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Cats Roberts, Kotsis Run to Record Book

The Malvern High School cross country teams took the good with the bad at the AVCTL Division III Meet at Butler Saturday, Oct. 12.

A bad turnout resulted in a combined 16 personal bests and two school records. The boys' team finished third with 92 points, winning a silver breaker over Augusta Sophomore David Roberts ran a school-record 16.22 to finish fourth, and freshman Wyatt James also earned a silver breaker by finishing 118 to 17.03.

Bob Hanson was 2nd (17.52), Abraham White finished 24th (17.56), Nathan Spaw placed 28th (18.32), David Hill finished 34th (18.38), and David Hill finished 38th to 19.58.

The Wildcats girls finished sixth in the single with 138 points. Senior Tania Kotsis broke her own 48 school record, finishing 100th with a time of 2:51. Junior Madeline Franken was 19th in a time of 1:43. Brandi Laffoon ran 55th (1:51). Emily Clark finished 36th (1:54).

Class 4A Regional Cross Country Meet

Saturday, Oct. 21

At El Dorado (Shelburne, Pa.) - El Dorado State Park, Girls-Nearby, Boys-19-20 - Malvern, El Dorado, Ross Hill, Douglas, Anderson, Crowder, August, Clark, Liberty County, Putnam, Cherokee, McIntosh, Polk, Putnam, Clark, Jackson, Cherokee

Kate Handley finished 30th in 2:23.

In the junior varsity boys' division, Miles Anderson was Malvern's top finisher, placing 13th in 20:08. Freshman London Jackson was 21e (21:07). Tyler Gilbert finished 22nd (21:08). Jacob Coche placed 23rd (21:28), and Jordan Paul finished 30th in 22:41.

The bad news for Malvern came earlier in the week. Freshman Nikki Trotter-Smith suffered a stress fracture in his leg, which will keep him out of this weekend's regional meet. Senior Kyle Limberg was not far ahead with a similar stress fracture in September.

The course at Butler was very fast, and that allowed our runners to post some impressive times," said MHS lead coach Dale Landers. "David Roberts continued a dramatic season by setting a school record and earning All-League honors. Wyatt had an outstanding race and made second-team All-League. T.J.'s time was good enough to put us ahead of Augusta in the team standings.

On the girls' side, Tania ran extremely well and set another school record. She's hoping to qualify for state for the third straight year."

The Wildcats will aim for state this year in the Class 4A Regional Meet at Blounton Point in El Dorado State Park Saturday, Oct. 21. The girls will run at noon, with the boys to follow at 12:30. The top three teams and up to 10 individuals, with a minimum of five from non-qualifying teams, will advance to next weekend's State Meet in Wampanoag.

The regional field includes Malvern, El Dorado, Anderson, Anderson Center, Ross Hill, Douglas, Augusta, Clark, Cherokee, Liberty County, Putnam, Blounton, Independence, Grant, and Southwest Georgia.

In a game that may have seemed like a prelude to 19th bitterness at times, the Malvern High School football team rallied to pick up a big victory on the road Friday night, Oct. 12, in Class 4A District 12.

The Wildcats' defense, plus the running of sophomore tailback Hudson Tharp, eventually won Wellington's Homecoming into a nightmarish loss for the host Crusaders, coming from behind for a 21-17 win. The Wildcats are now 5-2 overall and have a leg up in district standings.

"We didn't play our best game," said MHS head coach Dave Finnerback. "We had some turnovers and penalties, and our passing game was struggling. The best thing was that there was no panic from the players or coaches. We just had to go out and make plays."

Malvern	0	7	7	2-31
Wellington	0	14	3	0-17

Schedule-Malvern: Hudson Tharp 3 144, 76, 8, 100, Wellington: Douglass, Ross Hill, Rocky Ford 15 (1st, pen. from Towner Yarns).

TEAM STATISTICS		Individual Statistics	
Malvern	Wellington	Malvern	Wellington
Yards	9	61	51
Passing Yards	29	113	273
Passing TDs	0	0	0
Pen. Committed	1	10	20
Pen. Allowed	1	2	2
Penalties Intended	1	2	2
Penalties Called	6	6	6
Penalties Suffered	6	6	6

Malvern-Hudson Tharp 21 carries-243 yards, Chad Blackwell 1-4, Jake Knight 1-0, Ryan Harg 3-2, Corey Conrad 3-15, Andy Page 1-1, Kyle Kays 1-11, Zach Tankney 3-4. Only Crowd 15.

Wellington-Ryan Harg 1 completion 9-46 yards-15 points TD's, Willie White 30-20-1, Dave Shrock 34-20-13-1.

Schedule-Malvern-Alexis Elmer 1 reception-23 yards, Chad Blackwell 1-4, Jake Knight 1-0, Ryan Harg 3-2, Corey Conrad 3-15, Andy Page 1-1, Kyle Kays 1-11, Zach Tankney 3-4.

