



STATE CHAMPS

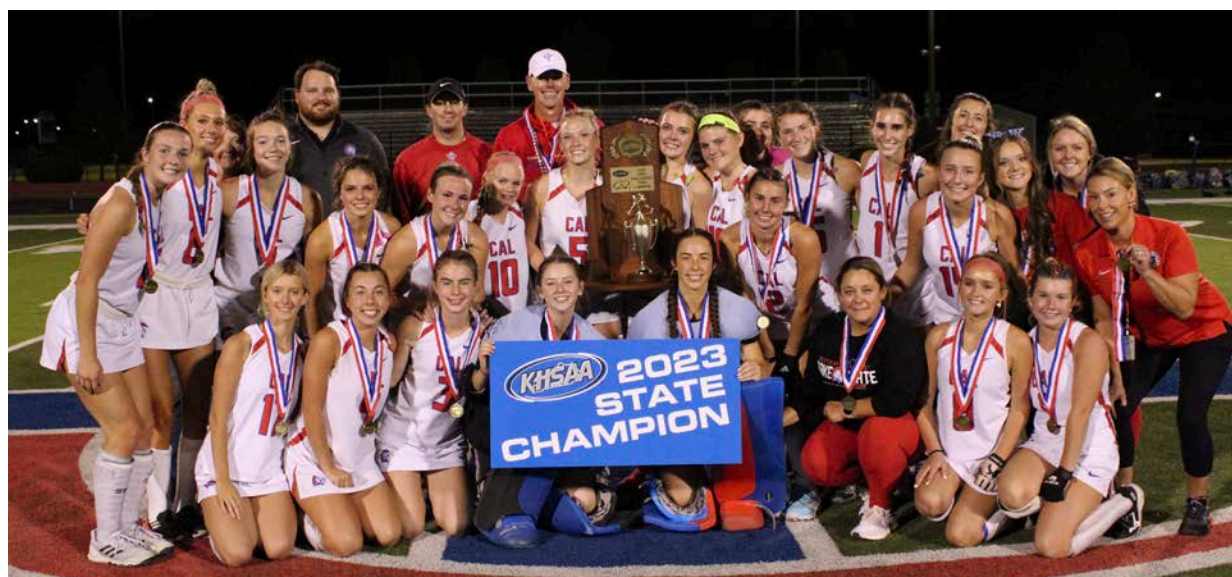
Varsity field hockey edges Assumption for second state title

Varsity field hockey captured its second state title in program history last Monday when CAL edged defending champion Assumption 3-2 at Centurion Field.

“It felt like all of the pieces fell into place at the right time and organized in the right way,” coach Stephanie Seeley said. “The technical and tactical was there, but the drive and grit and deep desire to do what it takes to get the win was also there.”

CAL entered the finals with a pair of wins over Assumption already under its belt. The Centurions blanked the Rockets twice in the regular season – 4-0 on Aug. 18 and 1-0 on Sept. 26.

“That was what we were most nervous about because it’s tough to do,” Seeley said of beating a quality opponent for a third time. “The difference was staying true to what CAL field hockey is and not trying to prepare too much for



that team. We had to stay disciplined about how we played, and we also had to want it more.”

It didn’t take the visitors long to get on the board in the third meeting. Assumption generated several scoring opportunities in the opening minutes and broke through on a Lauren Campisano deflection in the closing seconds of the first quarter to take a 1-0 lead.

But after enduring an opening quarter that was largely controlled by As-

See ‘V field hockey’ page 4



Verse of the week

"He said to me, 'My grace is enough for you, because power is made perfect in weakness.' So I'll gladly spend my time bragging about my weaknesses so that Christ's power can rest on me."

- 2 Corinthians 2:19



Inside...

Varsity field hockey.....	Page 1
HS cross country.....	Page 2
Varsity football.....	Page 3
Varsity volleyball.....	Page 7
MS football.....	Page 8
Marching band.....	Page 9
Schedule.....	Page 10
Contacts.....	Page 10

HS cross country competes at state

Girls finish ninth, Herbig and Plummer finish top six

High school cross country completed its season with a strong showing at the state meet last Saturday in Lexington.

The girls team finished ninth place with 239 points behind state champion Lexington Catholic. The team was

led by sophomore Anabelle Plummer who finished fifth with a time of 19:50.31 after sitting in 12th place at the midpoint of the race. Plummer's time was the seventh best in school history.

