

# SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020



**Cougars fall short**  
Charleroi nearly pulled off an upset in a high-scoring Section 2-A contest. B2

## Warriors beat Gladiators, claim 2nd place

Natalie Beinlich scored twice as EF takes a 1-game lead over SA in Section 4-2A standings.

By JOSE NEGRON  
jnegrn@yourmvi.com

Sole possession of second place in Section 4-2A belongs to Elizabeth Forward.

Natalie Beinlich scored a pair of first-half goals and the Warriors held off South Allegheny to gain separation near the top of the section standings with a 3-1 victory Tuesday at Glassport Memorial Stadium.

EF (7-5, 7-2) now sits a game ahead of SA (8-4, 6-3) with another game between the two teams slated for Saturday.

"Having to play them twice in five days is not easy and now, seeing them play for the first time, it's definitely helpful to get the first win out of the two," EF head coach Brandon Gerba said. "It gives a boost to the girls and gives us something to work on going into Saturday."

Beinlich wasted little time getting the Warriors on the scoreboard as she netted her first goal less than 10 minutes into the game.

With 30:49 on the clock, Beinlich found space and fired a shot from around the 15-yard line, beating SA goalkeeper Hannah Niegorski.

Beinlich's second goal came with just over five minutes remaining in the half. She took a shot that deflected off an SA defender and tricked past Niegorski for a 2-0 EF lead.

"The last couple of games, we haven't been scoring a lot and we've been struggling to get anything going," Gerba said. "For her to get two and get them reasonably early in the first half, it settled us down some."

While SA lacked opportunities in the first half, the Gladiators did have a few key chances in the second. They had eight of their 11 total shots in the frame.

The first came just over two minutes in as a loose ball trickled toward Abigail Allan in front of the net. The freshman had an open cage in front of her, but her shot bounced off the cross bar.

Just over a minute later, the Gladiators were able to develop a 5-on-0 opportunity on Cochenour. Olivia Stetz showed patience and ripped a shot that sailed wide left.



Mike Darnay / MVI Sports

Elizabeth Forward's Natalie Beinlich sends a pass up the field as South Allegheny's Paige Allan (13) and Abigail Allan arrive late to defend. The Warriors beat the Gladiators, 3-1.

"We beat ourselves a little bit," South Allegheny head coach Andrew Dyson said. "We figured out their offenses on Cochenour, that really helped us. We figured out what we wanted to do and we changed

formations so we could attack more in the second half."

South Allegheny's offensive unit finally cashed in with 9:17 left in the game as a free kick led to a goal by Olivia Stetz in close to cut the deficit to 2-1.

"Olivia is a great player. She's very fast and very intelligent as to where she needs to be to get the ball and get near the goal," Gerba said. "Dyson has them playing so much better and they're really working

for him."

While the Gladiators looked to build on their momentum, the Warriors quickly pulled it back in their favor.

Just over a minute after Stetz's tally, Giovanna Ferraro netted her first career goal. The freshman let a shot go that was initially saved by Niegorski. The ball sailed into the air and trickled into the net to give EF a two-goal cushion.

"I felt like we stepped up (after Stetz's goal), but we ended up not sticking with it," Dyson said.

Niegorski finished with seven saves in the loss, Cochenour had five for EF.

With the two teams meeting again, the Gladiators have a chance to move into a second place tie. The Warriors, meanwhile, will look to secure the second spot in the section for themselves.

"They can't take it for granted no matter what the score was tonight," Gerba said. "It's going to be another great test for us to hopefully stay in second place and be prepared for the playoffs."

"We have four days to prepare," Dyson said, "so we have to work on the things we did wrong and correct them."

## Rams clinch playoff spot with win at LH

Ringgold picks up road win over the Mustangs to grab a playoff spot for second straight year.

By JONATHAN GUTH  
MJV Sports

Ringgold is headed back to the WPIAL Class 3A playoffs for the second straight year after posting a 5-0 victory over Laurel Highlands on Tuesday.

The Rams (5-4, 5-4) will represent Section 2-3A in the WPIAL Class 3A playoffs as the fourth-place finisher in the section. Coach Olivia Wilkerson's team hopes to have a better result this year in the postseason.

"The girls knew that they wanted this game," Wilkerson said. "The way they warmed up. There was a lot of focus, and they wanted to show up and drop a message. Obviously, our goal was to make it back to the playoffs and do

better this time. We had our goals set at the beginning of the season, and we can check this one off and move on to the next one."

Ringgold recorded a 1-0 win over the Mustangs (3-9, 3-8) on Sept. 23 at Joe Montana Stadium, but the Rams needed just 6:41 to score their first two goals at the Mustang Corral.

