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### **INSIDE**

Tri-State Rodeo brings in national country artists for Thursday-Saturday rodeo

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# Monday, August 14, 2017 | 9 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 195

### **Fall Sports Preview Bloodhounds look for winning season**

**BY CHUCK** VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - You could throw up the adage, there's no place to go but up for the Fort Madison Bloodhound football team.

You could.

Telling stats would include an 0-9 record capped off with a 0-81 dismantling at Washington to cap off last season; an anemic passing game that saw just 12 completions for 117 yards on the year, and only seven touchdowns scored on the year, just to name a few.

But first-year head coach Tony Shiffman feels that may be just a bit disingenuous to a team with decent numbers and a renewed sense of pride and invigoration.

The Hounds, (Class 3A, District 5), kick off the



season Aug. 25 at home against Davis County. The game was originally scheduled to be played on the road, but was moved to Fort Madison due to construction on the Davis County football facility.

Shiffman said he's targeted a 6-3 season and the team is buying into the new program.

"You know... we've had some good practices so far. Our numbers aren't



ed - not quite what I hoped for, but they're up,"

Shiffman

said. "I think we can be a good team this year. I put the target out that we can win six games and I'm sticking to that. We have good athletes and a good senior core."

That core will be led by Shance Redd-Donald, the team's only returning 1st Team All-District player. Redd-Donald led the Hounds last year in rushing with 334 yards on 71 carries and three scores. He also led the team in tackles with 33.5, 29 of which were solo tackles mainly in the secondary. He snared three interceptions to lead the Hounds there as well. He

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC will be playing receiver on offense and roam as a free safety in the secondary on defense, Shiffman said.

"Shance is going to be a great player for us. He's our lone returning All-District player and he was unstoppable in 7-on-7s this summer."

Senior Alex Gully returns from a campaign where he carried the ball

See FOOTBALL, page 2

Box, Rashid to lead HTC spikers **BY CHUCK VANDENBERG** 

PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - With close to 25 years coaching youth and high school volleyball, Holy Trinity Head coach Melissa Freesmeier has a pretty businesslike approach to the upcoming season.



After the Lady Crusaders were dropped in a threeset loss to Janesville in the state semis last year, the

Lady Hounds eyeing state

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG** PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison girls volleyball team is hoping to build on last year's conference title for a deeper run in the post season.

The Hounds ended the season 22-10 with a loss to Cedar Rapids Xavier in the second round of the post season after knocking off Keokuk.





 $\mathrm{W}_{\mathrm{ith}\ \mathrm{the}\ \mathrm{Friday}}$ Night-Lights season nearly upon us, I'll relate a story that I've been itching to tell for some time. It's the story of

Proctor led

state football

champions

mythical

when Mt. Pleasant's high



school football team went undefeated and, incredibly, un-scored upon. The year was 1963. However, this is more than just a football story. It's a story about winning, tragedy, and never giving up.

Tim Proctor was the quarterback of Mt. Pleasant's famed high school football team of 1963, that went undefeated and un-scored upon. I was fortunate to catch up with the quarterback of that championship team, Mt. Pleasant native and resident, Tim Proctor. Tim is 70 years young, and looks to be in great shape. I'll bet he can still drill a button-hook pass, or run a quarterback keeper around the end.



Crusaders are looking to repeat last year's 36-3 success and maybe get a shot at the state title again this year. At one point the Crusaders had one 15 straight matches giving up only three sets.

FREESMEIER

But Freesmeier said for that to take place, HTC will have to be more of a defensive squad this year.

The squad will be relying on junior Emily Box, who was second in the Southeast Iowa Superconference at the net last year with 435 kills and a 43% kill efficiency. She trailed only Burlington Notre

#### See **CRUSADERS**, page 4

Senior Amber Dilsaver returns as the Southeast Conference's most dangerous player at the net with 387 kills, a full 178 ahead of Fairfield's Shelby Hes-BAILEY ton. Dilsaver also finished the season with a 30% kill efficiency. A kill is a scoring hit off a spike or tip. Defensively, she led the conference with 79 blocks on the season. Senior Courtney Woodley was fifth overall in the loop in 2016

with 185 kills and 15% kill efficiency. Junior Kaeli Hutson and

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### **SPORTS**

## Shiffman targets six wins with new-look Hounds

GULLY

#### FOOTBALL - Continued from Page 1

72 times for 168 yards. Shiffman said Gully will be the featured back in a spread offense this year.

