

Purple Dragons advance to regional final

Pittsburg hosts De Soto at 6 p.m. Thursday

By Brock Sisney
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Second-seeded Pittsburg boys soccer punched its ticket to a Class 5A East regional final by defeating No. 15 Topeka Highland Park 2-0 on a cold, wet and windy Tuesday night at the PHS soccer pitch. Snyder Juarez-Perez and season leading scorer Luke Moss netted the goals for the Purple Dragons and team assists leader Raphael Aita and Anderson Motta each collected an assist. Pittsburg took 12 shots

overall and the Dragons connected on two of their three shots on goal. Senior goalkeeper Emerson Cabrera finished with one save. The Dragons improved to 14-3 on the season and they welcome No. 7 De Soto (9-7-1) at 6 p.m. Thursday for the opportunity to head to the 5A East quarterfinals. The two East quarterfinal matches will be played at 6 p.m. next Monday and will be hosted by the higher seed. De Soto defeated Kansas City Washington 3-2 in overtime during its match Tuesday.

The other six remaining teams from the East are No. 1 Shawnee Heights (15-2), No. 9 St. Thomas Aquinas (8-8-1), No. 3 Kansas City Harmon (13-2-2), No. 11 Kansas City Piper (8-8-1), No. 4 Blue Valley Southwest (11-4-1) and No. 5 Kansas City Sumner Academy (10-6-1). The Dragons head into Thursday with three consecutive shutouts after wins over Parsons 3-0, Independence 1-0 and Highland Park 2-0. *This sports reporting is made possible, in part, by the Support Local Journalism Project Fund. Learn more at: south-eastkansas.org/fund/support-local-journalism-project-fund/*



Pittsburg sophomore Victor Aguiano makes a throw-in during the first half Tuesday night against Topeka Highland Park. BROCK SISNEY / THE MORNING SUN



St. Mary's Colgan running back Klayton Adamson breaks loose for one of his 31 touchdown runs this season. BROCK SISNEY / MORNING SUN STAFF

Panthers play Doniphan West to open playoffs

By Jim Henry
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The St. Mary's Colgan football postseason got off to a successful start within 24 hours after the regular season ended. The Panthers and Jackson Heights ended the season with identical 8-0 records and the maximum 105 points based on the final score. So, the KSHSAA held a coin flip in its office to determine the first and second seeds for the Class 1A East bracket. Colgan won the coin flip, meaning the Panthers are the No. 1 seed and will have homefield advantage throughout the first four rounds of the playoffs as long as it keeps winning.

The Panthers kick off their postseason on Thursday night against Doniphan West. Kickoff is at 6 at Hutchinson Field. "I told the boys Saturday morning at film how much I love this time of year, how exciting it is," Colgan coach Shawn Seematter said. "Waiting for the brackets to come out and seeing the matchups, that do-or-die factor where everybody goes back to 0-0. "Especially with the format now where it's not as regional. You are seeing some teams you haven't ever played before or haven't played in a long time. Getting to see some different opponents, I think is cool, too." The Mustangs (2-6) have won two of their last three

games – 12-7 over Maur Hill-Mount Academy on Oct. 10 and 34-0 over Horton last week. That was the first time the Mustangs have scored more than 14 points in a game this season. "They are young," Seematter said. "They have some really good-looking kids. They play scrappy; they play hard. They haven't given up a ton of points all year long (three games in the 30s). They are sound and play hard defensively. "They play similar to Jayhawk-Linn, just the style. They are an under-center team, wing-T whereas Jayhawk-Linn is more of a flexbone, wanting to run option. SEE PANTHERS, 3B

Vikings take on unbeaten Lyndon in playoffs

By Brock Sisney
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The Northeast Vikings open the 8-Man Division I playoffs Thursday night against unbeaten District 2 champion Lyndon. The Vikings enter the postseason 3-5 after their 74-50 loss in Week 8 against District 1 champion Cedar Vale/Dexter. Northeast scored a combined 118 points the last two weeks. The Tigers outscored their first seven opponents 380-74 with their closest game 54-44 in a Sept. 12 contest against Frankfort. Northeast and Lyndon start at 6 p.m. Thursday in Lyndon. "It's been a good week, weather permitting what we're able to do," Northeast head coach Zach Vance said. "Kids have been having a lot of energy and fun practices. Kids have been enjoying themselves. We love football and it's been a good season so far. We're just happy to be in the situation that we're in. "They're a very good team (Lyndon) in all three phases: special teams, offense and defense. Very good athletes at quarterback, running back and receiver. O-Line, they're good at every position and really big, fast, athletic SEE VIKINGS, 3B



Northeast sophomore quarterback Jaxson Payne slides down with first-down yardage last Thursday against Cedar Vale/Dexter at Samuel J. Nicoletti Field. BROCK SISNEY / THE MORNING SUN

Gorillas face key soccer games at UCO, UCM

By Jim Henry
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Pittsburg State passed its home soccer test last weekend with flying colors, shutting out Missouri Western 2-0 and No. 23 Northwest Missouri 1-0. The Gorillas face another big test this weekend on the road against Central Oklahoma at 4 p.m. Friday and No. 18 Central Missouri at 1 p.m. Sunday. With last week's two victories, the Gorillas (11-2-2, 6-1-2 MIAA) are fourth in the conference standings with 20 points. Washburn (7-0-2 MIAA) is first with 23 points, and Northwest Missouri (7-2-0) and Central Missouri (6-1-3) are tied for second with 21. The Gorillas also moved up four spots to a season-best sixth place in this week's Central Region poll. Other MIAA teams in the region ranking are Washburn in second, Central Missouri in third, Missouri Western in fifth and Northwest Missouri in seventh. SEE GORILLAS, 3B