Ringgold took a 1-0 lead at 35:16 on a goal by Abby Whaley, and Katelyn Ferrence extended the Rams' advantage to two at 33:19 of the first half.

Ringgold pushed its lead to 3-0 at 9:35 of the first when Faith Bobnar won a one-on-one battle, turned and buried the shot. The Rams scored on their first three shots on goal.

"Before the start of the game I asked the starting 11 to do me a favor, and it was to put this game away, and they did, and I am very proud of them,"

Wilkerson said. "All season long I keep challenging this team, and asking for more and more, and they keep giving, so I will continue to keep pushing them to whatever their limit may be, as long as it is in the positive direction."

Laurel Highlands' first shots on goal came with 9:01 remaining in the first. LH added two more shots on target before intermission.

Ryan Wilson had a corner-kick opportunity for Ringgold with 30 minutes remaining in the second, but Mustang keeper Jayden Ruvalcaba made the save. Ferrence sent a shot wide at 27:25 of the second.

Eleanor Bucchianeri came off the bench and scored on a breakaway with 16:43 remaining for a 4-0 Rams advantage. Bobnar capped the scoring with her second tally at 4:26 of the second for a 5-0

RAMS • B2



File photo

Ringgold's Abby Whaley scored the opening goal for the Rams in a 5-0 win at Laurel Highlands Tuesday.



Ben Bamford / MVI Sports

Bentworth's Carly Palla (12) and Chartiers-Houston's Kayla Brose battle for the ball in the midfield during Tuesday's game.

## Bearcats drop in standings after 1-0 loss

Bentworth forward Reagan Schreiber missed 2/3 of the game after collision on a corner kick.

By JEREMY SELLEW  
jsellew@yourmvi.com

The Bentworth girls soccer team saw its three-game winning streak come to an end Tuesday on its home turf as Chartiers-Houston claimed a 1-0 win to leapfrog over the Bearcats in the Section 2-A standings.

"That's a tough one," Bentworth coach Tyler Hamstra said of the loss. "I'm not sure how much it's going to matter when it comes to playoff seeding. I do think our section should get some decent seeds, though. It's pretty tough."

All it took for the Bucs (7-5, 1, 7-3-1) was one goal and it came at the 17:02 mark of the first half when Chartiers-Hous-

ton's Ashley Horvath sent a beautiful through-ball into the box and Alyssa Wright buried a shot into the bottom-left corner of the net.

"It was good play. I don't think it was anything we did wrong or bad," Hamstra said. "It was a good ball and it got through. That's really one of the only few plays of theirs that really scared me at all."

The Bucs held a decided advantage in shots, sending 12 at the goal in the first 40 minutes. But the Bearcats (9-4, 7-4) had the better chances, with four corner-kick attempts in the opening 20 minutes as well as a free kick from 28 yards out.

"After about the first six minutes, I definitely think we had the better opportunities," Hamstra said. "We just couldn't cash in on any of them. Obviously, one makes the difference."

On the final corner-kick with just under 10 minutes remain-

ing in the first half, the Bearcats lost one of their biggest offensive weapons as sophomore forward Reagan Schreiber collided with C-H's Alyssa Wright, sending blood pouring down her head. She didn't return to the game due to concussion protocol.

"I don't think she has a concussion, but you have to be concerned for the player's safety in that situation," Hamstra said of the incident. "Then after that, once you take out the second-leading scorer in the section, we were down."

With Reagan Schreiber on the bench, the Bearcats weren't able to mount much of a push into the Bucs' zone and keeping their shape overall and Mallory Schreiber was relied on to provide the spark for the Bearcats' offense but the team wasn't able to mount a comeback.

"I think Chartiers-Houston was just better in the midfield,"

Hamstra said. "I'm fine with that if we can win the two other thirds of the field, but we didn't do that tonight. Again, when Reagan's not out there, we couldn't do much offensively." Hamstra tried to make a few moves, putting Emily Kinsner up front and pulling Maleena Rokicki from her spot on the back line, but the Bearcats couldn't maintain possession in the offensive zone.

"I thought Emily did good. We just really struggled in the midfield. We tried to get Maleena up there and had Emily up, too, but at that point we really had to try to make a push," Hamstra said. "This is the second game now we've lost someone against them. In the first game, it was Tessa (Charpentier) and this game it was Reagan."

The Bearcats close Section 2-A play 7 p.m. Thursday at Beth-Center.