"Alex is gonna be our workhorse. He's had a great off-season, a great summer, and a great start to fall camp. We're gonna run a spread and he'll get the bulk of the carries," Shiffman said.

Junior Lennon Barker was third on the team in carries as a sophomore last year with 57 yards on 37 attempts, mostly from the quarterback spot. Shiffman said Barker will, in all likelihood, be the signal caller this year. But Will Larson, who's just a freshman, is geared up to step in should something happen with Barker.

"It's probably gonna be Lennon, he's a junior, but Larson is our backup who's a freshman and has come a long way. If something drastic were to happen to Lennon, knock on wood it doesn't, I'm very comfortable with Will going in and managing the game."

Lorenzo Riles led Fort Madison in receiving with four receptions for 45 yards as a junior last year.

Senior Elijah Barnes is returning to football and will anchor the offensive and defensive line.

Shiffman said Barnes has stepped in and had an immediate impact on leadership for the team as well as picking up offensive and defensive

schemes quickly. "Elijah Barnes is out for the first time since, I think, his freshman year. He's really taken a big leadership role and he's somebody who has impressed the coaches, a lot of other people, and done great stuff on the offensive and defensive sides of the line."

Dalton Mabeus and Tyler O'Tool, both returning seniors, had 31 tackles last year each and O'Tool had two sacks on the year. Riles and Gully each had 27 tackles. Diego Lozano had 12 tackles as a freshman last year including a sack.

"Defensively, we're flying around and we've got a lot of guys back on

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that squad," Shiffman said. "That can be good and bad be-

cause they gave up a

lot of points last year. But I've got a great staff working there and the kids

are doing some good things. We're learning things quickly and picking BARNES up on the

defense. They're gonna get us the ball and make some stops."

He wasn't ready to name starting defensive spots yet because there is still time to get a better look at personnel and with a scrimmage coming up against Mediapolis, things should settle in after that.

Shiffman said he'd like to get out of the gate with a couple of wins and show not only the team, but also the community, that times



"It's a matter of getting them out and getting some success and letting them feel that success,"

are changing.

Shiffman said. Looking into district play, Shiffman said the district is very competitive.

"We've got Osky (Oskaloosa), Fairfield, West Burlington, Solon....Keokuk. It's a tough district and we're gonna have a good test early opening with Davis County and Central Lee. Then we go to Osky and that will be a tough one, but it will help answer a lot of questions about how good our players are," Shiffman said.

West Burlington-Notre Dame just voted two weeks ago to allow Danville to join the program which infused just over 20 players into the program.

"That hurts us a bit, but that helps them a lot. It's always nice when you get good participation from your co-op," he said.

Junior A.J. Nolting will be doing the kicking for the Hounds. Nolting was 3-of-5 kicking PATs last year as a sophomore and

0-for-1 in field goal tries.

The buzz in the community is something Shiffman said he's been picking up on and he hopes that transitions into big crowds for the games.

"I've heard about the excitement from other people and that's what's great about having six home games. We get to open up Aug. 25th at home and we'd love to have a packed house so they can see the product on field. They need to see we're turning a corner. I talk about the kids buying in, but it would be great if the community bought in as well."

As far as the kids buying into the program, Shiffman said he'd still like to see more numbers.

"One of the tough things is to get some of the kids in the school who look at this program and say, 'Oh, they're terrible'. We need those kids to come out and help the program. They're just making too many excuses. They need to see what's going on..that this is a different brand, and a different era."

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### **Sports**

# **Crusaders working with smaller lineup in 2017**

CRUSADERS - Continued from Page 1

Dame's Emma Lynch who graduated last year in those stats.

