



Record-Eagle/file photo

Lights, camera ... action! The sports staff at WWTV/WWUP TV 9 and 10 are busy collecting Friday night highlights.

9 and 10 works OT for 'Sports Overtime'

By **BRIAN LAWSON**
9&10 Sports Asst. Sports Director

The people in the promotions department won't like me to say this but sometimes the most entertaining part of 9 and 10 "Sports Overtime" is what goes on before the show hits the air.

Imagine your busiest day at work. Now imagine your boss demanding all that work be done in two hours. Those are the kind of deadlines we're dealing with every Friday night.

The logistics are enough to confuse the most competent of military strategists. We send nine people 60 miles or more in every direction



Lawson

from both the Cadillac and Traverse City studios, to get highlights from two, sometimes three games.

John McGowan is back in Cadillac trying to fit a dozen or more games, a boatload of scores, and two interviews into an 18 minute time slot, which really isn't as much time as you might think.

The mayhem begins at kick-off. Our photographers hope for early and frequent touchdowns. Unfortunately we don't have the luxury of seeing an entire game. When you have two or three schools to visit you need to get in and get out.

It's now about 9 p.m., you've got your highlights ... time to panic! You have to drive, often an hour or more, back to the station, edit the footage, write the script, and if you're John, Steve, Dan, Ryan, or myself, make yourself look pretty to be on television.

There's usually a lot of running, screaming, and colorful language

used during that last half an hour.

As if that wasn't enough stress, we've gone and added new twists to this year's show.

"Overtime on the Road" will feature a marquee matchup in the area from which we will have live reports at both 6 p.m. and during "Overtime".

You'll have a chance to exercise your right as an American to vote for the "Fan Game of the Week" on our website.

And finally, a member of the Record Eagle's sports staff will join us with some analysis.

If all goes well, the part you see looks relatively smooth and effortless. Shows' end brings a feeling of both euphoria and exhaustion — it's so addictive it's brought back both myself and Overtime anchor Steve Baker.

So now you've been behind the wizard's curtain and the next time you see one of us and we're a little high strung, you'll know why.

Bellaire aiming for Ski Valley title after playoff berth in 2001

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"Pound for pound, he's probably our strongest player."

Folker had 56 stops from his line-backing spot while Massey had 29 tackles as a safety. Junior Josh Vandermeulen is a key player at defensive end.

ONAWAY, 5-4 last year, has a new coach — sort of. Former coach Ivan Robbins is back, succeeding Gary Jensen.

The Cardinals are switching from the T-formation to a pitch offense, featuring backs Jay Diller and Zach Galer. The 6-4, 190-pound Galer is an all-state wrestler.

"He's quite athletic," Robbins said. Junior Taylor Beswick will run the offense.

"He has a good head on his shoulders," Robbins said. "He'll do a fine job."

Senior guards John Barnby and Nick Stuijbergen will help pave the way up front.

"They're as good a pair as I've had in 29 years of coaching," Robbins said. "They're very quick on their feet, and very tenacious."

Defensively, Robbins is high on defensive linemen Colter Chapman and Anthony Splan and linebackers Diller and Stuijbergen.

"We have high hopes," Robbins said. "There's a lot of talent. We just need to bring it all together."

CENTRAL LAKE won three of its last four games to finish 4-5 in 2001.

"We only lost four seniors," coach Adam Grybauskas said. "We have a lot back."

The Trojans will not have a JV program this fall so Grybauskas will carry 30 players on varsity.

Central Lake will be breaking in a new quarterback after Rob Shooks re-injured an ankle in the off-season and decided to forego football. Dustin Rogers, who has never taken a snap in a game, will move over from wide receiver to call the plays.

The Trojans have one of the most exciting backs in the league in Jon

Shooks, who rushed for more than 900 yards last season. Junior Brad Rogers, Dustin's cousin, will join Shooks in the backfield. He rushed for nearly 400 yards in four games.

