

Cougars end regular season with second win

By Mike Hoffman
Contributing sportswriter

What a ball game! And the best part—Carroll won.

There was some sweet dancing going on in the stands. The cheer block was on their feet all night long. And the Cougar defense was all over the Vikings of North White—forcing 8 turnovers.

For the Carroll Cougars, it was a great victory heading into sectional play. This was also a big win for the seniors. It was there last regular season game at home.

The Cougar defense that forced 8 Vikings turnovers (5 fumbles and 3 interceptions) and the right arm of Riley Eller was just the right recipe for Carroll's success. There was a total of 13 turnovers, but only 18 first downs by both teams. For a while it didn't look like there would be a winner, as both teams had trouble holding onto the ball. However, the Cougars were able to capitalize on a handful of Viking mistakes to claim their second victory of the year. The 22-0 thrashing of the Vikings was on senior night.

"It's our second win and we're glad to get it," stated Cougar coach Rick George. "We really needed a win."

The Cougars had 11 first downs to just 7 for the Vikings. Their defense held their opponents to just 1 first down and 44 all-purpose yards in the first half.

In the second half the Vikings moved the football, but a strong Cougar defense kept them out of the end zone.

The Cougars drew first blood in the second quarter at the 2:34 mark, when Eller found senior Cory Mahan for a 10-yard touchdown pass in the back of the end zone. The point after attempt was no good, as the Cougars went to the locker room at halftime leading 6-0.

The Vikings took the ball to start the second half, but their drive was stalled when they fumbled and the Cougars recovered. Senior Nick

Flora carried the ball for the next two plays for 20-yards as the Cougars had the ball on the Vikings' 23-yard line. Eller threw a bullet in the end zone, however, a taller defender intercepted his pass. The Vikings had the football on their own 20-yard line. On their second play the Vikings turned it over again when Ty Sullivan picked off a pass. The Cougars capitalized again on the Vikings' turnover with a 13-yard run by sophomore Ben Bennington and a 7-yard run by Flora. The Cougars had the ball on the Vikings' 3-yard line. On the next play, Eller threw for a 3-yard TD pass to Bennington in the end zone. On the extra point attempt Deric Finley kept the ball on a fake kick and ran it in for the two-point conversion. The Cougars were up 14-0 at 1:46 (3).

The Vikings looked like they were about to get in the game, when their quarterback Dustin Hileman hit Tyson Jones for a 14-yard gain and Justin McAnelly for

a 28-yard pass to the Cougar 27-yard line. The Vikings tried a run for a no gain and two incomplete passes. Hileman threw a pass intended for Jones on 4 and 10. The pass was picked off by Finley at the 5-yard line. Finley broke tackles and sprinted for 95-yards for the touchdown at 8:20 (4). Eller threw to Finley in the end zone for the two-point conversion. The Cougar JV team finished out the final minutes of the game, doing a

really good job.

The Cougar defense held the Vikings to just 46yards rushing and 131 yards passing for a total 177 yards.

"Coach Dan Butcher implemented a great defensive game plan," said Coach George, "and the kids did a great job executing it."

Eller led the ground attack with 58 yards on 19 carries and was 9 of 24 for 165 yards, plus 2 interceptions. He also threw for 2 touch-

downs. Finley caught 3 passes for 30 yards, a 2-point conversion pass, and ran an interception back 95 yards. Flora had some good runs carrying the football.

The defense played tough, as there was a lot of gang tackling for the Cougars. Coach Butcher encouraged his defense and at the same time Coach Tommy Hall kept the Cougars on the sidelines fired up.

Again, as in the Cougars' first

victory, Coach Dave Mann had "that gut feeling" and his hunch paid off. Now the Cougars can go into the sectional on a winning note. In first round sectional 36 competition, the Cougars will take on the Wes-Del Warriors at 7 p.m. Friday at Carroll. The Warriors have a 3-6 record, losing their last game of regular play 36-10 to Lapel. Head Coach Cody Thompson is 5-14 in his second year at Wes-Del.

