These are heady days to be a sports fan in Iron County. It's been many years since the teams we follow most closely have done so well.

First up, the baseball playoffs. The Milwaukee Brewers have won their first post-season series for nearly 30 years and are playing for the National League championship. On the other side of Lake Michigan, the Detroit Tigers disposed of the New York Yankees last week and are playing the Texas Rangers this week for the American League title.

Could we wind up with the Tigers and Brews going head-to-head in the World Series? Nobody would have ever believed it, but it's very close to being true. We should know in another week.

The National Football League season started on schedule, and the only unbeaten teams now (as of Monday morning) are the Green Bay Packers and the Detroit Lions. It shouldn't be a big surprise about the Packers. They grabbed the final playoff berth last winter but proved to be unstoppable in the playoffs and won the Super Bowl. So far this year, the Pack is unbeaten.

So are the Lions, but they followed a very different path. This same Lions team was the laughingstock of the NFL just recently and lost all 16 games they played in 2008—the first time that has ever been done.

But new management, a new coach, better players and a new attitude have worked wonders. Going into their Monday night game against Chicago, the Lions were unbeaten and are ranked as one of the best teams in the NFL—right up there with the Packers.

The Lions and Packers don't face each other until Thanksgiving Day. In Iron County, there are more football treats on Thanksgiving Friday—that's when the high school championship games start.

Forest Park lost to a powerhouse Hurley team early this season, but the Trojans have improved a lot since then, the trademark Trojan running game is in high gear, and the Red and Black is flying high. The playoffs start in late October, and the Trojans are getting ready for a long run—maybe all the way down to Ford Field.

Playoff success is a tradition at Forest Park. Not so at West Iron County. But after a very difficult 2010, the Wykons' 2011 season has been one to remember. The Wykons are 6-1 with two games left, have clinched a playoff berth and should clinch the conference title at their Homecoming game this Saturday. It's a never-say-die team, with three thrilling, last-minute wins in the last month. It's been a fun fall for football fans at Nelson Field.

Football has a long, long tradition in Iron County. Volleyball is comparatively new, but their girls volleyball team is giving Forest Park fans even more reason to cheer. The Lady Trojans have won three tournaments this year and every match they have played in. It's another local team that is delighting its fans and preparing for a long post-season run. Want to see the best volleyball team in the U.P.? Go to see the Lady Trojans.

Even the weather this fall has been mild—the leaves stayed for a long time and the cold weather is late in arriving. What can we say? It's been a fantastic fall. Nothing lasts forever, of course, so let's enjoy this while we can.

--Peter Nocerini