



## Smith, Faulkner qualify for state Inside...

CAL had two players compete in the first round of the KHSAA state tournament on Tuesday, Sept. 26.

Senior Brady Smith started the day on the tough side of the Willow Golf Course in Kenton County.

His opening holes had him scrambling through some rough spots before finishing with an eagle on hole nine. A 220-yard shot left him 10 feet for the putt.

He continued to fight hard through the back half, outdriving the competition and pitching close to finish with two birdies and a 73 (+1). Smith finished tied for place and looks forward to a shot at repeating as the state's individual champion.

*See 'HS boys golf' page 8*



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## Varsity football shuts out LaRue County

On Friday night, the CAL varsity football team traveled to Hodgenville, KY, to face the Hawks of LaRue County High School.

CAL dominated the game from the start and entered halftime with a 38-0 lead.

The lopsided score forced the game into a running clock situation for the remainder of the night and allowed CAL's underclassmen to gain experience throughout the second half.

The Centurions continued to dominate

the rest of the game and left town with a 49-0 win.

Senior quarterback Cole Hodge completed 11-of-13 passes for 227 yards and four touchdowns.

Hodge's younger brother, junior wideout Connor Hodge, had five receptions for 103 yards, one touchdown, and one 2-point conversion. Senior wideout Justin Ruffin had four receptions for 93 yards, two touchdowns, and a pair of two-point conversions. Senior tight end Cobe

Ross, who transferred to CAL this season, had his first score as a Centurion when he caught a seven-yard pass from Cole Hodge on the three-yard line and ran it in for a touchdown.

Sophomore quarterback Colin Daniels completed 2-of-5 passes for 46 yards. Daniels threw for one touchdown on a 23-yard pass to freshman wideout Ja'Hyde Brown, who was wide open on the 11-yard line and ran it in for a score.

Sophomore running back Jeffrey Vazzana led the Centurions on the ground, rushing for 87 yards and two touchdowns on four carries.

The Centurion defense held LaRue County to just 75 yards of offense.

Senior linemen John Cobaugh and Nathan Carlisle led the team with six tackles each. Freshman linebacker Garyon Hobbs had five tackles, junior defensive back Vince Possidento had four tackles, and senior de-

fensive lineman David Holloway had four tackles and a quarterback sack.

Freshman defensive back Jayson Ruffin had a pass deflection.

The Centurions have a bye this week and will return home Friday, Oct. 13, for their annual homecoming game and another much-anticipated matchup, this time against the Yellow Jackets from Central High School. Kickoff will be at 7:30 p.m. at Christian Academy.





# Varsity volleyball win streak reaches 11

The Lady Centurions had a busy week to close out the month of September, playing eight matches in five days.

After straight set home wins against LKY and Atherton\*, as well as a straight set win on the road at Shelby County, the Lady Centurions went undefeated in Friday night pool

play in the JCIVT at OVVC, beating a tough Elizabethtown team and avenging last year's 2A Championship loss to Logan Co.

They opened tournament play the next morning with a straight set win over North Bullitt before falling to ultimate tournament winner Frederick

Douglass in a close two-set game.

The Lady Centurions closed out tournament play with their second victory in 24 hours over E-Town in the consolation bracket to place third overall in the tournament.

**\*See senior day photos on page 4**



## Verse of the week

"One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple."

- Psalm 27:4





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# Gallery: Volleyball senior night

Lydia Fitzgibbon

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**Courtney Porter**



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# Girls soccer rounds out regular season with tight matches

The Centurion girls soccer team closed out its regular season with a pair of close matches.

On Monday, the CAL contingent traveled to the distant lands of LaRue County to take on the Hawks.

Senior Elise Michel struck first, taking a pass from Hadley Snowden and blasted in what would turn out to be the winning goal from deep to give CAL a 1-0 lead.