Bordner and Wallace qualify CHS cross country girls are semi-state bound



Kyle Wallace



Ashley Bordner

For the first time in Carroll's history, a girls' team has qualified to compete at semi-state level. Strong performances by all seven cross country girls allowed them to avenge end-of-season losses to West Central and Lafayette Central Catholic and propel them to the semi-state.

Led by Ashley Bordner's 7th place finish with a time of 15:45, the girls from Carroll ran hard through the hills at the Tippecanoe Amphitheater (Lafayette Harrison's home

course).

"The girls are running with confidence and aggression," stated an elated Coach Mike Miller. "I'm so very excited and proud of this team."

Following Bordner into the chute were: Courtney Rinehart 24th, Hope Hayden 31st, Lauren Wilkinson 44th, Abby Reinke 48th, Emily Schneckloth 58th and Amber Hughes 60th. The girls' record is now 141-23

CHS boys ran their best but finished seventh as a team. "We

knew going into this race that the boys were going to finish anywhere from fifth to seventh as a team. The much bigger Lafayette schools proved to be too strong for us," Coach Miller said.

Led by Kyle Wallace, who qualified to go to semi-state with a ninth place finish, five of the seven boys ran their best times of the season on a course that is very difficult to accomplish that feat. Wallace's time of 16:36 moved him into the Top Ten per-

formances list which was a goal of his from the beginning of the season.

Tyler Macy was the next Cougar to cross the line in 26th place followed by Sam Scharer 38th, Weston Rinehart 41st, Sean Smith 52nd, Brad Benson 54th and Andrew Miller 65th. The boys' final team record was 134-32.

Next stop for the girls team and Wallace is the New Prairie Semi-State this Saturday at 11 a.m.

Oracles lose season finale

By Todd Swank
Contributing sportswriter

The Tipton Blue Devil football team defeated the Oracles Friday night 19-7. Delphi should have and could have won this game, but Tipton took advantage of some Oracle mistakes during a two minute span early in the fourth period to put this game into the win column.

The 5-4 Blue Devils forced the Oracles to punt the first two times they had the ball. On Tipton's second possession, the Devils needed only four downs to take a 6-0 lead with just under four minutes to play. Michael Myers blocked the extra point kick.

The return man for Delphi let the ball slip through his hands on the kickoff, but was quick enough to fall on the ball to keep possession for the Oracles at the ten-yard line.

On third and 16 from the four, Joe Little hit Matt Lewis on a screen pass out to the 22 and a first down. Two plays later Little was in the hands of a Tipton defender when he tried to get rid of the ball and was intercepted. Fortunately, for Delphi, the defense stepped up and kept the Blue Devils from scoring when, on fourth down, a pass fell to the ground in the end zone.

When Delphi started its next drive Shane Evans was the quarterback. Six running plays moved the ball out to the 35 before the Oracles punted. Once again the Delphi defense held the Blue Devils. Delphi took over at their 16-yard line with 5:53 to go in the half. The Oracles came away with a 7-6 lead after an 18-play drive that left 12.7 seconds on the scoreboard. Evans either ran or passed, 6 of 10 for 70 yards and a TD, the ball on 14 plays during the drive. Delphi had simply played harder than the Blue Devils to go into the locker room

with momentum for the second half.

Tipton started the third by taking the ball from their own 30 to inside the Oracle 20-yard line. On third and five at the ten a Tipton player had a touchdown pass in his hands but dropped it and on fourth down another catchable pass was missed by Tipton. Neither team could get anything going the remainder of the quarter and the period ended the same way the half ended with the Oracles holding a 7-6 lead.

Delphi turned the ball over on downs early in the final period at the Tipton 38. It was at this point that the game was won for Tipton. It took 26 seconds and two plays, a 30-yard pass and a 32-yard run, for the Blue Devils to go ahead 12-7. A 2-point conversion failed.

