

THE MEDINA GAZETTE • SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026 • SECTION C

The Blitz Week 4

THE BEST OF HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



M
MEDINA 46,
STOW 40 (OT)

A home thriller

Sokolowski's five TDs give Bees first victory

John Urchek
The Gazette

MEDINA — Medina's Cooper Sokolowski turned out the lights on the Stow football team Friday night.

Sokolowski completed his do-it-all night when he scored a 2-yard, walk-off touchdown in overtime during a 46-40 Suburban League National Conference victory.

The win was the first of the season for the Bees (1-3, 1-0), as well as their first as a member of the SL National. Meanwhile, Stow's SL National losing streak stretched to eight, dating to a 45-28 win over Twinsburg on Oct. 25, 2024.

"I'm feeling great," Sokolowski said.

"We never gave up. We kept fighting. It's a great feeling."

"We were 0-3 going into this, so we knew we needed a win. First conference game, so we really needed this one, and that's what we did."

Moments before Sokolowski's touchdown, one of the light stanchions in Kenneth Dukes Stadium went out by the Bees' student section. The referees convened shortly before determining the game could continue because play was

happening near the opposite end zone.

Sokolowski did everything but control the lights, as the wide receiver caught eight passes for 137 yards, ran nine times for 53 yards and scored five touchdowns. He even attempted a halfback pass in overtime that bounced off two defenders before falling harmlessly to the turf.

Sokolowski also filled in for Korde Carey (hip) at linebacker and made the defensive play of the game when he stuffed Stow quarterback Gideon Larlham on fourth-and-goal from the 1-yard line for a 2-yard loss.

Sokolowski's play helped Medina overcome two interceptions, a safety, three botched snaps on extra point attempts and the defense surrendering a 40-30 lead in the fourth quarter.

"Cooper's a dog," linebacker Evan Colon said. "I'll be shocked if that guy doesn't go D-I. That guy is one of the hearts and souls of this team. He's



HIGHLAND 23,
NORDONIA 21



Highland's Lukas Grillis celebrates a sack of Nordonio's Steven Fakult.

NICK GAMMETT / GAZETTE

National pastime

Chad Grant
The Gazette

GRANGER TWP. — Highland got its first taste of Suburban League National Conference football Friday. The first half was steak and lob-

Hornets send big statement by holding on against Knights

delicious first half was enough to carry the Hornets to a 23-21 win over Nordonio.

Big interceptions by Evan Foust and Jake Weber set the defensive

nets a 14-0 lead just seven seconds into the second quarter.

"Our defense just has to make stops and be the most physical team on the field," Foust said. "I think we live by that. The momentum we

C2 Saturday, September 12, 2026

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

The Gazette



Blue Devils drop conference opener

Albert Grindle
The Gazette

The Brunswick football team was hanging around with defending Greater Cleveland Conference champion Mentor on Friday before disaster struck.

Back-to-back turnovers turned a two-score game into a rout, as the Cardinals scored 28 points in the second quarter en route to a 63-18 victory.

Brunswick (2-2, 0-1) lost fumbles on consecutive possessions to contribute to the onslaught that included four touchdowns by running back Brayton Callahan, all in the first half.

Ryan Orsog added two touchdowns in the second quarter for



Gamboa



Eicher

Mentor (3-1, 1-0), which was coming off a 51-7 loss to St. Ignatius.

Brunswick got off to a strong start, converting three third downs to set up an 11-yard Connor Jamison touchdown pass to Gavin Ballok. The extra point was blocked, one of two on the evening.

Mentor came back on Callahan's first TD, made the extra point and

Mentor 63, Brunswick 18

	B	M
First downs	18	19
Rushing	43/113	30/252
Rushing average	2.6	8.4
Passing	15/32	9/15
Passing yards	230	174
Total offense	75/343	45/426
Punting	2/37.0	1/10.0
Penalties	5/27	6/60
Fumbles	2/2	1/0

First
B — Gavin Ballok 11 pass from Connor Jamison (kick blocked).
M — Brayton Callahan 62 run (Daniel Kristo kick).
M — Callahan 37 run (Kristo kick).
M — Callahan 9 run (Kristo kick).

Second
B — Maxx Eicher 8 run (Kristo kick).
M — Callahan 10 run (Kristo kick), 6-41.
M — Ryan Orsog 8 run (Kristo kick), 5-43.
M — Orsog 18 run (Kristo kick).
M — Brayton Littlejohn 6 run (Kristo kick), 2-01.