"I went out around 15th, and then my goal was just to

see how fast I could go and how many people I could pass to the end," Plummer said. "I'm really happy with the finish. Hopefully next year, I can get even higher and hopefully break the school record."

Taylor Greenwell con-

cluded a standout season with a 54th place finish at state with a time of 22:55. Katherine Kelly followed close behind in 64th place with a time of 23:13.

Kayleigh Burkhead and Megan Wearsch finished back

See 'HS cross country' page 6



Varsity football shuts out Fern Creek

Finishes regular season 9-1; will host Marion Co. in district semis

Varsity football routed host Fern Creek 36-0 in its regular season finale last Friday night.

The Centurions rode career days from Cole and Connor Hodge and a dominant defensive effort to its sixth straight win.

Cole Hodge torched the Tiger secondary for 401 yards and four touchdowns on 29-of-34 passing.

Connor Hodge was the primary beneficiary of his older brother's stellar night, hauling in 11 catches for 188 yards and three receiving touchdowns. The junior also returned an interception for a score to give him four scores.

Bryce Wilson also had a breakout game out wide, catching five balls for 84 yards. Justin Ruffin added seven catches for 54 yards, and Jeffrey Vazzana recorded four receptions for 41 yards and a touchdown.

Vazzana also carried the ball nine times for 43 yards. Garryon Hobbs added 23 yards on seven totes.

Not to be outdone by the offense, the Centurion defense pitched its third shutout of the season.

Eight players recorded at least three tackles, led by Grayden Reid with seven. Connor Hodge and John Cobaugh added six tackles each, and Nathan Carlisle chipped in five more.

Reed, Cobaugh, Carlisle and Hobbs all recorded a sack each in the win.

As a whole, the unit has allowed just six points combined over the last four games.

CAL has the top RPI rating in class 3A, so the Centurions will host every game it plays in the playoffs leading up to the state championship, should the team make it that far.

The Centurions' state title defense begins this Friday when they host Marion County at 7:30 p.m. in the first round of the playoffs. The winner of that game will face the winner of Garrard County vs. Elizabethtown in the district championship the following week.



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'V field hockey'

Continued from page 1

-sumption, CAL went on the offensive early in the second period.

"The biggest shift was reminding the girls that we know what to expect – we know what kind of game this is going to be. Now it's time to trust our training," Seeley said. "Composure has been the biggest separator for our team that last couple years, but this year, the girls really committed to staying present and focused in the moment. It helped us build that attack back."

CAL earned its first corner of the night with eight minutes to play in the first half. Then another. Then another. Then another. CAL ultimately generated seven consecutive corners before Lauren Sloan drove a shot through heavy traffic and in to tie the game at 1-all with 3:35 remaining in the second quarter.

"One of the big things for us this year was scoring early, so getting scored on super early kind of beat us down," goalkeeper Morgan Lala said. "Scoring that one goal on those seven corners was just the peak of the game."

The score remained 1-1 heading into the half, but the second quarter sequence flipped the momentum to the Centurions.

CAL used intel from its onslaught of corners in the first half to take its first lead of the night at 2-1 on a Savannah Faulkner goal off a Megan Mauzy corner insert just under three minutes into the third quarter.

"From a tactical standpoint, the seven straight corners didn't make our conversion rate great, but it did give us time to evaluate their defensive structure a little bit and find something that worked," Seeley said. "It really was advantageous from that standpoint."

Assumption knotted up the score at two apiece just over three minutes later, and that score held until deep in the



fourth quarter.

With the clock ticking inside of four minutes, CAL advanced the ball deep into Rocket territory. Faulkner skipped the ball through a host of bodies to the back post, where junior Nora Ritter – typically not known as a scorer – was filling in a gap all alone.

"It came down to what we've worked on in practice the last two weeks, focusing on the overlap and making sure our spots were filled, not focusing much on which position is doing that," Seeley said. "She saw that we needed a back post, and she made a run to be there."

Ritter didn't miss her chance, deflecting the pass into the back of the net to put CAL ahead 3-2 with 3:13 left in the contest.

"I was crying," Ritter said with a laugh while reflecting on the moment. "Savannah hit the ball in, and I just got to the post I guess. It was really kind of blur."

CAL played conservatively the remainder of the contest, controlling possession with effective shielding and ball movement.

The instant the click hit triple zeros, the team darted for the CAL goal for a dog pile six years in the making.

"It was amazing," said Lala, who was at the bottom of the pile. "I've never felt this way before. It's a moment that I'll never forget."