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Assistant Sports Editor

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## HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

# Jaguars up streak to 7, Charleroi girls fall to Seton LaSalle

Cougars get hat tricks from Boots DeUnger and Bella Carroto, but Rebels win high-scoring affair.

By the Mon Valley Independent

Thomas Jefferson extended its winning streak to seven games with a dramatic 3-2 victory over Oakland Catholic in Section 3-3A play Tuesday.

Emma Martinis scored the game-winning goal in the second half to give TJ (10-2, 8-2) a season sweep of the Eagles (7-3, 6-3). The Jaguars won the last meeting, 2-1, on Sept. 23.

Natalie Lamenza and Emily Kane added goals for TJ, while Hailey Krawczyk and Ava Lutz had assists. TJ travels to South Park for a non-section game Thursday.

## Seton LaSalle 9, Charleroi 7

Boots DeUnger and Bella Carroto each netted a hat trick in a two-goal

loss to Seton LaSalle in Section 2-A play.

Carroto added a pair of assists, while DeUnger also had a helper for the Cougars (3-10, 3-8).

"Boots and Bella just play so well of each other," Charleroi head coach Traci Fleming said. "They connect so well together."

Taylor Ramsdell added an assist in the defeat. Addison Conrad had nine saves.

Charleroi trailed 4-2 at halftime before matching the Rebels (8-3, 8-3) with five goals in the final 40 minutes.

"We played well, but we had too many plays that we backed off," Fleming said. "We play better when we add the pressure, but the lack of experience caused a few break-

downs that led to Seton goals. I'm proud we didn't quit on each other and pushed till the end."

Charleroi returns to action at home against Monessen Thursday.

## Brownsville 4, Yough 1

The Cougars saw their six-game



## Charleroi's Boots DeUnger had three goals and an assist in a 9-7 loss at Seton LaSalle Tuesday.

Jenn Codeluppi / MVI Sports

winning streak came to an end with a Section 3-2A loss to Brownsville. Yough (9-4, 6-4) trailed 1-0 at halftime before getting its lone goal from Natalie Vilček in the second half. Brownsville (7-4, 7-3) found the back of the net for a trio of goals in the final 40 minutes.

Yough resumes play at Serra Catholic Thursday.

## Beth-Center 4, Monessen 2

The Greyhounds (0-11, 0-11) suffered a Section 2-A loss to the Bulldogs (3-9, 2-8).

Sidney Campbell found the back of the net for Monessen, while Kinsey Wilson added a goal on a penalty kick.

The goals helped end a five-game scoreless streak for the Greyhounds, who travel to Charleroi Thursday.

## Volleyball California 3, Geibel Catholic 0

The Trojans cruised to a sweep of Geibel Catholic.

Cal won in three sets by scores of 25-10, 25-10 and 25-7.

McKenna Hewitt led the way with nine aces and three kills, while Taylor Pascoe added four aces and five kills. Camari Walden and Elaina Nicholson each had three kills and three aces.

## Albert Gallatin 3, Belle Vernon Area 0

Gianna Anderson had 10 digs and Sarah Bury added five points in Belle Vernon Area's loss to Albert Gallatin.

The Leopards were downed by scores of 25-16, 25-13 and 25-13.

# Roethlisberger off to best start of 17-year career

By JOE RUTTER  
Trib Total Media

The ability to make adjustments on third down is one factor in Ben Roethlisberger getting off to the best start of his 17-year career with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Roethlisberger completed all 13 of his third-down attempts, throwing for 158 yards and two scores in such situations, in the Steelers' 38-29 victory against the Philadelphia Eagles that improved their record to 4-0.

Roethlisberger has been critical of his play in the first quadrant of the season and said he still lacks touch on his deep passes. But so far nobody else on the Steelers has any complaints with Roethlisberger's play. He has 10 touchdown passes against one interception and a 110.4 passer rating that ranks fifth in the NFL.

Coach Mike Tomlin was asked Tuesday when Roethlisberger gained the mental capacity to pick apart NFL defenses, particularly on those crucial possession downs.

"Probably sometime in the last 14 years," Tomlin said, flashing a smile. "He and I have been at it a long time. It's not something where you flip a light switch on, and you can probably point to a date or significant circumstance where it transpired like, 'Eureka.'"

"It's just a continual growth and development over the course of a career which, through an unbelievable blessing, has been an extremely long one. It's reasonable to expect him to have a different level of awareness and be able to call upon that in circumstances."

A year after missing 14 games because of three torn tendons in his right elbow, Roethlisberger has thrown 10 touchdown passes against just one interception. He is on pace

to surpass his career-high 34 touchdown passes thrown in 2018 — the year prior to his injury. He also has a triple-digit passer rating for only the fourth time in his career.