CAL dominated for much of the match and turned away Hawk attacks with the help of keeper Samantha Durston and the stalwart defensive combination of Annslee Philpot, Kynlee Cornett, Zoey Morgan and Lydia

Wallace.

The offense pressed and kept the LaRue keeper busy all night. As the sun set, the varsity squad closed out their ninth win of the season.

The Centurions had their last home match of the year on Thursday, hoping to tame the Mustangs of North Oldham.

The first half saw back-and-forth play behind tremendous effort by the Centurions, but the halftime score remained 0-0.

The second half brought an early explosion of goals, starting with a header by Zoey Morgan off a corner to give CAL the lead.

Two minutes later, North

Oldham matched with a goal off a corner.

Eight minutes later, North Oldham took the lead 2-1. Three minutes later, CAL was awarded a penalty kick, and Ella Mast pushed it past the keeper into the far corner of the goal to knot the score at 2-2.

The CAL and North Oldham spectators buzzed with anticipation as the goals kept coming.

Just two minutes later, the Mustangs struck again, putting CAL down one with just over 20 minutes left to play.

CAL gutted out every last bit of energy it had within them, displaying excellent defense and an offense that

never gave up.

However, the scoring was over for the night, and when the dust settled, the Centurions found themselves on the short end of a 3-2 game that was characterized by tremendous effort and plenty of positives to build upon heading into postseason play.

CAL seeks to defend their 28th District title this Tuesday in the championship game against the the winner of Ballard vs. Eastern.

CAL is the top seed in the 28th District and was slated to play KCD in the opening round, but the Bearcats forfeited to send the Centurions to the championship game.

## Can't make it to the game? Watch it online!

**Mike Bautello has proudly broadcast CAL football and basketball games for 15 years. Tune in each Friday night as your Centurions strive for victory!**



**For a complete listing of upcoming and past broadcasts, visit <https://livesportscaster.com/portal/user/2644/mike-batuello/>**

## JV field hockey plays Assumption, Sacred Heart

The junior varsity field hockey team took on the Assumption Rockets on Tuesday, Sept. 26.

The first quarter went back and forth and ended tied 0-0.

The second quarter brought the first goal of the game by CAL's Faith Major.

The third and fourth quarter came with more back and forth and a strong showing from the Christian Academy defense, led by Samantha Owens, Kaylee Brown, Lindsey Sloan, Emma McKinley and goalkeeper Callie Burrows.

The Centurions were able to hold off the Rockets to win 1-0.

On Thursday, Sept. 28, the Centurions took on the Sacred Heart Valkyries.

Callie Burrows did a great job in the goal and the defense, led by Lindsey Sloan, continuously turned away several Sacred Heart attacks, but the Valkyries found the back of the net in both the first and second quarters. The Centurions went into halftime down 2-0.

The fight continued the remaining two quarters. Strong midfield showings by Alessia Hall, Ava Code, and Lainey Miller helped to keep the third quarter scoreless. Both teams were unable to convert corner attempts during the period.

The fourth quarter was action-packed. The defense held off three corner attempts by the Valkyries. The Centurions had a couple of offense attacks by McKenna Lacy, Lindsey Sloan and

Amelia Ohr, but they were unable to get in the goal against the strong Valkyrie defense.

The halftime score held, and Sacred Heart defeated the Centurions 2-0.



## 7th field hockey completes undefeated year

Congratulations to our seventh grade field hockey team for capping off an 11-0 perfect season on Wednesday, Sept. 27, with a 3-0 victory over KCD in the league championship game.

For the season, the team scored 46 goals while only conceding three goals.



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## 7th/8th football improves to 7-0

It was business as usual for the CAL middle school football team last week at South Oldham.

The Centurions got off to another quick start, taking a 32-0 lead to the half en route to a 40-0 win over the Dragons.

CAL reached the end zone five times and converted all five two-point conversions.

Gabriel Lumpkins ended the scoring with a flashy 90-yard run.

The offensive line kept quarterback Jackson Burke's uniform clean all night while opening up holes for the running game.

