

BIG BUCK: Lifelong Chetek visitor shoots 19-point buck in Dunn Co.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Chris Stanek, above, harvested an impressive 19-point Dunn County buck on Oct. 5 while hunting in the annual Gun Hunt for Hunters With Disabilities Hunt.

FROM B1

harvest the buck. However, several trail camera photos from later in the season and again this year—even after he was wounded during archery season by another hunter—proved the giant buck still remained in the area.

Born with spina bifida, Stanek has always been faced challenges. But as goal-driven as he is, he refused to give up on this particular buck as he hoped for a shot at redemption entering the 2021 season.

“One of my call cameras sent a trail camera photo to me opening night of the disabled hunt, and it showed he was in the area I was hunting. I honestly just felt deflated at that point.

But, I said I was going to hunt that spot until I got him,” Stanek recalled.

On the fourth night of Oct. 5, Stanek headed to the woods in his wheelchair to his customized elevated tree stand. The stand uses a winch system that hoists Stanek and his track wheelchair 16-feet up and onto a platform.

Around 6:15 p.m., Stanek heard antlers banging together behind his stand. All he could see was the

sun shining against a huge set of antlers just 25 yards from his stand. Because he was hunting in his wheelchair, turning to and shooting the deer wasn’t as easy as one would expect.

“I remember thinking ‘it’s game time!’ instantly; but then realized I had to adjust the placement of my gun before anything. Then I had to move in my wheelchair to adjust my shooting angle. Leaning as far as a I could to my left, I could see his front shoulder and when I shot, I could tell I double-shouldered him,” Stanek explained.

With adrenaline pumping, Stanek watched as his buck mule-kicked and staggered off before falling in sight of his stand.

“I was shaking so bad after the shot. I couldn’t believe I got him. When I called my neighbor, I was stuttering, begging him to come see the monster buck,” Stanek said.

He and his neighbor had a pact that if either of them ever harvested the buck, they wanted the other to help with the recovery and enjoy the special celebratory moment.

“We just admired the beauty of him, shared a lot of high fives and hugs. My

mom brought the UTV to get him out of the woods. It was a really fun memory. It felt like I was never going to get a second chance at him. That just goes to show you, even if you mess up, don’t give up. Keep at it and redeem yourself,” Stanek noted.

It’s Stanek’s second biggest buck, harvesting a 140-class buck a few years prior. He is having a full-body mount of the deer by Richard Hovland Taxidermy out of Colfax.

Stanek discussed the challenges of hunting and fishing while being disabled. Although it hasn’t always been easy, he feels it has helped him appreciate his time in the outdoors as he endures the challenges.

“There’s always been challenges for me. From a personal standpoint, some people can be mean or say hurtful things. But you learn to adapt and some of that makes you tougher. I like the challenges, though. People will say you can’t do something, and when you succeed and do well, it feels rewarding. This buck is just the icing on the cake.”

Stanek attributed his outdoor passion to growing up and fishing on Ten Mile Lake in Chetek at his grandparents’ house. He admitted that Chetek is basically his second home.

“I’ve set a lot of outdoor goals over the years. Catching a 40-inch northern through the ice in Chetek was another big goal I’ve accomplished. Now it’s just onto the next challenge. I’ve been thinking about documenting my hunts, fishing outings and outdoor adventures while capturing it all on video. I would like to start doing that in the next year,” Stanek said.

Stanek just started a Facebook page called “Wheels Outdoors” where those interested can see more photos of the trophy buck he harvested along with other hunting and fishing outings.

“I just want people to know anything is possible if you put your mind to it. Just believe in yourself,” Stanek concluded.

ALL-HON: Three receive recognition

FROM B1

all-conference team roster is as follows:

FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Offense: Dayo Oye, St. Croix Falls, senior; Defense: Austin Schlies, Northwestern, senior.

FIRST-TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE OFFENSE

Ends/flankers: Connor Crane, Bloomer, senior; Gavin Jarchow, Cumberland, senior; CJ Thompson, senior, Northwestern. Offensive linemen: William Weise, Barron, senior; Isaac Runstrom, Cumberland, senior; Ben Benes, Northwestern, senior; Ian Smith, Northwestern, sophomore; Nick Adler, Spooner, senior; Brock Sawicki, St. Croix Falls, junior. Quarterbacks: Jack Strand, Bloomer, senior; Luke Sedin, Northwestern, junior. Running backs: Greg Ohman, Northwestern, senior; Austin Schlies, Northwestern, senior; Isaac Hopke, Spooner, senior; Dayo Oye, St. Croix Falls, senior; utility: Edward Chafer, Cumberland, junior.

FIRST-TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE DEFENSE

Defensive linemen: Vinny Murray, C-W, senior; Ben Benes, Northwestern, senior; Ian Smith, Northwestern, sophomore; Brock Sawicki, St. Croix Falls, junior. Outside linebackers/defensive ends: Tanner Kaufman, Northwestern, junior; Austin Schlies, Northwestern, senior; Nick Adler, Spooner, senior. Inside linebacker: Caiden LaLiberty, Barron, junior; Bowen Rothbauer, Bloomer, senior; Isaac Runstrom, senior; Greg Ohman, Northwestern, senior. Corners/safeties: Gavin Jarchow, Cumberland, senior; Jase Nelson, Northwestern, junior; CJ Thompson, Northwest-

ern, senior; Isaac Hopke, Spooner, senior; Brady Belisle, St. Croix Falls, junior.

FIRST-TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE SPECIALISTS

Kicker: Dawson Kriske, Northwestern, senior; Punter: Bryn Gouker, St. Croix Falls, senior.

