

A group of people in period costumes are performing in a cemetery at night. In the foreground on the right, a man in a dark suit and bowler hat is singing into a microphone while holding a beer. He is standing next to a tombstone. In the center, a woman in an orange dress with a green sash and a matching headscarf stands looking down. To the left, three other performers in period clothing are visible in the background. The ground is covered with fallen leaves, and the scene is lit by stage lights.

Cemetery Commissioner Mat Wawrzyk, in the guise of Jacob Thompson, spoke to the crowd.

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Monson's N. J. Shamey will soon release a poetry collection.

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Ralph Harris and Gordon Holstrom had a chat by the restored Auburn fire truck.

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SPORTS

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Audrey Gregoire looks to clear the ball.

Adrianna Loglisci brings in a pass.



Chelsea Hull is pressured near the sideline.



Jillian Holbrook makes a throw-in.



Avery Beaudoin tries to keep possession.



Anabelle Ladue is pressured.



Lillian Pronovost heads off the ball.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

SOCCER

Panthers edge rival Mustangs

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER – Prior to last Wednesday afternoon’s non-league soccer match at historic Legion Field, the Monson Lady Mustangs had posted an impressive 23-1-2 record in their previous 26 meetings against the Palmer Lady Panthers. The Lady Panthers erased a 1-0 halftime deficit and rallied for a 2-1 victory over the Lady Mustangs, securing their

first victory in the rivalry series since 2014. “This is the first time that we’ve beaten Monson since I’ve been coaching here,” said Palmer head coach Celso Sandoval. “I think both teams are in the rebuilding stage this year. We were trailing at halftime, and I was a little bit frustrated. We were able to battle back in the second half.” Sophomore Jillian Holbrook scored what turned out

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SOCCER

Mustangs looking for tournament berth

MONSON – The Monson High School boys soccer team suffered a defeat at home against SICS 2-0 last Monday afternoon, but rebounded to beat Mahar 1-0 later in the week. Unfortunately, the Mustangs would then suffer a loss against Wahconah 5-1 last Friday afternoon. The Mustangs are 5-6-1, but need a win to get back to .500 as they stand at No. 41 in the power rankings, outside of the top 32. Monson faces Chicopee Comprehensive on Friday afternoon at 4 p.m.



James Bridges pursues clearing the ball.



Issac Somers tries to slow his opponent's progress.



Kreslan Casseus passes before a defender interferes.



Anthony Tullouch looks to clear the ball.



Jackson Pignone tries to steal the ball away.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

FOOTBALL

Pioneers football suffers loss to Tigers

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – Since the MIAA implemented its current postseason format in 2021, the South Hadley Tigers have played two road games in the state football tournament.

In 2021, South Hadley dropped a 35-0 decision at Winthrop High School in a Division 6 first-round state tournament game. Two years later, after moving down to Division 7, the Tigers suffered a 39-8 first-round loss at West Bridgewater.

The members of this year’s South Hadley football team are determined to secure a home game for the first time in the state tournament.

The Tigers improved to a perfect 5-0 following a convincing 34-0 non-league home victory over the Pathfinder Tech Pioneers, last Thursday night.

“One of our goals this

season is to host a playoff game,” said South Hadley sophomore quarterback Nolan Soderbaum. “We take practice seriously, and we’re a confident team. We know that we can beat these teams.”

Soderbaum is following in the footsteps of his older brother, Griffin, who was the Tigers starting quarterback a year ago.

South Hadley, who has outscored its first five opponents, 203-14, were ranked fifth in the MIAA Division 7 power rankings that was released on October 9. It puts the Tigers in position to potentially host a state tournament game.

Unlike the soccer or field hockey state tournaments, only the top 16 teams in each of the eight football divisions qualify for the state playoffs.

“We still have a long way to go,” said South Hadley head coach Brian Couture. “We’re going to be playing a road game against a tough Holyoke team next week. We then play at Lee, who’s undefeated, before hosting a very good Easthampton team. We don’t finish the regular season with an easy schedule.”

Despite dropping to 3-2 overall, Pathfinder Tech was ranked 14th in the Division 8 power rankings.

“Regardless of what the scoreboard says, the kids kept battling until the end,” said Pathfinder Tech head coach Bill Darling. “This is also a



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Caleb Crum returns the ball for the Pioneers.

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