigger kills. Allison averaged 8 kills a match last year and is looking to have bigger numbers this year.

- Senior Aubriana Sayler is a threat on the outside. She is very precise on where she places the volleyball when she hits. Last year she averaged 7 kills a match.

- Senior Kiera Volk takes over as the Mustang libero. She is a quick passer that does a great job of getting the ball to her setter.

- Senior Kya Wiest is in her 1st year as the Varsity setter and will have a great year working the ball across the net to help her hitters get their kills.

- Senior Brylee Fast is a versatile player who hits on the right side and also is a defender in the back row.

- Junior Eva Meyer is also going to be a big middle hitter/blocker for the Mustangs. Eva is very crafty on knowing where to put the ball when she goes for her kills.

- Junior Macy Monson started off the season with 19 kills as an outside hitter. Macy will also be a strong blocker at the net.

- Sophomore Sara Pfeifle is a defensive specialist for the Mustangs. She is quick and will produce a lot of digs this season.



Back, left to right: Head Coach Chris Doane, Allison Engelhart, Macy Monson, Assistant Coach Eva Meyer, Kiera Volk, Assistant Coach Josie Hennington. Middle: Kya West, Kiera Volk, Aubriana Sayler. Front: Brylee Fast, Sara Pfeifle.

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Mustangs shine at Casselton

The South Border Volleyball team fell to visiting Edgeley on September 5 in Wishek, 25-18, 23-7, 25-15. Kaya Wiest had 5 aces in a losing effort. However the team bounced back in the Casselton Tournament on September 9, finishing first in their bracket.



The Mustangs believe they can compete in a competitive region. —file photo

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Girls Golf		
Aug 7,8	Meet	Bully Pulpit 1:30
Aug 10	Meet	Linton
Aug 11	Meet	Kidder
Aug 18	Meet	Ellendale
Aug 21	Meet	Napoleon
Aug 23	Meet	Grand Rapids 9 am
Aug 26	Meet	Ashley
Aug 29	Meet	Oakes
Sep 1	Meet	Bismarck
Sep 7	Meet	Kulm
Sep 11	Region Tour.	Oakes
Sep 25, 26	State Tour.	Mapleton
Meets at 10 am except as noted		

Volleyball		
Aug 29	North Central	Eureka
Aug 31	Linton	Linton
Sep 5	Edgeley/KMr	Wishek
Sep 9	Tournament	Casselton
Sep 12	Medina	Ashley
Sep 14	Barnes County N	Wishek
Sep 16	Tournament	Valley City
Sep 19	Napoleon G-S	Wishek
Sep 21	Oakes	Ashley
Sep 26	Strasburg-Zeeland	Strasburg
Sep 28	Midkota	Glenfield
Sep 30	Tournament	Lisbon
Oct 3	Wilton	Wilton
Oct 10	Kidder County	Steele
Oct 16	Herreid-Selby	Ashley
Oct 23	Ellendale	Ellendale
Oct 27, 30, 31	District Tournament	Napoleon
Nov 6, 7, 9	Region Tournament	Ellendale
All Games 5 pm CST (B-Squad). Tourn. starts TBA.		

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South Border moves to 4-0

by Tony Bender

The South Border Mustangs kept their perfect record intact even if it was an imperfect effort. Some sluggishness in the 55-26 win may be attributed to a 250-mile bus trip to New England on Friday. The rest, though, reflected a dogged effort from the Hettinger County Huskies.

“A little bit of a slow start could maybe have been expected after that long bus ride, but if we can get ourselves into the playoffs, there are potentially some long road trips there that we will (have to be) be ready for,” Mustangs Head Coach Evan Mellmer said. “But hats off to Hettinger County for a hard fought physical football game. They kept coming at us the entire game, and that forced us to really play well and execute the entire game.”

The first quarter scoring was powered by Mustangs quarterback Berkley Frantz who opened scoring with an 80-yard connection to Levi Buchholz, and added two running touchdowns of his own, one for 35 and the other for 80 yards. Connor Kosiak had a 1-yard score before the Huskies' Tallon Binstock found Matt Huether for 42-yards to make it 30-6 going into the second quarter.

