

Winslow lineman earns Class C North honor

BY ERNIE CLARK
BDN STAFF

BREWER — Alec Clark rarely touched the football during his four-year career at Winslow High School. But his presence near the line of scrimmage where the contact is constant and the rewards are more subtle has been a cornerstone of the Black Raiders’ string of

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

back-to-back Class C state championships and four straight regional titles. Clark, a 5-foot-10, 200-pound senior offensive guard and middle linebacker, was honored for that effort Sunday as he was named the Big Ten Conference (Class C North) player of the year during the league’s annual awards banquet. A four-year starter on defense and a three-year starter on offense, Clark was named to the all-conference

first team on both sides of the ball for the second straight year after earning first-team laurels on defense and second-team honors on offense as a sophomore playing for longtime Winslow coach Mike Siviski. This year, Clark led a defense that posted seven shutouts while yielding just 27 points during the regular season and 64 points overall as Winslow completed its second straight undefeated season

and stretched its winning streak over that span to 22 games. Offensively he helped the Black Raiders average 44.7 points per contest this fall, an effort capped off by their 24-10 victory over Yarmouth in the Class C state final. Clark was selected from a field of player-of-the-year nominees that included Marlin Hansen of Belfast, Brandon Brock of Foxcroft Academy in Dover-Foxcroft, Tyler Hatch of Hermon,

Spencer Baron of John Bapst of Bangor, Nick Morales of Madison/Carrabec, Taner Bickford of Mount Desert Island of Bar Harbor, Riley Sprague from Oceanside of Rockland/Thomaston, Andre Miller of Old Town and Demetrius Ramirez of Waterville. Clark was one of three Big Ten players to earn first-team, all-conference status on both offense and defense along with two other linemen, Winslow two-way tack-

le Nat Beckwith and defensive tackle/offensive guard Josh Rackliff of Madison/Carrabec. MDI’s Mark Shields was named the Big Ten Coach of the Year. He guided the Trojans to a 6-2 regular-season record and a berth in the conference semifinals before they fell to Winslow 21-0. Mark Arnold, a member of Shields’ staff, was named the league’s assistant coach of the year.

Tourney

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event and showcase our top-flight women’s basketball teams and student-athletes in a destination city with an incredibly supportive community.” Shamrock, the conference’s corporate partnership marketing and sales agency,

spearheaded efforts to bring the tournament to Portland and will partner with America East and the Maine Sports Commission on the venture. The Cross Insurance Arena will be the site for the preliminary, quarterfinal and semifinal rounds of the 2017 and 2018 tournaments. The championship game is played the next weekend on the home court of the highest remaining seed. “We are optimistic that

we can make Maine a preferred destination for the America East Conference Women’s Basketball Championship to benefit the people and businesses of our great state,” said Shamrock President and founder Brian Corcoran. “In addition to exciting basketball, this event will leverage our commitment to youth and community through great partnerships with local companies and charities.”

The 2017 tournament will be the first played in the state of Maine since 1998, when it was held at Alford Arena in Orono. That championship set the conference single-site attendance mark for a women’s championship, drawing 13,624 fans. The 1997 championship was played in a high-seed format with Maine drawing 12,218 fans for the three games it hosted that year.

The first championship in conference history was held at Portland in 1980 when America East, then known as the ECAC North, played its men’s basketball semifinals and finals at the Cumberland County Civic Center in 1980. The arena also will host complementary events to the championships, including a symposium conducted by the Maine Sports Com-

mission and a Fan Fest. “The Maine Sports Commission is excited to participate in welcoming America East Women’s Basketball Championship to the region,” Maine Sports Commission strategic director Sheila Nee said in the release. “Plans are underway to create a memorable championship experience that will energize the players, families, and community.”

Coverage

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across New England and New York. Durost said the MPA received interest from 10 or 12 potential broadcast entities and eventually entertained five or six proposals, a few of which did not include financial offers. He said the ability to have fans click on one Web link to access games from all three sites was a

key concern in choosing NSN. “It was important for us for consistency and easy access to get a single entity,” Durost said. While he would not divulge the financial details of the arrangement with NSN, he said the \$10,000 paid by MPBN (\$2,000 of which is to produce a cheerleading program), in addition to the NSN streaming deal, is slightly more than the \$16,000 received last year from MPBN to do the regional semifinals and finals and state title games.

The agreement will allow Northeast Sports Network to provide high-definition video streams, including three camera angles, instant replay and a full graphics package. Fans will be able to watch games on smartphones, tablets, computers and smart TVs. “This Vermont company has a track record beyond high school sports,” Durost said. “From everything we could find out, this looked like the best opportunity for us to provide what we wanted to provide for the public of Maine.”

New England Patriots cut two players

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

The New England Patriots waived cornerback Rashaan Melvin and released tight end Joseph Fauria from the practice squad. Melvin, 26, joined the Patriots in October after he was released by the Baltimore Ravens. He played in the Ravens’ first four games

this season. In eight games with the Patriots, he totaled five tackles. Fauria, 25, signed with the Patriots’ practice squad on Nov. 18. He played in 23 games with the Detroit Lions the past two seasons and had 24 receptions for 281 yards and eight touchdowns before being released in September.

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