

# Update on state grid playoffs

By DICK BOYD

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Smith Center, Oakley and La Crosse in Class 2-1A won Friday night football games in the state playoffs and Osborne and Hoxie in Eight-Man I, Sharon Springs and St. John's of Beloit in Eight-Man II and Beloit and Scott City in Class 3A were victorious in Saturday contests to continue playing this week.

Smith Center shutout Sterling 47-0 in Smith Center, avenging last year's home playoff-opening loss to the Black Bears and improved to 8-2 with their sixth straight win. Sterling closed its season at 4-6.

The Redmen took control in the second quarter, scoring three times in a span of 4:51 that extended their lead to 27-0 at halftime.

Oakley (8-1) defeated Elkhart (8-2) in Oakley by a score of 42-7. La Crosse (10-0) beat Plainville (5-5) by a score of 41-14. Also in Class 2-1A, Oberlin (5-5) traveled to Meade (9-1) and lost 49-14 to end the Red Devils' season.

On Saturday in Phillipsburg,

the Panthers played host to defending state champion Scott City and lost a hard-fought 24-21 game to end their season. Phillipsburg (9-2) scored the game's final points on a Grant Wickham 62-yard touchdown run with 5:16 remaining in the third quarter. The Scott City defense denied the Panthers' efforts for a go-ahead touchdown the rest of the way.

The Beavers (10-1) led 16-7 at halftime but Wickham's 90-yard scoring run and Jaron Kellerman's extra point kick made it a two-point game at that point. Wickham gained 169 yards on just 9 carries in the contest.

Beloit (11-0) and ranked No.1 in the state, needed a quarter and a half to defeat Holcomb (7-4) by a score of 57-30. In the second quarter, the Trojans took advantage of many miscues by Holcomb to take a 41-14 halftime lead. Beloit rolled up 401 yards of offense.

Osborne (11-0) remained unbeaten with a 68-52 victory over Marias Des Cygnes (9-2). Osborne sophomore quarterback Jake Tieman rushed for three

touchdowns and threw for three more in the quarterfinal win at Osborne.

Hoxie (10-1) rolled over Kiowa County 38-8, handing them their first loss and ending their season at 10-1.

Sharon Springs (11-0) defeated Dighton (6-5) by a score of 51-6 to advance.

In the battle of the unbeaten, St. John's of Beloit (11-0) did all of its scoring in the first half, then held off a second-half rally by Victoria (10-1) for a 22-16 win.

### Upcoming games

In Friday's state quarterfinals, Scott City (10-1) will play at Conway Springs (11-0) and Sedgwick (10-1) will play at Beloit (11-0); La Crosse (10-0) will play at Oakley (8-1); Smith Center (8-2) will play at Meade (9-1).

In Friday's state semifinals, Osborne (11-0) will play at Clifton-Clyde (9-2); Hoxie (10-1) will play at Hodgeman County (11-0); St. John's of Beloit (11-0) will play at Sharon Springs (11-0).

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