

Dormanen wins second sectional gold, four Bulldogs headed to state

ST. CROIX FALLS — Much like state, the sectional wrestling tournament can bring out emotional extremes in its competitors, coaches and even the fans.

Like the famous introduction to ABC's popular *Wide World of Sports* (circa the 1970s and 80s), voiced by renowned sports caster Jim McKay, "The thrill of victory and the agony of defeat" were on full display here last Saturday as emotions ran the gambit for Boyceville's five sectional combatants that was supposed to be six.

But, before any wrestling had even taken place at the 2022 WIAA Division 3 Individual Sectional Championship held for a second straight year at St. Croix Falls High School this past Saturday, February 19, the Bulldogs had already had their fair share of agony as they lost one of their half dozen tournament qualifiers.

Sophomore Noah Evenson, who finished second in the previous week's 106-pound regional competition and qualified to wrestle in St. Croix Falls, suffered a medical emergency earlier in the week and had to withdraw from the sectional tournament.

"You can always plan for the sectional to be a roller coaster of emotions," said veteran Boyceville head coach Jamie Olson. "We started the week off by losing Noah Evenson to appendicitis."

Cadott's Kaleb Lodahl, who Evenson had defeated at regionals, took over for him and finished third and earned a state berth which made Evenson absence sting a bit more.

"Noah's opponent, who filled in for him in the sectional and who he defeated in regional, advanced to state," said Olson. "That is frustrating. Horrible timing and I really feel for Noah and his family. I'm glad he's on the mend and will be back in school this week."

But, to the credit of the Bulldogs' remaining sectional competitors, they wrestled with grit, determination and a fire last Saturday that led four of them to earn berths in the WAA Individual State Wrestling Championships that will be held this Thursday through Saturday, February 24-26 at the Kohl Center in Madison.

Seniors Tyler Dormanen and Ira Bialzik will be making their second and third trips, respectively, to the state tournament while it will be the first for fellow senior John Klefstad and junior Sebastian "Bash" Nielson.

Dormanen claimed a second

straight sectional championship with three wins at 170 pounds while Bialzik and Nielson finished second at 160 and 195, respectively. Klefstad, in his second straight sectional competition at 220 pounds, punched his ticket to state with a third-place finish.

The top three place winners in each weight class advance to state.

The fifth Boyceville sectional entrant, senior Keegan Plemon, fell short in his second and final bid to make the state cut when he did not place in the heavyweight competition. Last year when pandemic policy and precautions limited state berths to just the top two place winners, Plemon came in third, which in every other season including this one, would have guaranteed him a spot at state.

In the team tallies, Boyceville finished third out of 24 schools with 79.5 points. Cadott was the top finisher with 154.5 points and host St. Croix Falls, who upset those same Hornets earlier in the week to win the team sectional championship, placed second with 146 points.

In a tournament featuring several outstanding wrestlers and performances, the one turned in by Tyler Dormanen clearly stood out.

A year after winning a sectional championship at 160 pounds, Dormanen moved up to 170 pounds this post-season and captured his second and final sectional gold last Saturday in dominating fashion to earn a return trip to the Kohl Center.

Dormanen, who entered the tournament ranked second in the most recent state poll, made quick work of his three sectional opponents, registering a pair of 1:22 pins including one in the finals and a technical fall shut out in the semis.

"Tyler Dormanen was very dominant in winning his sectional championship," stated Olson. "Tyler's very focused on what he wants to accomplish this year and it showed this weekend."

Turtle Lake/Clayton junior Wyatt Nitchey was Dormanen's first victim last Saturday in St. Croix Falls taking the Boyceville senior just 1:22 to get the pin in the quarterfinal's match. Moving into the semifinals, Dormanen continued to be a man among boys, beating Cochrane-Fountain City sophomore Sam Schutz 16-0 on a technical fall whitewashing. In the championship match at 170 pounds, Jackson Shramek, a 32-11 sophomore from Blair-Taylor, went to the mat in 1:22 to give Dormanen the gold.

The senior heads into the state tournament with a 43-4 record.

"He's doing all the right things and I'm looking forward to seeing him let it fly this weekend," said Olson of Dormanen. "This kid has been our leader all year and has really made a huge impact on all the boys' success this season. I've really enjoyed the last four years with Tyler and I'm going to savor the next six days with him cause he will be greatly missed."

After making back-to-back state appearance in his freshman and sophomore seasons, Ira Bialzik missed out last year after a third-place finish at 145 pounds.

Bialzik has returned this post-season with a vengeance in pursuit of a third and final state tournament berth which he accomplished with a second-place finish at 160 pounds last Saturday.

