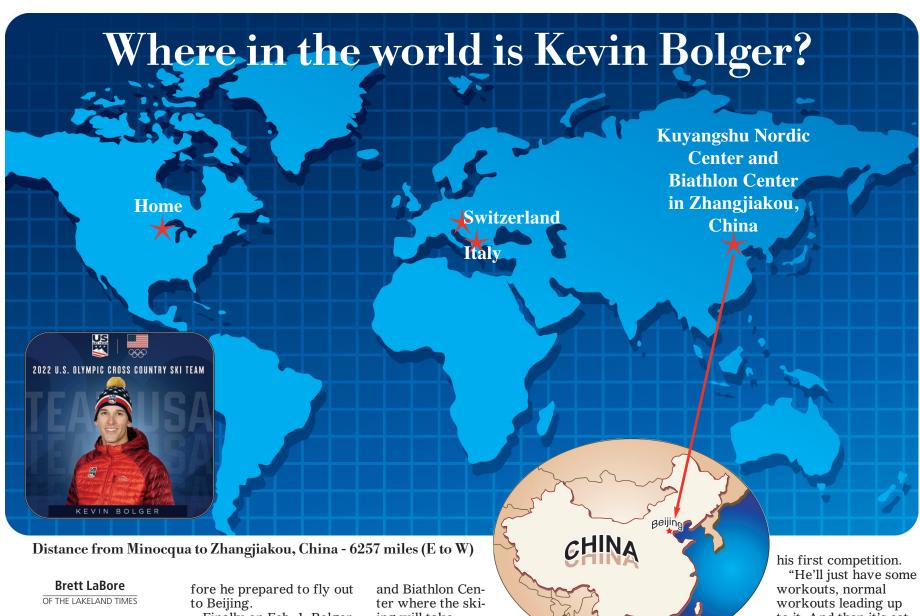
February 4, 2022 | sports@lakelandtimes.com • Find us on Facebook! Search "Lakeland Times Sports" • PAGE 29



The 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing are underway. And with that, Minocqua-native Kevin Bolger begins his Olympic journey.

Bolger ended up being in three countries in four days. It all started in Livigno, Italy where he trained and prepared for the Olympics. He also had a negative COVID-19 test in Italy.

After that, Bolger flew to Zürich, Switzerland on Jan. 30. He again had another negative COVID-19 test be-

Finally on Feb. 1, Bolger took a flight to Beijing, China beginning his Olympic quest towards the podium.

"Once they get there then the nerves happen cause they have a four-hour either car ride or bus ride or if they end up taking a train a one-hour ride,' Kevin's mother Sandy Bolger said. "The venue for skiing is four hours north of Beijing."

Upon arriving in Beijing, Bolger traveled north to Zhangjiakou to the Kuyangshu Nordic Center

ing will take place.

"From what we understand this venue for Nordic and alpine and biathlon will be on all man-made snow," Sandy Bolger said.

There Bolger met his roommate and teammate Gus Schumacher.

The Opening Ceremony took place yesterday. With Bolger in Zhangjiakou, he was unable to partake in the ceremony. Instead, skiers and other athletes had their own ceremony.

"The bubble is so tight....

the testing for COVID-19 is actually tighter (in China) than it is (in the United States)," Sandy Bolger said. "They're really trying to keep themselves to their bubbles. They're gonna do a mini opening ceremony for all the alpine... the

village.' Bolger is set to compete Tuesday, Feb. 8 in the freestyle sprint. Until then, he will train and prep for

snow sport athletes in their

to it. And then it's eat, sleep and recover and stay healthy," Kevin's father Mike Bolger

said. "They'll ski every day."

In days, Bolger will have his first Olympic competi-

"(Kevin) made a comment to us he goes "now on the plane — this is real," Sandy Bolger said. "This is real and it's really exciting."

Brett LaBore may be reached at brett@lakeland times.com or sports@lake landtimes.com.

# Two teams, two conference champions

# Lakeland Nordic ski teams win Northern Conference

**Brett LaBore** OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

It was a big four days for the Lakeland Nordic ski team. From Junior National qualifiers to the Badger State Games to conference, Lakeland showed their strength.

The Lakeland Nordic ski boys and girls won the Northern Conference title Tuesday in Cable. Seven skiers participated in Junior National qualifiers in Houghton, Mich. Jan. 29-30. The rest of the team

skied at the Badger State Games in Wausau Jan. 29.

#### **Northern Conference** Meet

This is the first time both the boys and girls have won conference since 2020. The meet was a 7K individual start at Birkebeiner Trailhead in Cable.

"It just shows we're continuing our strength at least in the Northern Conference and overall," coach Erich Kern said. "They all raced well."

The Lakeland boys won with seven points. Chippewa Valley came in second with 14. The Lakeland girls won with nine points. Chippewa Valley again had the runner-up finish with 12

points.

The Lakeland boys went one-two-four Tuesday afternoon. The top three skiers account towards points. Casey Van Hefty took first with a time of 18:33.51, becoming a conference champion.

Jakob Craig had the second place finish at 19:30. Leo Rotar finished fourth overall with a time of 20:39.31.

"(Casey and Jakob) are fun to watch and it is amazing," coach Kern said. "We have two of the top skiers in the state."

Chippewa Valley's Jack Dahlby placed third with a time of 19:51.1. Chippewa Valley had the third, fifth and sixth fastest skiers.

Lakeland's Nathan Zoch took 13th overall with a time of 23:23.9. Connor Simpson finished 15th with a time of

Sylvia Meza had the fastest time for the Lakeland girls who went two-three-four. Sylvia Meza skied a 22:57.21 for second place overall.

Kiera Rotar finished third with a time of 23:06.53. Stella Meza skied a 23:25.79 time, good for fourth overall.

"Grace is still struggling with some breathing issues," coach Kern said referring to his daughter. "The other girls stepped up and had great races."

Grace Kern did not count towards Lakeland's score. She finished seventh with a time of 24:07.97. Elsa Shockley took 10th with a time of 26:26.85.

Chippewa Valley did have the fastest skier for the girls. Fran Peterson took first overall with a time of 22:19.01. Chippewa Valley had the fifth and sixth fastest skiers as well.

## **Badger State Games**

Shockley finished runner-up with a time of 20:41.5. Northern Kettle Moraine Nordic's Abby Moore took the win with a time of 19:29.9.