SECOND-TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE OFFENSE

Ends/flankers: Gavin Gordon, Barron, senior; Trevor Eliason, Northwestern, junior; Jase Nelson, Northwestern, junior; Bryn Gouker, St. Croix Falls, senior. Offensive linemen: Vinny Murray, C-W, senior; Elijah Tetner, Cumberland, senior; Andrew Bourque, Northwestern, senior; Shane Schiff, Northwestern, senior; Bryce McCurdy, St. Croix Falls, junior. Quarterback: Brady Belisle, St. Croix Falls, junior. Running backs: Marcus Harelstad, Bloomer, senior; Drew Griffith, Cumberland, senior; Brandon Meister, Spooner, senior; Jimmy Melton, Spooner, senior. Utility: Tanner Kaufman, Northwestern, junior.

SECOND-TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE DEFENSE

Defensive linemen: Bryce Colburn, Cumberland, junior; Shane Schiff, Northwestern, senior. Outside linebackers/defensive ends: Ethan Rubenzer, Bloomer, junior; Caleb Gillett, Cameron, senior; Lawson Davis, C-W, junior; Edward Chafer, Cumberland, junior. Inside linebackers: Tristan Wendt, C-W, senior; Nick Makela, Northwestern, senior; Brandon Meister, Spooner, senior. Corners/safeties: Jax Etfertz, Cumberland, junior; Kole Paulson, Northwestern, senior; Bryn Gouker, St. Croix Falls, senior.

SECOND-TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE SPECIALIST

Kicker: Andrew Nauertz, Spooner, senior.

BULLDOGS: Season ends for C-W with three-set loss to Cumberland

FROM B1

shifted our lineup to start in a different rotation which seemed to help us get some blocking and offense going. It worked in our favor, but it wasn’t quite enough. Cumberland is loaded with offensive weapons, has a big front row and is a great blocking team. They pound the ball with very few errors. We just didn’t have an answer for them that night, as our team performance on the night was below our average in serving, serve receive, and attacking the ball.”

As a team, the Bulldogs finished serving percentage of 84%, a statistic below C-W’s season average. Junior Sophie Nichols (4 attempts) and sophomore Mariah Mitchell (4 attempts) both finished the night perfect from the service line, followed by senior Kora Claflin at 89% (1 ace) and junior Olivia Schofield at 87.5% (2 aces). Senior Greta Jorstad also contributed an ace serve.

Jorstad led the Bulldogs in serve receive average with an impressive 2.43 rating (7 attempts), followed by Schofield at 1.48 (23 attempts), Mitchell 1.39 (23 attempts) and Claflin at 1.29 (22 attempts).

Nichols finished with a team high hitting percentage of .143 (2 kills, 7 at-

tempts), followed by Mitchell (3 kills, 16 attempts) and junior Anna Widiker (3 kills, 8 attempts)—both at .125—and Greta Jorstad at .067 (7 kills, 30 attempts—both led the team). Nichols led the team in assists with 10, followed by Jorstad with 4, and Bildoeau and Widiker each contributed 1.

Jorstad was C-W’s leader in blocks with 3, followed by Nichols, Mitchell, and Widiker who each contributed one block. Schofield and Nichols led the team with 9 digs each, followed by Claflin with 8, Mitchell and Jorstad with 7 each, Widiker with 3 and senior Mariah Bilodeau with 1. Sophomore Hannah Solie, who made her varsity debut, finished the match with 1 dig.

“Like every sport season, we had our ups and downs, but through it all we grew and learned so much from each other. We made some fun memories this season from our July team volleyball camp, to our senior team competitions, bowling, team dinners, and our overnight trip to Superior for our Northwestern tournament,” explained coach Bohl. “This team is a family, and like most families, we love each other. At times we fight with and for each other, laugh and cry together, and we are always dancing. We stick together

through it all and never give up on ourselves or each other.”

It was the final high school volleyball match for four seniors—Kendall Evans, Greta Jorstad, Mariah Bilodeau and Kora Claflin.

“It has been an honor to coach our four seniors during their time in high school. Every player and coach in our program will truly miss them and the passion they have for volleyball. But, what we will miss most is that they are amazing people. They are kind, strong, funny, and each girl is so unique and talented. We are always sad when the season wraps up, and it sinks in that it is all over—the time goes so fast. It has been an amazing experience with these girls. It reminds me of the wise words from Dr. Suess: ‘Don’t cry because it’s over, smile because it happened.’”

The Beavers advanced to the regional semifinal match on Thursday, Oct. 21, against No. 2-seeded St. Croix Falls (18-3, 8-0) and lost in three sets to the Saints—25-11, 25-20 and 25-17. In the regional final matchup, St. Croix Falls then defeated No. 3-seeded Phillips in four sets—25-23, 25-20, 22-25 and 25-20. St. Croix Falls will play No. 1-seeded Unity on Saturday, Oct. 30.

SEPTEMBER 1—NOVEMBER 30, 2021

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Starting September 1, 2021, enter weekly for your chance to win one of the grand prizes! Winners chosen weekly to enter into the grand prize contest. Contest runs September 1 through November 30, 2021. Photos must be e-mailed to tyler@thechetekalert.com each week by noon on Friday.

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*Photos must be from this year (2021), with time and date set on photo. ABSOLUTELY NO PHOTO-SHOPIING IS ALLOWED—SUBMIT ORIGINAL PHOTOS ONLY. Photos must be from Chippewa, Barron, Dunn, Rusk or Washburn counties. At least one photo will be featured each week at the discretion of The Bell Press. By November 30, winners will be chosen by The Bell Press & Ardisam staff. When submitting photos, please include info of date and time of photo, where photo was taken (east, west, north, south of Chetek etc.), the county the photo was taken in and what is featured in the photo. To enter photos, email photo to tyler@thechetekalert.com OR drop off at The Chetek Alert, 312 Knapp Street, Chetek, WI 54728.