In a rare situation, Bialzik had an opening-round bye to begin his day in St. Croix Falls. In the semifinals, he majored Cumberland senior Josh Simon 16-3 to earn a championship date against three-time state champion Kole Marko. The St. Croix Falls senior and topped ranked wrestlers at 160 pounds, easily scored a 23-7 technical fall over Bialzik, who then had to defend his silver medal in a wrestle back which he did. In that battle for second, Bialzik pinned Cadott's Cole Pfeiffer after trailing 8 to 6 in the third period. Bialzik also defeated Pfeiffer, 12-10, in the previous Saturday's regional championship.

Bialzik heads to Madison with a 23-7 record and seventh overall ranking.

"Ira Bialzik had a great day. He has always performed well in sectional tournaments," Olson said. "You can't hang your head losing to Kole Marko, who is going for his 4th title. Ira has had a tremendous career and I'm looking forward to a great weekend of wrestling from this kid."

Bash Nielson earned a state berth in his first trip to the sectional meet where he registered four, first-period pins to place second at 195 pounds where he ranks seventh in the state polling.

Nielson's day began with a quick 50-second, quarterfinals' pin of Mondovi's Tristen Teigen. In the semifinals, the Boyceville junior lost just 7-4 to sixth-ranked Grant Ryland of Ladysmith who went on to take the gold medal with a fall over Eli Prokop of SCF.

Nielson rebounded with a 1:28 fall of Turtle Lake/Clayton's Parker Lyttle in the consolation semifinals, a 1:00 pin of Cadott's



IN CONTROL — Bulldogs' senior Ira Bialzik is shown scoring three near-fall point against Cumberland's Josh Simon during the pair's semifinal's match at 160 pounds in last Saturday's WIAA Division 3 Individual Wrestling Sectional held at St. Croix Falls High School. Bialzik went on to win a 16-3 major decision and finished second to qualify for his third state tournament. —photo by Shawn DeWitt



TAKEDOWN — Junior Bash Nielson is shown taking Parker Lyttle of Turtle Lake/Clayton to the mat during their 195-pound consolation semifinal match at the individual sectional tournament in St. Croix Falls February 19. Nielson, who won the match by pin fall, finished with the silver medal to earn his first state berth. —photo by Shawn DeWitt

Levi Lindsay in the third-place match and then stuck Prokop, who is a state honorable mention, a minute and one second into the wrestle back to claim the silver and his 40th win in 48 matches.

"Bash lost a tough semifinal match but responded with two dominating wins punching his ticket (to state)," Olson said. "You get four pins in the sectional, that's a pretty good day!"

The Bulldog's fourth and final state berth went to senior John Klefstad who was competing in his second straight sectional meet at 220 pounds.

Klefstad lost his first match of the day to state-ranked Ethan Feist of Unity but was able to remain in the tournament when Feist won in the semis.

Klefstad made the most of his second chance getting back-to-back

falls in the consolation semifinals and the third-place match where he defeated Ladysmith's Jack Lazar in 3:04.

"Klefstad made the state tournament really on a year and a half of experience," said Olson. "220 was a solid bracket and John had to get after it to make it out. He beat a 37-match winner to give himself a chance to get into the third-place match. Going down 6-2 and finding a way to come out on top of a scramble was exciting and then getting the pin to move on to Madison was awesome!"

Unfortunately, there would be no state tournament for senior heavyweight Keegan Plemon whose season and now prep career ended for a second straight time in the sectional competition.

After pinning Brandon Sommers of Phillips in the quarterfinals,

Plemon was pinned by Whitehall's Wylie Dunn in the semifinal and ended his tournament with a 3-0 consolation semifinal's loss to Jack Chafer of Cumberland.

"I'm struggling with Keegan Plemon not advancing," stated Olson. "He was so close to defeating Wylie Dunn in the semifinals, a kid who has been ranked in the top three all year. He wrestled the match of his career and left it all out on the mat and I'm proud of him for that. When you come up short like that, you have to find a way to regroup and move on. That is a tough thing to do and we came up short again in our wrestle-back match to end our day."

Bialzik, Nielson and Klefstad will compete in Thursday evening's preliminaries will Dormanen does not wrestle until Friday morning's quarterfinals round.



