



Rookie looks ahead
Steelers receiver Chase Claypool is looking forward to his next challenge. B3

Ringgold gets revenge on Hillers

Elizbeth Wilson and Eleanor Bucchianeri each scored a goal as the Rams knocked off Trinity.

By DEAN DELLAMALVA JR.
MVI Sports

Ringgold avenged a season-opening loss to Trinity by downing the Hillers, 2-1, in Section 2-3A play Thursday at Joe Montana Stadium.

Freshman Elizbeth Wilson scored what turned out to be the game-winning goal with just six seconds left in the first half. She also assisted on the first goal of the night for the Rams (6-4, 6-4) and was a stalwart on defense in the second half.

“(Wilson) was great and she could not see,” Ringgold coach Olivia Wilkerson said. “When it started raining, her glasses fogged up and she took them off.

“I don’t know if I have words to describe how big her goal was, we needed that. In my team’s words, we needed to seal the deal and be able to move forward. That’s what that goal was for us. It gave us the confidence we needed.”

Ringgold kept the pressure on most of the first half.

The Rams tallied 12 shot attempts in the first 40 minutes and had several opportunities on corner kicks.



Bob Smith / MVI Sports

Ringgold’s Eleanor Bucchianeri (16) fires a shot that ended up in the back of the goal as Trinity’s Katherine McDermott defends during play at Joe Montana Stadium Thursday.

The game winner came on one of those Rams corner kicks off the foot of Ryan Wilson. The ball went out of bounds with less than 30 seconds to go and Wilson set the

ball and booted it into play.

A couple Trinity defenders attempted to clear the ball but it was stopped by Elizbeth Wilson, who hurriedly shot the ball high to the upper left cor-

ner of the goal.

Despite the momentum of the late first-half goal, the Hillers (8-3, 7-3) came out with some great scoring chances. They kept the ball in the

Rams’ defensive zone the first 20 minutes of the second half.

Then in the 55th minute, Ringgold striker Katelyn Ferrence left the game with an injury. A minute later, Trinity

forward Alyssa Clutter beat a Rams defender to a long pass in and beat keeper Emily Doleno low right to cut the deficit to one.

Ringgold withstood the pressure the rest of the way mainly due to the play of Elizbeth Wilson, Abby Whaley and Morgan Walsh. The trio often stopped the ball before Trinity even had a chance to develop an offensive rush.

“Trinity was our first game of the year and we have grown a ton,” Wilkerson said. “We have fixed what we needed to fix. Several of the girls have stepped up to the plate.”

The Rams’ first goal came just before the skies opened up and the rain began to fall.

Elizbeth Wilson sent a long lead pass and junior Eleanor Bucchianeri beat a defender to the ball. Her first attempt was turned aside by Hillers keeper Ruby Morgan. However, the rebound came right back to Bucchianeri and she buried it.

Ringgold’s regular season comes to an end Tuesday as the Rams host the section’s top team, Connellsville. A win over the Falcons could put the Rams in a tie for third in the section with Trinity if the Hillers were to lose to Connellsville on Monday.

“We need to take every game from here on out as if it were a playoff game,” Wilkerson said.

HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

BVA boys rebound; Hillers shut out Rams to clinch share

By the Mon Valley Independent

Daniel Sassak netted four goals to lead Belle Vernon Area to a 7-0 victory over Beth-Center in nonsection play Thursday.

Sassak scored a hat trick by halftime and added his fourth goal in the final 40 minutes. Tyler Kovatch, Nathaniel Kikel and Hunter Meade also scored for the Leopards (13-2).

TJ Watson and Will Mikula combined for the shutout. BVA hosts Ligonier Valley Monday.

Trinity 4, Ringgold 0

The Rams (2-9, 2-9) suffered their fourth straight loss at the hands of the Hillers (10-2, 10-2) in Section 3-3A play.

With the win, Trinity secured a share of the section title with Belle Vernon Area.