The Crusaders will lose the offense power of Ali Randolph who was fourth in the league in kills with 348. Randolph also led the conference in aces with 58. Also lost to graduation were Shyanne Moeller and Danielle Scheetz.

Another big loss will be that of junior Mya Lawlor, who went down with a knee injury in soccer and had to undergo ACL surgery and if she's able to play at all, it will be in late October.

"They told me it would be late October so I'm probably going to be out for the year," Lawlor said.

Freesmeier said Lawlor is doing everything the doctors are telling her and there's a chance she could play very late in the season, but right now she's just lending support to the team and rehabbing.

Maya Rashid, who was was third in assists in the conference in 2016 with 533, will be back to anchor the setting duties as a senior.

Freesmeier said the team will be a good mix of juniors and seniors and she's hoping some underclassmen will step into roles this year.

"Were gonna be young again with lots of kids coming back," she said. "Lots of juniors and seniors that can step up big this year. We'll have to wait and see. We had a good week in Nebraska a couple of weeks ago. I'm excited about the season.

The dynamic of the squad may change a bit this year as Freesmeier may move to a 5-1 system instead of the traditional 6-2 set she's been running for the past couple of years.

"This is new for us. The last couple years we ran a 6-2. Picking up that middle position will be huge for us," she said. "Madison Mohrfeld and Emily Dingman are



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

HTC Head Coach Melissa Freesmeier, gives direction to the Lady Crusader's 2017 volleyball squad at practice Wednesday afternoon. The squad lost three players off the team that went to the state semifinals last year and will be without junior Mya Lawlor who underwent ACL surgery after soccer season ended.

incoming seniors that I'm looking to take that role. We ran two setters last year so we had three hitters in the back row. Maya will be moving around and doing most of the setting."

She said the team has a long way to go, but she has a strong group of kids and defense will be the key because the team is smaller than in past seasons.

"Besides Box, of course, we're gonna lean on her and Maya Rashid as two crucial leaders to the team, but we've got Taylor Boeding and Eryn Anderson and I'm hoping they step up for us."

She said with Lawlor being out on the defensive side of things, Elise Pothitakis has some big shoes to fill but is proving to be another great defensive player. The

team will also be looking to Samantha Hoenig on the right side.

Twelve girls will be on the varsity squad in a 10-person rotation, but Freesmeier has 26 girls out this year.

"Right now I'm looking at 10-player rotations and with substitution and all the rules they have out there now it's going to be interesting.

The stiffest competition according to Freesmeier will come from New London and West Burlington and Van Buren in the south SEISC division. The Crusaders will face some north division tests and she said they'll have to be ready for Mediapolis.

"We'll have to be tough to beat them. They always come out with a good squad," Freesmeier said.



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**Mount Pleasant may have** been best in state

#### **SWARM**- Continued from Page 1

famed Bob Evans.

Ending in his freshman year, the Mt. Pleasant Panthers had an incredible winning streak of 40 games. As a freshman, Tim was an extra-point kicker and linebacker. In his sophomore year he was moved to first-string quarterback. Tim would lineup behind center and look at his offensive line and backfield. Five sophomores were starters. In hindsight, Tim believes Coach Evans was grooming the team for the following year.

One of the first games in Tim's junior year was a non-conference game with Cedar Rapids Jefferson, the biggest school in the state at the time. The Panthers beat them 7-zip in Jeff's house. People took notice. Cedar Rapids Jefferson would go on to win their Valley Conference.

Tim Proctor, as a junior quarterback, called his own plays, or 90% of them, running a wing-T, which was a five-yardsand-a-cloud-of-dust offense. They overwhelmed their opponents that year by an average of 30 points. The Panthers' manic defense was not about to allow a score, which drove the offense

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even harder. Tim played offense.

There were no playoffs in the state at that time, thus the name, "Mythical State Champs" was being passed quietly from person to person like a flickering candle. But the Panthers were conference champs, playing a nine-game schedule, thus making it easier to go undefeated and un-scored upon. Other teams that did the same in Iowa's high school football history also did it before playoffs were born. When playoffs were added, a season could last 13 or 14 games.

