

Football

City's Road to the Dome

By Jonathan House

After falling to Bettendorf 44-7 in the home finale, the Little Hawks still reached the playoffs by finishing 4-1 in district play and 7-2 in the regular season with a 55-20 win over Davenport North. The Little Hawks finished as district runner-ups to Bettendorf. They qualified for the playoffs and had to play the North Scott Lancers in the first round.

After jumping out to an 18-0 lead, the Little Hawks were able to cruise to a win against the Lancers, winning 40-14.

"I think that it got us off to a great start. We needed that, and we talked to them and said, 'hey, this team is going to grind at you if you give them the opportunity,' and we didn't give them the opportunity to get that going," head coach Dan Sabers said of City getting off to a fast start against North Scott.

Sabers believes that the Little Hawks will take advantage of the full week that they have to prepare and that they can take the momentum of their first round win and use it going forward.

"[This win] is just a boost to everybody, and I think that should motivate everyone to work harder than they've ever worked," Sabers said after City defeated North Scott.

The Little Hawks now must shift their attention to the quarterfinals against Cedar Rapids Washington. The winner will advance to the semifinals at the UNI-Dome in Cedar Falls on November 11th. The Warriors finished the regular season 8-1 and defeated Western Dubuque 35-21 in the first round to advance



Quarterback Nate Wieland '17 looks for an open receiver down field during a game. PHOTO BY SAMANTHA TITUS

and play the Little Hawks. Quarterback Nate Wieland '17 says that the Little Hawks need to be fearful of Washington's defense. The Warriors' defense has given up an average of only 14.5 points per game, and had two shutouts during the regular season.

"We really need to set our running game because if we could run, we could do a lot

more damage than just being one dimensional. And I think that will hurt Wash going forward," Wieland said of what the offense needs to do to beat Washington and make it to the UNI-Dome.

Bryce Frantz '17 has led the Little Hawks with 14 touchdowns and 832 yards so far this season, but City struggled to get the ground game going against North Scott. Wieland will continue to look to help carry the Little

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-Brock Hunger

Hawks' ground game going forward as well, as he has averaged 6.0 yards per carry thus far.

Following the win over North Scott, Sabers challenged his team to be the most improved team in the state before taking on Washington, something that resonated with linebacker Brock Hunger '17.

"We just have to focus on ourselves. We have the talent to make a run for it as long as we just focus on ourselves and fix our mistakes," Hunger said.

Breaking Barriers

Two City sophomores tackled through stereotypes and joined the football team.

By Corbin Nguyen and Anna Roerman

The sport of football has long been known as a male sport. However, this year at City High, Virginia Muturi '19 and Angel Sila '19 are breaking this stereotype.

"I feel like people may think that it's awkward because we're just girls, but it feels normal," Muturi said. "I wouldn't say it feels like we're guys, but it just feels like we're part of the team."

The two girls set out with a plan. At the beginning of summer they wanted to do something new. Something unique. So naturally, they signed up for football. Muturi has some football background having played through junior high. Her friend Sila was curious about the predominantly male sport.

"I've never played football," Sila said. "I didn't really know much when I started. I was kind of lost, but I think the more I played, the more I got used to it."

Muturi had thought about sports that had a relatively set gender, such as volleyball or football, and wondered why integration was so unheard of.

"I've always been different than a lot of females," Muturi said. "But it made me feel like I was representing a lot of the females because it looked like a fun game. I didn't know anything about it, so it helped me to get to know more of what football was."

The two have been received fairly well by the team and coaches. There was some initial fear that adding females players to the team



Angel Sila '19 (Left) and Virginia Muturi '19 (Right) pose on the sideline during a game against Bettendorf. PHOTO BY BELLA PITTMAN

could prove to be an adjustment because it wasn't a common occurrence at City High. However, this was not the case. By the end of the season, it was natural. They felt like part of the team.

"They are just another two players on the team. We don't look at them differently,"

teammate Liam McComas '19 said. "Coach Moore and Coach Brown do their best to treat them exactly like the boys; I don't see a difference at all."

Critics of mixing the team insist it throws off team balance. People may believe that female players can be distracting to male

players, that they aren't as strong, or that they can't take the hits.

"I don't have a problem with [females going out for football]," McComas said. "It's just if you are going to go out, give 100% and show just because you're a girl it doesn't matter if you play football."