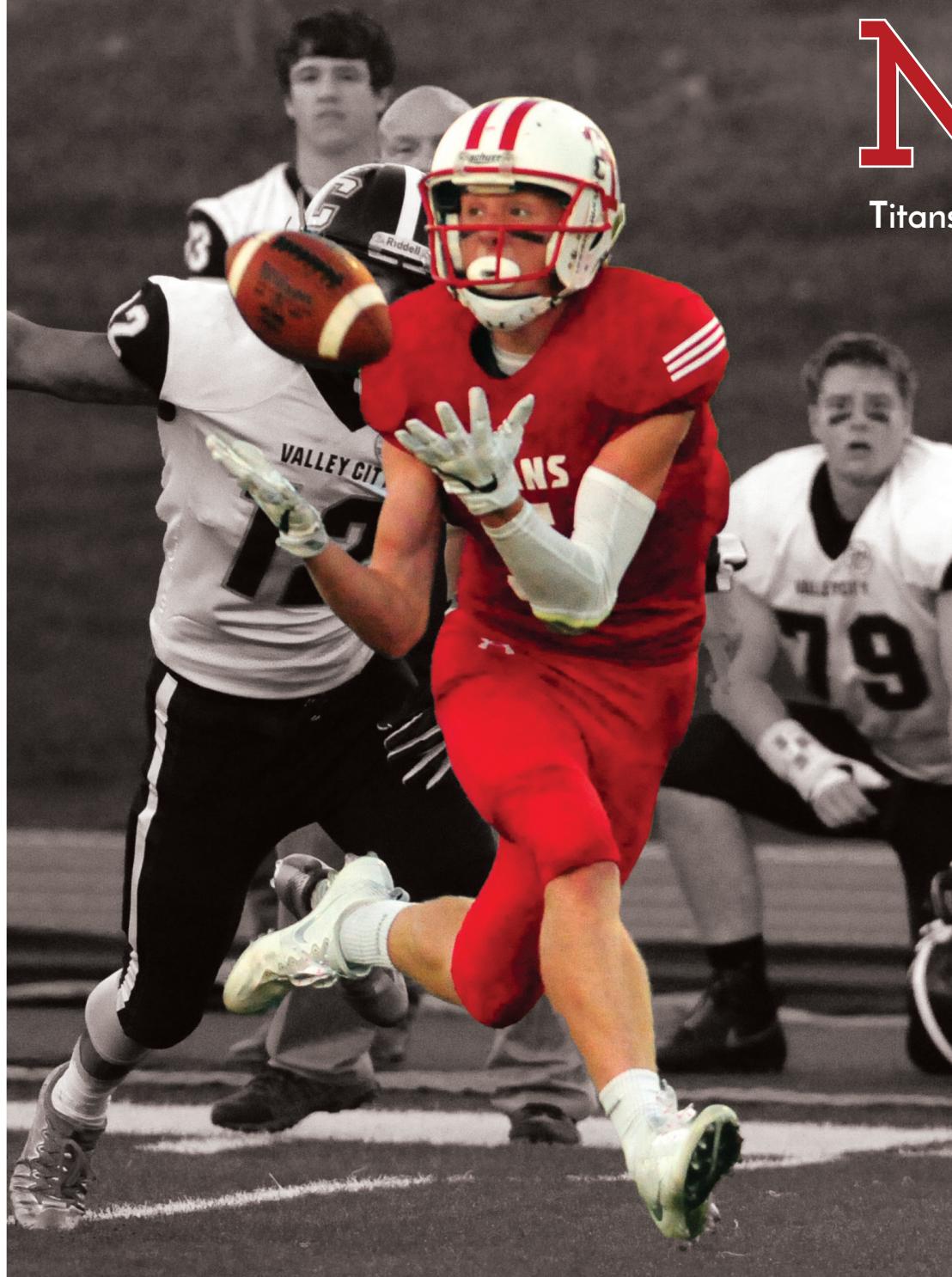


# PROVING THEIR METTLE

Titans send a statement with upset of No. 2 Hi-Liners



By Parker Cotton

The Dickinson Press

The final 14 minutes, 19 seconds of Dickinson Trinity's Friday matchup with No. 2-ranked Valley City showed why football games don't end after 33 minutes, 41 seconds.

Some teams do their best work late in the game.

The Hi-Liners trailed 21-0 with 2:19 to play in the third quarter before scoring three touchdowns — and missing all three two-point conversions — to get back within three points with 5:04 to play in the fourth.

The Titans shut down the comeback bid, though, when Dawson Kram carried 40 yards for a touchdown, putting the finishing touches on what was eventually a 28-18 upset at the Biesiot Activities Center.

"When you got a guy like Lucas Jones and Dawson Kram in the backfield, you've got guys that have good speed," head coach John Odermann said. "They're going to find a seam and make that other team pay."