BOYCEVILLE'S Tyler Dormanen worked to turn Cochrane-Fountain City sophomore Sam Schutz during a sectional semifinal match at 170 pounds. The Bulldog senior won the match on a 16-0 technical fall and went on to claim his second consecutive sectional championship and state berth in the WIAA Division 3 Individual Wrestling Sectional held at St. Croix Falls High School February 19. —photo by Shawn DeWitt



HEAD LOCKED — Boyceville senior John Klefstad used a head lock to put Jack Lazar of Ladysmith on his back in a third-place match at 220 pounds at the WIAA Individual Wrestling Sectional held February 19 at St. Croix Falls High School. Klefstad secured the bronze and his first state berth with a pin at the 3:04 mark. —photo by Shawn DeWitt

Congratulations to Boyceville's State Wrestling Qualifiers



BOYCEVILLE HAD FOUR WRESTLERS qualify for the state wrestling championships. One Bulldog won a championship at the Division 3 St. Croix Falls Sectional tournament held last Saturday, February 19 while two others finished second and one placed third to qualify for the 2022 WIAA Individual State Wrestling Championships. Competing in Madison this week are, from left to right: Ira Bialzik, sectional runner-up at 160 pounds; Tyler Dormanen, sectional champion at 170 pounds; Sebastian "Bash" Nielson, sectional runner-up at 195 pounds; and John Klefstad, sectional third place at 220 pounds.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate these Boyceville Wrestlers for qualifying for the state tournament and wish them the Best of Luck as each goes for the Gold!

BOYCEVILLE "BULLDOGS" WRESTLING CLUB

Radintz, Unser win sectional crowns to lead GC trio to state wrestling meet

ST. CROIX FALLS — Radintz is headed back to state!

Glenwood City junior Ian Radintz will be returning to the Kohl Center in Madison later this week after securing his second straight sectional wrestling championship here last Saturday.

But this year, he will not be going solo!

Radintz, who copped the 113-pound gold medal in the 2022 WIAA Division 3 Individual Wrestling Sectional held at St. Croix Falls High School Saturday, February 19 after taking the 106-pound title there a year ago, will be joined by teammates and first-time state participants freshman Wyatt Unser and fellow junior Gabe Knops as the Glenwood City trio will go for gold in Madison later this week.

Talented newcomer Wyatt Unser has burst onto the wrestling scene this season claiming 106-pound titles in such prestigious events as this past December's Northern Badger Classic and the previous week's regional meet. In St. Croix Falls last Saturday, he earned his latest gold and first sectional championship in just his first year of varsity wrestling.

After an injured ankle kept him off the medals' podium in last year's sectional meet, Gabe Knops was not about to let another opportunity for a state berth slip from his grasp. Overcoming a loss in the 132-pound semifinal to eventual sectional champion and top-ranked Tanner Gerber of Cameron, Knops regrouped and earned a win over a familiar foe in the third-place match, besting Stanley-Boyd's Troy Trevino for a second consecutive week to qualify for state. He had a chance to wrestle back for second but lost a very close 4-2 decision to second-ranked Mason Will of St. Croix Falls.

"We are excited for our kids that made it to state," said Glenwood City head coach Shane Strong following the conclusion of Saturday's tournament. "You



DUCKING UNDER for a takedown was Glenwood City junior Ian Radintz during his 113-pound sectional semifinal match against Kellen Kelly of St. Croix Falls last Saturday, February 19. Radintz went on to capture his second gold medal and state berth at the 2022 WIAA Division 3 St. Croix Falls Sectional. —photo by Shawn DeWitt

always have those mixed emotions when you go from excitement for (state) qualifiers, while feeling the pain for those that came up short. We are very proud of how our kids competed."

The Hilltoppers other two sectional participants, unfortunately, were unable to secure a state berth or a medal in a tough St. Croix Falls tournament that featured several state-ranked wrestlers.

In their first sectional meet, 132-pound freshman Mitchell McGee and junior Noah Brite, who competed at 182 pounds, did not place. Both lost their quarterfinal matches and while McGee did not get another opportunity to wrestle in SCF, Brite's second chance also

ended in defeat.

As a team, Glenwood City finished fifth in a sectional field of 24 teams. The Hilltoppers scored 56 points. Cadott, who was upset by the host Saints in the team sectional championship earlier in the week, placed first with 154.5 points, St. Croix Falls was second with 146, Boyceville grabbed third with 79.5 points and Cameron was fourth with 62.

Radintz used last year's inaugural sectional championship as a springboard to the state championship where he finished as the runner-up at 106 pounds.

He is focused on matching this year's sectional gold at 113 pounds with a state medal of the same color by the end of this weekend's



GOLD-MEDAL PERFORMANCE — Hilltoppers' freshman Wyatt Unser worked a move on St. Croix Falls' Cole Steffen during the sectional championship match at 106 pounds last Saturday. Unser won the match 5-0 to claim the sectional crown and a state berth. —photo by Shawn DeWitt

state championships.

