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Kettle Moraine vs. Arrowhead



Kettle Moraine senior quarterback Jonathan Ksobiech looks for room to run during a Classic 8 Conference football game Sept. 1 at Arrowhead.



Arrowhead junior wide receiver Jake Budde makes a leaping catch in front of Kettle Moraine senior cornerback Zach Donaldson during a Classic 8 Conference football game Sept. 1 at Arrowhead.

Photos by Dave Radcliffe,
Freeman Staff

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Lasers defeat Warhawks

By Rob Reischel
Freeman Correspondent

TOWN OF MERTON — They've been the little brother for years now. Even in Kettle Moraine's finest of seasons — such as its run to the WIAA Division 2 state championship in 2022 — the Lasers' football team couldn't knock off mighty Arrowhead. Well, little brother is all grown up. And on Sept. 1, Kettle Moraine flexed its muscles and took out years of frustration on the Warhawks. The Lasers held Arrowhead scoreless for the first 44 minutes, got a rock solid performance from their offense and routed the host Warhawks, 27-13, in a game that wasn't as close as the final score indicates. Arrowhead had won 18 of the last 19 meetings in this rivalry of schools separated by just nine miles. But the Lasers flipped the script with a win that was nearly as impressive as their state championship victory just 10 months earlier.

See FOOTBALL, PAGE 2

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Arrowhead junior quarterback Vance Holtz releases a pass during a Classic 8 Conference football game against Kettle Moraine Sept. 1 at Arrowhead.



Kettle Moraine senior kicker Jacob Eifert nails a 48-yard field goal as senior Niko Medina holds during a Classic 8 Conference football game Sept. 1 at Arrowhead.



Kettle Moraine junior running back Dylan Portz keeps his balance to cross the goal line for a touchdown during a Classic 8 Conference football game Sept. 1 at Arrowhead.

Football

From Page 1

“It means a lot,” KM senior quarterback Jonathan Ksobiech said of knocking off Arrowhead. “Our seniors had never beat them, but we have a special senior class and we believe we can do big things.”

The Lasers, ranked No. 1 in Division 2 by Wissports.net, certainly did big things against a Warhawk team ranked No. 2 in Division 1. Ksobiech threw for a score, ran for another and led an offense that was remarkably balanced all night. The Lasers (3-0, 1-0) allowed just 115 total yards before Arrowhead (2-1, 0-1) had a pair of late scoring drives when the outcome had been decided. And KM won the turnover battle, 2-0.

“We felt like we’ve been in a lot of the games against these guys,” KM coach Matt McDonnell said. “But to come into their place and win is a big statement for our program. I know the score seems close, but it feels like it was a blood bath for us.”

That’s because in many ways it was.

The Lasers had five scoring drives in their first eight possessions and built a 27-0 lead. The Warhawks averaged just 2.45 yards per play on their first eight possessions and were held scoreless. And the large Arrowhead crowd began heading for the exits midway through the fourth quarter.

“They’re a good football program,” Arrowhead coach Matt Harris said. “They’re confident, aggressive and tougher than us. I take blame for that. We’ve got to figure out how to get these kids to play tougher.”

“This has been one of (Kettle Moraine’s) best classes. They’re super confident, they believe in themselves and it shows. And right now, we’ve got to catch up to them.”

That hasn’t been the case in, well, maybe forever. It was evident throughout, though, that the tide had turned in this rivalry.

Kettle Moraine struck first when Ksobiech and all-state wide receiver Drew Wagner hooked up for a 24-yard TD late in the first quarter. Wagner had single coverage on the right and after noticing it, Ksobiech checked out of a run play.

“Jonathan’s an extremely intelligent football player,” McDonnell said of Ksobiech.



Photos by Dave Radcliffe, Freeman Staff
Arrowhead senior left tackle Garrett Sexton blocks Kettle Moraine senior defensive lineman Ezra Gulrud during a Classic 8 Conference football game Sept. 1 at Arrowhead.



Kettle Moraine junior running back Dylan Portz celebrates after scoring a touchdown during a Classic 8 Conference football game Sept. 1 at Arrowhead.

Ksobiech lofted a ball to the corner of the endzone that initially looked to be overthrown. But Wagner, a Navy recruit with 4.55 speed in the 40-yard dash, ran the ball down, left his feet and made a highlight-reel diving grab to give the Lasers a 7-0 lead.

“You don’t want to single cover No. 2,” Ksobiech said of Wagner. “I got smoked, so I couldn’t actually see where the ball was. I saw him sprinting and turning back to make a hell of a catch like he usually does. I just chalk it up to letting him go be the playmaker that he is.”

McDonnell felt the same way.

“Almost everybody’s going to double him,” he said of Wagner. “When they don’t we’ve got to take a shot and make ‘em pay.”

“It was overthrown, but any time the ball’s in the air, Drew’s going to find a way to come down with it. As soon as I saw single coverage and Jonathan threw it, I was already starting to celebrate.”

There was a lot more for McDonnell and the Lasers to celebrate.

Kettle Moraine extended its advantage to 10-0 on a 37-yard field goal by senior Jacob Eifert early in the second quarter. Arrowhead then lost a fumble on its next possession, KM senior defensive lineman Ezra Gulrud recovered at the Warhawks’ 33, and the Lasers took full advantage.

