

This Week In The Dairyland Conference

As expected, week one of the 2007 Dairyland football schedule concluded with mixed results for the conference teams. With all eight schools in action, the Dairyland came away with three wins and five losses in the initial week of non-conference play.

Elmwood 20 - Whitehall 14 (OT) - Whitehall had the honor of literally kicking off the season as they played Elmwood at UW-Stout last Thursday morning. - dropping a heartbreaking 20-14 decision in overtime. In the early going, it appeared the Norsemen didn't get enough sleep as the Raiders blew out to a 14-0 first quarter lead. Elmwood was aided in their second score by a Whitehall turnover deep inside Norse territory. Two plays later the Raiders were in the end zone, putting Whitehall in a seemingly huge hole. But the Dairyland Conference's defending champs re-grouped from that point to eventually pull even at 14-all - that despite a devastating five turnovers in the game. Scoring runs by quarterback James Gilbertson capped off Norse drives in the second and third quarter to get Whitehall back to even. Among their critical giveaways were three interceptions tossed by Gilbertson. In the overtime, the Norse were stuffed on an initial run play, and eventually saw their possession die at the Elmwood four. The ball went over to the Raiders who cashed in on their second play, as quarterback Steve Pax tossed a 15-yard strike to receiver Brett Bock in the corner of the end zone. Total yards - Whitehall 224 (175 rushing/46 attempts, 49 passing/4-of-15); Elmwood 217 (160/38 attempts, 57 passing/7-of-11).

Eleva-Strum Central 48 - Augusta 0 - As expected the Central Cardinals crushed the Augusta Beavers behind a 27-point first quarter outburst. Card quarterback Lance Rongstad rushed for two scores and passed for another in the seven-touchdown onslaught. Central had five different players score in the first quarter - four by touchdown, plus a fifth via four extra-point kicks from Rongstad. By contrast, the Beavers were held to a grand total of 81 yards in net offense by a very quick and talented Eleva-Strum defense. The Central offense was led by Rongstad's rushing as he accounted for 59 yards on six carries, while also completing 5-of-7 passes for 63 yards and one touchdown. The game was essentially over by the half as Central tacked on a pair of teedees in the second quarter to lead 41-0 at the break. Total yards - Central 295 (232 rushing/30 attempts, 63 passing/5-of-7); Augusta 79 (79/21 attempts, 0 passing/0-of-6).

Melrose-Mindoro 34 - Bangor 6 - The Mustangs matched their win total from the entire 2006 season by winning a laugh in their season opener. Senior quarterback Blake Shepherd completed six of seven passes and the Mustangs rushed for 257 yards to crush Bangor. M-M featured a trio of backs in the game, with Tyson Young netting 105 yards, while Frank Dobbs added 64, and Nathan Stetzer had 52. Total yards - Melrose-Mindoro 377 (257 rushing/37 attempts, 120 passing/6-of-7); Bangor 139 (119 rushing, 20 passing).

Arcadia 28 - Independence 6 - The Raiders put the hurt on I-G in the third quarter by scoring four touchdowns to blow open a game that had been zip-zip at the half. Tailback Brock Haines scooted 39 yards for RKD's first score to get things rolling, then added a six-yard scamper just five minutes later. Meanwhile the Raider defense frustrated a good Indee offense by holding them under a hundred total yards. Independence-Gilmanton got a late touchdown on a 27-yard pass from Ryan Guza to Adam Guza - that coming against the RKD reserves. The Indee defense had played nearly flawlessly through two quarters, getting a key turn-

Dairyland Conference Standings 2007

Team	Conference	Overall
Alma	0-0	1-0
Eleva-Strum	0-0	1-0
Mel-Min	0-0	1-0
Blair-Taylor	0-0	0-1
C-FC	0-0	0-1
I-G	0-0	0-1
Lincoln	0-0	0-1
Whitehall	0-0	0-1

This Week's games:

B-T @ Arcadia (WHTL)
C-FC @ New Auburn
Lincoln @ Loyal
Ind./Gil @ Luther

Whitehall @ Owen-Withee
Alma @ Plum City
Mel-Min @ Royall
Central @ Westby

over and a couple of big third down stops to thwart the fleet-footed Raider offense in the opening half. Total yards - Arcadia 249 (226 rushing/41 attempts, 23 passing/5-of-8); Indee-Gil. 92 (46 rushing, 46 passing).

Onalaska Luther 35 - Blair-Taylor 0 - The visiting Knights all-but won the game in the first half by scoring five times to build an insurmountable lead. The loss avenged a heart-breaking loss from one year ago when the Wildcat defense turned away the Luther offense with a goal line stand in the waning moments. B-T's offense could not get anything going against the quick O-L front eight which repeatedly beat the Cat blockers off the snap.

Total yards - Onalaska Luther 222 (190 rushing/32 attempts, 32 passing/3-of-7); Blair-Taylor 65 (33 rushing/32 passing).

Alma 38 - Pepin 12 - The Rivermen picked up where they left off last year - that is, scoring lots of points. As part of the season-opening parade of games at UW-Stout last Thursday, the Rivermen rode a diversified offensive show to the easy win. Pepin had managed to hang around through two quarters, trailing only 17-12 at the half. . Pepin's Jesse Seifert had pulled the Lakers within two points at 14-12 midway through the second period - scoring on runs of 2 and 34 yards. But Alma quarterback Ryan Reidt capped off a third quarter eight-play drive with a one-yard run, and David Paulson added a 14-yard scamper moments later to put the game out of reach. The Rivermen got big nights from four runners, as Paulson ground out 112 yards, while he and teammates Reidt, Chris Glander and Dan Weghorn all scored touchdowns on the ground. Total yards - Alma 385 (265 rushing/45 carries, 120 passing/6-of-10 attempts) Pepin 167 (97 rushing/70 passing).

Plum City 32 - CFC 3 - This game was 6 to 3 at the half, but almost a carbon copy of the RKD versus I-G matchup, as Plum City scored four second half touchdowns to blow open a tight ball game. P-C was probably their own worst enemy in this one as well - losing three-of-four fumbles to help keep the game close early on. The Pirates meanwhile lost only one-of-three their backs put on the ground, but quarterback Dylan Cieminski was erratic at best, pitching three interceptions while completing just 4-of-18 attempts on the night for C-FC. The Pirate's lone score came on a John Schmidt knecht field goal in the second quarter of 31 yards. P-C's big gun on the night was halfback Chris Biederman who tallied scoring runs of 36, 20 and 18 yards in the second half. On the night, the speedy Biederman rushed for 124 yards on just 15 carries, a clip of better than seven yards per attempt. Total yards - Plum City 356 (314 rushing/42 passing); C-FC 171 (121 rushing/50 passing).

Necedah 32 - Alma Center Lincoln 8 - The Hornets hung around for a half, trailing by twelve points. But the state-ranked Cardinals eventually pulled away for the win. Total yards - Necedah 220 (210 rushing/10 passing); Lincoln 92 (19 rushing/73 passing). The Hornets had an opportunity in the first half to give the Cardinals something to worry about by driving the ball deep into Necedah's territory but turned the ball over on downs. Necedah simply worn down the scrappy Hornets on the shoulders of Ethan Quinter who hauled the mail to the tune of 108 yards on 17 carries. The Cardinals Eric Manning chipped in an additional 61 yards rushing. Lincoln's Nick Seichter was effective through the air completing seven of 15 for 73 yards. The Hornets will travel to Loyal in the final match-up in the series.