

Small athletes pay sizeable dividends

By C.J. Rieak
staff writer

Sometimes, it's the little things that can bring a team success. Like Delbert Littlejohn. Or Tim Morris. Or even Joe Dellgaw.

All three play in the Midwest Intercollegiate Football Conference. All three play very well, too. And all three could be considered underdogs for their positions.

Littlejohn would be understated for any position on the football field; he stands just 5-foot-7 and weighs 162. And yet, the Ferris State senior fullback from Rochester (Minnesota) has been named MIFC player of the week. He has led the Bulldogs (currently 2-2 overall and 1-2-1 in the MIFC) in rushing all five games.

He's gained 421 yards on the ground on 83 carries (that's 18.6 attempts a game), averaging 5.1 yards a try, with one touchdown. He also leads the team in pass receptions with 20, gaining an additional 191 yards (9.7 yards a catch) and scoring once.

THOSE NUMBERS leave Littlejohn fourth in the conference in rushing, fifth in all-purpose yards and eighth in receptions. After Saturday's 14-14 tie with Northern Michigan, a game in which Littlejohn carried the ball 28 times (for 83 yards) and caught an additional four passes (for 31 yards), Littlejohn should also be a bit battered.

But he isn't. "I don't know, really," was his reply when asked how he survives in a game dominated by giants. "I can't answer that. I know I don't take too many direct shots. But it's never been a problem for me."

There's no understating Littlejohn's contributions to FSU. And yet, typically, his goals for the season were far larger.

"We had high expectations," he said. "We still do. We just can't have any more letdowns. I think we can win the rest of our games."

Expectations were also high at Wayne State, where both Morris — a sophomore linebacker from Birmingham (Alabama) — and Dellgaw — a sophomore punter/receiver from Redford (Michigan) — are trying to reverse the Tartars' tumbling fortunes.

It's no secret that WSU's football team has been closer to folding than a conference title over the last decade. This year, something more was anticipated. Morris and Dellgaw were two reasons why.

MORRIS CAME out of nowhere to become a starter as a freshman for WSU. He led the Tartars in tackles, although he is just 6-foot, 205 — small for a guy expected to make most of the stops on defense. "He had a real good year, week in and week out," said WSU coach B. Horn. "Tim walked in and on day one, he was our starting inside linebacker."

college sports

"He's a very sure tackler. And he's still growing. All he needs to do is hit the weights a little more. If he can add upper body strength, he'll make more tackles up high and knock people backwards."

Morris has made his mark in the league combining "great football intelligence" with "a nose for the ball," said Horn. An honorable mention all-conference player in 1989, adding bulk to those qualities could make him a dominant force in the MIFC.

BIG THINGS were expected from Dellgaw, although he has recently fallen upon troubled times. A starting receiver and one of the top punters in the nation, Dellgaw missed the team bus to Ashland College last Saturday and failed to make the game, a WSU loss. Horn said Dellgaw has been disciplined and will play Saturday against Butler.

"He'll play, but he won't start," said Horn. With receiver Andre Price questionable for the game due to a cut finger, Dellgaw will be needed.

His experience is perhaps his most valued attribute. Dellgaw has really never played in anything but a run-and-shoot offense, which is what WSU employs. He made his mark at RU in the same type of offense.

Another thing: As slot receivers in the run-and-shoot offense, Dellgaw is pretty big — 5-11 and 180. Still, most of the defensive guys taking shots at him are a bit bigger.

"I never really got crushed," said Dellgaw. "In the routes we run, I usually won't get hit by a linebacker. That's a little relief."

Other aspects of the run-and-shoot help. "With our blocking schemes, everything looks like a pass, so even on runs we're usually running patterns downfield, then maybe blocking the safety," said Dellgaw. Which is better than taking on a linebacker.

Dellgaw caught 30 passes for 485 yards and two TDs a year ago and hoped to catch "between 40 and 50 passes this year and score five touchdowns." So far, he has 14 receptions and one TD.

In explaining Dellgaw's value, Horn said, "In the run-and-shoot, the slots have to be the smartest receivers. They have to make the most adjustments. He's a smart player."

Dellgaw's also a good punter, averaging about 40 yards a kick. He's ranked among the top-10 in the NCAA Division II. Consistency, according to Dellgaw, is the one element lacking from his kicking game.