Last Saturday, Radintz was once again a wrestler on a mission in St. Croix Falls as he dominated all three of his opponents on his way to the title.

Rated the number one Division 3 grappler in his weight class, Radintz showed why he is considered the best by so many, in the quarterfinal opener. He needed just 17 seconds to put Phillips' freshman Journee Wood to his back. In the semifinal, the Glenwood City junior faced off against Kellen Kelly (33-6), a sophomore from St. Croix Falls. Radintz had beaten Kellen in last year's 106-pound sectional final 11-4. He would do so once again, controlling the match for an 8-2 victory to earn a spot in the finals. There Radintz took on fellow junior Kayne Johnson (36-8) of Cameron and won 6-2 to lay claim to his second sectional title.

Radintz will take his 37-1 record into the Kohl Center later this week looking to take that one final step, to the peak of his class and the top of the podium.

Glenwood City knew coming into this season that Wyatt Unser had talent but just how much may have been a surprise to many but not to himself or his coaches. The freshman has tapped into what seems to be unlimited potential which has made him one of the best lightweight wrestlers in the state in this, his freshman season.

The potential and talent were on full display in the Saints' gymnasium February 19 as Unser, ranked fifth in the last regular-season state poll, literally mowed down his first two competitors with sub, one-minute pin falls. Unser stuck his quarterfinal's opponent Ethan Frampton, a Cameron sophomore, in 55 seconds and then needed just 54 seconds to end his semifinal match with fellow freshman Marverik Hoogland of Phillips.

Although his championship match at 106 pounds went the full six minutes, Unser controlled it from the opening whistle to the final buzzer shutting out Cole Steffen, a 31-10 sophomore from St. Croix Falls, by a 5-0 count to improve to 32-4 this season.

"I thought Ian and Wyatt wrestled in a dominant fashion all day," stated Strong of his sectional champions. "They stayed in solid position, executed their attacks and controlled the pace."

After failing to place in the sectional tournament a year ago, Gabe Knops was determined to earn a medal and state berth.

The Glenwood City junior did both finishing the day 3-2 at 132 pounds with a third-place, bronze medal in his hand and a coveted state berth in his pocket.

Knops drew Flambeau freshman Dakota Nelson (17-16) in the quarterfinals and needed only 58 seconds to get the pin. That put him in the semifinals against the top-ranked Division 3, 132-pounder in the state - Tanner Gerber of Cameron. The Comets' senior showed why he is 43-1 on the season when he pinned Knops in 1:38. Undaunted, Knops came back in the consolation semifinals to deliver a first-period pin of his own, sticking Mondovi's sophomore Coby Vollmer in 1:12.

That win moved Knops into the third-place match against Troy Trevino of Stanley-Boyd. Knops had beaten the Oriole sophomore with a middle-period pin in the previous Saturday's regional championship. Although the match went the distance this time, Knops again dominated and took an 8-1 decision to lock up a state qualifying spot. The Glenwood City wrestler also had the opportunity to change the color of his medal from bronze to silver as he earned a wrestle back against St. Croix Falls' senior and second-ranked Will Mason, who

had lost to Gerber in the title bout. Knops just missed moving up a place as Mason held on to second with a tight 4-2 decision. Knops is now 22-6 for the year.

"Gabe battled in a very good bracket, wrestling the two top kids in the state at 132," noted Strong.

"He was in those matches, his confidence is growing as the season progresses. I would not be surprised to see Gabe on the podium Saturday night the way he is improving," added the coach.

Although they did not finish with any wins in their first sectional tournament, junior Noah Brite and freshman Mitchell McGee gained invaluable experience that should serve them well in coming campaigns.

McGee (22-16) was pinned in the final period of his 138-pound quarterfinal's match by Whitehall senior Alex Katzman, who is a state honorable mention. When Katzman lost his next match, McGee's first varsity season was done.

"Mitchell McGee put himself in position late in the match to win, but made one mistake that ended his tournament," said Strong. "He has come so far from last year, we love how this kid works every day!"

Like McGee, Noah Brite lost his very first sectional match via a pin courtesy of Ladysmith sophomore Matthew Roach in an 182-pound quarterfinal. But, unlike his freshman teammate, Brite got a reprieve when Roach won his semifinal match. Unfortunately, Brite (16-16) was unable to parlay the opportunity into a medal or state berth as he was knocked out of contention and the tournament via a first-period pin in the consolation semifinals by ninth-ranked Gavin Bragger, an Independence/Gilmanton junior.