SERIES STATISTICS	
Malvern	18-7-13-10-1
Wellington	2-6-4-2-1
Anderson	1-1-1-1-1
Augusta	1-1-1-1-1
Cherokee	1-1-1-1-1
Clark	1-1-1-1-1
Clinton	1-1-1-1-1
Liberty	1-1-1-1-1
Putnam	1-1-1-1-1
Rocky Ford	1-1-1-1-1
Southwest Georgia	1-1-1-1-1
Towner	1-1-1-1-1
Union	1-1-1-1-1
Wadley	1-1-1-1-1

AVCTL III-IV Football Standings

DIVISION III	W	L	T	Points
Malvern	7	2	0	76
Wellington	0	17	0	0
Anderson	2	3	3	13
Augusta	2	2	3	9
Cherokee	2	3	3	4
Clark	1	3	3	4
Clinton	2	3	3	4
Liberty	2	3	3	4
Putnam	0	3	3	0
Rocky Ford	0	3	3	0

DIVISION IV	W	L	T	Points
Andale	4	0	7	0
Wellington	1	14	0	0
Anderson	2	3	3	4
Augusta	2	3	3	4
Cherokee	2	3	3	4
Kingsport	0	3	3	0
Rocky Ford	0	3	3	0
Southwest Georgia	0	3	3	0

Last Week's Results

Malvern 21, Wellington 17
 Malvern 21, Anderson 29
 Ross Hill 31, Anderson 17
 Hamilton 34, Wellington 0
 Cowell 20, Hill 21, El Dorado 13
 Ferrell 41, Cherokee 7
 Putnam 21, Kingman 7
 Ross Hill 21, Clark 13

Gainesville, Oct. 20

Malvern at Douglas
 Anderson at Ross Hill
 Wellington at Butler
 Cherokee at El Dorado
 Clark at Cherokee
 Andale at Pratt
 Kingsport at Chewokee
 Wellington at Belle Plaine

The Wildcats had the first scoring play of the game. Ryan Harg intercepted a Wellington pass, giving Malvern the ball at the Crusader 27. Four offensive plays, however, netted two total yards, and the Cats turned the ball over.

Wellington put together a drive early in the second quarter. Wellington's Homecoming into a nightmarish loss for the host Crusaders, coming from behind for a 21-17 win. The Wildcats are now 5-2 overall and have a leg up in district standings.

"We didn't play our best game," said MHS head coach Dave Finnerback. "We had some turnovers and penalties, and our passing game was struggling. The best thing was that there was no panic from the players or coaches. We just had to go out and make plays."

The Malvern defense forced a fumble on the next possession, and the Cats had the ball in Wellington territory with under three minutes in the half. A few plays later, though, a completion to Aaron Elton ended with a fumble, which Wellington recovered at the 9, keeping Malvern away by seven at the half.

Malvern got the ball to start the second half, but two penalties backed the Cats up on their own 15. On second-and-long, though, Tharp turned the corner over the right side and rolled 76 yards down the sideline for the tying touchdown. When the Wildcat defense forced a third-and-out on the next possession, it looked like Malvern was back in momentum.

The Crusader punt, however, was fumbled, and Wellington recovered. Later in the opening drive, the Malvern defense appeared to have forced a fourth-and-long situation, but a 15-yard personal foul penalty against the Wildcats gave Wellington a first down. The Crusaders eventually cashed in those minutes with a field goal to take the lead back, 17-14.

"Things like that happen in football sometimes," said Finnerback. "You can't spend time being upset when those things happen. You have to keep trying to make plays."

Just as he looked like the "Cats might let one get away, danger arose at the home three. The Wildcat defense forced another fumble, and Williams Bird recovered at the Wellington 30. Tharp picked up a first down at the Crusader 8 and took it to over the right side on the next play. Kyle Elmer's extra point put the Wildcats up 17-17 with 4:33 to play.

Wellington forced a third-and-out on their own drive, and Malvern's John Knight easily intercepted a pass, but he was out of bounds. On fourth down, Knight got a second chance and intercepted Yarns. On the side yard, Malvern faced a third-and-16, but Tharp found room around the left side and scrambled all the way to the Wellington 20. The Crusaders ran the final two seconds off on fourth down, and they could finally celebrate a big victory.

Tharp was the workhorse once again, carrying the ball 23 times for 243 yards and three touchdowns. Harg's 25-yard completion to Elton was his only completion of the night out of nine attempts, and he was intercepted once. The Malvern defense held Wellington to 44 yards of offense in the second half. Tharp was in 14 tackles, Kyle Spawney had 12 stops. Jesse Flewe had 11, and Levi Hein and Andrew Myers had eight stops. Knight and Harg had interceptions, while Bird and Tyler Ollinger had fumble recoveries.

"Tyler had a great defensive game," said Finnerback. "He was big in helping stop their center play. Our defense played very well in the second half and forced some big turnovers."

It Again

We expect a lot from our definite, and they always seem to come through for us. The Wildcats will play another big district game at Douglas Friday night, Oct. 20. Douglas won their district opener over Belle Plaine, 23-14. The kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

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