Noley Guthrie finished 31st with a time of 25:16.1. Maye Maclean skied a 25:37.5 for 32nd and Kristiana Clay 33rd with a time of 26:56.

Carson Tegland also

had a second place finish at the Badger State Games. He finished with a time of 17:46.4. Northern Kettle Moraine Nordic's Logan Murphy won with a time of 17:31.5.

"Super fun. I think (Elsa and Carson) both won their age category at Badger State. Really fun day for them, give those kids an opportunity, all good skiers," coach Kern said. "Give them an opportunity to get hardware on the podium, more relaxed atmosphere."

Lakeland had two others in the top 10. Connor Simpson finished seventh with a time of

> See Champs. . . page 31

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# Victory at long last

# Tigers win first court. Losh scored two game of the season

**Brett LaBore** 

OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

All season long, the Mercer boys' basketball team has searched for that coveted first victory. It finally came Monday with a strong second half performance.

The Tigers won 56-50 over non-conference Bessemer, Mich. It was the first victory in coach Mike Guild's basketball

"I told them at the beginning of the season when we win games, it's not how I coached you, it's how you guys played. And that's absolutely what happened," Guild said. "To have them out there playing hard from start to finish was unbelievable. I'm very proud of them."

Kyler Breunig (15 points) got Mercer going with five straight points. The first came on a Ryan Losh assist and the other on a 3-pointer from the wings.

Losh (24 points) then scored two technical free throws as the Speedboys had too many players on the

on a post move as well.

"Feels great to finally get one. We've been close on a few, but it feels really good," Losh said.

The Tigers led 11-4 at the 12-minute mark.

Bessemer's Jack Matrella hit a 3-pointer on a second chance opportunity. Jack Nyquist also nailed a floater as the Speedboys started to get into a rhythm.

Losh scored back-toback buckets, the assists to Josh Klopatek. After a Bessemer timeout, Klopatek then connected on a triple from deep.

Mercer now had an 18-9 lead with eight minutes left in the first half.

Breunig scored on a mid-range jumper and Losh collected an offensive rebound score off a missed free throw.

Then the Speedboys went on a run. Daniel Lis hit a 3-pointer from the corner. The Tigers called a timeout.

Nyquist showed his impact on the game. Nyquist scored two on quick steal and then a jumper.

The Bessemer run continued. Nyquist nailed a 3-pointer and then got the Speedboys the lead on a jumper. Matrella got a steal for two more points.

The Tigers called another timeout. An 18-5 Bessemer run gave them a 27-23 halftime

"I told them at the end of the first half the only reason that we got behind was mental errors and they corrected them after halftime and came out swinging so very proud," Guild said.

It was a back-andforth game in the second half. Klopatek (11 points) hit two straight triples to tie the game up at 31-31.

Later in the game, Lis had a 3-pointer from the wings. Zach Huybrecht answered him with a triple from the corner.

"It was a team game," Huybrecht said. "We just had to play a good team game and we have

The Tigers led 37-36 with 12 minutes to go in the game.

A momentum change happened when Guild got called for a technical foul. Nyquist made one of his two free throw attempts. Next, Matrella made two free throws to give Bessemer the lead.

"I got a technical and had to sit down for the last five minutes which was the most difficult thing in my life," Guild

The Speedboys led 39-37 with eight minutes to



Mercer boys' basketball coach Mike Guild hugs Josh Klopatek (10) as the Tigers celebrate their first win of the season against Bessemer Monday, Jan. 31 at Coach Leverson Court in Mercer. Other players celebrating include Kyler Breunig (4), Zach Huybrecht (1) and Ryan Losh (23).

go in the game.

Breunig took it himself for two points to regain the Tigers the lead. Then, Bessemer's Teddy Wittla-Sprague hit a 3pointer to re-take the

A Mercer run ended up deciding the game. Ryan Losh made an acrobatic two points to tie the game at 42-42 with 5:45 left.

Conrad LaBarge made an entry pass to Losh who scored again. Breunig nailed a corner 3pointer.

The Tigers led 47-42 with four minutes to go in the game. Bessemer called a timeout.

Matrella made two more free throws for the Speedboys. It wouldn't be enough as the Tiger defense clamped down.

Nyquist, who had 17 first half points, had just one in the second half.

"We did make a defensive adjustment at half to try to get (Nyquist) to stop scoring because we noticed he's an excellent player, excellent athlete," Guild said. "And we made an adjustment and it worked. I don't think he shot the ball very much in the second half from start to finish."

Three players netted the Tigers three points. Losh got an offensive rebound. The ball found Klopatek who had a look at a 3-pointer. He made the extra pass to a wide open Breunig who nailed a triple.

Losh came down the paint to make it 52-44, Mercer's lead. Klopatek added in a layup to increase the Tiger lead.

Matrella (22 points) added in a couple of late baskets to his total. LaBarge sealed the win with two paint points by pump faking and getting two Speedboy players in the air.

"It feels so good finally," Huybrecht said. "Onto Butternut for win number two. Good game all around."

The Tigers outscored the Speedboys 33-23 in the second half.

Up next, the Tigers (1-14, 0-11) seek their second straight win when they play at Butternut tonight starting at 7 p.m.

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# Lady Tigers snap losing streak, beat Bessemer

**Brett LaBore** OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

The Mercer girls' basketball team has been faced with injuries, close games and tough breaks. Things finally went their way when a former conference foe came to town Monday night.

The Tigers defeated Bessemer, Mich. 54-36. It was the Tigers first win since Dec. 13 as they snapped their eightgame losing streak. It also was a season high in points for Mercer.

"Feels very good because we expected to be a lot better this season and we had a lot of injuries in a lot of our gir we were missing a lot of girls," junior KD Knipp said. "It just felt good having our whole team back, besides Nina (Doi), but it felt good having them in."

"We really needed it," junior April Klopatek said. "We were really getting down on ourselves and it was really nice to get a win."

It was a low-scoring game at 5-2 Tigers lead six minutes into the game. Then, the Tigers started to get hot from the field, including three straight possessions of bas-

Jenny Klopatek scored two with a foul in the lane. Knipp scored a jumper on a bank shot. Next time down the floor, Jenny Klopatek saved the ball to Adrienne Konneker who hit a short jumper. After that, Knipp went coast-tocoast for two points.



