

SPORTS

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NFL

Vikes try to get on track
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Associated Press

Jon Lester pitched six solid innings against the Brewers.

Lester wins 200th, Cards down Crew

Cards down Brewers for ninth straight win

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Jon Lester notched his 200th career win, Nolan Arenado hit a two-run homer and the St. Louis Cardinals beat the NL Central-leading Milwaukee Brewers 5-2 Monday night for their ninth consecutive win.

The Cardinals have won nine straight for the first time since 2004 to solidify their grip on the second NL wild card. They entered the night three games ahead of Cincinnati and Philadelphia for the final postseason spot.

The longest winning streak in franchise history is 14 games, set in 1935.

Milwaukee's magic number over the Cardinals to clinch the division title remained at three.

Lester (7-6) is the third active pitcher with 200 wins, joining Houston teammates Justin Verlander (226) and Zack Greinke (219). He's the 30th left-hander in major-league history to reach the mark.

St. Louis got on the board in the first on Arenado's

See Brewers, B2



Associated Press

Notre Dame QB Jack Coan (17) throws against Purdue.

Stingy Badgers defense readies for Notre Dame

By The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis.—Wisconsin ranks second in the nation in total defense. The Badgers believe they still have plenty of room to improve on that side of the ball.

The next step is getting the ball back by producing turnovers rather than forcing punts.

Wisconsin (1-1) has only one takeaway through its first two games. That came on a fourth-quarter interception by Donte Burton in a 34-7 blow-out of Eastern Michigan.

"Any chance we get to create turnovers, we've got to do it," Wisconsin safety Scott Nelson said.

The 18th-ranked Badgers realize that will be difficult Saturday as they match up with former teammate Jack Coan in a highly anticipated

See Badgers, B3

Rodgers, Packers tame Lions 35-17

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Aaron Jones caught three of Aaron Rodgers' four touchdown passes and rushed for a fourth score, and the Green Bay Packers had a welcome return to normal after an embarrassing opening-week loss, beating the Detroit Lions 35-17 on Monday night.

Green Bay (1-1) won its ninth straight home opener. The Packers, who got thumped 38-3 by the New Orleans Saints in Week 1, looked more like the team that went 13-3 in each of coach Matt LaFleur's first two seasons.

Rodgers went 22 of 27 for 255 yards and surpassed John Elway for 10th all-time in

passing yards with 51,633. Rodgers has followed up each of the Packers' last five regular-season losses by throwing four touchdown passes and no interceptions in his next game.

Jones became the first Packers running back to catch three touchdown passes in a game since Andy Uram against the Chicago Cardinals in 1942. He had 17 carries for 67 yards and six catches for 48 yards.

Detroit's Jared Goff completed 13 of his first 14 passes but struggled the rest of the way as the Lions (0-2) blew a 17-14 halftime lead. Goff finished 26 of 36 for 246 yards. He connected on touchdown

passes to Quintez Cephus and T.J. Hockenson but also threw an interception and lost a fumble.

Green Bay scored touchdowns on its first three second-half possessions to seize control.

The Packers faced third-and-12 on their opening series of the second half when Rodgers threw a 50-yard completion to Davante Adams, who ended the night with eight catches for 121 yards.

Lions rookie cornerback Ifeatu Melifonwu injured his thigh on the play, further weakening a secondary that already lost cornerback Jeff Okudah to a ruptured Achilles tendon in Detroit's

season-opening loss to the San Francisco 49ers.

Green Bay dominated the rest of the way.

Rodgers capped that drive with a 22-yard touchdown pass to Robert Tonyan.

Detroit's next series ended when Goff threw an incompleteness on fourth-and-1 from the Green Bay 25.

Rodgers threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to Jones to extend the Packers' lead to 28-17.

Green Bay's Krys Barnes recovered Goff's fumble at the Detroit 23 on the Lions' next snap. Jones scored on a 1-yard run and that was that.

See Packers, B2

Hononegah golfers edge Lutheran



Jim Franz/Beloit Daily News

Hononegah's golf team didn't have its best day on the links by far Monday afternoon, but they still had more than enough in the tank to defeat Rockford Lutheran in a non-conference match, 200-207, at Macktown Golf Course in Rockton. the No. 1 player for the Indians, Lexi Bach, watches her drive here.

Polizzi's Bellator victory a huge one

Beloit fighter hands Neal his first defeat

By JIM FRANZ
Co-Sports Editor

BELOIT—The stakes were once again high for Alex Polizzi heading into last Saturday night's Bellator 266 fight in San Jose, Calif.

With a split decision over previously undefeated and seventh-ranked Grant Neal, the Beloit light heavyweight likely rose into the top 10 rankings in Bellator Mixed Martial Arts and hopefully secured a new contract with the fighting organization. The

Neal fight was his last on his current deal.

Polizzi improved to 9-1-0 as a pro and 3-1-0 in Bellator while Neal dipped to 8-1-0 overall and 6-1-0. Neal was moving up the ladder in Bellator expecting to climb from the prelims to the main card.

Now it's Polizzi who can argue for a larger platform while he negotiates a new contract.

"I like to be a little more decisive than leaving it to the judges," Polizzi said afterward. "That's the way it goes. Grant is a really tough opponent and he stuffed me on some real good shots. We

were going at it. You could tell I was kind of feeling (fatigue) with my hands dropping a little. I think he was feeling the same way as I. We were pushing each other and we were able to finish the fight and I scraped by."

Grant had the upper hand in the first round, but an adjusting Polizzi began to assert himself in the second into the third.

"If you notice I'm getting better technically you have to throw it out to my cornermen," Polizzi said. "They are relentless in making sure I'm doing the right thing."

See Polizzi, B3



Bellator MMA photo

Alex Polizzi continues to move up the light heavyweight ranks.

SoBo Balderas warms up to 8-man football



Photo by Dustin Lervik

South Beloit running back Fern Balderas has helped lead the team to a 3-1 record. The SoBos play at Orangeville Saturday.

Senior has run for 806 yards already

By JOSH FLICKINGER
Co-Sports Editor

SOUTH BELOIT—Fernando Balderas still isn't in love with eight-man football.

It might, however, be in love with him.

Balderas, the senior South Beloit running back, is running roughshod over the 3-1 SoBos' competition thus far this year.

He has rushed for at least 100 yards in three of the team's four games and has 806 yards, 339 of those coming in the SoBos' 50-24 win over

Hiawatha Friday night.

Balderas, who excelled as a sophomore in the 11-man game before a dominant alternate fall season last spring as a junior, said he's doing his best to enjoy this version of ball.

"If it were up to me, we'd still be playing 11-man," Balderas said. "But those decisions aren't up to me. I've just got to make the best of it and roll with what we have."

What he has is a dominant style that veteran coach Jim Morrow has a lot of respect for.

"I was in the NIC-10 for more than 20 years," Morrow said. "And Fern is as good as

See Balderas, B3