On their fourth play after fielding the kickoff the Oracles fumbled a high snap from center. Tipton recovered on the Oracle 5-yard line. One play later and the lead stretched to 19-7. With Delphi needing a score, they moved the ball to the Tipton 17 before stalling and turning the ball over on downs with 3:11 left in the game. Delphi had one more possession but the game had already been decided.

The Oracles were led in rushing by Lewis with 41 yards and Josh Penn with 20.

Little went 5-10 for 68 yards and an interception while Shane Evans was 12 of 22 for 129 yards, a touchdown and an interception. Cory Smith was the leading receiver with 7 catches for 74 yards, Michael Myers caught 5 for 66 yards and a touchdown. Lewis caught 5 for 40 yards and Kory Banes 1 for 17 yards.

The Oracles record is now 2-7 going into the first round of the tournament. Delphi opens the tourney on the road at Northwestern for a 7 p.m. start. If you're planning to attend the game, the school is located 3431 N 400 W. Kokomo.

Hunter Education Course to be offered

Comet staff report

Indiana Conservation Officers Bill Hinshaw and Thomas Skinner will be offering a Hunter Education Course on Nov. 4.

According to the officers, the course will meet or exceed the requirements for an education class required of those hunting in Indiana or desiring to hunt in another state.

Currently, anyone born after Dec. 31, 1986, who wants to purchase a license to hunt in Indiana, must show proof of successfully completing an approved Hunter

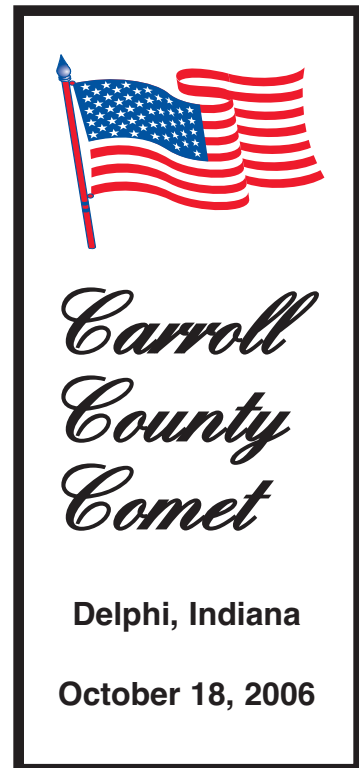
Education Course.

The course consists of hands-on training and classroom lectures in the following areas: handling of firearms and bows, hunter responsibility, wildlife identification and conservation, first aid, and hunter ethics.

The course will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Freedom Center in Delphi, located a half block south of the stoplight.

It is nationally recognized and meets the criteria for all states that require a course prior to hunting.

For more information, call 765-447-9614.



Qualify for Semi-State

Carroll Girls' Cross Country team has qualified to compete in the New Prairie Semi-State on Saturday. Team members are, from left: Megan Ayres, Amber Hughes, Hope Hayden, Emily Schneckloth, Courtney Rinehart, Ashley Bordner, Lauren Wilkinson, Kaitlin Kennedy, and Abby Reinke. Photos provided

DCHS teams qualify for regionals



Delphi Boys Cross Country team placed fifth at the Rensselaer Sectional and qualified for the regional. Team members are (l-r): Front - Mike Atwood, 2nd row - Gabe Kane, Kris Bender, Nicholi Kauffman, Back - Coach Jamie Houser, Kyle Bender, Tom Walton and Zach Schnepf. Photo provided



Delphi Girls Cross Country placed fourth at the Rensselaer Sectional and qualified for regional. Team members pictured are, from left: Front - Kari Lake, Ashlee Buchanon. Back - Coach Jamie Houser, Katie Randol, Arielle Brosman, Hannah Evans, Keltie Lake and Nadia Cediell. Photo provided