BRETT LABORE/LAKELAND TIMES

April Klopatek dribbles the ball out on the wings, defended by Bessemer's Jenna Saari, Monday, Jan. 31 at Coach Leverson Court in Mercer. Klopatek helped the Tigers pick up their first win

Bessemer's Laura Uribes passed to Natalie Stone for a layup. Still, they were down 13-4 with eight minutes left in the first half.

Knipp scored the Tigers next seven points. She did it with jumpers, free throws and a steal.

The defense of the Tigers stifled the Speedgirls. The Speedgirls had just 11 first half points.

"We played very hard on defense. Usually we don't do a 55 man-to-man, and we do a zone defense, but we've been running man and it's working very good and we're all working together and stuff. We did get tired in the second half though," Knipp said.

Amber Eith came off the bench and provided a spark. She grabbed an offensive rebound and went up for a shot, getting fouled. She sunk both of her free throws.

"It was awesome. Amber played tough at South Shore, getting more minutes. She's our best free throw shooter so she knocked down some free throws, and she had a drive to the basket and made a bucket which was awesome," coach Adam Miller said.

Knipp scored a basket with a foul towards the end of the half, making the free throw. April Klopatek got the assist. Eith then assisted Knipp for two in the paint.

The Tigers led the Speed-

girls 27-11 at the half.

"It was a lot of emotions because we've just had so many tough games. We had two games from Ironwood and Butternut that we lost by two. We're playing better," Miller said. "The girls come to practice every single day and they work hard and just once in a while you deserve one.'

Early in the second half, Jenny Klopatek picked up her fourth foul. The Speedgirls started the half on a 5-0 run. Stone made a running hook shot, followed by a free throw by Patience Prochnow.

The Tigers called a timeout. Bessemer's Brooke Stanislawski scored on a putback

Eiley Schoeneman, who scored just three first half points, got the Tigers back in the scoring column with two on an offensive rebound at

Prochnow responded with a fadeaway shot. Uribes went coast-to-coast with a euro step at the end. The Tigers called another timeout. The Speedgirls had cut the Tiger lead to under 10 points at 29-

Schoeneman (13 points) went back to the paint for two points. Shortly after, Jenny Klopatek picked up her fifth and final foul, sending her to the bench.

Knipp scored her first points of the half due to a Schoeneman pass. Schoeneman scored two more in the paint and Knipp grabbed an offensive rebound for two.

The Tigers led 38-23 with

eight minutes to go.

"I think it was our defense and the way we played on offense," April Klopatek said about the win. "We really used our post players."

The Speedgirls had one more run in them. Stone made a long jumper and then Amaya Casiano knocked down a 3-pointer. It was 40-31, Tigers lead.

It was a total team effort to get the Tigers next basket. Konneker got an offensive rebound. Knipp then made a sharp pass to April Klopatek who used a floater with glass to score.

Eith drove to the rim for wo points. Then, Knipp to her spot for a jumper, the assist to Konneker.

The Tigers comfortably led 49-33 with 3:40 left in the

Knipp put an exclamation point on the win with a half court buzzer beater. The long 3-pointer gave Knipp 28 points, leading all scorers.

"I (shoot half-courters) at every practice before the beginning of practice," Knipp said. "Sometimes it goes in, sometimes it doesn't. And it went in tonight."

Stone led the Speedgirls with 11 points, the only Bessemer player in double figures.

Up next, the Tigers (4-11, 2-9) take the road to play Butternut tonight. Tip-off is set for 5:45 p.m.

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# Thunderbirds dominate Eagles on the ice

**Brett LaBore** 

OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

Lakeland boys' hockey entered the Great Northern Conference Tournament as the No. 1 seed. They played like it Tuesday night against Northland Pines.

The Thunderbirds beat the Eagles 6-1 at Lakeland Ice Arena in Minocqua.

"Anytime you can start with a win you'll always come away happy, but it's back to work tomorrow at practice," coach Jake Suter said. "Our group is determined to play in March. In order to do that though we must prove each day that we have left."

The Eagles were on the

power play early in the first period. Cooper Fink showed his skill with a shorthanded goal, assisted by JJ Albee 5:47 into the game.

Northland Pines responded in less than two minutes. Zach Szafranski scored an unassisted goal to tie the game at 1-1. The Eagles only had two shots on goal in the first period.

Besides the Eagle goal, the Thunderbirds dominated the period. Lakeland outshot Northland Pines 16-2. It was 1-1 after one period.

The Thunderbirds continued to dominate the Eagles. Fink scored his second goal of the game five minutes in. Albee had the assist once

again.

Lakeland led 2-1 with about five minutes left in the second period. The Thunderbirds went on the power play and got a goal from Teag Wagner. Brayden Warchol and Fink got the assists.

"(Cooper and Teag) have earned and are deserving of the success they are having," Suter said. "They're two of our hardest workers in and off the ice. I have been very happy with them all season."

Cody Olson added an even strength goal late in the period. Gray Wagner got the assict

"Teag and Cody looked like men against boys out there tonight," Suter said. "They set the pace and controlled the game — start to finish."

Lakeland outshot Northland Pines 24-3 in the second period and led 4-1 in the game.

Teag Wagner scored another power play goal 5:39 into the third period. Fink and Thomas McCumber were awarded with assists. Fink finished with a game-high four points.

Northland Pines went on a late power play with under two minutes to go in the game. Still, the Thunderbirds were able to score their second shorthanded goal of the game, this one by Kort Meyer. Teag Wagner got the assist

"The attitude, effort and ex-

ecution of our (penalty kill) tonight was excellent," Suter said.

All in all, the Thunderbirds outshout the Eagles 53-8. Max Masayesva went 7/8 on saves with a save percentage of 875

Lakeland played non-conference Kingsford, Mich. on Thursday. Coverage of this game will be in the Tuesday, Feb. 8 edition of *The Times*.

Up next, the Thunderbirds (12-4, 6-1) host Waupaca in the GNC semifinals Tuesday, Feb. 8 at Lakeland Ice Arena. The puck drops at 7 p.m.

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# Ryan Muench, Nolan Lurvey lead Eagles by Thunderbirds

**Brett LaBore** 

OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

As the calendar reached February, the Thunderbirds boys' basketball team had yet to play Northland Pines. The teams finally met up Tuesday in Eagle River.

The Eagles soared in the second half to win 58-39 over the Thunderbirds. Northland Pines' Ryan Muench and Nolan Lurvey combined for 47 points and eight 3-pointers.