If Dellgaw stays out of trouble, he could — like Littlejohn and Morris — make a big impact on the MIFC.

Oakland University kickers shut out Western, 4-0

By C.J. Rieak
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Emmanuel Charles and Lee Davison provided Oakland University's soccer team with all the offense it needed Tuesday, scoring two goals apiece as the Pioneers avenged last season's loss by blanking Western Michigan 4-0 at OU.

The victory raised the Pioneers' record to 9-1-1. The Broncos fell to 5-2-1.

Davison opened the scoring at 13:50, getting an assist from Corey Selvon. Charles made it 2-0 at 40:29 with an unassisted goal. He made it 3-0 with another unassisted goal at 64:31, before Davison closed out the goal at 75:04, with Charles getting an assist.

Mike Sheehy (from North Farmington) received his sixth shutout in goal for OU, making seven saves.

Last Saturday, the Pioneers overcame a lackluster first half to defeat NCAA Division III-ranked Ohio Wesleyan 3-0 at OU.

John Gentile (Livonia Churchill) opened the scoring with a penalty kick goal at 58:04. Gentile took the kick after he was pulled down by a defender in front of the Wesleyan goal.

OU pressure resulted in the second goal. With the Pioneers swarming around the Wesleyan net, defender Todd Linnemeyer tried to clear the ball after a Gentile shot. Linnemeyer's attempt ricocheted off one of his own players and bounced into the Wesleyan net, making it 2-0 with 26:10 left to play.

Selvon capped the scoring at 70:31 on a play started by Davison.

Sheehy was in the net for OU to record his fifth shutout, but it did not come easily. Wesleyan, ranked 14th

in the NCAA III, outshot OU 7-3 in the first half and took eight corner kicks to zero for the Pioneers, forcing Sheehy to make three saves. That was reversed in the second half; OU outshot Wesleyan 8-0 in taking command.

The loss dropped Wesleyan's record to 8-3. Last Wednesday, the Pioneers got a goal from Mike Thornton with 10:15 remaining in regulation to salvage a 1-1 tie at Michigan State. Dan Weinerb and Davison assisted on Thornton's goal. Mike Rawlins scored for MSU at the 6:20 mark.

OU travels to the University of Missouri-St. Louis for a pair of games this weekend. The Pioneers face the host team at 8 p.m. Friday, then play Northeast Missouri at 6 p.m. Saturday.

OU VOLLEYBALL: Wayne State ambushed OU Tuesday, handing the Pioneers their first Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference loss of the season 10-15, 15-13, 15-7, 14-16, 15-3 at WSU.

OU hit a miserable .145 for the match. Only senior setter Janice Van Velsen performed well, recording 47 assists-to-kills and seven kills (.353). Holly Hatcher collected 14 kills (.132). Jennifer Ziellinski had 13 (.211). Cindy Walsh got 12 (.152) and Melissa Holman finished with 11 (.294).

Ziellinski also totalled five solo blocks and five block assists. Holman had two solos and three block assists, and Hatcher finished with five block assists, 19 digs and four service aces.

The loss left OU with a 4-1 GLIAC record and a 12-3 overall mark. WSU is 9-5 overall and 2-2 in the conference.

The Pioneers' resolve was stretched to the limit last weekend at the Indiana-Purdue at Fort Wayne Invitational, but the met the challenge and claimed the title with a five-game match victory over the host team.

Indeed, OU went the full five games in two of its three matches at the tournament. Both times, the Pioneers had to rally after losing the first two games of the match.

Saturday's final against IPFW was played in rally points (meaning a point is scored on every serve). OU won 15-17, 6-15, 15-12, 17-16, 17-16.

Earlier Saturday, the Pioneers edged St. Joseph (Ind.) 13-15, 13-15, 15-7, 15-3, 15-10. On Friday, they got past Kentucky State in "only" four games 15-4, 15-2, 8-15, 15-4.

Ziellinski enjoyed a superb weekend for OU with 36 kills and a .355 kill average, two solo blocks and 15 block assists. Hatcher paced the OU attackers with 45 kills (.320); he also totalled one solo and 16 block assists. Holman had 30 kills (.355).

OU CROSS COUNTRY: Ken Osmun collected his third invitational win in five meets this year, and his second in a row, with an individual victory at the 10-team Monarch Invitational at Macomb Community College Saturday.