Binstock hit Mark Fitterer to open the second quarter before the Mustangs answered with a Frantz to Conner Kosiak 15-yard strike, one of Kosiak's four touchdowns on the night. Eli Dohn, who had an extra point kick under his belt, added a 30-yard field goal to close the half. It's a rarity in



(L/R, Back/Front) Mike VanGorkom, Evan Mellmer, Berkley Frantz, Kaden Bader, Colin Coettle, Trevor Schmidt, Daniel Schumacher, Carson Glaesman, Parker Zimmerman, Cole Stock, David Jochim, Colin Crabtree, Levi Buchholz, Eli Dohn, Cooper Tunheim, Clay Jacob, Joshua Haase, Connor Kosiak, Triston Just, Kelby Opsahl, Luke Piatz, Brody Michaelsohn, Jared Schilling, Carter Ketterling, Brady VanGorkom, Carter Glaesman, Cam Kemmet, Cain Kemmet.

high school football and may prove to be the difference in a big game.

“We came out of the gates very aggressive, both on offense and defense, but then I felt at times we started playing not to lose,” Mellmer said. “We talk a lot about not taking one day off, one practice off, one session off, or even one play off. I feel like this is still a work in progress. We talked at halftime as coaches, that we are getting really critical considering the score was 40-12, but, we as coaches, owe that to our players to try to get them to be the best they can possibly be. They echoed that and talked about how they wanted to come out better in the 2nd half, and I thought we came out in the 3rd quarter and found that 'edge' we talked about last week.”

Kosiak and Frantz led the Mustang running game, 13-132 yards and three scores on the ground, and 7-162 yards and two

touchdowns, respectively.

Huether scored from three yards out for Hettinger County before Kosiak slammed the door with 5-yard and 35-yard touchdown carries. Jarren Rafferty capped scoring with a 20-yard run and a two-point conversion for the Huskies.

“Our offense executed very well when we wanted to. We put the ball in the air a little more this week than what we are accustomed to doing, but the confidence and ability of Berkley grows every week, and we are beginning to be able to trust him a little bit more with all of our offense,” Mellmer said. “He still made some throws he’s going to want back (2 interceptions) but he made some very nice plays, and also had a few plays that broke down and he used his athleticism as a runner.”

“Kaden Bader is a senior who has worked hard over the last two years, and it was fun to see him step up and put together his most

productive day offensively.” Bader caught four passes for 54 yards.

“The thing about putting the ball in the air that I liked this week, is that we now have it on tape for other teams. We all know we are still going to run the ball, but it also shows that if push comes to shove, we can air it out a little bit too,” Mellmer said.

Frantz was 8-14 for 195 yards.

The Mustangs are averaging nearly 48 points an outing.

On defense, the Mustangs were tested. The Huskies matched Napoleon's point total. “They made our lives miserable on defense. We were a step behind all night, and at times were scrambling with different packages and coverages to get into to try to slow them down,” Mellmer said.

“We need to accept the blame for this as well; our tackling was not where we would like it to be this week, and they made us pay for it.

They have some seniors that refused to quit, and that made us have to stay up the entire time.

“Our secondary played lights out. We bent a lot this week, but we did a fairly solid job of not breaking and forcing turnovers when we really needed them.” Kosiak had three of the Mustangs' five interceptions. He also had a fumble recovery. Luke Piatz and Buchholz each picked off passes.

Carson Glaesman, Cole Stock, and Trevor Schmidt led the defense with 5 tackles apiece.

The Mustangs, ranked #4, kept pace with #1 New Salem at 4-0 in Region 4. The Mustangs have to be careful not to look ahead. They have the Holsteins and 3-1 Linton on the schedule but on Friday, it's a feisty, if winless, Richardton-Taylor team in Wishek.

“As a coach, homecoming week is something that we worry about,” Mellmer said. “We

pride ourselves on doing all the little things right. That includes a sense of 'normal' and having a set routine for game week/day. Homecoming throws that off a little bit. I obviously want our guys to enjoy the week; it is part of the experience, but not lose sight of what needs to be done this week, which is finishing off the week with a win against a young, but scrappy Richardton-Taylor team.

“Records can be deceiving. They have played some teams tough this year, and when you are as young as they are, they are growing and improving every week. We need to be sharp to come out on top this week. It'll also be the last game of the year in Wishek, depending on playoffs, and the weather is still nice. Personally, I don't know of a better place to spend a fall Friday night than out at the football field. We'll see you all there.”

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A balance of talents make Mustangs mighty tough customers

by Tony Bender

With their fourth victory in four games, the South Border Mustangs appear to be well on their way to a third straight winning season. That's a testament to continuity. While the Mustangs continue to rely heavily on the run, the playbook is deep enough to adapt.