In his senior year, Mt. Pleasant lost one game. They traveled all the way to Hannibal, Missouri to play on Saturday night, and got beat on the final play of the game under questionable officiating. Bummer.

The day after their final game of his senior year, a Saturday, Tim, his brother, and a teammate were going pheasant hunting over by Grinnell. Excited from the game and about pheasant hunting on opening day, the boys didn't sleep that night. They decided to leave early for their pheasant

hunt. They bagged one pheasant that fateful day.

On the trip home, Tim was riding shotgun. It was a cool fall day, with the sun shining brightly, and the feel of harvest in the air. Because they were tired, and the sun was hitting them in the face, they all fell asleep in the car, including the driver. The accident that ensued left Tim with massive facial and wrist injuries. He was taken straight to the University of Iowa Hospital Emergency Room.

Tim was a three-sport letterman and was supposed to go to Arkansas State to play football and baseball. But participating in sports, for Tim, was over. He spent most of the rest of his senior year at Mt. Pleasant in a cast and undergoing multiple surgeries. He enrolled at Iowa Wesleyan College and earned a degree in social studies.

Some people say that participating in highschool sports, or any activity for that matter, like band or FFA, teaches life lessons. Tim Proctor agrees. "Never give up. It is what it is." Even though participating in sports was over for Tim, he went on to become a teacher and coach in Iowa for 37 years, 16 of those years at New London. His last teaching and coaching assignment was at Mt. Pleasant.

When asked, he will tell about that championship year, when the Panthers went undefeat-

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### From the Front

# Dilsaver, Johnson set to lead Hounds run at state

HOUNDS - Continued from Page 1

senior McKenna Fehseke were also in the top 10 in kills for the Hounds.

"Our kids wanna win conference again this year. Last year we went 8-0 and did that, but now we want to move beyond the second round and get that chance to go to state," said Head Coach Kent Bailey.

The Hounds lost two components of the Southeast Iowa Conference championship team in Chayse Lowney and Brittiney Harris, but are returning four 1st team all conference players in Dilsaver, Hutson, senior Leigh Johnson and junior Josie Pumphrey.

Bailey, who's in his first

"

I was junior varity coach for the past three years so I know them and they know me."

-Kent Bailey FMHS Head volleyball coach

year back as head coach, has seen most of the girls on his team when he was junior varsity coach and through youth volleyball.

"I've coached a lot of these kids previously," Bailey said. "I was junior varsity coach for the past three years so I know them and they know me. They know what gets me frustrated and it's usually attitude more than play." Johnson almost doubled the field as a junior with 802 assists to lead the conference in 2016 at close to 10 assists per set.

"We've got Leigh back as a setter and Amber back in the middle. We're also going to be relying on McKenna Fehseke as an outside hitter, Jazmine Bass at the outside or



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison Head Coach Kent Bailey works some defensive drills with his varsity squad at practice Wednesday. The Hounds are looking to repeat as Southeast Conference Champs and make a run at state with four 1st-team all conference players returning.

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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Lady Hounds are looking to use a 2016 Southeast Conference Championship as a springboard to their 2017 season and are hopeful for a run to the state tournament.

maybe middle hitter. Shyla Farmer is working on the outside hitter spot and Courtney is back in the outside hitter spot," Bailey said.

Pumphrey was third in the conference in digs last year with 304 at 3.62/set clip.

Senior Kamryn Bailey will return as a back up hitter and defensive specialist with 1.54 digs per set.

The preseason has been

productive for the Hounds who played at an Iowa State camp and walked away with a title among 16 teams.

"We won our division and the kids were able to come home with medals," Bailey said. "We took three seniors, two juniors, a sophomore, and two freshmen. It was team camp so we got to see a lot of different teams. There were 16 teams in our division." Bailey said recent trends would indicate that Fairfield will pose the toughest threat in the conference. The Lady Trojans went 21-12 on the season followed by Mt. Pleasant 17-15.

Bailey will get help on the bench from Mike Davis who was a junior varsity coach under Mike Helling and helps out with Burlington clubs. Amy Doherty and Kayla Hendrix will also be helping this year.











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