

TENNIS

# Edgerton 5th in Rock Valley meet

By Bob Samuelson  
Special to the Reporter

The Edgerton High boys tennis team had two singles players reach the finals while the Crimson Tide was finishing fifth as a team in the Rock Valley Conference meet Thursday at UW-Whitewater and Edgerton High. McFarland scored 31.5 points to win the tournament, and with it, the season championship. East Troy was second with 21 points, followed by Martin Luther Prep with 20. Edgerton finished fifth with 14.5 points. The Crimson Tide got second place finishes from Jacob Anderson and Nolan Fox at No. 2 and No. 3 singles, respectively. Tyson Laux decisioned Anderson, 6-3, 6-2, in the championship match at No.2 singles. Anderson was battling an illness.

“His stamina was not there,” said Edgerton coach Eric Nuenthel. “He just ran out of gas in his last match.” In the finals at No.3 singles, McFarland’s Jack Newman was a 6-3, 6-2, winner over Fox. “Nolan played great,” Nuenthel said. “He hit the ball deep, and Jack likes to play at the net. Jack is a real good player who has got a good forehand and was able to put the ball away.” Edgerton also got a third place finish from its No.1 doubles team of Ben Zartman and Connor Masanz. The two defeated Martin Luther Prep’s Elae Schwartz and Caleb Hengst, 6-0, 6-3, in the match for third place. Zartman and Masanz were seeded fifth and beat the third and fourth seeds. They also lost to Schwartz and Hengst during the dual meet between Edgerton and Luther Prep. “They played real well,” Nuenthel said. “They were

hitting cross-court shots and hitting them well. Ben was cutting off shots at the net and putting them away.” Edgerton’s Nick Rusch finished fourth at No.1 singles. Rusch lost to Whitewater’s Slate Spear, 6-3, 7-6, (7-3) in the match for third place. The Crimson Tide’s No.2 doubles team of Grant Delzer and Daniel Clark finished fifth. The two downed Whitewater’s Weston Lema and Shane Kinson, 6-0, 6-2, in the match for fifth place. Delzer and Clark are both first-year players. The tournament was played in cold and windy conditions. “We were all freezing out there,” Nuenthel said “I was pleased with the way we played. They fought all night long. That is all I could ask them to do.”

GOLF

# Edgerton wins mini meet

By Bob Samuelson  
Special to the Reporter

The Edgerton High boys golf team continued its domination of the Rock Valley Conference. The Crimson Tide posted a 14 stroke victory in a Rock Valley mini meet played at Glen Erin on May 7. Edgerton shot a 159 total, while Clinton was second with a 173 and McFarland third with a 174.

Edgerton senior Kyle Wille fired an even-par 36 for medalist honors. Senior Joe Forsting was third with a 40, while Bryce Tate tied for fourth with a 41 and Braden Hurst tied for sixth with a 42. “We are fortunate to have five solid golfers,” said Edgerton coach Terry Dickinson. “I’m obviously pleased. Overall the kids played well. They handled the wind.”

Edgerton won each of the first four mini meets, with the fifth Tuesday at Evansville followed by the Rock Valley tournament today at Riverside Golf Course in Janesville. The Tide currently has 40 points in the season standings with McFarland second with 35. Edgerton now has won 21 straight mini meets while also winning five consecutive Rock Valley titles.

HOME TALENT

# Tigers look to rebound

By Bob Samuelson  
Special to the Reporter

Manager Matt Towns says the Albion Tigers are ready to forget last year’s disappointment and become contenders again in the Home Talent League’s southeast Section. Albion finished 8-8 last year and missed the sectional playoffs for the first time since 2013. The Tigers were Home Talent League champions in 2016. Albion had a .500 record against playoff teams last year, but the Tigers lost games to teams that finished near the bottom of the Southeast Section standings. “Those games ultimately cost us,” Towns said. Now the Tigers will be looking to turn that around, which is something Towns fully expects his team to do. “We are a contender,” he said. “We know we can play with anybody.” Evansville, Stoughton and Jefferson finished in a three-way tie for first place in the Southeast Section last year, with Evansville winning a playoff. “They really came out of nowhere,” Towns said. “They got a couple of young pitchers and were able to ride them all season.” Towns believes pitching will be one of Albion’s strengths as well, beginning with the trio of Josh Eastman, Jake Taylor and Lucas Gregory. Jake Zeimet and Charlie Hatlen have also proven they can pitch. Eastman, who was the

Southeast Section Most Valuable Player, hit .500 and went 3-0 as a pitcher. Gergory was 3-2 with a 3.31 ERA. “I feel pitching depth will be a strength,” Towns said. Towns said the Tigers might use a catcher-by-committee approach this season with Cullen Oren, Austin Mades and Bubba Phelps. Mades was the starter last year until he was deployed by the U.S. Army. Oren, who will also play the outfield, hit .340 and was an all-star last year. “I do anticipate using a three-man rotation behind the plate,” Towns said. A combination of players will also be used at first base including Eastman, Lucas Gregory and Adam Loveland. A lot of that will hinge on who is pitching. Veteran Adam Gregory will play second base with Tyler Oren, who is recovering from a leg injury, at shortstop. Oren was hitting .345 when he was hurt last year. If Oren is unable to play, he will be replaced by another Tiger all-star in veteran Aaron Laskowski, who hit .385 a year ago. The starter at third base will be either Brennen Deegan or Jake Zeimet. Dan Zeimet, who hit .320 in limited time last year, will likely be a utility player. “Dan is going to get a lot of playing time,” Towns said. “He could be at a different position each week. “We’ve got people who will play multiple positions. They are willing to move around

so we can put out the best lineup on a given week.” Laskowski will play centerfield if he is not at shortstop. Cullen Oren will also be in the outfield if he is not catching. Matthew Klubertanz, who hit .270 as a rookie last year, is a possibility in the outfield. Tiger veteran Jesse Appel is back and ready to play. Josh Reese, a 2018 Edgerton High graduate, has joined the Tigers. “The strength of this team is it is very versatile,” Towns said. “I think we will put a good competitive team on the field every week.” “Last year was a little bit of a transition year with new guys. We will be much more stable and consistent this year. I think it will show on the field and in the standings.” And Towns said Albion’s expectation is to finish in the Southeast Section’s top four and advance into the postseason. “We’ve got all the pieces,” Towns said. “We’ve got some very good players on the ballclub. We’ve got a chance to be a very good ballclub.”