"Noah Brite lost to two really good kids including a finalist," said Strong.



READY TO ROLL — Hilltoppers' junior Gabe Knops worked a move to roll Mondovi's Coby Vollmer on to his back in a 132-pound consolation semifinal's match at the individual wrestling sectional held February 19 in St. Croix Falls. Knops scored the pin in 1:12 and eventually went on to finish third to secure his first state wrestling berth. —photo by Shawn DeWitt

Agricultural Producers Have Until March 15 to Enroll in USDA's Key Commodity Safety Net Programs

MADISON, Feb. 17, 2022 — Agricultural producers who have not yet enrolled in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2022 crop year have until March 15, 2022, to sign a contract. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers these two safety net programs to provide vital income support to farmers experiencing substantial declines in crop prices or revenues.

"The Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs provide critical financial protections to many American farmers. As producers continue to weather a bruising pandemic and new, climate-induced disasters, these programs are all the more important," said Zach Ducheneaux, Administrator of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). "I am encouraging producers to reach out to their county offices to learn about program eligibility and election options today, so that they can begin the enrollment process as soon as possible."

Producers can elect coverage and enroll in ARC-County or PLC, which are both crop-by-crop, or ARC-Individual, which is for the entire farm. Although election changes for 2022 are optional, producers must enroll through a signed contract each year. Also, if a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm and makes an election change for 2022, it will be necessary to sign a new contract.

If an election is not submitted by the March 15, 2022, deadline, the election remains the same as the 2021 election for crops on the

farm. Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the crop.

Producers have completed 976,249 contracts to date, representing 54% of the more than 1.8 million expected contracts.

Producers who do not complete enrollment by the deadline will not be enrolled in ARC or PLC for the 2022 crop year and will not receive a payment if triggered.

Producers are eligible to enroll farms with base acres for the following commodities: barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, cranberry, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed, and wheat.

Decision Tools

In partnership with USDA, two web-based decision tools are available to assist producers in making informed, educated decisions using crop data specific to their respective farming operations:

Gardner-farmdoc Payment Calculator, a tool available through the University of Illinois allows producers to estimate payments for farms and counties for ARC-CO and PLC.

ARC and PLC Decision Tool, a tool available through Texas A&M that allows producers to estimate payments and yield updates and expected payments for 2022.

Crop Insurance Considerations and Decision Deadline

ARC and PLC are part of

a broader safety net provided by USDA, which also includes crop insurance and marketing assistance loans.

Producers are reminded that ARC and PLC elections and enrollments can impact eligibility for some crop insurance products.

Producers on farms with a PLC election have the option of purchasing Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) through their Approved Insurance Provider; however, producers on farms where ARC is the election are ineligible for SCO on their planted acres for that crop on that farm.

Unlike SCO, the Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO) is unaffected by an ARC election. Producers may add ECO regardless of the farm program election.

Producers should contact their crop insurance agent to make certain that the election and enrollment made at FSA follows their intention to participate in STAX or SCO coverage. Producers have until March 15, 2022, to make the appropriate changes or cancel their ARC or PLC contract.

More Information

In addition to the March 15 deadline for ARC and PLC, other important deadlines include:

- March 1, Livestock Indemnity Program
- March 11, Conservation Reserve Program General Signup
- March 15, Pandemic Cover Crop Program
- March 25, Dairy Margin Coverage

Congratulations to Glenwood City's State Wrestling Qualifiers



GLENWOOD CITY had three wrestlers qualify for the WIAA Individual State Wrestling Championships to be held in Madison this Thursday through Saturday, February 24-26. Two Hilltoppers won championships at the Division 3 St. Croix Falls Sectional tournament held last Saturday, February 19 while the other member of the trio finished third. Competing in Madison this week are, from left to right: Wyatt Unser, sectional champion at 106 pounds; Ian Radintz, sectional champion at 113 pounds; and Gabe Knops, sectional third-place finisher at 132 pounds. This will be Radintz' second straight trip to the state meet and the first for Unser and Knops.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Glenwood City Wrestlers Ian Radintz, Wyatt Unser, and Gabe Knops for qualifying for the state tournament and wish them the Best of Luck as they go for the Gold!

Glenwood City "Hilltopper" Wrestling Club

Bulldog girls rally in second half to sweep Toppers

BOYCEVILLE — Unlike their first meeting a month earlier in which Boyceville bounded to an early advantage and never trailed en route to a 16-point road win over Glenwood City, when the rival Bulldog and Hilltopper girls' basketball teams met again in last Thursday's conference and regular season finale played in the Dog House it turned out to be a spirited and close affair that featured a half dozen ties and six lead changes.

