

Sports

OV beats Mill River in quarterfinal, 12-6

BRANDON — The third-seeded Otter Valley football team outlasted visiting No. 6 Mill River, 12-6, on Saturday in a Division III quarterfinal and will play No. 2 Fairfax in a semifinal this coming Saturday. Game time will be 1 p.m.; the teams did not face one another during the regular season.

Fairfax (8-1) defeated No. 7 Oxbow, 42-12, on Saturday, in another quarterfinal. No. 1 Windsor and No. 4 Woodstock also advanced and will meet in this coming Saturday's other Division III semifinal.

The Otters improved to 6-3 against the 3-6 Minutemen, but the victory did not come as easily as did their regular season home clash with MRU, a 37-6 decision.

But the OV defense three times held the Minutemen with-

out points after they reached the OV 20, and the Otters forced three turnovers. Richard Lafontaine picked off two passes, Isaac Whitney recovered a fumble, and Keevon Parks had a big game defensively.

The Otters took a 6-0 lead at 8:29 of the second period, when quarterback Caleb Whitney tossed a 16-yard touchdown pass to Brady Diaz.

OV made it 12-0 at 1:46 of the third period, when Diaz scored on a sweep from 25 yards out, dodging tacklers on the way.

MRU tightened the game at 6:49 of the fourth, when Ross Badgley broke a 44-yard scoring run. The Minutemen got one more possession, but turned the ball over on downs in OV territory. Dylan Anderson made a key defensive play for the Otters in the fourth quarter.



RICHARD LAFONTAINE PICKED off this key pass interception (his second) in the game's second half and returned it for a nice gain into Otter territory.
Reporter photo/Angelo Lynn

Spaulding stops OV in playoffs, 2-1

BY ANGELO LYNN

BRANDON — The title dreams of the No. 4 seeded Otter Valley field hockey team came to an end on Friday afternoon, when visiting No. 5 Spaulding edged the Otters, 2-1, in a Division II quarterfinal.

Both teams had entered the game with 11-2-1 records, but it was the Tide who advanced to a Wednesday semifinal at No. 1

Mount Abraham (13-1-1), a 2-0 winner on Friday over No. 8 Woodstock.

The Otters came up short on their soggy home turf despite forcing 18 penalty corners to eight for the Tide.

Spaulding snapped a scoreless tie a minute before halftime with a goal from Eden White, set up by Bella Bevins. Then Bevins put the ball past OV goalie Lily

Morgan to make it 2-0 with 3:51 gone in the third quarter.

Alice Keith put OV on the board with eight seconds to go in the third period, with an assist from Mackenzie McKay.

But the Otters could not again get the ball past Tide goalie Abigail Geno for the equalizer as the clock ticked down on what was an outstanding OV season that included a Southern Vermont League B Division championship.

In comments about the game, Coach Jodie Keith said the Otter offense was definitely pressing the goal well, but just didn't get one of their 18 corner shots to go in.

"We had quite a few missed opportunities offensively and that's just how it goes sometimes," Keith said. "Spaulding did have a pretty solid defense, but we have scored on corners in almost all of our games this year, so I was really hoping that we could tie it up or go ahead on those corners."

"I think we played really well as a whole," Keith continued. "Lily had a great game and had many amazing saves. She was on the ground keeping the ball (See OV Field Hockey Page 9)



SENIOR BRADY DIAZ Tries to slip a tackle as he makes his way toward Mill River's endzone.
Reporter photo/Angelo Lynn



SENIOR CAPTAIN MARISSA Connors fights for the ball while on the ground as senior teammate Josie LaRock lends a hand.
Reporter photo/Angelo Lynn

OV Field Hockey

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out of the goal and also had a save high in the left corner of the goal. She's pretty quick and is able to cover a lot of space in the goal. Spaulding's goalie also had a really good game and had some really nice saves."

Of the team's season, Keith was upbeat.

"This was a really great season for us," she said. "When the game was over on Friday, we had a few upset players, but I told them that we have nothing to be upset about. We have an 11-3-1 record and that's pretty impressive."

"Division 2 has a lot of strong teams this year and we were one of them. Anytime you take 16-20 players and put them together for a season, there are ups and downs, but overall this team really works well together. They support each other on and off the field, they have good focus and really want to play as hard as they can and win for each other."

Of her team leaders, Keith noted that "it's always important to have a few strong leaders on a team, but it doesn't necessarily have to be the seniors. We were lucky to have 3 seniors selected as captains (Riley Keith, Alice Keith and Marissa Connors) this year that are very strong leaders. These 3 captains have been playing sports together since they were in elementary school, have positive attitudes, know

each other very well and did a great job working together to keep the team moving in a positive direction all season."

As for next year, Keith was optimistic.

"I think we should have 7-8 new players joining us next season and I'm really excited to see them play with the current players. A few times throughout the season, the middle school players have been able to join us for practice, which helps with the transition from middle school to varsity," adding that the "girls get to know each other a little better and see what we do at our practices."

Keith noted that the 2020 season was her first as the varsity coach and she only had one player graduate in 2021, so this coming year, with six players graduating it will require some changes.

"We may need to approach things differently next year and move some positions around," Keith said, "but the 10 players that are returning are very strong players and will work with and support the new players joining us next year. I'm looking forward to seeing this group play together."

