

Sports

**OV celebrates FH Senior Day**

OTTER VALLEY'S GIRLS field hockey team honored six seniors at Senior Day last week, showering praise on, left to right, Madison Colburn, Alice Keith, Marissa Connors, Riley Keith, Brittney Jackson and Josie Larock. Many of those six players have been playing together since 7th grade and have helped lead the team to a 11-2-1 record going into the playoffs.

OV field hockey beats Fair Haven, 7-0, to earn No. 4 seed in Division II playoffs

BY ANDY KIRKALDY

BRANDON — The Otter Valley field hockey team earned the No. 4 seed in Division II after a successful regular season that concluded late last week. The Otters will open their title quest on Friday.

The 11-2-1 Otters, the Southern Valley League B Division champs this fall, have a tough-looking challenge in what will be a quarterfinal: They will host No. 5 Spaulding, also 11-2-1.

If the Otters prevail, they will most likely travel to meet top seed Mount Abraham in a

semifinal next Wednesday. The D-II final will be at a time and site to be announced.

In regular-season action last week the Otters closed with a pair of wins.

"It was a tough game and both teams played well... (Lily Morgan played) an excellent game."

— Coach Jodie Keith

On Oct. 21, the Otters blanked visiting Fair Haven, 7-0. Ryleigh Laporte and Mackenzie McKay each scored twice, Brittney Jackson and Riley Keith contributed a goal and two assists apiece, and Sydney Gallo scored.

Goalie Lily Morgan worked a four-save shutout as the Otters racked up a 19-4 advantage in shots on goal.

On Friday, the Otters wrapped up by defeating host Windsor, 2-0. OV defended seven first-period penalty corners and then took the lead when Laporte scored late in the period.

The Otters took control of the play in the second period, with seven corners of their own, and finally iced the victory when Jackson scored late in the fourth quarter. OV had 15 corners in the game, versus 16 for Windsor.

"It was a tough game," Coach Jodie Keith said, "both teams played well."

Keith also cited OV's goalie, Lily Morgan for playing "an excellent game." She finished with 12 saves, four more than the Windsor goalie.

Here's the full playoff pairings for Division II:

First Round, Oct. 27, 3:30 p.m.

Game 1: No. 9 Brattleboro (3-11) at No. 8 Woodstock (7-7).

Game 2: No. 10 Middlebury (1-14) at No. 7. St. Johnsbury (9-5).

Quarterfinals, Oct. 29, 3:30 p.m.

Game 3: Winner Game 1 at No. 1 Mount Abraham (12-1-1).

Game 4: No. 5 Spaulding (11-2-1) at No. 4 Otter Valley (11-2-1).

Saturday, Oct. 30

Game 5: Winner Game 2 at No. 2 Hartford (11-3); Game 6: No. 6 Burr and Burton (7-6-1) at No. 3 U-32 (12-1-1).

Semifinals: Nov. 3, 3:30 p.m.

Game 7: Winner Game 4 vs. winner Game 3; Game 8: Winner Game 6 vs. winner Game 5.

Finals, Nov. 6

Game 9: Winner Game 8 vs. winner Game 7.

Otter football gets No. 3 seed in D3

BY ANDY KIRKALDY

BRANDON — The Otter Valley football team fell in its regular season finale on Saturday, 20-6, against Springfield, 4-4 on the season, but will still enter the Division III postseason as the No. 3 seed.

The Otters (5-3) had already clinched the No. 3 seed with their dramatic overtime win vs. No. 4 Woodstock the week before, and were locked into third place no matter what the result on Saturday.

The Otters will host No. 6 Mill River on this Saturday at 1 p.m. looking for their second victory this season over MRU: The Otters defeated the Minutemen, 37-6, in Brandon on Sept. 25.

Windsor (8-0) and Fairfax (6-1) are the top D-III seeds, and if the Otters take care of business vs. MRU they would almost certainly travel to face Fairfax the following weekend.

Otter girls soccer ends tough season

FAIR HAVEN — The Otter Valley girls' soccer team finished the regular season at 1-13 and was awarded the No. 13 seed in Division II.

The Otters were scheduled, weather permitting, to take on top-seeded Harwood (12-1-1) on Tuesday.

On Thursday, host Fair Haven broke the game open in the second half to defeat the Otter Valley girls' soccer team, 9-0.

The 10-2-2 Slaters earned the No. 3 seed in the D-II tournament.

The OV defense and goalie Linnea Faulkner limited the Slaters to one first-half goal, but could not hold them off after the break.

Brittney Love scored four times to spark Fair Haven.

Proctor girls soccer shoots for 11th straight trip to finals

PROCTOR — Going into the girls Division IV soccer playoffs, the question around the state is whether anyone can

challenge two-time defending champions, the Proctor Phantoms.

The Phantom girls are the

favorites to repeat, led by high scorers Maggie McKearin, who has tallied 35 goals for the season so far, and Isabel Greb, who has 20 goals. The team has an unblemished 13-0 season and scored 98 goals while only giving up 13.