"Guys are trying to make plays. I thought we did a really good job. We gave up 47 points to two guys. So really it was two guys that really, really hurt us offensively," coach Rich Fortier said.

The game was tied at 9-9 at the 12-minute

mark of the first half. Will Fortier (19 points) hit a jumper at the free throw line. Shortly after, Muench hit a 3-pointer from the wings for the lead.

Turnovers became an issue for the Thunderbirds. They scored just the Will Fortier basket for a fourminute stretch. The Eagles led 15-11 with eight minutes left in the first half.

"We got a little loose with the ball. I think we had 15 turnovers," coach Fortier said.

Will Fortier hit a long jumper that got a friendly roll to get the Thunderbirds in rhythm again. Then an offensive rebound by Gabe Smith led to a Lurvey 3-pointer for the Eagles.

The 3-point ball got the Thunderbirds right back in the game. Will Fortier had a 3-pointer from the top of the key in transition. Carter Quade then hit a triple.

"We engineered a new offense and this is the first night we showed it and in the first half it got (Northland Pines) stymied a bit," coach Fortier said. "We will get better and better at it. We just got to keep grinding at this and we'll see the rewards."

Northland Pines led 20-19 with under four minutes to go in the first half.

Muench scored two in transition to keep the Eagles the lead. Brayden Wiczek scored two points off his own miss. Wiczek just missed tying the game with a 3-pointer at the buzzer. Northland Pines led 24-21 at halftime.

"I thought our execution and stuff was good," coach Fortier said. "It just didn't result in what we wanted which was a made basket."

Slowly but surely, the Eagles grew their lead in the second half. Lurvey scored two with the foul and Smith scored two in transition.

Ashton Anderson used the glass to help make his floater. Ryan Carlson added in two points with defenders all over him, assisted by Wiczek.

Northland Pines led 39-26 at the 12-minute mark as their lead grew

"Just thought offensively we had some times and some lapses where we didn't take care of it as well as we could of or make some shots that we thought we could have made," coach Fortier said.

The Thunderbirds had one more run in them when Wiczek scored two in the paint. Then, Chandler Savel assisted Gary Timm for a basket and-one. Timm missed his free throw.

It was 47-32, Northland Pines' lead at 7:30.

A 3-pointer from Will Fortier cut the Eagle lead to 47-35 with five minutes left in the game. It came on a Timm offensive rebound and assist.

The Eagles pulled

away late with 3-pointers by Muench and Lurvey. The Eagles outscored Lakeland 34-18 in the second half. Just four Eagles scored in the game — Smith (7 points) and Griffin Stiemke (4 points) — were the other scorers.

"Aside from the blood-in-the-water moment, we went from 15 to 16 down to 11 or 12," coach Fortier said. "We were ok and then they made a lot of shots at the end to make it a bigger win."

Up next, the Thunderbirds (6-12, 2-5) play at Antigo tonight starting at 7:15 p.m.

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# **Champs**

From page 29

18:43.6. Nathan Zoch had an eighth place finish and time of 19:12.6.

## Junior National Qualifiers

Van Hefty, Craig, Leo Rotar, Grace Kern, Kiera Rotar, Sylvia Meza and Stella Meza all competed in Junior National qualifiers Jan. 29-30. in Houghton, Mich.

Van Hefty, Craig and Leo Rotar took part in Saturday's 15K Senior/U20/U18 race. It was an individual freestyle start.

Van Hefty finished 25th overall. He had a time of 45:14.2, which put him second overall amongst U18 skiers.

Craig finished in 31st place overall with a time of 46:04, sixth amongst U20 skiers.

"(Casey and Jakob) are both skiing phenomenally well," coach Kern said. "Jakob may have upper hand in classic and Casey in skate."

Leo Rotar finished in



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOGRAPH

The Lakeland Nordic ski teams celebrate their Northern Conference championships Tuesday, Feb. 1 at Birkebeiner Trailhead in Cable. It's the first time both teams have won since 2020.

55th overall in with a time of 52:27.5. His time put him 17th amongst U18 skiers.

Grace Kern, Kiera Rotar and Sylvia Meza skied in the 10K Senior/U20/U18 race, also an individual freestyle start on Saturday.

Grace Kern finished 27th overall with a time of 35:37.6, third for U18 skiers.

Kiera Rotar finished 39th overall with a time of 38:37.8, 16th amongst U20 skiers. Sylvia Meza finished close behind in 40th. She had a time of 38:51.9, seventh overall for U18 skiers. Stella Meza finished

fifth in the 5K U16 girls race. She skied a time of 18:13.3 in the individual start freestyle. Peak Nordic's Anne Straka won with a time of 17:05.4. Sunday was a classic race. Again, Van Hefty, Craig and Leo Rotar skied in the 10K Senior/U20/U18 race. Craig skied a 31:56.3 for 27th overall, sixth for U20 skiers.

Van Hefty finished 29th overall with a time of 32:06.5. That put him second in the U18 category.

Rotar finished 52nd overall with a time of 36:46.1, 16th overall

for U18 skiers.

Grace Kern, Kiera Rotar and Sylvia Meza skied in the 5K Senior/U20/U18 classic race. Kiera Rotar finished 35th overall with a time of 20:02.8, 12th in the U20 category.

"Kiera's had a really strong classic, really good to see," coach Kern said. "Grace had the better skate race."

Kern finished 37th overall with a time of

20:18.8. She finished seventh for all U18 skiers.

Sylvia Meza finished 41st overall, skiing a time of 21:09.3. She placed eighth amongst U18 skiers.

Stella Meza took part in the 5K U16 classic race. She finished fourth overall with a time of 20:29.5. Sophie Stephenson of Blackhawk Ski Club won with a time of 19:06.2.

"Stella was in a different race, but racing solid," coach Kern said. "I think the girls are getting a little fatigued. Trying to get some rest the next week... making sure we're well rested for the state meet in a week and a half."

Up next, the Lakeland Nordic ski teams take part in the state sprint meet Saturday, Feb. 4-Sunday, Feb. 5 in Madison. The time of the meet is TBD.