The third time was the charm for Seeley and the class of 2024. Both joined the high school program in 2019 and fell in the state championship twice in their first two seasons.

"It's just the best feeling," Mauzy said. "I've already played in two championships before. It just feels so good to finally win one and get a ring."

Mauzy was one of three players named the the all-tournament team, as well as Morgan Lala and Sloan, who earned tournament MVP honors.

CAL will be without both the nine-player class and Seeley, who recently accepted a position out of state, next season. However, the Centurions return plenty of production as they enter 2024 with a new mentality coming off the title.

"This really will change our program," Lala said. "Just more people wanting to play and really growing the program how we always wanted. It will have such a big impact."

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'HS cross country'

Continued from page 2

back-to-back in 80th and 81st place with times of 23:48 and 23:49. Reese Fletcher finished 92nd with a time of 24:16. Kinsley Cordrey finished 133rd with a time of 25:29.

With no seniors on this year's roster, CAL will aim to repeat as region champions and compete for a state title in 2024.

The boys team finished in 25th place behind state

champion Covington Catholic (62 points) with 594 points.

The team was once again led by junior Sam Herbig in sixth place with a time of 16:34.85. His time was the third best all-time for a CAL runner behind record holder Ryan Knight's 16:01 and second place Steven Ott's 16:02.

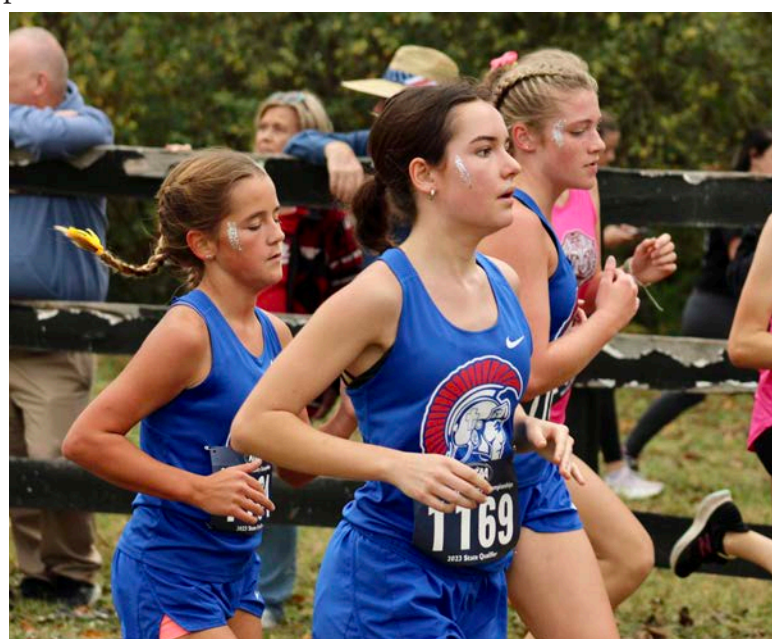
"The plan was to sit back behind the first and second people and go from there. It

was a tough course, so I fell back further than I wanted to, but what can you do?" Herbig said. "It feels good (to have the third best time in school history). I expected to do it, and I'm glad it ended up happening."

Jeremiah Beardsley finished in 122nd place with a time of 19:54. Elijah Nelson capped a successful freshman season with a 136th place finish with a time of

20:01. Luke Stephens finished 212th with a time of 21:46. John Coutts finished in 224th place with a time of 22:35. Christian LeSage rounded out the finishers in 256th place with a time of 25:15.

Similar to the girls team, the boys team graduates zero seniors as it looks to build on the 2023 campaign.



Varsity volleyball falls in region semifinals

Varsity volleyball's season came to a close last Tuesday with a loss to eventual Seventh Region champion Assumption in the tournament semifinals.

The Centurions fell to the Rockets in straight sets (25-12, 25-16, 25-15) at Atherton.

The previous night, CAL overcame a slow start to defeat visiting Seneca in four sets (23-25, 25-14, 25-14, 25-17) in the quarterfinals.

Kayleigh Rogers and

Kristen Schlater led the offense for CAL with 18 and 16 kills, respectively, in the win. Caroline Bates, Kathryn Chase and Lydia Fitzgibbon chipped in a combined 24 kills as well.

MC Oswald commanded the diverse attack with 46 assists.

Katrina Oswald, Rogers and Mia Boyd all recorded double digit digs, led by the former with 15.

CAL finished the season with a 22-7 record, its best mark since 2017.