Proctor, however, had a close call in an earlier game against MSJ, winning by a single goal

3-2, but is shooting for its 11th straight trip to the finals.

Meanwhile, the West Rutland Golden Horde will clash with No. 6 Arlington, 8-5-1 in the first round of the playoffs. The West Rutland girls beat the Eagles 3-2 a month ago, but it'll be a tough contest for both teams.

Going into the playoffs,

Proctor gets a bye in the first round and will meet the winner of Game 1 (No. 9 Blue Mt., 5-7, at No. 8 Danville, 6-8) at Proctor on Friday, Oct. 29, 3 p.m. The semifinals will be played Wednesday, Nov. 3, 3 p.m., followed by the finals on Saturday, Nov. 6.

OV boys soccer ends on a high note, beats White River, 1-0

BY ANDY KIRKALDY

BRANDON — On Friday the Otter Valley boys' soccer team wrapped up its regular season with a positive result, defeating visiting White River, 1-0, for their second straight victory.

But with a 4-8-2 record the Otters did not earn a home game for the Division III playoffs. They were seeded No. 10 and were scheduled to visit No. 7 Fairfax (7-6-1) on Tuesday.

The Otters and the Bullets did not meet during the regular season. If the Otters pulled off

the upset, they will advance to a quarterfinal on Friday against No. 2 Winooski.

Against White River (6-6-2) last week, Luca Cifone scored the game's only goal with 10 minutes to go. Owen Thomas assisted Cifone's strike, and goalie Hayden Bernhardt played a strong game.

Friday's soccer game was the last at home for seven OV seniors: Bernhardt, Cifone, Elijah Tucker-Bryant, Evan Thomas, Fraser Pierpont, Kieran Williams and Austin Cormany.

Vermont's Regular Deer Season Starts Saturday, Nov. 13

MONTPELIER, Vt. -- Hunters are gearing up for the start of Vermont's traditionally popular 16-day regular deer season that begins Saturday, November 13 and ends Sunday, November 28.

A hunter may take one legal buck during this season if they did not already take one during the archery deer season. The definition of a legal buck depends on the Wildlife Management Unit (WMU). A map of the WMUs is on pages 22 and 23 of the 2021 VERMONT HUNTING & TRAPPING GUIDE available from license agents statewide.

"The greatest numbers of deer continue to be in western regions of the state and other valley areas," said Vermont Fish and Wildlife's deer biologist Nick Fortin. "The Green Mountains and Northeast Kingdom offer more of a big woods experience with fewer, but often larger, deer."

Vermont hunting licenses include a buck tag for this season and a late season bear tag (for Nov. 13-21), cost \$28 for residents and \$102 for nonresidents. Hunters under 18 years of age get a break at \$8 for residents and \$25 for nonresidents. Licenses are available on Fish and Wildlife's website and from license agents statewide.

Fish and Wildlife urges hunters to wear a fluorescent orange hat and vest to help maintain Ver-

mont's very good hunting season safety record.

Hunters who get a deer on November 13 or 14 can help Vermont's deer management program by reporting their deer at one of the biological check stations listed below that will be staffed from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., unless the store closes earlier:

Buck Stop Mini Mart - Bennington

Keith's Country Store - Pittsford

R&L Archery - Barre

Newfane Store - Newfane

West Enosburg Country Store - Enosburg Falls

The Old Fishing Hole - Morrisville (Saturday only)

Bob's Quick Stop - Irasburg

Lead & Tackle - Lyndon

Village Grocery & Deli - Waitsfield

Wright's Sport Shop - Newport

Tyson Store - Ludlow

Hunters who do not go to a biological reporting station are asked to provide a tooth from their deer. Obtain a tooth envelope from your regular reporting agent. Remove one of the middle incisor teeth, being careful to include the root. Place the tooth in the envelope and give it to the reporting agent. Each tooth will be cross sectioned to accurately determine the deer's age, and the results will be posted on the Fish and Wildlife website next spring.

Thank You

The Otter Valley Football Club would like to thank its sponsors for continuing to support our team.

While the VPA ruled this year that games using portable lights were no longer allowed the OVFC has not let that deter us from aiming high. We are hoping to continue to pursue having permanent lights on Markowski Field as we "Light up the Valley".

This is a deserving group of kids who we want to see be able to play football under the lights.

Thank you to those that stepped up to donate and sponsor this year...

Brandon House of Pizza

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Blue Seal of Brandon

Polli Brothers Cutlery Service

Depot Farm Supply

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Red Apple Trailer Sales / Leer Truck Caps

G. Stone Motors

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Stone Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram

Union Street Grocery

Head to Tail Dog Groomin

Mallory's Automotive

If you are interested in donating to this worthy cause please send donations to:

OVFC
PO Box 16
Brandon, VT 05733

Thank you,
The Otter Valley Football Club