Friday's quarterfinal was the last OV field hockey game for seniors Brittney Jackson, Riley Keith, Alice Keith, Madison Colburn, Josephine LaRock and Marissa Connors.



SENIOR CAPTAIN ALICE Keith forces her way into the circle and prepares to fire a goal past Spaulding's goalie mid-way in the third period to put the Otters on the board, trailing Spaulding 2-1.

Reporter photos/Angelo Lynn



OTTER GOALIE LILY Morgan, a sophomore, stretches out on the ground in front of the goal as Otters Alice Keith, Marissa Connors and Elizabeth Atherton work hard to prevent another Spaulding goal.

Reporter photo/Angelo Lynn



SENIOR CAPTAIN RILEY Keith swings wide with the ball as she prepares to tee it up in front of the Spaulding goal.

Reporter photo/Angelo Lynn

OV boys soccer fall to Fairfax, 2-0

FAIRFAX — No. 7 Fairfax ousted the No. 10 Otter Valley boys' soccer team from the Division III playoffs on Oct. 26, 2-0.

The Otters put six shots on goal, but Bullet goalie Brandon Gillian stopped them all. Matt

Spiller scored both goals for the 8-6-1 Bullets.

Otter Valley had won its final two games to finish 4-8-2 in the regular season and climb up to the No. 10 seed.

The setback marked the last

OV soccer action for seniors Elijah Tucker-Bryant, Fraser Pierpont, Evan Thomas, Kieran Williams, Hayden Bernhardt, Austin Cormany and Luca Cifone.

OV girls' soccer falls in playoffs

SOUTH DUXBURY — The Otter Valley girls' soccer team's season came to an end on Wednesday, Oct. 27, when No. 1 Harwood rolled past the No. 16 Otters, 7-0, in a Division II first-round matchup.

Harwood improved to 13-1-1, while the young Otter squad wrapped up its rebuilding campaign at 1-14.

The game marked the last OV soccer outing for the team's only senior, midfielder Faith Scarborough.



VARSITY GIRLS SENIOR Faith Scarborough was the lone senior on the 2021 OV's girls soccer team.



GOING INTO ITS playoff game with No. 7 Fairfax last week, the Otters had won their final two games of the regular season to finish, 4-8-2 and climb up to the No. 10 seed. In that game, however, they fell 2-0 to end their season. The senior members of the 2021 OVUHS boy's soccer team are, left to right: 11 Austin Cormany, 4 Elijah Tucker-Bryant, 1 Hayden Bernhardt, 9 Luca Cifone, 8 Fraser Pierpont, 10 Kieran Williams, and 7 Evan Thomas.

Photo provided

2021 BRANDON TOWN HALL UPCOMING EVENTS!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6... "DISSIPATED EIGHT"...7:30 PM

Middlebury College's famous a Capella group returns for their 5th performance with great harmonies, and a unique touch of comedy. They sing a range of songs from modern day pop to traditional barbershop.

All tickets \$5. *Sponsored by Michael & Polly Goodspeed, Nancy & Gary Meffe, Pam & Steve Douglas, Steven Zorn & Charles Powell.*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7...NO STRINGS MARIONETTES..."SNOWMAIDEN"...1:30 PM

Returning with another incredible performance of marionette magic, Barbara and Dan present a story that has been told in Russia for hundreds of years. Mythical figures, animals and humans populate this production. All tickets \$5. *Sponsored by Foley Brothers Brewing, Rowe Real Estate, Ferne & Lou Faivre, Bethany & Andrew Menkart, Bud & Jane Coolidge, Lucy & Dick Rouse, Kathryn & Bob Clark, Otter Creek Therapies*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13...SILENT MOVIE... "COLLEGE"(1927)...7:00 PM.

Head back to school with freshman Buster Keaton, who arrives at a college campus to find sports is the only sure-fire route to popularity. One of Keaton's most gag filled comedies.

This is a Free Will Donation Event. *Sponsored by Lucy & Dick Rouse, Edward Loedding & Dorothy Leysath, Sam & Sharon Glaser, Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, Peter & Louise Kelly.*



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14... "DINOMAN-SPACE" PROGRAM...4:00 PM

Through the solar system and beyond! Dinoman takes his audience to the fast paced exploration of Space. Dinoman uses dinosaurs, meteors, comets, liquid air and a goldfish to give a unique view of outer space. All tickets, \$5.00. *Sponsored by Salvatore Ammatuna, Andrew & Bethany Menkart, Pat Hanson, Peter & Louise Kelly, Brandon/Forest Dale Lions.*



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20... MICHELE FAY BAND...7:00 PM

The Michele Fay Band features original and Americana music that brings forth a comfortable groove of folk, swing and bluegrass influenced songs. Michele sings with a clear, authentic voice accompanied by guitar and banjo. All tickets \$5. *Sponsored by Peter & Louise Kelly, Edward Loedding & Dorothy Leysath, Shirley Markland.*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1... MOONLIGHT MADNESS...4:00-8:00 PM.

This event caps off the Friends Of the Town Hall season with vendors upstairs and downstairs. If you are interested in participating at the 12/1 Moonlight Madness contact Dennis at 247-5420 or denniswarden@gmail.com. Space is available on a first come first served basis. Reservations may be made after October 1.

www.brandontownhall.com • Handicap accessible & ADA Compliant
Tickets can be purchased the night of the performance. Like us on FACEBOOK!