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Star Tribune Athletes of the Week

October 5, 2010

TAYLOR UHL

Eden Prairie, soccer

Four years have gone by pretty fast for the Eagles senior attacker.

Once a ninth-grade phenom, Uhl has been firmly lodged on the short list of the state's best players for her entire career. She demonstrated why with a remarkable four-game stretch dating to Sept. 25.

Uhl scored 12 goals during that span, capped by a six-goal outing in an 8-0 romp over Chaska on Saturday. Uhl's goal bonanza gave her 22 this season, moving her into the top five in the state for goals scored, a notable feat considering the Eagles' rugged schedule.

But, Uhl admits, goals are not her goal. Her focus is on a state championship, something that has eluded the Eagles during her career.

"This year means everything to us as a team," Uhl said. "We've got a huge senior class, something like 11 seniors. We've played together in clubs since first or second grade."

That familiarity is one reason Eden Prairie is undefeated and ranked No. 1 in Class 2A. It's also a big reason Uhl says she and her teammates won't consider this season a success unless it ends with a title.

"We're all on the same page right now, which hasn't always been the case in the past," she said. "We mesh so much better. If we didn't win the championship, well, I don't even want to think about that. We would be disappointed if it was anything less. Go big or go home."

BRENTON BRADDOCK

Mahtomedi, football

The senior running back rushed for nearly 300 yards for the second time this season in a 35-14 thumping of Henry Sibley. Braddock carried the ball 19 times for 285 yards and three touchdowns in the game.

JENNA KARROW

East Ridge, diving

The sophomore put together her best week of diving this season. Thursday, she set a personal best six-dive score of 239.0 points to win a dual meet at Park of Cottage Grove. Saturday, Karrow set another personal best with an 11-dive score of 420.55 to win the Bengal Invitational at Blaine.

STEVE DADO

Totino-Grace, cross-country

Dado won his second race of the season, pulling away from the field to win the Class 2A championship at one of the largest meets in the country, the Swain Invitational in Duluth. His time of 16 minutes, 1.6 seconds bested teammate and runnerup Adam Braun by nearly 14 seconds.

MEREDITH LAWRENCE

Visitation, tennis

Now in her second year playing No. 1 singles, the diminutive sophomore came up big, beating No. 3-ranked Patty Zhao of Breck 6-4, 6-7 (7-1), 10-6. Combined with two other straight-set victories, Lawrence improved her season record to 13-2.

JAMESON PARSONS

Eagan, football

The senior quarterback set a school single-game completion percentage record by connecting on 21 of 28 passes in a victory over Bloomington Kennedy. Parsons racked up 317 yards and four TDs passing and also rushed for 109 yards.

ALLIE MYREN

Minneapolis South, soccer

Myren did what senior captains do in big games, breaking a scoreless tie with a goal 15 minutes into the second half and adding two more goals as the Tigers clinched the Minneapolis Conference championship with a 3-0 victory over Southwest.

JIM PAULSEN

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