Ringgold resumes play at Greensburg Salem Monday.

Girls

T. Jefferson 1, South Park 1 (2 OT)

The Jaguars played to a tie with the Eagles in nonsection play.

TJ (10-2-1) held a 1-0 lead late in the second half before South Park (11-0-1) scored with seven seconds left to send the game into overtime.

Natalie Lamenza scored TJ’s lone goal in the second half off an assist from Emma Martinis.

TJ travels to Baldwin Saturday for its regular season finale.

Belle Vernon 10, G-burg Salem 1

Izzy Laurita and Morgan Einodshofer each netted hat tricks and added a pair of assists in the Leopards’ Section 2-3A victory over Greensburg Salem.

Farrah Reader scored two goals, while Jillian Butchki and Sami Buza each found the back of the net for BVA (12-2, 9-2). Butchki chipped in with two helpers and Kataira Rhodes added a pair of assists. Adeline Guess and Victoria Rodriguez also had assists.

Grace Henderson had five saves in net in the first half, while Rodriguez had three in the second half.

BVA resumes play at home against Yough Saturday.

Volleyball

Laurel Highlands 3, Eliz. Forward 0

The Warriors were swept at the hands of the Mustangs in



Charleroi’s Camryn Musser keeps her eye on the ball as she battles Monessen’s Sydney Phillips for the control of the ball in the midfield during Thursday’s Section 2-A game against Monessen at Myron Pottios Stadium.

Ben Bamford / MVI Sports

Cougars dominate Hounds

Charleroi won the rivalry game for the 23rd straight time Thursday.

By JEREMY SELLEW
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While the Charleroi and Monessen rivalry will always continue, there may not be a more lopsided part of it than in girls soccer.

The Cougars dominated the Greyhounds Thursday, getting four goals from Boots DeUnger and a hat trick from Bella Carroto in a 9-0 win at Myron Pottios Stadium.

The win was the 23rd straight in the series. The last game the Cougars didn’t win was a tie in 2008. The last Greyhounds win came in 2006.

Despite Monessen entering the game winless at

0-12, there were some things Charleroi head coach Traci Fleming needed to see from her team.

“We talked a lot about controlling the tempo of the game and getting some better touches and connecting on some more passes,” Fleming said.

DeUnger started the scoring with two goals just 1:44 apart. Camryn Musser sent a shot towards the net from almost 35 yards out and it got past the Greyhounds back line. DeUnger chased it down and beat goalkeeper Bella Rizzuto.

Her second came off a great pass from Leena Henderson.

Fellow freshman Bella Carroto got into the act just under 10 minutes in, scoring off another assist from Henderson. Four minutes later, she had her most impressive

goal, dribbling into the box and around four Greyhounds defenders and beating Rizzuto with 25:47 left in the first half.

“I thought we played a sloppy first half, even though we were had a pretty significant lead,” Fleming said.

The Cougars (4-10, 4-8) took a 5-0 lead into halftime as DeUnger added her third of the game. Carroto assisted on the goal.

“I want the younger girls to get more involved instead of relying on Bella and Boots to make the plays,” Fleming said.

Henderson did just that four minutes into the second half as Carroto sent a great cross into the box and Henderson knocked it behind Rizzuto to make it 6-0.

DeUnger added her fourth with 28 minutes to go and

Taylor Ramsdell dribbled from the back line and sent a screamer into the right side of the net from 35 yards out.

Carroto finished off her hat trick with a goal in the 66th minute to wrap up the scoring.

“It was a nice win after the Seton LaSalle game,” Fleming said. “It was tough putting up seven goals and losing that night.

“I thought we really worked well as a team tonight.”

The Cougars fired 29 shots toward the net, with 16 finding their way on goal.

Addison Conrad made three saves for the shutout. Rizzuto had seven saves for the Greyhounds, whose season came to an end.

The Cougars are back in action Monday at home against highly touted Greensburg Central Catholic at 7 p.m.

KNOW YOUR TEAM



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