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#### ION BOARD **Brad Schillinger Brent Cella** Bill Fricke Brian Wagner Ryan Domaszek **Jill Yelton** Bolger Funeral & Cremation **Peter Nomm** Northern Waters Distillery **Brett LaBore** The Mystic LAST WEEK'S GAME 1 - 1 2 - 0 2 - 0 1 - 1 0 - 2 1 - 1 1 - 1 1 - 1 1 - 1

176 - 108

L.A. Rams

# Wausau West uses depth to beat Lady Thunderbirds

**180 - 104** 

Cincinnati

# Julianna and Kristina Ouimette combine for 51 points

Cincinnati vs L.A. Rams

**OVERALL** 

Brett LaBore

OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

The Lakeland girls' basketball team hit the road for a non-conference contest Monday night at Wausau West. Wausau West's strong second half netted them a win.

The Warriors beat the Thunderbirds 75-62.

"It was a great game. It was a fun game to watch, fast paced up and down the court, high-scoring game with a lot of great players on the floor," coach Melissa Ouimette said. "Wausau West is a vey good team, undefeated in the (Wisconsin Val-

ley Conference) and a tall team."

**183** - **101** 

Cincinnati

**183** - **101** 

L.A. Rams

The Thunderbirds were playing without starter Saylor Timmerman, out with an injury. It made a difference in the game, especially on the boards. Wausau West also used their height to their advantage.

"We found a way to score, it's just that on defense we had a hard time keeping them off the boards," coach Ouimette said. "We'd go out and try to cover those 3-pointer shooters (but it) opened up the inside for them more, trying to get rebounds."

Julianna and Kristina Ouimette both had the hot hand in the first half. Together they combined for 28 of Lakeland's 32 first half points — 13 from Julianna Ouimette and 15 from Kristina Ouimette.

181 - 103

L.A. Rams

Lily Fortier had the other four points of the half for Lakeland. They were the only first half scorers for Lakeland.

The Warriors had five different scorers by halftime, a balanced effort. Molly Anderson had eight points on four field goals by halftime, same as Kelly Kray. Lexi White had six points by half.

Lakeland led the Warriors 32-27 after 18 minutes of play.

Wausau West got hot in the second half, using second chance rebounds to their advantage. They also knocked down three triples.

"The second half they were getting rebounds and starting to get hot from the outside too," coach Ouimette said. Kenzie Deaton led the Warriors with 19 points. She had just two by halftime, but tallied 17 second half points which included two 3-pointers. She made 5/6 free throws, which included gamesealing free throws.

175 - 109

L.A. Rams

172 - 112

L.A. Rams

Anderson scored eight more points for 16 total in the game. White also had 16 points in the game, scoring 10 in the second half. Kray finished with 17 points in the game, second most on the team.

In total, the Warriors had four players with 16 or more points. Audrey Danninger added seven points.

Julianna Ouimette finished with a gamehigh 27 points. Kristina Ouimette totaled 24 points and five 3-pointers.

"They both had a

nice night against Wausau West," coach Ouimette said. "They kind of rise up and look to the challenge and last night able to knock down shots."

**165** - 119

Cincinnati

**165** - 119

L.A. Rams

Charley Cleveland got in the scoring column with a 3-pointer. Cassidy Cleveland scored two points, as did Joeli Koehler. Lily Fortier finished with four points.

"I am happy with the way our team battled," coach Ouimette said. "When you have a starter and player go out and adjust and move people around and switch up rotations and subbing, it impacts the entire game and I thought everybody did a phenomenal job adapting and playing their roles to the game."

It was a tight game right up to the end. The

Warriors pulled away late with free throws. Altogether, the Warriors went 15/20 from the free throw line.

157 - 127

Cincinnati

"We were right there with them. We only had seven-eight players too so people got a lot of minutes and it was a tough battle up and down the court. A very physical game," coach Ouimette said.

Lakeland played Medford on Thursday, a make-up game from Jan. 21. Coverage of this game will be in the Tuesday, Feb. 8 edition of *The Times*.

Up next, the Thunderbirds (10-8, 5-2) host Antigo tonight at Ted Voigt Court in Minocqua. Tip-off is set for 7:15 p.m.

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# Lakeland gymnastics falls to Rhinelander

Brett LaBore

OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

Lakeland gymnastics returned to competition for Senior Night and a meet with Rhinelander at Lakeland Union High School. It turned into a close score Tuesday night.

The Hodags beat the Thunderbirds 103.45-99.5.

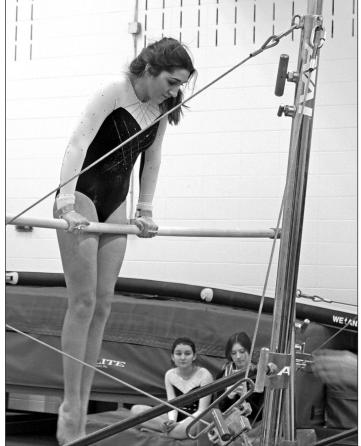
"While we had a rough go of it on the beam, the rest of the meet went very well," coach Laura Hayes said.
"These girls have all worked very hard in the gym and that hard work and commitment shows."

"Takhmina Kamolova had a PR on beam. Miah Newport had a PR on vault and bars. Vicky (Supinski) had a PR on bars and Alena (Lohoff) had a PR on bars," Hayes said.

Lakeland outscored Rhinelander on the uneven bars. Lakeland had a score of 20.8 compared to Rhinelander's 20.75.

Miah Newport finished with the second best score on the bars with a 5.7, her highest finish of the night. Michelle Janssen and Vicky Supinski tied for fourth with a score of 5.05. Rhinelander's Sophie Miljevich had the top score of 6.9.

"All the girls have improved a lot on their bars," Hayes said. "We are still working in increasing the



TREVOR GREENE/LAKELAND TIMES

Cameryn Teichmiller performs her uneven bars routine in a meet against Rhinelander Tuesday, Feb. 1 at Lakeland Union High School in Minocqua.

skill level on this event. Miah has a great bar routine and has great form."

Rhinelander had the edge on the other three events. On the balance beam, the Hodags outscored the Thunderbirds 23.95-22.6.

Miljevich once again had the highest score of 6.45 on the beam. Janssen finished third overall, tops for Lakeland with a score of 6.25. Supinski took fourth with a score of 5.95 (6.1 - Judge 1, 5.8 - Judge 2). Newport finished sixth with a score of 5.65 (5.9 - Judge 1, 5.4 - Judge 2).

"Michelle had a great meet with a personal record on every event," Hayes said. "She works so hard in the gym and all the effort shows during the meets."