Third
B — Anthony Gamboa 1 run (pass failed).
M — Sebastian Bartulovic 53 pass from Brogan Jones (Kristo kick).

Fourth
M — Littlejohn 23 run (Kristo kick).

RUSHING: Brunswick — Luke Tamosius 5-33, Ballok 12-21, Jamiso 7-22, Alay Rebraca 5-17, Mason Hildebrand 5-17, Eicher 6-10, Gamboa 2-4, Dillon Healy 1-1-9, Mentor — Callahan 12-153, Littlejohn 13-60, Orsog 4-32, Aidan Ovara 1-1.
PASSING: Brunswick — Jamison 13-29-219.0, Tamosius 2-5-17.0, Mentor — Brogan Jones 6-11-100.0, Corbin Bissett 3-4-74.0.
RECEIVING: Brunswick — Eicher 6-109, Gamboa 4-86, Ballok 4-24, Adin Evert 1-11, Mentor — Jeremiah Clardy 2-54, Bartulovic 1-53, Logan Berveld 3-45, n/a 1-12, John VanHuss 1-9, Cameron Dietrick 1-1.

Brunswick completed its scoring on a 1-yard run by Anthony Gamboa in the third quarter.

Jamison completed 13-of-29 passes for 213 yards. Eicher had an action-packed night with six catches for 109 yards and six carries for 10 yards, while Gamboa caught four passes for 86 yards.

Brunswick had 343 yards total offense, with a 57-yard pass to Gamboa and a 59-yarder to Eicher accounting for 116.

The Blue Devils' leading rusher was backup quarterback Luke Tamosius with 33 yards in the second half.

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Medina 46, Stow 40 (OT)

	S	M
First downs	21	19
Rushing	51/204	24/74
Rushing average	4.0	3.1
Passing	17/29	19/34
Passing yards	171	245
Total offense	80/375	58/319
Punting	4/37.7	3/22.3
Penalties	13/138	6/69
Fumbles	4/0	4/0

First
S — Jack Miller 23 pass from Gideon Larham (Colton Knapp kick), 6-32.
M — Kaden Patrick 6 run (kick failed), 1-10.

Second
S — Israel Purkiss 1 run (Knapp kick), 10-52.
M — Cooper Sokolowski 1 run (Noah Brown pass from Patrick), 5-29.
S — Safety (snap into the end zone), 1-52.

Third
M — Sokolowski 60 pass from Patrick (run failed), 11-16.
M — Sokolowski 37 pass from Patrick (run failed), 9-05.
S — Purkiss 1 run (Knapp kick), 4-42.
S — Laurence Stevenson 41 interception return (Knapp kick), 3-55.
M — Sokolowski 14 pass from Patrick (Landon Cusick kick), 3-26.
M — Bishop Burch 24 pass from Patrick (Cusick kick), 1-34.

Fourth
S — Purkiss 14 pass from Larham (Knapp kick), 11-16.
S — Knapp 27 field goal, 2-56.
Overtime
M — Sokolowski 2 run (no conversion attempted).

RUSHING: Stow — Purkiss 27-173, Larham 16-26, Caden Boyd 7-46, Colton Barker 1-1, Medina — Sokolowski 9-53, Patrick 12-49, Brown 1-(-5), Team 2-(-23).
PASSING: Stow — Larham 17-29-171.0, Medina — Patrick 19-33-245.2, Sokolowski 0-1-0.0.

RECEIVING: Stow — Miller 6-61, Purkiss 4-57, Barker 3-26, Carson Fleishman-Bryan 2-15, Thomas Shaw III 1-7, Logan Doyle 1-5, Medina — Sokolowski 8-137, Burch 5-69, Ashton Knowles 4-38, Brown 1-1, Tyler Wilson 1-0.

BEES

From C1

Colon was everywhere for a defensive unit that stepped up when needed despite the game being a shootout.

Along with Colon and Sokolowski, Medina got drive-ending plays from Jamari Powell and Max Hilvert despite Stow running back/linebacker Israel Purkiss (27 carries, 173 yards; 4 catches, 67 yards) being all over the field. Purkiss caught a 14-yard screen early in the fourth quarter to cut the Bees' lead to 40-37.

Sokolowski's first touchdown came on a 1-yard toss to the right. The game then was tied at 14 after quarterback Kaden Patrick hit