CAL sailed through league play 7-0 with an average margin of victory of 35 points.

The Centurions will host the league championship game this Saturday against either South Oldham or Oldham County. Start time has yet to be determined.



## Defense, running game power 3rd/4th football to win

The CAL Centurions (5-1) hosted the Lyndon Lightning on a beautiful Saturday afternoon.

CAL kicked off to Lyndon to get things started. On the Lightning's first offensive play, after a short run, Jack Lowe forced a fumble which was recovered by CAL.

The Centurions got the running game going behind their offensive line on their first offensive possession. A combination of runs by Lowe, Jake Blandford and Gavin Ihnen, along with a few offsides penalties on the Lightning, helped CAL march down the field. Lowe eventually punched it in the end zone on a short run, and Blandford hit Ihnen for the two-point conversion to put CAL ahead 8-0 with 3:12 left in the first quarter.

Lyndon picked up short yardage on a few runs on its next possession, but Luke Schultz made multiple tackles to keep the Lightning at bay. Lyndon converted on a fourth and one to pick up their only first down for the game. However, Blandford made a tackle for loss, and Ihnen nearly made an unbelievable interception on a pass that was ruled to have contacted the ground prior to being secured. After a bad snap and an incomplete pass, CAL's defense forced the change of possession.

On the next play, Lyndon's defense made a nice play to intercept CAL and get the ball right back.

But once again, the formidable CAL defense stepped up, made big tackles in the backfield, and prevented any pass plays. Lyndon again was stopped and CAL took over.

This time, CAL went back to the run plays and couldn't be stopped. Blandford scored on a quarterback keeper, and Jack Lowe ran in the extra point to put CAL up 15-0 with 2:39 left in the first half.

CAL's defense did more of the same on Lyndon's next possession, this time with John Digby getting in on the action with a tackle for loss. CAL used their timeouts wisely and made stops, so they could get the ball back.

That paid off for them, as they moved down the field with Ihnen runs, and Blandford found paydirt to put CAL ahead 21-0 headed into halftime.

Lyndon recovered an onside kick to open the second half, but it didn't keep the ball for long, as Ihnen intercepted a pass at the 6:20 mark.

Eight straight run plays by CAL chewed up clock and proved successful as they continued to find holes and gain big yards, highlighted by an impressive run by Lowe on third down. Lowe



eventually punched in another TD run, and CAL got a two-point conversion to go up 29-0.

Collin Hammer jumped on a botched snap on the next Lyndon drive to record yet another turnover for CAL. Blandford rolled outside on another keeper for a 48-yard scamper to the end zone, and CAL ran in another extra point to go up 36-0.

In the last seconds of the game, Lyndon returned a kickoff for a TD to bring the final score to 36-6.

CAL moves to 6-1 and faces a tough Renegades team next week in a game that has potential playoff implications. Come out and support your third and fourth grade Centurions and our excellent cheerleaders!

# Strong second half not enough for 1st/2nd football

The first and second grade football team played the Lyndon Lightning on Saturday.

CAL fell behind 28-0 in the first half.

Highlight plays came from Leo Balsley with a near sack that forced an incomplete pass and Mac Manley with a diving tackle at the four-yard

line and Leo Balsley with a denied extra point.

Other noteworthy tackles were made by Emmet Leffler, Chapman Amlung and Connor Borgmann.

CAL gained momentum after halftime with a sack by Beckham Albright followed by three consecutive sacks by Balsley.

Manley ran for a CAL first down, its first of the half, and was followed by a 15-yard pass from Beckham Albright completed to Lucas Burke. Then Albright ran for 10 yards to get CAL near the goal line. Trent McKay capped off the impressive drive with a touchdown run. The extra point was no good

for CAL.

CAL recovered a fumble in the closing second of the game, and Ryan Clark ended the contest with an eight-yard run to conclude a strong second half for the CAL Mighty Mites.