Rhinelander outscored Lakeland 28.35-26.45 on the floor. Miljevich had the top score of 7.8. Supinski finished second with a score of 7.3, tied for her highest finish of the night.

Teichmiller finished fourth on the floor with a score of 6.95 (6.8 - Judge 1, 7.1 - Judge 2).

"Floor continues to be the strong point for Cameryn," Hayes said. "I was also very excited that she was able to throw a new move in on beam at this meet."

On the vault, the Hodags had a 30.4-29.65 edge in score. Miljevich had the best score of 8.1. Supinski finished second with a score of 7.8, tied for her best finish. Newport finished fourth with a score of 7.45.

"Vicky is a strong vaulter. She also has a pretty floor routine that keeps getting better as the year goes on," Hayes said.

Supinski ended up second in the All-around, her third runner-up finish of the night. She had a total score of 26.1. Miljevich swept all the events, winning the Allaround with a score of 29.25.

Newport finished third overall in the All-around with a score of 24.8. Teichmiller finished fifth with a total score of 22.1. Alena Lohoff finished sixth in the All-around with a score of 21.65. Lohoff had her best finish in the uneven bars with a sixth place finish and score of 5.0.

"Alena continues to improve as the year progresses. She had a personal record on bars at the meet," Hayes said.

Takhmina Kamolova finished ninth in the vault with a score of 6.1.

The Thunderbirds celebrated seniors Teichmiller, Janssen and Kamolova.

"Cameryn, Michelle and Takhmina have all been amazing examples for the other girls," Hayes said. "It was a great night to celebrate them and all their hard work."

Up next, the Thunderbirds (0-3 GNC) compete in an invitational at Ashland Saturday, Feb. 12 starting at 10 a.m.

Brett LaBore may be reached at brett@lakeland times.com or sports@lake landtimes.com.

# Storm power by Edge

**Brett LaBore** 

OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

The Northern Edge met up with the Central Wisconsin Storm Monday in the first game at Lakeland Ice Arena this season. The Storm won handily, defeating the Edge 10-1.

"We pretty much knew what they were about," coach Tom Roeser said. "They're a strong team, they're deep and they're fast. We're just really looking for our girls to go out and work hard every shift."

Gabi Heuser snuck one through for the Storm a minute and a half into the contest. Abby Dhein got the as-

After that, the Edge settled in a bit. The Edge's Mia Tulowitzky made a run towards the Storm's net but was thwarted by the Storm defense.

The Storm came back down the ice a minute later. Gianna Travis poked one in for the second Storm goal, the assist to Kailey Grosskreutz.

"First period we didn't come out and compete at all. We lost races to the puck, but we got better as the game went on and we're going to have to try and build off that," coach Roeser said.

A penalty on the Edge's MacKenzie Wissbroecker for checking from behind put the Storm on the power play for nearly the rest of the period. It was a five-minute major.

First, Edge goalie Ellie Stank made a number of saves, deflecting shot after shot. Then, the Storm's Taylor Freidel passed it to Logan Crawford who took a shot. Heuser was there for the rebound and her second goal of the game. The Storm led 3-0.

Still on the power play, Samantha Federici scored on a rebound, the assist to Heuser.

After one period, the Storm led 4-0.

"I really think we could've came out of that period 2-0 had we not give taken that five-minute major," coach Roeser said. "Yeah that's a lot of power play time. And we have a short bench and we're running girls pretty hard."

Maria Gironella put a lot of pressure on the Storm's defense in the early parts of period two. She took a shot on goal early and then made several runs towards the goal. Taylor Heleniak joined her on one of those runs.

"That's a big deal when you can get a defenseman to move their feet, opens things up for wings and Maria and Taylor got us most of our offensive chances just by skating the puck, taking the zone and then we stuff started to develop once we started to getting the puck up the ice a lot quicker," coach Roeser said.

The Edge had their first power play chance in the second period. Gironella passed it to Wissbroecker who took a shot off target.

"We had some moments second period was our best period obviously and we put a lot more pucks on net," coach Roeser said

Gironella then got hit with a penalty for hooking, a twominute minor. The Storm had 53 seconds of power play as the penalties overlapped.

Midway through the third period, Travis scored her sec-



**BRETT LABORE/LAKELAND TIMES** 

Maria Gironella controls the puck as she goes on the attack in the second period against Central Wisconsin Tuesday, Feb. 1 at Lakeland Ice Arena in Minocqua.

ond goal, unassisted, in a scrum at the net. The Storm led 5-0.

The Storm tacked on two quick goals in the end. First, Madi DePuydt scored the sixth Storm goal. Just 35 seconds later, Ava Rode shot it by Stank to net a goal herself, the assists to Federici and Heuser.

Kassidee Linssen took a late shot on goal in the second period. It was all Storm though as they led 7-0.

Stank made another save on a shot from point-blank range early in the third period. At 11:22, the Edge went back on the power play for two minutes. They didn't get any good looks from it.

Heuser got the hat trick when she scored on a rebound midway through the period. Crawford picked up the assist.

The Storm continued to put pressure on the Edge when they made a run at 6:07 that netted a goal. Carly Czerwinski scored with the assist to Gabrielle du Vair.

A penalty late in the game put the Edge on power play once more. They took advan-



**BRETT LABORE/LAKELAND TIMES** 

Kassidee Linssen skates with the puck in the third period against Central Wisconsin Tuesday, Feb. 1 at Lakeland Ice Arena in Minocqua.

tage when Emma Chiamulera found an opening in the net and scored. Tulowitzky got the assist. It was now 9-1 Storm.

"Emma really works. She works every shift and this is her first year playing. She's one of the skaters we got that we know what we're going to get from her everyday," coach Roeser said. "She deserved that goal. I mean she was working hard,

Tomahawk at Ashland (NC), 7 p.m

Saturday's Games Antigo at West Salem (NC), 1 p.m. Northland Pines at New Richmond (NC),

Madison Memorial at Mosinee (NC), 6

Northland Pines at Lakeland GNC Tournament Quarterfinals

Tuesday, Feb. 1

Northland Pines 1 0 0 — 1

Lakeland 1 3 2 — 6

First Period: 1, Lak, Cooper Fink (JJ

Albee), 5:47 (sh). 1, NP, Zach Szafran-ski (unassisted), 7:10.

Second Period: 2, Lak. Fink (Albee)

Olson (Gray Wagner), 14:38.

Third Period: 5, Lak, T.Wagner (F

Kort Meyer (T.Wagner), 16:51 (sh).