Glenwood City, without its lone senior and point guard Kendall Schutz who suffered a season-ending knee injury in the team's only win of the season over Spring Valley February 3, overcame an early two-basket deficit to lead 19-15 at intermission of the February 17 game. But Boyceville's offense found its spark in the second half, outscoring the Hilltoppers 32 to 20 to sweep the season series with a 47-39 win in what was the 11th annual "Coaches versus Cancer" contest.

"We again did not shoot well (15-60) and left way too many easy points off the board," said Boyceville head coach Jay Lagerstrom. "But, we came out of halftime with just the simple idea of playing good man-to-man defense and not trying to put extra pressure on them and I think it helped us calm down a little on both ends of the court and re-gain the lead."

On a night that the Bulldogs honored their only senior, Harper Olson, it seemed only fitting that she would deliver her best performance of the season, scoring a game and career-high 13 points which included hitting seven of eight free throws in the final four minutes of the game to lead her team to victory.

"Harper Olson stepped up with senior leadership and hit the shots needed to ice it (game)," added Lagerstrom.

"In the second half, Boyceville hit a few 3-point baskets to tie the score and gain momentum," said Glenwood City head coach Dean Bellanti. "Our shot in the second half didn't drop as well as the first half. Our defense in the second half got caught a little flat footed and we fouled a number of shooters. Boyceville shot freethrows very well, and I felt that was a big part of this basketball game."

The "Coaches versus Cancer" event added to the atmosphere and audience as it raised over \$14,000 for the American Cancer Society - a record haul - and provided the one-win squads with their largest crowd of the year.

The ladies did not disappoint. Boyceville got the game's opening tip and it didn't take long for junior post player Rachael Montgomery to give the Bulldogs a quick 2-0 lead with a hoop from down low. Moments later, Montgomery pulled in an offensive



BOYCEVILLE SENIOR Harper Olson attempted to dribble past Glenwood City defender Aria DeSmith during a Dunn-St. Croix girls' basketball game played in Boyceville. Olson finished with a game-high 13 points including a 7-for-8 performance at the free throw line in the closing minutes to lead the Bulldogs to the 47-39 win and season sweep of the rival Hilltoppers.

rebound and put in through the basket for a 4-0 advantage.

Libby Wagner finally put Glenwood City on the scoreboard with a short jumper at the 16 minute mark but Hannah Dunn responded with a long two pointer from the top of the key to give Boyceville another four-point push at 6-2.

Junior Arianna DeSmith lined up and sank the game's first three, which turned out to be the team's only basket from behind the arc, to pull the Toppers within a point.

After Dunn made the back end of a two-shot foul, DeSmith got free inside for two points that knotted the contest at seven all.

Nearly a minute passed before sophomore Sarah Stoveren nailed her team's first triple to put Boyceville back in front 10 to 7 with 11:52 to play.

But, the Toppers went on a

12 to five run the rest of the first half to take a four-point lead into halftime. During that span, Glenwood City got a pair of baskets from Michaela Blaser, along with hoops by Izzy Davis, Mali Draxler, and DeSmith along with single free throws from Wagner and Davis.

Five minutes passed before Boyceville finally scored again on a pair of Montgomery freebies. Hailey Hanestad added a free throw and a hoop to get the Bulldogs to within three points at 18-15 only to have Libby Wagner sink 1-of-2 foul shots to send the Toppers into the intermission with a four-point advantage.

"I felt like we played very well after the first two minutes and had a couple of good opportunities that just missed falling for us or we could have built a bigger lead heading into half," stated Bellanti. "We moved the ball very well in the first half against 1-3-1 zone defense and had some great possessions."

While Glenwood City started the second half with the basketball, it was Boyceville senior Harper Olson that opened the first minute and a half of play with a bang as she scored a pair of hoops including one off a nifty half-court steal to knot the game at 19.

Izzy Davis momentarily stemmed the Bulldogs' momentum with a basket to give GC the lead once more.

But, it was short lived. Hanestad scored on consecutive series to put Boyceville back in front 23-21.

Glenwood City answered with back-to-back baskets of their own when freshman Jenna McCarthy sank a 16-foot jump shot and Blaser made another from ten feet for a 25-23 Toppers' lead.

Starter Mali Draxler, who was whistled for three fouls in the first half, picked up her fourth just 30 seconds after re-entering the game and had to head back to the bench for much of the remainder of the game.