BASEBALL

# Tide needs to turn before postseason

By Steven T. Slack  
Special to the Reporter

With the WIAA playoffs set to begin May 23, the Edgerton High School varsity baseball team hopes for a bounce back week. The 7-9 Crimson Tide will face 6-10 Big Foot on Thursday, 10-8 Evansville on Friday, and 9-7 Whitewater on Saturday. The Tide faced Big Foot for the first time Tuesday night. The Evansville Blue Devils bested the Tide Monday night, 3-1. Freshman Peyton Lee went 2-for-2 at the plate but was one of only four Edgerton players with a hit that evening and the only player with two. Sam Veitch pitched well in 2.2 innings as relief, giving up no runs and fanning six batters. The Tide’s Saturday opponent, Whitewater, is currently in third place in the Rock Valley Conference. Earlier this season, the Tide put down the Whippets 4-1. A repeat performance would provide much-needed momentum heading into the postseason. Last Saturday, Edgerton hosted an invitational that netted the Tide two losses. Delavan-Darien tallied five runs in the last two innings to



Ethan Norland snags a fly ball from East Troy to end the at-bat. The senior’s catch would strand one East Troy runner.

Photo by Steven Slack

upset Edgerton, 10-7. Delavan-Darien boasts only a 4-14 record and likely surprised the Tide with its resiliency. Edgerton may get a chance to avenge the loss soon as both Edgerton and Delavan-Darien are in group C of the same sectional playoff. Third baseman Ben Wileman almost single-handedly kept the Tide in the game against Delavan-Darien. Wileman went 2-for-3 with two home runs and six RBIs. Edgerton hoped to bounce back later that day against Lake Mills but fell 5-4 after a two-RBI single in the seventh inning. The Tide’s bats were busy, racking up 10 hits. Second baseman Skyler Gullickson went 2-for-3, got home once, and managed two RBIs. Next Wednesday, the Crimson Tide will face 13-6 Milton at Miller Park. The game will be the Tide’s last prior to the WIAA playoffs which begin the next day.

HOME TALENT

# Tigers win exhibition game

By Bob Samuelson  
Special to the Reporter

The Albion Tigers tuned up for the regular season with a 9-4 win over Stoughton in an exhibition game on May 4. Six Tigers each had one hit in the game highlighted by Matthew Klubertanz’s two-run single. Albion rallied from a 1-0 deficit by scoring single runs

in the second, third and fourth innings. Brennen Deegan singled and scored on a passed ball in the second inning. Cullen Oren walked, stole third base and also scored on a passed ball in the third inning. Jesse Appel walked in the fourth inning, moved to second base on a passed ball and scored on a Jake Taylor

groundout. The Tigers opened up a 9-1 lead with a 6-run fifth inning highlighted by Klubertanz’s two-run single. Aaron Laskowski tripled to score Klubertanz. Adam Gregory also had an RBI single. A week earlier, Albion was handed a 12-1 loss to Cottage Grove in another Home Talent league exhibition game.

HOME TALENT

# Tigers win a classic

By Bob Samuelson  
Special to the Reporter

This was an absolute classic. It featured a classic pitchers dual between Jake Taylor and Josh Eastman of Albion and Jameson Lavery of Evansville, who struck out 15 batters. Both teams managed six hits in the game, which was scoreless until the ninth inning. Albion finally pushed a run across on Jesse Appel’s sacrifice fly in the top of the ninth inning. Evansville threatened with two outs in the bottom of the ninth only to see the game end on a classic defensive play by Tiger shortstop Aaron Laskowski. “That was a wonderful game to be a part of,” said Albion manager Matt Towns following the Tigers’ 1-0 win over Evansville in a Southeast section opener Saturday night. “There was great pitching and great plays.”

Lavery went the distance to pick up the hard-luck loss. The right-hander struck out the side in the fourth inning and had two strikeouts in four other innings. “He is unbelievably consistent,” Towns said. “Not only does he throw hard, but he is remarkably consistent and under control. He is as good as I have seen in my 20 years in the business.” Albion also got a solid pitching effort by Taylor, who worked the first five innings and Eastman, who gave up two hits and struck out seven while shutting the door over the final four innings. Eastman also scored the game’s only run after reaching on Evansville’s only error in the top of the ninth inning. Matthew Klubertanz, who along with Laskowski had two hits in the game, singled to right field, moving Eastman over to third base, where he would tag up and score on Appel’s fly ball to deep right field.

Evansville, the defending southeast section champion, mounted a threat of its own in the bottom of the ninth inning after the first two hitters were retired on a strikeout and infield popout. The third batter of the inning, Hunter Martindale, reached on a dropped third strike before Rob Dimery walked. Evansville’s leadoff hitter, Dayton Zettelmaier, then hit a ground ball into the hole at shortstop that was backhanded by Laskowski, who threw out Zettelmaier at first base from a knee. “It was an unbelievable play,” Towns said. “The win was a tremendous lift for our team. It could not have gone better. “We opened the season on the road against the defending champs and possibly the best pitcher in the section. We responded very well. The young guys we had in the lineup were not intimidated.”

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