Brian Dick, a guard-linebacker, and Tom Strange, a tight end-linebacker, are the team's co-captains. Junior Chellis, a 6-4, 230-pound wren, will contribute at tackle and inside linebacker. Center Rob Hessel-Graves, tight end Matt Hinkelberger and receiver-defensive back Trevor Groll will be key contributors, too.

Shooks and Brad Rogers will pose problems for opposing offenses with their quickness at nose guard. Dick, Strange and Chellis give the Trojans a formidable linebacking crew.

"Our goal is to improve on last year," Grybauskas said, "and try to make it into the playoffs."

INLAND LAKES could be the surprise team this season. Former head coaches Rowan (Petoskey) and Mike Kanitz (St. Francis) — friends for 42 years — were called in to help build the program.

The Bulldogs had number problems last year, and had to forfeit a game when injuries left the team with just nine healthy players. But this year there are 30 players on varsity.

"We worked hard on that," said Rowan, the head coach. "I give (assistant) Frank Holes Jr. a lot of credit."

Josh Vieau returns as the starting

quarterback.

"He's not big, but he has good strength and speed," Rowan said. "He's an all-state baseball player."

Junior Jason Vieau will be a primary ballcarrier.

Doug Maves (6-3, 238), Noel Adamczyk (6-3, 240), Kirk Maves (6-0, 198) and Kyle Perkins (6-2, 228) give the Bulldogs size up front.

Defensively, Adamczyk, Mike Beebe (6-3, 230) and Josh Beaudry will see plenty of action on the line. Doug Maves, Perkins and Kirk Maves will be the linebackers.

"We have high aspirations," Rowan said. "But this program has been down so long, we need to get the kids over that losing feeling."

Inland Lakes has lost 20 consecutive games. Its last win was a 7-6 verdict over Central Lake on Oct. 1, 1999.

PELLSTON improved to 4-5 last season, but the Hornets suffered some tough graduation losses.

Coach Bob Babcock has just 14 players on the varsity.

"I feel we have a good, solid group of kids," he said. "The nucleus is there. It's just that these kids are going to have to be in good shape to play all four quarters (both ways). My biggest fears are injuries and fatigue."

Babcock has juggled his personnel to compensate for heavy losses on the line.

Corey Babcock, who rushed for more than 800 yards in 2001, has

been moved to guard. Jamie Gillett has been switched from running back to center. Corey Lieber has gone from running back to guard. Wide receiver Jordan Wallin has moved to tight end. They'll join incumbents Troy Downing, Ricky Klungle and Andy Hedges on the line. Downing is the lone starter returning on the offensive line.

"With that many ex-running backs on the line we'll be quick off the ball," Babcock said.

Junior Peter Bonner, the JV quarterback last year, will run the veer attack. Sophomores Tim Babcock and Jim Wiklanski and junior Tyler McKervery will be the principal balls.

Klungle should be one of the top defensive linemen in the league.

MANCELONA, coming off a 1-8 season, is battling a numbers problem, too. Coach Doug Derrer has just 13 players on the varsity roster.

"We have a small team, but I think

we can be decent," he said.

The Ironmen will be led by three juniors on offense — fullback Jeff Leusby and tackles Brandon Nichols and Aidan Finn. Leusby was brought up from junior varsity after week four and finished with more than 400 yards on the ground. He went for over 200 in one game.

"We're looking for good things from him," Derrer said.

Nichols and Finn have a year of varsity experience under their belts. Nichols earned all-conference honorable mention honors a year ago while Finn is expected to be a force this year, according to Derrer.

Senior Derek Gersch will start at quarterback.

Defensively, the Ironmen return senior inside linebacker Ken Pratt and senior defensive back Allen Musall.



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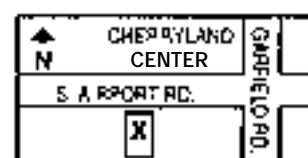


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