Hailey Hanestad's third hoop of the half tied the game for a fifth time. A pair of free throws by Sarah Stoveren had the Bulldogs leading 27-25 only to pick up her third foul which allowed the Toppers' Blaser to hit a pair of her own charity tosses to knot the game at 27 all.

DeSmith gave Glenwood City its final lead of the game with an inside hoop that made it 29-27 with just under 10 minutes to play.

The Bulldogs worked the ball inside the paint to junior Abby Schlough who hit for two and was fouled by Blaser. Schlough completed the conventional three-point play by sinking the free throw to put the hosts ahead 30-29 with 9:32 remaining.

The Bulldogs would never trail



TEAMING UP TO FIGHT CANCER — Players on the Boyceville and Glenwood City girls' basketball teams stood in solidarity Thursday, February 17 in the fight to end cancer. Together, players on both squads formed a ribbon in Boyceville's High School gym to kick off the 11th annual "Coaches versus Cancer" fundraiser before donning their respective school colors to do battle on the hardwood. The event featured a silent auction, raffles, dash for cash and food with all proceeds going to the American Cancer Society to aid in its search for cures. A record \$14,564.41 was raised at this year's event, bringing the 11-year total to nearly \$75,000.

the rest of the way.

Over the next two and a half minutes, Montgomery scored two on the inside and Dunn swished a three from the corner that grew Boyceville's advantage to six points - 25-29 - and forced Glenwood City to take a time out.

Following the time out, Davis put two in off the glass to pull GC within four points.

Hanestad and Blaser traded baskets, Olson hit 3-of-4 foul shots and Hanestad added another two-point shot to up the Bulldogs' lead to 42-33.

DeSmith and Blaser would each convert a pair of free throws to get the Hilltoppers within five points only to have Olson sink four consecutive charity tosses of her own as Boyceville went ahead 46-37 with 59.2 seconds left in the game.

Dunn added a free throw to give the Bulldogs their largest lead of the game at 47-37.

Just before the final horn sounded, Davis kissed another shot off the glass to account for the final two points of the game.

The 47-39 win gave Boyceville, who lost a non-conference home game against Augusta, 62-46, on Monday evening, its second win of the season, both coming against Glenwood City. Along with Olson's 13 points, Hanestad added 11, Dunn seven, Montgomery six, and Stoveren five.

Rachael Montgomery led Boyceville with eight rebounds while Cambrie Reisimer and Sarah Stoveren each had seven.

Michaela Blaser, Aria DeSmith, and Izzy Davis led the Toppers with 12, 11 and nine points, respectively.

Glenwood City was 8-for-11 at the free throw line while Boyceville was 15-for-23 with 20 of those attempts coming in the second half.

"I thought the GC girls shot the ball well from mid-range and knocked down their free throws to keep it a competitive game," said Lagerstrom. "All in all just a fun atmosphere for high school basketball. It was nice for the girls to play in front of a big crowd and all the excitement."

Boyceville, who finished seventh in the Dunn-St. Croix with a 2-12 record and is 2-22 overall, played at Cameron Tuesday night in the opening round of the WIAA Division 4 regional tournament.

With the loss, Glenwood City finished last (8th) in conference play with a 1-13 mark and is 1-22 overall. The Toppers hosted Webster in the opening round of regionals.

Augusta 62, Boyceville 47
Boyceville got off to a slow start when it hosted Augusta in a non-conference contest played on the Bulldogs' home court Monday, February 14.

