

Bulldogs face Norse in Division VI opener

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Owen Hose has had a strong season defensively.

Like Lake City, Inland Lakes has enjoyed quite a turnaround. The Bulldogs were on a 20-game losing streak entering this season.

On Friday, Inland Lakes will take a 6-3 record into its Division VI game at Suttons Bay.

It will be the Bulldogs first playoff appearance since 1995.

Inland Lakes, which started the season 5-1, had dropped two games in a row and needed to beat Onaway last Friday to clinch the playoff berth. The Bulldogs prevailed 28-16.

But the victory did not come easy. Inland Lakes came up with two goal-line stands to thwart Onaway drives.

It was a 22-16 game with under four minutes to play when the Bulldogs punched in their final touchdown to secure the win and the play-

off bid.

"It was an emotional night," coach Jack Rowan said. "There wasn't a dry eye on the field. It was especially sweet for our seniors. They had never won a game on the varsity until this year."

The Bulldogs are led by quarterback Josh Vieau, who's thrown for just under 1,000 yards. He can also run. In fact, he gained 176 yards on the ground last Friday.

Tailback Jason Vieau added 117 yards rushing.

Tackle Noel Adamezyk (6-3, 240), linebacker Doug Maves (6-3, 230) and linebacker John Lange (5-11, 210) are the "guts" of the Bulldog defense, according to Rowan, a former coach at Petoskey.

The Bulldogs have additional size up front with Bill Shivley (6-6, 355) and Josh Peterman (6-3, 264).

"I'm pleased," Rowan said. "We've made some big strides this year."

"Our JV team went 7-2 and we had 21 freshmen on that

team. Our seventh and eighth grade Pop Warner team won its league. Our future is ahead of us. This is a great start."

Rowan's assistant and good friend Mike Kanitz, a former coach at St. Francis, has Suttons Bay ties. He was a Norsemen assistant under Steve Curtis. Kanitz lives in Leland, but spends the week with the Rowans.

In Division VII, Central Lake, 7-2, travels to St. Ignace. The Trojans recovered nicely after losing to East Jordan in the season opener.

"It's exciting to see the rewards after the kids worked so hard," Trojan coach Adam Grybauskas said. "This is the first time in 10 years Central Lake has been in the playoffs."

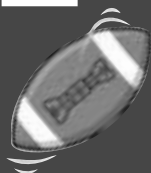
Central Lake is one of four Ski Valley teams in the post-season. The Trojans join Gaylord St. Mary, Inland Lakes and Johannesburg-Lewiston in the field.



Record-Eagle/file photo

Kalkaska quarterback Adam Jenkins (16) follows the block of Jon England (63) against East Jordan this season.

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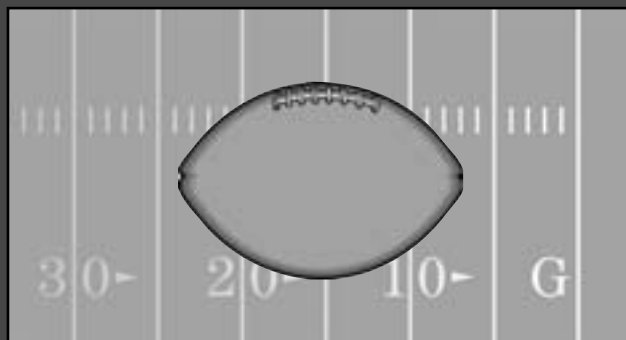
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