"Our identity is simple," second year Head Coach Evan Mellmer says. "Run the ball. Between Stock, Buchholz, Frantz, and Kosiak we feel we have 4 guys that can pound the ball on the ground. Our offensive line is very experienced. We knew going into the year we were going to lean on those guys. However, like I always say, I might be stupid, but I ain't dumb. If we have a week where the ground game is not working, we have the weapons to put the ball in the air and be successful that way as well. We want to have a very diverse offense that makes scouting for us a challenge. Even our run game has many aspects and sets we can get into and still run the ball."

A time-consuming ground game combined with a disciplined, stingy gang-tackling defense is the other side of the formula.

"From Day One we have prided ourselves on being a very tough physical football team. We do not make tackles with one guy getting the ball. We want multiple people to the ball and we want that other team to feel us every time they try to run the ball," Mellmer says.

"We play a lot of different coverages, and our DB's and LB's all have to be on the same page. This unit has a lot of games together and we understand we all have a job to do. Your job may not be to make a tackle, but you can still make a play. By being in the right place for your teammates, you can make sure they can make that tackle. We are going to get after people. We want to make running the ball very tough on teams and force them to put the ball in the air."

When they've done that, a ball-hawking secondary has made it tough on opposing passers. The team is not gifted with exceptional speed but discipline and attention to detail has limited big plays from opposition speedsters.

Starting Mustangs Defense

DE: Colin Goettle
Nose: Clay Jacob
DE: Trevor Schmidt
LB: Cole Stock
LB: Daniel Schumacher
LB: Luke Piatz
CB: Connor Kosiak
FS: Carson Glaesman
CB: Levi Buchholz
Josh Haase will play some DL, Brody Michaelsohn at LB, and Berkley Frantz at DB.

Starting Mustangs Offense

QB: Berkley Frantz
RB: Connor Kosiak
WR: Levi Buchholz
FB: Cole Stock
TE Luke Piatz
G: Daniel Schumacher
C: Colin Goettle
G: Clay Jacob
TE: Trevor Schmidt
Carter Glaesman and Kaden Bader also will rotate at wide receiver

Mellmer had some comments on key Mustangs players:

- #28 Connor Kosiak, Captain: He was a kid that missed all of last season with injury and I think that was a blessing in disguise. He had to learn the game as a coach, and now you have a guy this year that is a great football player, with the mindset and knowledge of a coach, and you can see the value in that. We feel confident we can put connor in any position on the field and he can be successful.

- #33- Carson Glaesman- Carson is a film nut. He knows so much about the other teams offense every week and as our free safety, he can see plays the other team will run before the play even happens. He is a tough nosed kid that will come up and make any hit he needs to.

- #5 Levi Buchholz, Captain: Levi was our hidden gem last season. When Connor went down, he had to step up into a big role. All he did was put up the best single season receiving season in South Border history. He is lightning in a bottle, a threat to score any time he touches the ball. We use him as a runner a lot more this year and he is doing well with that.

- #24 Cole Stock: Cole is a kid that is a grinder. He has worked his tail off in the weight room. He has a role that sometimes is not the most glamorous as a



The Mustangs bulled their way to a win over their nemesis, Grant County, on Sept 1. Photo: Mary Ann Weber

fullback, but with his tough nosed attitude, that role fits him perfectly. On defense, he plays a lot of roles for us sometimes playing three different positions. He's a valuable piece that we can plug into many different roles.

- #57 Colin Goettle: Colin is our center, which in our offense, is not an easy job. He needs to snap the ball to three different people, and is the center of all our line calls. With what we do on offense, blocking schemes can change from play to play based on the look the defense gives us. He has worked very hard on the defensive side of the ball and has proven to put a force on the outside.

- #22 Trevor Schmidt: Trevor is another kid that is like a coach on the field. He is an incredibly smart football player. He is one of our captains and knows his role as a leader on the field. When things are not going well, Trevor is someone we

can look at to get us back on track. He has turned into a great blocker, and can still go out and make plays in the passing game as well. Defensively is where he has really found his niche. I've seen him go from a kid that didn't want to get hit, to a kid on defense that has his nose in almost every single play.

- #72 Daniel Schumacher, Captain: Daniel is a dude. He is the heart and soul of our team. He has a motor that does not stop. Defensively, he plays middle linebacker and anchors that unit and makes it very hard to run the ball up the middle. On offense, he also anchors that offensive line that works very well together.

- #81 Clay Jacob: Clay had a phenomenal off-season. He was a senior that didn't see a lot of playing time in his early years, and wanted to change that going into this senior year.