Shots: Northland Pines 2-3-3 8. Lake-

Pines, Eli Kerner 53 shots-47 saves.

land 16-24-13 53. Goalies: Northland

Lakeland, Max Masayesva 8-7. **Penal-ties:** Northland Pines 5-10, Lakeland

4-8. Power Plays: Northland Pines 0-

**PREP GIRLS' HOCKEY** 

Central Wisconsin at Northern Edge

5:00. 3, Lak, Teag Wagner (Brayden Warchol, Fink), 11:51 (pp). 4, Cody

Thomas McCumber), 5:39 (pp), 6, Lak.

working hard. She got a good stick on the puck and caught the goalie on the other side of the net and put it home."

Central Wisconsin got one more in before the buzzer sounded. It was Czerwinski from du Vair once more.

Up next, the Edge (1-9) host Onalaska in Antigo tonight at Langlade County Multi-Purpose Building. The puck drops at 7 p.m.

# LOCAL SCOREBOARD

## **BASKETBALL**

## **BOYS' BASKETBALL**

**Great Northern Conference Standings** as of Tuesday, Feb. 1

Mosinee Northland Pines 6-1 4-2 4-3 13-3 8-8 11-5 Medford 6-12 2-15 Lakeland Antigo Tomahawk 0-8 Tuesday's Games Northland Pines 58, Lakeland 39 Shawano 74, Antigo 48 (NC) Merrill 75 Rhinelander 68 (NC) Mosinee 65, New London 52 (NC) Crandon 47, Tomahawk 38 (NC) Thursday's Game Medford at Antigo, late **Friday' Games**Mosinee at Rhinelander, 7:15 p.m. Lakeland at Antigo, 7:15 p.m. Medford at Tomahawk, 7:15 p.m.

Antigo at Wittenberg-Birnamwood (NC). **Lakeland at Northland Pines** 

Monday, Feb. 7

Tuesday, Feb. 1 Lakeland 21 18 — 39 Northland Pines 24 34 — 58 **LAKELAND (39):** St. Germaine 0 0-2 0, Quade 1 0-0 3, Fortier 7 2-3 19, Anderson 2 0-0 4, Wiczek 2 1-4 5, Savel 0 0-0 0, Larsen 0 0-0 0, Timm 1 0-1 Gahler 1 0-0 3. Carlson 1 1-2 3 Evenhouse 0 0-0 0. Totals 15 4-12

NORTHLAND PINES (58): Klemett 0 0-0 0, Vojta 0 0-0 0, A.Muench 0 0-0 0, R.Muench 8 4-4 24, Smith 3 1-4 7, Millis 0 0-0 0. Verseman 0 0-0 0. Mc-Canles 0 0-0 0, Lurvey 8 3-5 23, Stiemke 1 2-2 4, Kohn 0 0-0 0. Totals 20 10-15 58

3-Point Goals: Lakeland 5 (Quade, Fortier 3. Gahler). Northland Pines 8 (R.Muench 4, Lurvey 4). **Total Fouls:** Lakeland 11, Northland

## **GIRLS' BASKETBALL**

**Great Northern Conference Standings** as of Tuesday, Feb. 1 GNC Mosinee 9-0

13-6 10-8 5-2 4-3 3-6 2-7 Lakeland 5-11 6-13 3-18 Medford Northland Pines Antigo Monday's Games Northland Pines 41. Antigo 36

Wausau West 75, Lakeland 62 (NC) Tuesday's Games Three Lakes 65, Antigo 29 (NC) Northland Pines 50, Prentice 44 (NC) Rhinelander 77, Wausau East 53 (NC) Mosinee 53, Amherst 49 (NC) Florence at Tomahawk (NC), ccd. Thursday's Game Medford at Lakeland (NC), late Friday's Games

Northland Pines at Wakefield-Marenisco, Mich. (NC), 6 p.m. Antigo at Lakeland, 7:15 p. Tomahawk at Medford, 7:15 p.m. Rhinelander at Mosinee, 7:15 p.m. Monday, Feb. 7 White Lake at Tomahawk (NC), 6:30

Ewen-Trout Creek, Mich. at Northland Pines (NC), 7 p.m. Menomonie at Medford (NC), 7:15 p.m.

Lakeland at Wausau West

Monday, Jan. 31 Lakeland 32 30 — 62 Wausau West 27 48 — 75 **LAKELAND (62):** Ch.Cleveland 1 0-0 3, J.Ouimette 10 5-5 27, Ca.Cleveland 1 0-0 2, Quade 0 0-0 0, Fortier 1 1-2 3, Koehler 1 0-0 2, K.Ouimette 9 1-2 24. Totals 23 7-9 62.

**WAUSAU WEST (75):** Kray 8 1-3 17, Deaton 6 5-6 19, Danninger 2 2-2 7, White 6 3-4 16, Anderson 6 4-4 16 Totals 27 15-20 75. **3-Point Goals:** Lakeland 9 (Ch. Cleve-

land, J.Ouimette 2, Fortier, K.Ouimette 5). Wausau West 4 (Deaton 2, Danninger, White).

Total Fouls: Lakeland 13, Wausau West 10.

## **BOWLING**

**WOODRUFF LANES Woodruff Country Girls** Wednesday, Jan. 26

187

High Game Dawnzy Kuhlmann Sandy Fehrman **High Series** 

Sonya Deja Sandy Fehrman 474 Team High Game 631 Robins Team Team High Series Robins Team Standings as of Jan. 26 Woodruff Lanes Furry Kids Grooming

1794 **W-L** 26-9 and Monument Lakeland Mo Total Image

# **ISLAND CITY LANES**

**Tuesday Commercial** Tuesday, Feb. 1 Scott Ward Tim Crall Frank Voita 247 Scratch Series 756 Scott Ward Ryan Woods Kevin Pillifant Scratch Game Quality Heating 1164 1093 Island City Lanes LBJ1078 Scratch Series 3236 Quality Heating Island City Lanes 3012 Standings as of Feb. 1 Team W-L **Quality Heating** 28-14 28-14 Island City Lanes I B.I 25-17 Burnett Plumbing 19-23

# **GYMNASTICS**

PREP GYMNASTICS **GNC Small Division Standings** 

as of Tuesday, Feb. 1			
Team	Pts.	GNO	
Medford	4	2-0	
Mosinee	2	1-0	
Rhinelander	2	1-1	
Lakeland	0	0-3	
Tuesday's Meet			
Rhinelander 103.45, Lakela	and 99	.5	
Thursday's Meet			
Medford at Mosinee, late			
Friday's Meet			
Mosinee, Rhinelander at M	arshfie	ld In-	

vite (NC), 4:30 p.m.

