



PLAYOFF PAIRINGS RELEASED TODAY

Bedford, Milan, St. Mary Catholic Central, Ida and Whiteford will find out tonight who they will play in the opening round of the state playoffs. Monroe, Dundee and New Boston Huron have a very slim chance of getting in. The pairings will be announced on Fox Sports Detroit at 7 p.m. The matchups for the local teams will be posted at www.monroenews.com soon after they are announced.

SCHOOLS STAND TOGETHER

Sea of red shows support for Mules

Blue, green, yellow, white, black and orange.

Many colors are represented in Monroe County Region football uniforms, but red was seen everywhere Friday night in support of the Bedford community which is mourning the loss of senior defensive back **Colton Durbin**, who was killed in an automobile accident last week.

Many student sections around the area staged "Red Outs" where everyone wore red.

"Our student section was all wearing red," said St. Mary Catholic Central coach **Jack Giarmo**, who noted that team prayers for the past few days have been directed toward the Durbin family. "It's more about faith than sports right now."

Players at New Boston Huron already were mourning one of their own. **Jimmy Williams**, who would have been a senior this year, was killed in an automobile accident just after last season concluded.

The Chiefs took it upon themselves to write CD3 – a tribute to Durbin's initials and number – on their wrist tape.

"It was their own thing," said Huron coach **Dan Kalbfleisch**, who has delivered eulogies for two of his players during his 10 years as the varsity coach. "To be honest with you, I read about (Durbin), but with Jimmy I was not sure how I wanted to go about it. I wanted the kids to be the drivers of it.

"Our kids don't know the Bedford kids, but they know what it is like to lose a friend and a teammate."

At Ida, red could be found in the ribbons of the Blue Streak cheerleaders' hair, throughout the stands, and even on the Blissfield mascot. The memory of Durbin was commemorated with simple silence, a banner, and a "C-D-3" chant from the cheerleaders.

It was an emotional day for Dundee coach **Matt Garno**, who worked alongside Bedford coach **Jeff Wood** when both were assistants at Blissfield.

"It hits pretty close to home when you see that kind of stuff, but it's good to see that people care about that and they embrace it and support one another," Garno said.

The Viking players proudly embraced the opportunity to honor Durbin, but the underlying message of appreciation was on their minds.

"It was awesome seeing our student section come together," senior running back **Austin Anson** said. "I mean, there's how many different schools across Monroe



—Photo by DANA STIEFEL

The helmets for Bedford's players are adorned with tributes to fallen teammate Colton Durbin, who wore No. 3. Many schools around the area offered similar tributes.

FRIDAY'S BEST

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Rushing Leaders

Josh Golkiewicz, Summerfield.....	278
A.J. Gary, Carlson	241
Eric Bugg, Ida.....	203
Robert Kanitz, Milan.....	168
Mike Way, Ida	148

Passing Leaders

Eli Scott, Huron.....	214
John Reditt, Whiteford.....	157
Scott McCormick, Airport	95
Bryce Windham, SMCC	85
Zach Phillipp, Summerfield.....	72

Receiving Leaders

Alex Rahming, Carlson	117
Troy Diller, Whiteford	111
Ian Robinson, Huron.....	99
Tyler Olson, Huron	66
Josh Czarniowski, SMCC.....	57

County that supported him and it's awesome to see the county doing that. It really makes you think, you can't take anything for granted."

Dundee senior tight end **Ryan Heiserman** could relate to Durbin through the game of football.

"I was just thankful to be here to play my game (and) sad that he couldn't be here to play his," Heiserman said. "I just played my hardest thinking of him, knowing that he would gladly be back to play another down of football."

Monroe had a moment of silence to honor Durbin and Bedford freshman **Kelsey Koepfler**, who died Sept. 21 after she was struck by a car while walking along Whiteford Center Rd.

"We here at Monroe want to express support for their families and the entire Bedford community," said public address announcer **Tim Toth**.

Several Monroe players wrote CD3 on their shoes.

All of Whiteford players donned red tape and will wear CD3 stickers on their helmets for the rest of the season. The Bobcat coaches wore red ribbons and a Bedford

T-shirt with the word "family" on it hung from the press box.

"Jeff Wood is a great friend of mine," Whiteford coach **Jason Mensing** said. "I probably wouldn't be at Whiteford if it were not for Jeff.

Rob Recker, Whiteford's seventh-grade coach, is Durbin's uncle. Many of the Bobcat players know Bedford students since the school districts are right next to each other.

"We talked about it as a team," Mensing said. "We addressed it as an opportunity to keep the family in our thoughts. We told them, 'It's okay to hurt and to show each other that we hurt.' When something terrible like this happens, it's all about being there for each other."

New Boston Huron coach **Dan Kalbfleisch** believes his team will fall just short of a playoff spot.

"I don't think we can do it," he said. "We had a 47-point average. It looks like it will take 52 to get in."

But Kalbfleisch is proud that his team was able to win its last four games to finish at 5-4.

"Only six teams in the history of Huron High School have finished over .500," he said.

And more winning could be ahead.

The Chiefs were 7-2 at the junior high level and the freshmen, eighth grade and seventh grade teams all had winning records.

"We had winning records everywhere," Kalbfleisch said. "We have a lot of potential for next year."

How did Summerfield coach **Erik Johnson** celebrate a season-ending victory Friday night?

Johnson was on Whiteford's football field Saturday morning refereeing his son's grade-school football game. He was pressed into service when the referee did not show up.

The victory snapped a five-game losing streak after the Bulldogs had roared out to a 3-0 start.

"We knew at the beginning of the year that we had to stay healthy," Johnson said. "We got off to a nice 3-0 start, then we ran into some tough teams in a row and injuries caught up with us."

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Dundee sophomore **Gabe Heiserman** didn't carry the ball until early in the fourth quarter, but that didn't stop him from finishing as the Vikings' second-leading rusher Friday night against Hillsdale.

Heiserman ran for 61 yards on 7 carries. A 19-yard scamper paced Dundee's offense late, helping the team score their lone touchdown of the night.

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St. Mary Catholic Central scored 49 points Friday night, but coach **Jack Giarmo** was more impressed with his team's defense.

Lansing Catholic Central came to Navarre Field riding a five-game winning streak during which it averaged just shy of 43 points per game. The Cougars managed just 20 points against the Falcons and the SMCC defense scored two touchdowns on interception returns by Bryce Windham, one shy of the state record of three pick-offs returned for TDs in game.

"We needed a game like this for our defense," Giarmo said.

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Justin Fritz had a productive night for Flat Rock. The senior wide receiver caught 6 passes for 112 yards and one touchdown.

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Senior lineman **Zach Underwood** went out with a big-time performance in his final game for Gibraltar Carlson. He led the Marauders with 15 tackles including two sacks and recovered a fumble.