MUSTANGS: cont on P7



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MUSTANGS:
continued from page 6

He is now a two-way starter for us on the line. There is no way you would think he is a first year player for us with how well he is playing. He is the epitome of what hard work and dedication can get you in this sport.

• #34 Luke Piatz: Luke had a great off-season. He saw a spot that he could compete for a starting spot and he took it. He had to make a decision whether he wanted to be a running back or a starter, and he chose starter. With that he had to make the switch to offensive line and learn an entire new playbook, and he has taken to that very well.

• #15 Berkley Frantz: Berkley had some of the biggest shoes to fill. Having to step up and follow back-to-back all state QBs is not easy, but Berkley has settled in well to that role. We are expecting big things out of him as he continues to grow at that spot.

• #99 Josh Haase: Josh may be the MVP of this team. You won't see his name in the stat book, but what he gives us every single day on the scout team side of the ball is amazing. He is also a senior playing some JV and he has taken that role and takes it very personally to get the next generation of South Border ready to go for when their time comes. The growth of Josh Haase, the person, needs to be talked about more than that of Josh Haase the football player. I could coach for 50 years and I am not sure I will find another kid grow like big Haase.

The #4 state-ranked Mustangs are in Region 4 with #1 New Salem. Both teams are 4-0, but the region also has three 3-1 teams, Kidder County, Linton, and Grant County.

"We understood this season on paper could be a special one," Mellmer says. "However, we also knew that just because we look good on paper, it was not going to be easy. Our guys have a different hunger this year. The attention to detail every day in practice has been top-notch. We understand that we won't fly under the radar and surprise teams this year. With what we have been able to do that last few years, we know we now have a target on our back. Unfortunately, some of the kids playing on this team did nothing to deserve that target, but that is how it goes. We embrace that target. We know we are going to get everyone's best shot every week, and we have to be on our game every Friday night, or we are going to get beat. There are 10 very good football teams in this region, so we do not have an 'easy' game.

"One thing that people might say is we have a certain amount of 'pressure' on us this year. I would disagree. Pressure is made internally. We have no

pressure. Pressure comes from not being prepared. You don't work as hard as we have worked not wanting to play in big games. When you are a kid and you dream about playing sports, you think about playing in big games, meaningful games. So why would we get nervous when we get EXACTLY what we have always dreamed about? If you put the work in, you get rewarded. Those big games against good teams are our reward for that work," Mellmer said.

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Dohn brings kicking game to team

There have been a lot of changes or new things with South Border football over the past couple years. The resurgent program has produced record-setting passing marks. The “3 yards and a cloud of dust” is still there, but there are more offensive options.

With Mustangs Offensive Coordinator Connor Hill’s spread offense to Head Coach Evan Mellmer’s wedge offense, the dual threat of an air attack and ground-and-pound tradition remain a dual threat, but an additional scoring option has presented itself with the presence of freshman kicker Eli Dohn.

A kicking game? In Class B 9-man football? Almost unheard of. South Border fans witnessed what may have been the first extra point kick in Wishek-Ashley football history when the Mustangs opened the season against the Beach Buccaneers.

Dohn booted five extra points in the first half alone. Wishek Superintendent Shawn Kuntz, seeking confirmation that this was a first for the program, put out the question on Facebook to see if this was the first extra point in South Border history. Hunter Wolf responded that he kicked on in junior high, but not varsity. Perry Turner, former Wishek-Ashley football coach, said that a foreign



exchange student kicked them back in the late Eighties.

Wishek sports historian Bruce Dalke cannot recall the last time a ball was kicked between the uprights. “Whether or not we can officially declare Eli Dohn as the first player to kick an extra point in South Border history, we can definitely say he is the first player to kick five extra points in one half in South Border history,” Kuntz said. In four games, Dohn has been almost flawless with 12 successful kicks, and on Friday, he nailed a 30-yard field goal.

The Mustangs are seeking a playoff berth, and who knows, the outcome of a big game might rest on Dohn's leg. It's an option few teams have.

Eli is the son of Erik and Brenda Dohn.

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10 am – noon: KSIB Live Broadcast

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2 – 4 pm: Oktoberfest Relay – Teams of 5 – All Ages Welcome | Lot north of Stein Haus

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POP – A – TOP

4 – 8 pm: Oktoberfest Beer Tasting & Discounts

LEGION HALL

5 pm: Bingo by Ashley Sizzling Summer Days - \$250 Blackout Bingo

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