MS football rolls past LCA in KYMSFA quarterfinals

In the days leading up to the much anticipated quarterfinal state playoff game, some on Lexington Christian Academy chose to make their presence felt on social media how the game was going to go.

But CAL decided to let their talking be done on the field, resulting in a somewhat-surprising 38-8 rout of the Eagles at Falling Springs Center in Versailles.

Unlike earlier results, which were laden with one big play after another, the Centurions grinded out sustained drives in the first half.

CAL received the opening kickoff and marched 67 yards on eight plays on a drive that concluded with Jackson Burke hitting Boogie Cook for a 13-yard touchdown on third down. A Man Robinson reception on the ensuing two-point try gave CAL an 8-0 lead.

On the Eagles' first drive, quarterback Nash Whalen coughed the ball up on the LCA 39-yard line to set up CALs' second touchdown.

CAL only needed two plays to strike again, as Burke hit Robinson along the

left sideline. Robinson kept his feet inbounds and dove the last five yards into the end zone. A Jaden Leake reception for the two-point conversion gave CAL a 16-0 advantage.

The Eagles, which entered the game undefeated like CAL, drove 58 yards for a touchdown on a two-yard run by Whalen. He followed that up with a successful two-point conversion run to make the score 16-8 with a competitive game seemingly brewing.

But CAL would have none of that.

The Centurions answered with a 57-yard drive on eight plays that culminated

in a Burke touchdown pass to Aaron Soete from 18 yards out on third down. Soete got behind the Eagle secondary and smoothly cradled Burke's pass. A Robinson reception on the conversion attempt gave CAL a 24-8 advantage heading into halftime.

The third quarter went scoreless, and while the game was still a little up for grabs, the Centurions defense never let LCA sustain momentum. The Eagles moved the ball at times, but each drive stalled. Whalen, who is highly regarded as a running quarterback, wound up with 95 yards on 18 carries. He never got anything

going through the air against a stubborn Centurion defense, going 4-for-13 for 27 yards and an interception.

CAL has a special talent at the same position, and Burke was spot on against LCA. In spite of the Eagle defense committed to double-teaming top target Man Robinson, he went 16-of-21 for 185 yards and three touchdowns.

The unsung hero, however, may have been running back Gabriel Lumpkins. All season, Lumpkins has spotted Noah Perkins with one solid effort after another. But with Perkins out due to a thumb injury

on Saturday, it was Lumpkins that carried the whole load. His touchdown runs of 68 and 25 yards in the fourth quarter were the nails in the Eagles' coffin.

Lumpkins finished with 149 yards on 15 carries, including multiple third and short yardage conversions to keep the clock moving.

CAL will now play Breathitt County, who advanced by defeating top seed Somerset 30-14, in the KYMSFA semifinals on Saturday at Shelby County High School. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

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

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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/>**

Gallery: Marching band senior night

Clay Combs



Noah Conlon



Patrick Money



Samantha Pieczynski



Ty Stanton



Matthew Ward



Chandler Wooton



Senior group photo



This week in Centurion Nation - Oct. 30 to Nov. 4

Monday

Girls Basketball

MS vs. South Oldham
5:30/6:30/7:30 p.m. / CAL

Bowling

V vs. Walden
TBA / Executive

Thursday

Girls Basketball

MS at East Oldham
5:30/6:30/7:30 p.m. / EOMS

Friday

Football

V vs. Marion County
7:30 p.m. / CAL

Swimming

MS at Meet #1
TBA / TBA

Saturday

Football

MS at KYMSFA semifinals
TBA / TBA

Girls Basketball

8th at Kammerer
4 p.m. / Ballard

Contacts

Athletics staff

Brad Morgan, director of athletics

Phone: (502) 244-3225 ext. 1072

Email: bmorgan@caschools.us

Jared McKinney, assistant athletic director

Phone: (502) 244-3225 ext 1037

Email: jmckinney@caschools.us

Rebecca Mauzy, assistant athletic director

Phone: (502) 244-3225 ext. 1147

Email: rmauzy@caschools.us

Karie Gibson, administrative assistant

Phone: (502) 244-3225 ext. 1080

Email: kgibson@caschools.us

Hunter Cantwell, scheduling coordinator

Phone: (502) 244-3225 ext. 1081

Email: hcantwell@caschools.us

Joey Koenig, sports information coordinator

Phone: (502) 244-3225 ext. 1054

Email: jkoenig@caschools.us

Trisha Pullen, Centurion Armory coordinator

Phone: (502) 753-4598

Email: tpullen@caschools.us

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