Osmun, a senior, finished the five-mile course in 25:24, easily beating Saginaw Valley State's Jeff Boks (25:35). John Hyatt (Auburn Heights Avondale) was OU's second finisher, placing 16th overall (28:27).

The University of Windsor won the team title with 35 points. Saginaw Valley was second (77), just edging OU (78).

The Pioneers run at the Roadrunner Invitational at Southeastern Community College Friday.

Marauders eye tournament final

A furious comeback in the final 20 minutes of regulation resulted in a come-from-behind 5-3 overtime triumph for the Redford Marauders over Bill and Paul of Grand Rapids in a Michigan Cup soccer semifinal Sunday.

The win puts the Marauders into the Cup final opposite the Mount Clemens Booters Oct. 28 at a site to be determined.

Against Bill and Paul, the Marauders started lethargically and fell behind quickly. Bill and Paul led 2-0 at the half and, even though playing with 10 players after losing two to injury, the Grand Rapids team increased its lead to 3-0 midway through the second half.

The Marauder rally started with a penalty-kick goal by Gary Mexicotte

with 20 minutes left in overtime. Nick Hotchkiss reduced the deficit to 2-2 eight minutes later with a goal and, with just three minutes to play, Chan Ho Allen tied it to force OT.

The extra periods were dominated by the Marauders. Mexicotte scored in the first 15-minute overtime; Don Gemmill got an insurance tally in the second.

Madonna spikers victorious

The hot streak continued for Madonna College's volleyball team, which upped its NAIA District 23 record to 3-1 with a 13-15, 15-7, 17-15, 15-10 defeat of University of Michigan-Dearborn Tuesday at Madonna.

Dana Hicks, who was district player of the week last week, paced the Fighting Crusaders with 15 kills. Melissa Mars contributed eight kills and Kristy McFadden had six.

Last Saturday, Madonna reached the finals of the Aquinas College Tournament before falling to the host team 11-15, 15-11, 15-8, 15-12. The Crusaders posted two victories to reach the final against Aquinas, beating Olivet College 15-7, 15-5, 15-

4 and Nazareth College 15-7, 15-0, 15-11.

Tonia Smith (from Walled Lake Central) had 18 kills in the tournament, with a .327 kill percentage. Her performance earned her district player of the week honors.

Hicks added 23 kills (.330) and Evette Sluder had 14. Penny Baker provided exceptional setting, and Jenny Sladewski (14 digs) and Val Perrone (11 digs) were defensive stalwarts.

Madonna raised its overall record to 17-14 with its 3-1 record for the week.

SCHOOLCRAFT VOLLEYBALL: Schoolcraft College coach Tom

Teeters keeps insisting this season's team "could be the strongest we've ever had." He said it again Tuesday, after SC buried Eastern Conference foe Macomb CC 15-1, 15-2, 15-4 at Macomb.

Elena Oparka and Karl Domanski accumulated eight kills apiece to pace the Lady Onclets. Angellette Love and Renea Boscher had seven each.

Serving was a key to the SC victory. Stephanie Jandasek had three aces, with Christy Clark and Domanski getting two apiece. Lisa Domke led the defense with five digs.

SC is ranked 11th in the National Junior College Athletic Association poll.

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<p>Tuesday, October 9, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>IMPACT ON THE FAMILY Speaker: <i>Charles Weddle, Ed.D., Residential Therapist, Maplegrove</i></p>
<p>Tuesday, October 16, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND TEENS Impact on the Adolescent, Indicators, Progression Speaker: <i>Mary Kay Meler, M.A., Program Coordinator, Maplegrove Youth Treatment Center</i> Recovering Young People</p>
<p>Tuesday, October 23, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>INTERVENTION — A Way to Enable the Chemically Dependent Person to Accept Help Speaker: <i>Renke Gerger, M.S.W., Intervention Specialist</i> <i>Henry Ford Hospital/Maplegrove</i> Recovering people who have been intervened upon through this method</p>
<p>Tuesday, October 30, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>A COMMUNITY RESPONSE What we are doing/what needs to be done Moderator: <i>Judge Stephen C. Cooper, 46th District Judge</i> Panel: Will include community leaders, treatment professionals and school substance abuse coordinators</p>

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