

SPORTS

Bulldogs power past Cougars in state opener

OTC to face Nevis in 9-man state semi-finals

By Chad Koenen
Publisher

Otter Tail Central scored a touchdown in every quarter on Thursday night on their way to a 28-8 win over Cedar Mountain in the opening round of the state football tournament. The Bulldogs also dominated the time of possession by running nearly twice as many plays as the Cougars who ran just 44 plays for 178 total yards, compared to 74 plays and 349 yards for the Bulldogs.

OTC wasted little time in getting on the scoreboard on Thursday night in Buffalo as Mason Dalluge made a highlight reel one-handed catch in the back of the end zone over a Cedar Mountain defender to put the Bulldogs up by a score of 6-0. Lane Dilly converted the two-point conversion to give the Bulldogs an early 8-0 lead.

The drive was kept alive by a fake punt deep in Cedar Mountain territory that was converted for a first down.

The Bulldogs once again marched the ball right down the field in the second quarter when Dilly found the end zone on a 2-yard run to make the score 16-0 when Dalluge converted the two-point conversion.

Unfortunately, late in the second quarter the Bulldogs went for it on a fourth down and about a half yard and were stood up at the line with just over 3 minutes remaining in the half. That's when the Cougars struck for what would be their only touchdown of the game when they completed a 17-yard pass for a touchdown. The Cougars converted the two-point conversion to make the score 16-8 at the half.

Not wanting to leave any doubt in the outcome of the game, OTC marched the ball right down the field and scored a touchdown in the third quarter through an-



Photo by Chad Koenen

OTC DEFEATS CEDAR MOUNTAIN continued on 10

Lane Dilly looks for a hole during Thursday's opening round game of the state tournament against Cedar Mountain. Dilly rushed for over 175 yards and 3 touchdowns in the Bulldogs' 28-8 win over the Cougars. Below right: Carter Kenyon lays on a big block to open a hole for Chris Fronning on Thursday night. Below left: Teigan Bjerke breaks up a pass in the middle of the field on Thursday night in OTC's game against Cedar Mountain.



Henning trap team wraps up fall season

The Henning Hornet trap team wrapped up its five week fall season placing fifth in a stacked conference. Conference 11 had seven teams: Alexandria (1), Irondale (2), Lakeville South (3), Marshall (4), Littlefork-Big Falls (6) and Lake City (7).

"With our continued growth we end up competing against some bigger schools. The conferences are adjusted each season and are based on the num-

ber of shooters that are on your team. This fall we had 24 shooters. Many teams do not even participate in the fall league and many other schools that normally have bigger teams have less participants for the fall, as the spring season is the regular season for Trap," said coach Dakota Aeling.

The Hornets will compete against another set of schools this spring as the conferences will change

again depending on the number of shooters they have.

"It can be tough competing against bigger schools. Many of their shooters only participate in this one activity. In Henning, almost every student-athlete we have is involved in at least one other activity, many of them

HENNING FALL TRAP SEASON continued on 10

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Cade Strege, Haley Hanson and Emily Hanson line up for a shot during a fall trap team shoot in Henning.

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SPORTS

OTC DEFEATS CEDAR MOUNTAIN

other dominating drive on the ground to give the team a 22-8 lead when Dilly scored on a 1-yard run.

The OTC defense did its part throughout the second half by stopping Cedar Mountain in its tracks, while also giving the Bulldogs good field position. The Bulldogs scored one final time in the fourth quarter when Dilly made it a trifecta of touchdowns when he scored on a 4-yard run to leave the score at 28-8 in favor of the Bulldogs.

Dilly once again had another huge game for the Bulldogs after rushing 40 times for over 200-yards in the section championship game. This time around

he rushed 37 times for 173 yards and 3 touchdowns. He almost single handedly outgained the entire Cedar Mountain team which had just 178 yards of total offense.

Chris Fronning rushed 13 times for 64 yards, Dalluge rushed 5 times for 13 yards and Jack Mekalson rushed 1 time for 2 yards.

Mekalson had an efficient day through the air as he went 10-14 for 97 yards and a touchdown, while Dalluge caught 5 passes for 56 yards and a touchdown. Dilly caught 3 passes for 22 yards and Teigan Bjerke caught 2 passes for 13 yards.

