

These young ladies are running with the big boys

Holly Ondish and Kayla Bidding are both members of youth football teams.

By SARAH HITE
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Fresh off the field after tackling two little boys and scoring a two-point conversion, 8-year-old Holly Ondish looks down at her cleats, shaking her head full of short blond curls. The shy Back Mountain Bobcats running back from Dallas didn't have much to say after the C-Team's first win on Sunday, Sept. 12.

What does she like about football?

"Scoring," she said, slightly smiling.

Does she have a favorite NFL team?

"The Eagles," she responded, looking away.

Off the football field, Ondish is a typical little girl - quiet, polite and more interested in playing with friends than talking to strangers. On the field, she's a star running back who barely took a break during the Bobcats' game against the Edwardsville-Larksville Hurricanes.

Dan Anderson, C-Team coach, doesn't have a problem with having a girl on the team, and says she's treated no differ-

ently than the other players.

"She's not a starting running back because she's a girl," he said. "It's because she's one of the best on the team."

Dorothy May, Ondish's mother, wasn't initially convinced the sport was right for her daughter.

"I told her, 'Girls can't play football,'" May last year.

After seeing how much Ondish flourished in the sport, May now would love to see her daughter excel in the traditionally boys-only club.

"She's doing really well," said Frank Ondish, Holly's father, who was also reluctant to allow his daughter to play football because of its reputation as a rough sport. Now, he sees the game as a way to tighten their father-daughter relationship.

"We'll play catch and kick around the football," he said. "It's really a bonding experience."

Ondish has quite a reputation as well.

When Ryan Wolken, 11, a member of the Bobcats' B-Team, heard a female player was joining his team, he instantly thought of Ondish.

"I thought, 'Oh, wow, I hope she's like Holly,'" he said of 11-year-old Kayla Bidding, defensive tackle for the B-Team.

Bidding is in her first year on



BILL TARUTIS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Back Mountain Bobcats B Team defensive back Kayla Bidding (No. 97) moves in on a play against Edwardsville-Larksville.

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Dallas midfielder Kirby Szalkowski, left, and Wyoming Area forward Samantha Shiner go for the ball during a field-hockey game.



Dallas forward Vanessa Parsons, right, and Wyoming Area defender Abby Thornton battle for the ball.



BILL TARUTIS PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Dallas midfielder Kirby Szalkowski looks to pass the ball during a field hockey game against Wyoming Area.

YOUTH FOOTBALL RESULTS

Bobcats 'O' line leads team to 40-0 victory

A TEAM

Back Mountain 40
Exeter 0

The Bobcats A team had a big 40-0 win over the Exeter Panthers.

The offensive line, led by Justus Shultz, Ernie Bidding, Eric George, Cameron Brennan, Hank Zielenski, Bob Oakley, Mac Fogerty, Collin Master and Ty Valyo had a huge day for the Bobcats.

The "O" line was successful in opening up holes for the backs of Justin Mucha, Kyle Katcho, Corbin Holcomb, Paul Ciaccia, Cameron Brennan, Justus Shultz and Zach Haddle.

The defense, led by Elija Vigil, Brandon Shaw, Randy Zacharias, John Brown, Mason Rios, Jacob Garnett, Justin Butler,

Justus Shultz, Kyle Katcho and Collin Masters, kept the Panthers scoreless.

B TEAM

Back Mountain 32
Exeter 12

The Bobcats B team had a great game against the Exeter Panthers, coming away on a winning end of a 32-12 score.

The offensive line of Christopher Allen, Ian Evans, Owen Morgan, Nathan LaBar, Zach Gabel and Henry Selingo did a great job creating holes for the backs.

During the first quarter, Whitesell found the endzone, giving the Bobcats a 6-0 lead. Nate O'Donnell ran the ball in the endzone early in the second quarter but Exeter answered back with a pass for a score of 12-6.

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Mountaineer girls battle WA in overtime

The Wyoming Area field hockey team needed an overtime period to sneak in a 2-1 victory over the Dallas Mountaineers Monday afternoon at Klassner Field in Kingston.

Samantha Shiner netted the game winner in overtime. Serra Degnan also scored for the winners.

Dana Krawetz scored for Dallas off a penalty corner as time ended in the first half.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Girls basketball tournament slated

The double elimination Future Stars Basketball Tournament for seventh and eighth-grade girls will be held today, Sept. 26, at the Kingston Recreation Center, 655 Third Ave.

Players may sign up as individuals and be placed on a team or they may sign up as a team. Teams are limited to eight players per roster and each roster must include one seventh-grader. No more than two sixth-graders may be added to the roster.

For more information, e-mail Isiah Walker at walkr6@aol.com.

Girls basketball league planned

The Rock Recreation Center, 340 Carverton Rd. Trucksville, will host a Seventh-Grade Fall Girls Basketball League for six weeks through Oct. 28.

For more information, contact The Rock Rec Center at 696-2769.

Rock Rec plans boys cage league

The Rock Recreation Center, 340 Carverton Rd., Trucksville will host a Seventh and Eighth Grade Fall Boys Basketball League for six weeks through Oct. 23.

For more information, contact The Rock Rec Center at 696-2769.

4-H club plans fall festival

A Fall Festival for Soaring Saddles 4-H Club of Sweet Valley will be held from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 24, at Pinewood Acres in Sweet Valley.

There will be a tack exchange, pony rides, pumpkin decorating, removable horse tattoos and cider, cookies and cupcakes for sale.