

Sports



OV QUARTERBACK CALEB Whitney scrambles out of the pocket with several Jacks in pursuit during Saturday's match against a tough Windsor team. The Jacks keep the Otter's quarterbacks on the run most of the game, allowing on one touchdown pass in the second half for the Otters as Windsor won, 49-8.

Reporter photo by Angelo Lynn

Windsor whallops Otters, 49-8

BRANDON — Visiting Windsor cruised past the Otter Valley Union High School football team on Saturday, 49-8, in a battle of previously unbeaten Division III squads.

The 5-0 Jacks bolted to a 35-0 halftime lead as running back Ben Gilbert bolted for 114 yards and two TDs in the first half alone.

Quarterback Maison Fortin added a score on a keeper and tossed a first-half TD pass to Austin Gauld. Gauld returned an interception of OV QB Luca Polli for another score, one of his two first-half picks.

OV's Caleb Whitney took over at quarterback in the second half and tossed a 25-yard TD pass to Tucker Babcock at 4:57 of the third period. Isaac Whitney ran in for the two-point conversion.

Keegan Batchelder and Travis McAllister later added long scoring runs for Windsor.

Windsor was especially effective on its sweep runs, scoring on several longer runs. On defense, the Jacks regularly broke through OV's offensive line to rush or chase down OV's quarterbacks, rarely giving them time to set and throw. The Jacks have consistently beaten teams by large

margins throughout this season.

The 4-1 Otters will visit D-II Mount Abraham-Vergennes on Saturday, Oct. 9 at 1 p.m. The 0-4 Eagles did not play this past weekend. They were scheduled to host North Country, but COVID cases in the NCU program led to that game being canceled.



WHITNEY FINDS TIME to complete a pass, above right. Meanwhile, the Otter defense had troubles corraling Windsor running back Ben Gilbert, who rushed for 114 yards and two touchdowns just in the first half

Reporter photo by Angelo Lynn

Otter boys break out of scoring slump, clock Bellows Falls, 8-1, but fall to MAU

BRANDON — The Otter boys varsity soccer team broke out of their scoring slump in a big way against Bellows Falls at home last Wednesday, Sept. 29 with a 8-1 win.

The Otters jumped out to an early 5-0 lead by halftime, then added three more in the final period, as Bellows Falls avoided a shut-out late in the final period.

Scoring for the Otters were in order of when the team scored were: Luca Cifone with an assist by Evan Thomas; Owen Thomas with an assist by Kieran Williams; Kieran Williams goal with assist from Lucas Politano; Kieran Williams goal with Luca Cifone assist; an unassisted goal by Drew Pelkey; Luca Cifone goal with Kieran Williams assist; Kieran Williams goal with assist from Logan Letourneau; and Fraser Pierpont goal with assist from Evan Thomas.

Colby Dearborn scored on an unassisted breakaway goal for

Bellows Falls.

Coach Dick Williams praised the Otters for their breakthrough game.

"We have struggled to score and today the boys got over that curse," Williams said. "The obvious good game as far as stats goes to Kieran Williams, who had 3 goals and 2 assists on the day.

"But I would like to really give a shout out to our three central defenders — Logan Letourneau, Evan Thomas and Owen Thomas," Williams continued. "They managed the middle of the field so well and did a great job providing some great opportunities for the boys up front."

Coach Williams also noted that Hayden Bernhardt started in goal for the Otters and had a shut out. Later in the game, Brian Stanley stepped in goal for the team and gave up the one breakaway goal by Dearborn.

Williams also gave credit to

a couple outstanding players on the Bellows Falls team.

"It is worth noting that Caleb Ghia played very well in the back for Bellows Falls," he said. "The result would have been much worse for Bellows Falls were it not for his speed and good timing. He saved the day for his team many times over. He would fit on any team we play against (and ours). In addition, Dearborn has pace and some quality with the ball. He was himself dangerous, but just didn't have the support to be able to manage more."

MAU BLANKS OTTERS, 5-0

On Friday, Oct. 2, host Mount Anthony blanked the Otters, 5-0, as Silas Rella-Neill pumped in four goals. Hayden Bernhardt made 11 saves for OV, which fell to 2-5-2 heading into a game at Green Mountain Union on Thursday.

OV Cross Countryteam competes at Thetford Woods with 1,000 runners

THETFORD — OV cross-country runners on Saturday joined more than 1,000 competitors at Saturday's Thetford Woods Trail Run, a major invitational meet that drew dozens of teams from all over Vermont and New England.

Luke Calvin took 315th to pace the Otter boys, who were 53rd in the big field that included 694 individual runners.

Only two girls' runners competed for OV. In a race with 599 runners Kelsey Adams was 315th in 25:53.38, and Sara Loyzelle took 328th in 26:62.23.

The scoring runners for the OV boys and their places and times were: 315. Calvin, 21:15.94; 440. Dillon Ladd, 22:31.89; 516. Calvin Ladd, 24:54.36; 621. Baker LaRock, 26:47.17; and 634. Isaiah Bagley, 27:34.70.

Otter Valley field hockey beats Slaters, 3-0

FAIR HAVEN — On Sept. 29 the Otter Valley field hockey team pulled away late in a 3-0 win over host Fair Haven in what Coach Jodie Keith called a well-played game by both teams.

Riley Keith led OV with a goal and two assists. Keith set up Brittney Jackson's first-quarter goal and Mackenzie McKay penalty-corner strike with 3:03 left in the fourth quarter. Keith added her own goal on a breakaway with 51 seconds to go.

The OV defense did not allow a shot on goalie Lily Morgan as the Otters improved to 6-1-1. Their next game is at Middlebury on Thursday, Oct. 7 at 4:30 p.m.



Fair Haven too hot to handle

BRANDON — The OV girls' soccer team faced a couple tough contests as they took on host Springfield, and top-notch Fair Haven on Monday, Oct. 4, with both opponents firing hot shots on goal.

On a sunny fall day this past Saturday, Springfield stopped the Otters, 6-1, with Elena Politano notching the OV goal.

On a rainy, cool Monday afternoon at home, the Otters ran into the well-oiled machine that the 6-2-2 Slaters have become known for. With lightning fast speed, excellent

ball-handling skills and good passing the Slaters often broke into the open on the Otter goalie who had little chance to stop many of the well-delivered shots on goal. By halftime, Fair Haven led 10-0.

The Otters came out stronger in the second period holding Fair Haven scoreless for much of the first 10 minutes, while also having a couple good scoring opportunities, though only a couple shots of goal. Madison Perry (four goals) and Brittney Love (three) led the Slater onslaught. OV (0-8) will visit Hartford on Oct. 9.



THE OTTERS GIRLS' soccer team faced a tough Fair Haven team at home on Monday, Oct. 4 on a cool, rainy home field. OV sophomore Sierra Cormany, #3, top left, tries to defend the Slater's speedy forwards, while sophomore Linnea Faulkner, #26, and OV Senior Faith Scarborough, #1, created a few offensive opportunities in the second half. Bottom photo, Scarborough sets up a pass to junior Emily Peduto.

Reporter photo/Angelo Lynn