As a team the Bulldogs finished with 252 yards on

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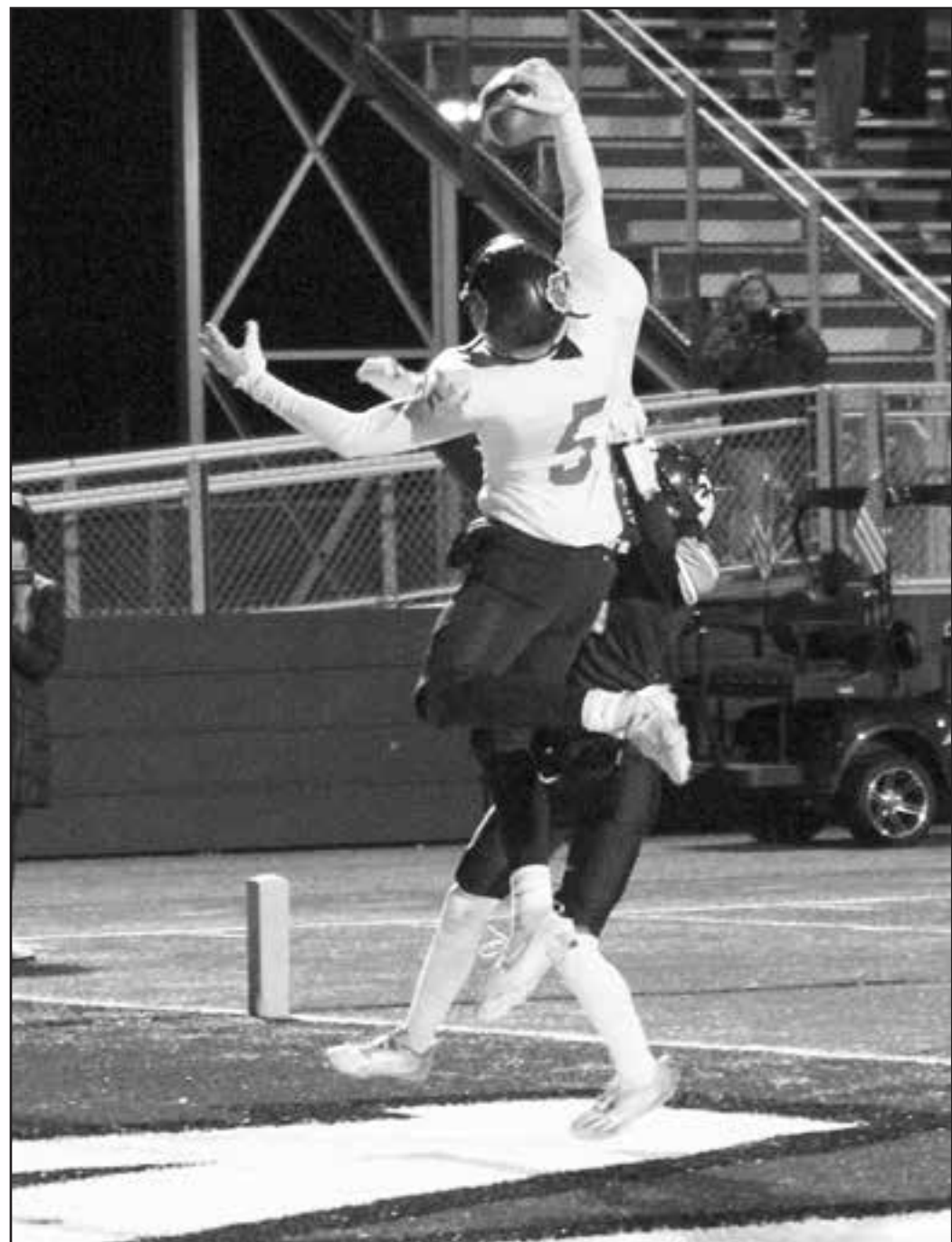
the ground and 97 yards through the air. They went 4-12 on third downs, but were able to convert 5-6 attempts on fourth down to keep their drives alive throughout the night.

With the win the fourth ranked Bulldogs improved to 11-0 and will face third ranked Nevis in the 9-man state semi-finals on Thursday at 1 p.m. at US Bank Stadium.

Nevis comes into the game with an identical 11-0 record after defeating top ranked and defending 9-man state champion Mountain Iron-Buhl in the opening round of the state tournament by a score of 12-8. The Tigers are currently ranked third in the QRF and average 44.5 points per game on offense, while giving up 8.8 points per game on defense.

The Bulldogs are the top ranked team in the QRF and average 39.6 points per game on offense, while giving up 13.4 points per game on defense.

The winner of Thursday's game will take on either fifth ranked Kingsland (12-0 overall) or second ranked Fertile-Beltrami (12-0 overall) in the 9-man state championship game on Saturday, Nov. 25 at 10 a.m. at US Bank Stadium.



Photos by Chad Koenen

Above: In a catch that made the rounds on the internet, Mason Dalluge left over a Cedar Mountain defender and made a one-handed touchdown catch to put OTC on the scoreboard on Thursday night. Below: Max Mekalson brings down a Cedar Mountain ball carrier while Lane Dilly and Chris Fronning look on.



Adrian Jones blocks a Cedar Mountain player on a kick return on Thursday night.



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HENNING FALL TRAP SEASON

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are involved in two or three during the same season, many times leaving them to shoot after a full practice or event. It can be challenging, but I am happy that our kids have the opportunity to participate in such a great sport," said Aeling.

In the fall the team focuses on adjustments, and making subtle changes to hone in on their skills. The team's focus is less on putting up good scores, but developing the skills to be more consistent.

The team had seven, 25-straight (25/25) rounds this fall (Jack Reinbold-3, William Schwartz-2, Josh Larson-1, Luke Schmidt-1), and one 50-straight (Jack Reinbold).

"The team made great improvements with many personal best rounds for a number of our shooters," said Aeling.

Within the conference these shooters placed in the top 25, *Jack Reinbold-T-5th (23.3 avg), *William Schwart-11th (22.3 avg), *Josh Larson-12th (22.2 avg), *Ella Horn-9th (Female 18.1 avg).

The Hornets also had many others shoot great averages for the season: Teghan Wiirre (22.67), Luke



Contributed photo

Ella Horn, Jack Reinbold and Eli Reinbold take a shot during the fall trap league at the Henning Rifle Range.

Schmidt (22.13), *Caleb Watertcott (20.2), Parker Samuelson (20.17), *Boe Mesker (20), *Eli Reinbold (19.7), Mason Samuelson (19.5), *Cameron Markuson (18.9), *Adrian Jones (18.7), *Cade Stregre (18.6), Jacob Menze (18.5), *Houston Schwartz

(18.2), *Mason Umland (18), *Dalton Guse (17.7), Isaac Schmidt (15), *Brody Lohse (14.8), *Alex Castro (14.7), *Tony Castro (13.6), *Emily Hanson (12.6), *Haley Hanson (10.8).
"Overall I am very proud of all our shooters. Many

of them see their scores go down as they switch guns and try different things during this time of the year. It can be challenging to change things and go backwards, but in the long run it pays off," said Aeling.
*Completed 5/5 weeks.