



# SPORTS

## Indians give Eagles tough challenge, but fall in the end

**By Tim Peterson**  
*Sports Correspondent*

WARE— The last time that the Ware football team failed to win a league title was in 2015.

The Indians have shared the Intercounty North Division title with the Franklin County Tech Eagles in each of the past two seasons.

The Indians quest for another league title became a little bit more difficult following their 32-28 loss to the Eagles in this year's league opener at Veterans' Field last Friday night.

"We knew that the league title would probably be between us and them once again this year," said Ware head coach Kyle Whitney. "It was a hard-fought battle,

but they got the edge on us tonight. We just need to take it one game at a time. Our next two games are on the road."

Following the home setback, the Indians had a 1-3 overall record. They held a 22-6 halftime lead in a non-league game at the Springfield International Charter School on Sept. 24. They managed to hang on during the second half for a 22-20 victory.

The Indians were leading 28-18 with six minutes remaining in last Friday night's game, but they watched it all slip away from them.

"I'm disappointed with the outcome and not with the players," Whitney added. "We just made some mental mistakes, which hurt us."

The Eagles (4-0), who defeated the Indians for the first time since 2015, entered the contest as the second ranked team in the MIAA Division 8 power rankings.

"Franklin Tech is an outstanding football team," Whitney said. "They have an excellent offense, and we battled hard against them."

The Indians were ranked 28th in Division 8.

Only the top 16 teams qualify for the Division 8 state playoffs.

After being forced to punt on the opening series of the game, Ware senior Jayden Diaz recovered a fumble at the Eagles 34-yard line.

The Indians supporters thought their team had scored

Please see **INDIANS**, page 10



Aaron Bateman tries to lift a pass over an opponent.



Austin Hatch tries to overcome an opponent.



Levi Ramirez tries to get toward the middle of the field.

## Indians fall on road at Holyoke

HOLYOKE – Last Monday afternoon, Ware boys soccer suffered a 4-2 loss at Holyoke. The Indians fell to 0-9 on the regular season. They will face Southwick on Oct. 8 at home at 7 p.m.

*Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli*  
**Mason Gagne** kicks the ball away for Ware.



Matthew Skutnik goes after the loose ball.

## Cougars finish in 1-1 draw with Ware

**By Tim Peterson**  
*Sports Correspondent*

WARREN—The Ware girls' varsity soccer team had gone four consecutive seasons without scoring a goal against Quaboag Regional, while being outscored 16-0.

In their only meeting of the 2026 regular season, the two teams battled through a scoreless first half before the Lady Cougars grabbed a 1-0 lead in the 54th minute.

The Lady Cougars wouldn't post another shutout, as the Lady Indians scored the equalizer a little more than ten minutes later. The visitors from Ware had several late scoring chances, but last Tuesday night's non-league match at Cougars Stadium ended in a 1-1 draw.

"It was definitely a hard fought game tonight," said Ware head coach Morgan Toelken. "Even though Quaboag graduated some talented players last year, they still have a lot of talent. We haven't had very much success against them in the past and I'm very glad to come away with a tie in tonight's match."

The road tie left the Lady Indians with a 2-3-2 overall record and extended their winless stretch against the Lady Cougars to more than 15 years.

Before this season, Ware hadn't scored a goal against Quaboag since a 5-2 home loss on Sept. 18, 2021. Aislin McClure accounted for both Lady Indians goals.

Ware was ranked 16th in the first MIAA Division 5 power rankings of the fall season.

"We're 16th in the power rankings, which is the highest that we've been in a long time," Toelken said. "I'm not sure how much this tie will really help us in the power rankings."

Please see **COUGARS**, page 11



*Turley photo by Gregory A. Scibelli*

## PANTHERS WIN TWO STRAIGHT

Nathan Cruz weaves through traffic with the ball.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 10

## Quabbin girls still undefeated



Alison LaRoche lines herself up to head the ball.

*Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli*

RIGHT: Goalie Mia Gleason leaps to make the catch and the stop.



Alison LaRoche tracks the ball as she readies to kick it upfield.



Sadie Kennan battles for position and control of the ball.

BARRE – After battling to a 3-3 tie at the start of the season, Quabbin Regional High School girls soccer has now won seven straight games, including two win last week. The Panthers defeated Ayer Shirley 6-0, then took down Fitchburg at home last Thursday 5-2. Quabbin is now 7-0-1 and now needs just one more win to qualify for the Division 4 State Tournament. The Panthers are back in action on Monday, Oct. 12, hosting Quaboag at 2 p.m.

From left, Saylor Bissonnette, Alison LaRoche and Allie Lipiec celebrate a goal by Bissonnette.