Kram, who finished with 15 carries for 86 yards, provided the only scoring for Trinity in the second half. The Titans (3-1, 2-0 West Region) were staked to a 21-0 halftime lead thanks to some quick touchdowns in the first 24 minutes and a dominating defensive effort that limited Hi-Liners running back Nate Rodriguez to 49 rushing yards in the first half.

"It was all the line's work," said safety Noah Sickler, who had two interceptions in the game. "They stopped Rodriguez. A couple throws here and there, we stopped, but it was the line up front, and they made a statement throughout the game that we came to play."

Valley City (3-1, 1-1) turned the ball over on downs on its first drive, and the Hi-Liners' inability to move the ball persisted throughout the first half.

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Parker Cotton / The Dickinson Press

Dickinson Trinity junior wide receiver Noah Sickler hauls in a pass for a 47-yard touchdown against Valley City on Friday at the Biesiot Activities Center.

## Midgets top Mandan behind Steffan-to-Moody connection

By Samuel Evers

The Dickinson Press

MANDAN — Each time Mandan inched within a manageable deficit in its homecoming matchup with Dickinson High on Friday night, the Braves were haunted by the same three words: Steffan to Moody.

Dickinson's combination of quarterback Shawn Steffan and wide receiver Aanen Moody hooked up for a total of four touchdowns. Strikes from 37, 20, 79 and 36 yards out accounted

for four of the six Midget scores, and proved too much for Mandan to handle in a breezy 42-28 victory for Dickinson.

According to Steffan, the attack through the air was all part of the plan entering the game.

"We knew that Mandan was going to come out in a Cover Zero," said the quarterback, who finished with five passing touchdowns. "So with how athletic Aanen is, most of my throws were just a matter of making the right play."

The Braves ran the Cover Zero — a defensive formation which relies on man-to-man coverage — for most of the night, and it left Steffan free to drop back and pick apart the defense.

"We knew that if we were able to block up some of their blitzes, we would have some chances to make some plays down the field," said head coach John Tuchscherer. "I thought our guys did a really nice job of giving Shawn some time to step into his throws, and when we gave him time he was able to

complete those throws down the field."

Dickinson scored the first two touchdowns of the game — a 1-yard run in the first quarter by Treven Hopfauf and Moody's first touchdown catch in the second quarter — before the Braves' defense scored on a play that many on the Dickinson sideline questioned.

In a bang-bang play, a Mandan defender knocked the ball from Moody's hands on a screen pass, so Quinn

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## Midgets narrowly miss state qualifying mark at home invite

By Parker Cotton

The Dickinson Press

As the Class A girls golf season winds down, opportunities to qualify for the state tournament are becoming all the more precious.

At Friday's Dickinson High Invitational, Sydney Charchenko and Jace Steier both missed by slim margins, feeling like they left a few strokes out on Heart River Golf Course.

"I feel like I could have done a lot better," said Charchenko, who shot a 96, one stroke away from qualifying.

Charchenko, a junior, shot 88, 89 and 90 in her last three tournaments, and she expressed disappointment she wasn't able to reach those marks on Friday.

"Being that I had been in the 80s recently, going in the 90s, I know I could have done better," she said.

Minot's Paige Argent shot an 80 for medalist honors, making a score of 95 or better the qualifying cutoff for the day. Minot also won the team competition with a combined score of 338, six strokes ahead of second-place Bismarck St. Mary's.



Parker Cotton / The Dickinson Press

Dickinson High junior Sydney Charchenko hits a shot from behind the green on hole No. 8 at Heart River Golf Course on Friday at the Dickinson High Invite.

With only two varsity golfers, the Midgets did not register a team score. Steier shot a 102 for the day. After starting on the back nine, Steier said the front nine is where her problems began.

"I knew the first three holes on the front nine were going to be the hardest of the day," she said, "and I just let them get to me."

All golfers battled through some chilly conditions Friday

morning and some wind gusts throughout the day. The course had the occasional pool of water, and the greens were visibly faster than normal, thanks to rain showers throughout the day on Thursday.

"The greens were really hard to read today," Charchenko said, "and a lot of the spots I hit out of were really wet, so it was hard to hit them with good contact. The greens had a weird bounce, too, when your ball hit them."

Head coach James Hayden has seen his golfers progress throughout the season, but Friday represented a "lull" that every golfer simply has to battle through.

"Sydney is capable, obviously. She's had a couple rounds in the 80s this year. I think she will get there next tournament at Mandan," Hayden said. "Even Jace I think is completely capable of qualifying still. So there's some hope. It's a bummer we didn't get it today, but you just have to be positive for the next one."

Dickinson freshman Madelyn Filkowski shot a 144 in the junior varsity tournament Friday, but Hayden said it's likely she will be bumped up to varsity again for the West Region tournament, hosted at Mandan's Prairie West Golf Course on Monday, Sept. 26.

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