Rhinelander at Lakeland Tuesday, Feb. 1 Rhinelander 103.45, Lakeland 99.5 All-Around: 1, Sophie Miljevich, Rhi, 29.25. 2, Vicky Supinski, Lak, 26.1. 3, Miah Newport, Lak, 24.8 ... 5, Cameryn Teichmiller, Lak, 22.1. 6, Alena Lohoff, Lak, 21.65.

Balance Beam: 1, Miljevich, Rhi, 6.45. 2, Payton Rudawski, Rhi, 6.3. 3, Michelle Janssen, Lak, 6.25 ... 4, Supinski, Lak. 5.95, 6, Newport, Lak 5.65. 9, Lohoff, Lak, 4.75. 10, Teichmiller, Lak. 3.8.

Floor Exercise: 1, Miljevich, Rhi, 7.8. 2, Supinski, Lak, 7.3. 3, Wendy Fronk, Rhi, 7.4 ... 4, Teichmiller, Lak, 6.95. 7, Janssen, Lak, 6.2. 8, Newport, Lak, .ohoff. Lak. 4.8. Uneven Bars: 1, Miljevich, Rhi, 6.9. 2.

Newport, Lak, 5.7. 3, Leta Cole, Rhi, 5.15 ... 4 (tie), Janssen, Lak; Supinski, Lak, 5.05. 6, Lohoff, Lak, 5.0. 9, Teichmiller, Lk, 4.05. Vaulting: 1, Miljevich, Rhi, 8.1. 2,

Supinski, Lak, 7.8. 3, Abby Belbot, Rhi, 7.65 ... 4, Newport, Lak, 7.45. 6, Teichmiller, Lak, 7.3. 8, Lohoff, 7.1. 9, Takhmina Kamolova, Lak, 6.1.

## **HOCKEY**

#### PREP BOYS' HOCKEY **Great Northern Conference Standings**

as of Tuesday, Feb. 1 Great Northern Overall Pts.W-L-OW-OL W-L-T Lakeland 6-1-0-0 5-1-0-1 Rhinelander

5-2-0-0 4-2-1-0 Antigo 13-7-1 Waupaca 12 4-3-0-0 11-8-0 6 7-12-0 6-12-0 2-4-0-0 0-6-1-0 Medford N'land Pines 0-6-0-1 2-15-0 Tuesday's Games GNC Tournament Quarterfinals

Lakeland 6, Northland Pines Waupaca 4, Antigo 2 Mosinee 9, Tomahawk 2 Rhinelander 12, Medford 1 Thursday's Games Pacelli at Northland Pines (NC), late East/Merrill at Rhinelander (NC), late Kingsford, Mich. at Lakeland (NC), late

Chequamegon/Phillips at Medford (NC), late Friday's Game

Tuesday, Feb. 1 Central Wis. 4 3 3 — 10

Northern Edge 0 0 1 — 1

First Period: 1, CW, Gabi Heuser (Abby Dhein), 15:38. 2, CW, Gianna Travis (Kailey Grosskreutz), 5:40. 3, CW, Heuser (Taylor Freidel, Logan Crawford), 4:20 (pp). 4, CW, Samantha Federici (Heuser), 1:40 (pp). **Second Period:** 5, CW, Travis (unassisted), 7:58. 6, CW, Madi DePuydt (Heuser), 2:42. 7, CW, Ava Rode (Federici, Heuser), 2:07.

Third Period: 8, CW, Heuser (Craw-

ford), 8:38. 9, CW, Carly Czerwinski (Gabrielle du Vair), 6:07. 10, Edge, Emma Chiamulera (Mia Tulowitzky) 43.2 (pp). 11, CW, Czerwinski (du

Shots: N/A. Goalies: N/A. Penalties: CW 4-8, Edge 3-6. **Power Plays:** CW 2-3, Edge 0-4.

**SWIMMING** 

## PREP BOYS' SWIMMING

**Great Northern Conference Standings** as of Tuesday, Feb. 1

GNC Pts. Team 8 Shawano Tomahawk 1-7

Friday's Meet GNC Meet, at Tomahawk, 5 p.m.

# WINTER SPORTS

#### PREP NORDIC SKIING **WNSL Northern Conference Meet**

Birkeheiner Trailhead Cable Tuesday, Feb. 1 Boys' Team: 1, Lakeland, 7 points. 2,

Chippewa Valley, 14. 3, Hayward, 32. 4, Blue Collar Nordic, 53. 5, Spooner, 56. 6, CANSKI, 57. 7, Rhinelander, 78. Individuals: 1, Casey Van Hefty, Lak, 18:33.51. 2, Jakob Craig, Lak, 19:30.00. 3, Jack Dahlby, CVN, 19:51.10. 4, Leo Rotar, Lak, 20:39.31. 5, Eric Anderson, Red Wing, 21:04.01 ... 13, Nathan Zoch, Lak, 23:23.90. 15, Connor Simpson, Lak, 23:33.02 **Girls' Team:** 1, Lakeland, 9. 2,

Chippewa Valley, 12. 3, Hayward, 34. 4, Rhinelander, 38. Individuals: 1, Fran Peterson, CVN, 22:09.01. 2, Sylvia Meza, Lak, 22:57.21. 3, Kiera Rotar, Lak, 23:06.53. 4, Stella Meza, Lak,

23:25.79. 5, Aubrie Ecker, CVN, 23:40.14 ... 7, Grace Kern, Lak, 24:07.97. 10, Elsa Shockley, Lak,

## WRESTLING

## **PREP WRESTLING**

**Great Northern Conference Standings** 

as of Tuesday, Feb. 1			
Team	GNC	Pts.	
Medford	5-0	10	
Tomahawk	4-1	8	
Lakeland	3-2	6	
Rhinelander	2-3	4	
Antigo	1-4	2	
Mosinee	0-5	0	
Tuesday's Matches			
Medford 39, Tomahawk	37 (NC)		
Colby at Antigo (NC), late	e `´		
Saturday's Match			

GNC Meet, at Mosinee, 10 a.m.