Lyndon ultimately walked away with a 28-6 victory.

## 'HS boys golf'

Continued from page 1

Seventh grader Brady Faulkner also grew up on the Northern Kentucky course. Faulkner was six-over after six holes but righted the ship through the rest of the round.

His highlight was birdies on holes 15 and 16, making him a firm qualifier.

Faulkner moves on to the state tournament after shooting a 78 (+6). His strong finish placed him tied for 17th for the day.

The top three teams and 15 individuals not associated with those teams move on to the championship rounds in Bowling Green on October 6-7.

Coach Zimmerer was proud of the efforts of both golfers.

"It is a real big deal to play in back-to-back state tournaments and have a chance to win as

well," he said. "Brady (Smith) has proven to be one of the best in the state. Over the years, he has played well there. He won twice there in 2022, in the BGIT and the state tournament. This year, he played well in the BGIT but not perfect. I look forward to seeing him have a great state tournament."

Coach Zimmerer has experience working with middle school players in Bowling Green after Smith made it in eighth grade (2019) and Will Judd qualified as part of the CAL championship season in 2021.

"Finding a rhythm and feeling comfortable early will make all

the difference," Zimmerer said. "Brady (Faulkner) was able to play the course a few weeks ago in regular-season play. Hopefully, we can use that experience to help him through the two days."

Faulkner will tee off Friday at 8:20 CST and Smith at 9:30 CST.

To follow along,

visit the KHSAA website at <https://khsaa.org/sports-activities-events/fall/golf/> or the Golf Genius app at <https://www.golfgenius.com/page>

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# This week in Centurion Nation - Oct. 2-7

## Monday

### Football

JV vs. South Oldham  
6:30 p.m. | CAL

### Field Hockey

V at Eastern  
7 p.m. | EHS

### Boys Soccer

V at Ballard\*  
8 p.m. | BHS  
\*28th District semifinals

## Tuesday

### Field Hockey

V at Walnut Hills (OH)  
5:30 p.m. | WHHS

### Girls soccer

V vs. Ballard or Eastern\*  
6 p.m. | Ballard  
\*28th District finals

## Thursday

### Field Hockey

V/JV vs. Villa Duchesne  
4/5:30 p.m. | CAL

### Boys Golf

V at KHSAA state tourney  
TBD | Bowling Green CC

## Saturday

### Football

1&2/3&4/5&6 at Renegades  
10 a.m./11:30 a.m./1p.m. | CAL  
7/8 at Conference Championship  
TBD | CAL

### Cross Country

HS at Haunted Woods Classic  
8 a.m. | Oldham County HS

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### Fall sports head coaches

Middle School Cross Country.....Brian Gibson

High School Cross Country.....Daria Ochenkowski

High School Cheerleading.....Amy Dreher

Middle School Cheerleading.....Kim Robinson

Varsity Field Hockey.....Stephanie Seeley

Junior Varsity Field Hockey.....Jamie Wright

8th Grade Field Hockey.....Kelly Moody

7th Grade Field Hockey.....Chris Ward

5th/6th Grade Field Hockey.....Heather Taber

High School Football.....Hunter Cantwell

7th/8th Grade Football.....Draper Hall

5th/6th Grade Football.....Bilal Powell

3rd/4th Grade Football.....Eric Lowe

1st/2nd Grade Football.....Clay Manley

High School Boys Golf.....Greg Zimmerer

Varsity Boys Soccer.....Andrew Bocchino

Junior Varsity Boys Soccer.....Mayo Pentecost

High School Girls Soccer.....John Zutt

Middle School Tennis.....Maddie Rumbuc

Varsity Volleyball.....Sherry Ashley

Junior Varsity/Freshman Volleyball.....Hadley Trenaman

8th Grade Volleyball.....Juliann Peak

7th Grade Volleyball.....Kaitlyn Meyers & Angela Alvarado

6th Grade Volleyball.....Lauren Fields