Just five plays later, Ksobiech followed right guard Dayne Baker and right tackle Grey Rumohr into the endzone for a 2-yard TD and a 17-

0 KM lead.

“I think we knew we could get ‘em and score points,” Ksobiech said. “I didn’t think our defense was going to shut them out like that, but we played phenomenal.”

Meanwhile, Arrowhead was killing itself with huge mistakes at critical times.

Arrowhead had a chance to make a dent in the Lasers’ lead late in the first half, driving to the KM 8. But the Warhawks missed a short field goal and went to the locker room facing a three-score deficit.

On the Warhawks’ first possession of the second half, they drove to the Lasers’ 39, but quarterback Vance Holtz was intercepted by defensive back Tanek Wankowski. Later in the third quarter, Holtz scrambled for 22 yards into KM territory, but the play was called back after an Arrowhead penalty.

“We made some mistakes, but they just outplayed us,” Harris said. “I told the kids, the season is a long season. It’s a season of ups and downs.”

“None of our goals were taken away tonight. But now, we’ve got to find our path.”

As Arrowhead hurt itself with one self-inflicted wound after another, the Lasers’ execution was precise.

Late in the third quarter, KM gobbled up nearly 6 minutes on a 10-play, 50-yard drive. Junior running back Dylan Portz capped the march with a 5-yard TD run that gave the Lasers a 24-0 lead. And midway through the fourth quarter, Eifert drilled a 48-yard field goal that made it 27-0.

Arrowhead scored a pair of touchdowns in the final 4 minutes, but it was far too little, too late.

By then, it was clear the Lasers were fully grown up.

“We had a feeling going in that this might be the most talented team we’ll play all year,” Ksobiech said. “So we knew we had to bring it and we did. Now, this sets us up for what’s going to come from here. I feel like we’re really rolling now.”

So does McDonnell, who didn’t use the word “repeat,” but clearly believes these Lasers have that type of potential.

“A win like this gives you confidence you can do it again,” McDonnell said of winning a second straight state title. “You’ve got to have those statement games and tonight was one.”



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Bartolotta’s The Commodore to begin hosting events in 2024

Former Seven Seas building getting a makeover

By Katherine Beck
kbeck@conley.net.com

DELAFIELD — With a beautiful view of Nagawicka Lake, The Commodore – A Bartolotta Restaurant plans to capitalize on its location and offer wedding and event space with bookings already taking place for dates starting May 1.

The building was formerly occupied by The Seven Seas, which was owned by the Weissgerber family. It closed at the end of 2020 after 39 years of business. The Bartolotta Restaurants, along with David Herro and Jay Franke, plan to continue the tradition of operating a multi-level fine-dining restaurant with event space at 1807 Nagawicka Road. The renovated space will pay tribute to the past with modern touches, according to a news release, and is anticipated to open in early 2024.

“For 30 years The Bartolotta Restaurants have been destinations for celebrations and events. We have been honored to share so many life moments with our guests and we look forward to continuing this tradition as we expand into Lake Country with The Commodore – A Bartolotta Restaurant,” said The Bartolotta Restaurants Owner and Co-Founder Chef Paul Bartolotta. “Between the immaculately reimagined space and the breathtaking views of Nagawicka Lake, it is our hope that The Commodore – A Bartolotta Restaurant will be the destination of choice for celebratory gatherings, both small and large.”

With both indoor and outdoor space, The Commodore will be able to host weddings, presentations, galas, reunions and other celebrations.

Inside, The Grand Heritage Room pays homage to the 1970s, when the property was known as Heritage on the Lake and Spirit of ’76 Resort & Disco, and it was known to host celebratory and lively parties, according to the news release. This ballroom space on the top floor provides a



Renderings courtesy of The Bartolotta Restaurants

The Pleasant View Pavilion at The Commodore – A Bartolotta Restaurant will have a capacity of up to 220 guests.



Rendering courtesy of The Bartolotta Restaurants

Part of the outdoor space of The Commodore – A Bartolotta Restaurant will include the Fountain Patio, which can accommodate a capacity of up to 100 guests.



Rendering courtesy of The Bartolotta Restaurants

The Grand Heritage Room in The Commodore – A Bartolotta Restaurant will be on the top floor and will offer a view of Nagawicka Lake. It has over 4,600 square feet of space to accommodate up to 220 guests for dinner and dancing.

spectacular view of Nagawicka Lake and has over 4,600 square feet of space to accommodate up to 220 guests for dinner and dancing.

Also inside, the Baldwin Lounge is named for the owner of Heritage on the Lake and Spirit of ’76 Resort & Disco, Dave Baldwin.

The Baldwin lounge is located on the second floor, off the north side of the ballroom space.

The Nagawicka Suite will serve as a bridal suite and is named for the lake on which the property is located. The Nagawicka Suite accommodates a capacity of up to 12 guests.

Outside, there is the Pleasant View Pavilion, which is named for the original property, The Pleasant View Hotel & Resort, which was run by John Hasslinger and opened in 1905. The Pleasant View Pavilion accommodates a capacity of up to 220 guests.

The Fountain Patio is a quaint space next to the Pavilion with a fountain, perfect for small ceremonies and cocktail receptions. The Fountain Patio accommodates a capacity of up to 100 guests.

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