Tomlin didn't discount the 2019 layoff as helping Roethlisberger's awareness.

"I think sometimes when you have the perspective that he has now, he watched the bulk of football in 2019," Tomlin said. "Often times, when you get removed from your role and you watch it from a different perspective, it might change your perspective on performance and evaluation thereof. I like the fact that he is being critical of his performance."

"I also like where he is from a mental standpoint. We're just going to continue to work and knock the rust off and gain the rhythm that we are accustomed to seeing from him and, hopefully, we will continue to win while we do that."



Chaz Palla / Trib Total Media  
**Ben Roethlisberger throws a pass in Sunday's win.**

## RAMS FROM B1

lead.

Ringgold keeper Emily Delano made six saves for the shutout. Ruvalcaba stopped five shots.

"I think everything starts from the back, then you

build and go forward," Wilkerson said. "That is definitely the philosophy that we use. I get worried when our keeper is sitting back there without facing any shots, but

when she needed to be on her toes, she was. She is a very young keeper, but has come a long way, but I think that is because of the defense. They work really well together."

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**Tennessee Titans quarterback Ryan Tannehill celebrates after scoring a second-quarter touchdown in his team's win over visiting Buffalo Tuesday.**

AP

# Titans flatten Bills, 42-16

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The wait between games caused by the NFL's first COVID-19 outbreak left the Tennessee Titans depleted.

They're still undefeated. Ryan Tannehill threw for three touchdowns and ran for another as the Titans routed the Buffalo Bills 42-16 on a rare Tuesday night in a showdown between two of the NFL's five remaining undefeated teams pushed back two days after a couple more positive tests for Tennessee last week.

The Titans (4-0) continued their best start since winning their first 10 games in 2008 despite getting on the field the past three days since their last game Sept. 27 in Minnesota. Coach Mike Vrabel said everyone in the organization would get a game ball after this performance.

"I learned a long time ago is the definition of a pro is they make the hard look easy, so whatever situation we're presented with we got to all come together and make the best decisions for the team each and every time," Vrabel said.

Malcolm Butler intercepted two passes, the second he returned 68 yards, and both set up short touchdowns for Tennessee. Kareem Orr's recovery of a fumbled kickoff set up Tannehill's fourth TD for 21 points off Buffalo's three turnovers. Kalif Raymond's 40-yard punt return also set up a 1-yard TD run by Derrick Henry.

"We expected to win," Butler said.

The Bills (4-1) had not won five straight games since 2004, and they came in looking for the franchise's best start since 1991 when Buffalo reached the Super Bowl. They also played without starting cornerback with Tre'Davious White inactive because of a back injury and Levi Wallace on injured reserve.

Starting wide receiver John Brown also was out for Buffalo, which had scored at least 30 points in the past three games.

Buffalo center Mitch Morse called this a gut-punch.

"It's tough, they came out and beat us like a drum," Morse said. "Kudos to them, and we have a lot to learn from."

Josh Allen came in second in the NFL in yards passing. He threw for 263 yards and two TDs. Stephon Diggs had 10 catches for 106 yards.

The Titans needed the turnovers with seven key players on the reserve/COVID-19 list led by wide receivers Corey Davis and Adam Humphries and defensive lineman Jeffery Simmons. They also were missing a couple assistant coaches and two players activated off that reserve list earlier Tuesday were scratched.

The Titans got a big boost on the Bills' opening drive. Allen's pass went off Andre

Roberts' hands right to Butler, and he returned the interception 29 yards to the Bills 16. Two plays later, Tannehill hit A.J. Brown, who missed the last two games with an injured knee, for a 16-yard TD for the quick lead.

The Bills tied it up with a methodical 15-play drive converting four third downs, taking advantage of a Titans' defense playing a pair of rookies in end Larrell Murchison and cornerback Chris Jackson. Allen tossed the ball to Isaiah McKenzie for a 3-yard TD tying it up, the ninth different Bill to catch a TD pass from Allen.

The Titans scored 21 of the next 24 points.

Tennessee led 21-10 at halftime after Tannehill ran in from 10 yards seconds before the half. Butler refused to go down after picking off an Allen throw to Gabriel Davis late in the third, and Tannehill found Jonnu Smith for a 4-yard TD and a 28-10 lead three plays later.

## Rare Tuesday

This was the 21st time the NFL has played on a Tuesday and the league's first on a Tuesday night since Dec. 28, 2010, when the Eagles hosted Minnesota on a Tuesday because of a snowstorm. That game was the first since the Boston Yanks played at the New York Giants on Oct. 1, 1946.

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