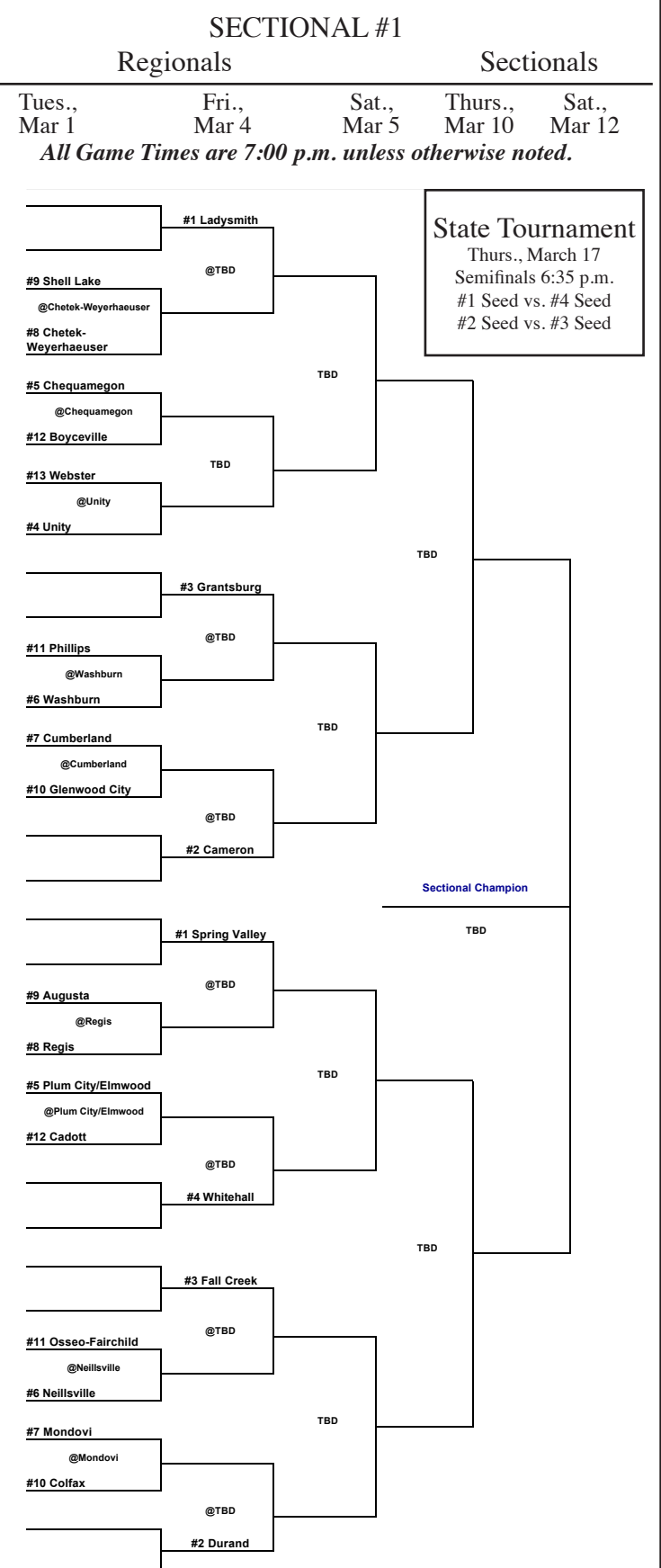
The Beavers led 31-18 at the half. Boyceville played better in the second half scoring 28 points but still allowed Augusta to put another 31 points on the scoreboard to take the 62-26 win.

Hannah Dunn had a team-leading 19 points including four, three pointers with Hailey Hanestad adding two threes to finish with 12 points.

Kennedy Korger and Sam Winsce led Augusta (11-13) with 21 and 14 points, respectively.

2022 Boys Basketball Assignments – Division 4

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GLENWOOD CITY'S Michaela Blaser split a pair of Boyceville defenders to score two of her team-leading 12 points in a February 17 girls' basketball game in Boyceville. The Bulldogs won the game 47-39 to sweep the Hilltoppers.

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Toppers boys drop D-SC games to Mondovi, Durand

by Joel DeWitt
Sports Correspondent
Hoping to build off a two-week, the Hilltopper boys' basketball team traveled to Mondovi and hosted Durand last week. However, both teams would prove too tough as Glenwood City dropped both contests.

The game in Mondovi on February 15 would see Glenwood City facing a resurgent team. The Hilltoppers would struggle to find their shooting range and drop the game to Mondovi 57-35.

They would then finish the week out hosting Durand on February 18. While Glenwood City would shoot the ball better, a good Panther team would hold on for the 54-38 victory.

"We continue to try and find offensive flow and run it in an efficient manner," coach Patrick Olson commented. "We have made great improvements and held our own with top teams in the area, but we need to find consistency with each opponent."

Even though they dropped two on the week, the Hilltoppers (2-11, 5-16) are hoping to finish their regular season on a positive note. They hosted Osseo-Fairchild (5-16) on February 21, game will be in next week's edition.

Glenwood City will then finish the regular season on February 24 with a trip to Boyceville (0-13, 4-17) to face the Bulldogs.

The WIAA announced playoff pairings for the opening round of the Division 4 tournament with Glenwood City receiving the 10th seed. They will travel to 7th seed Cumberland next Tuesday, March 1 for a 7:00 p.m. tipoff.

Mondovi
The Hilltoppers would face a red-hot Mondovi (7-6, 10-13) squad, winners of three straight including road wins at Elk Mound and Elmwood/Plum City. The Buffaloes would continue their recent dominance as they jumped out to a 9-3 lead early in the first



GLENWOOD CITY senior Owen Swenby (#25) attempted this three-point shot in a February 15 conference game in Mondovi.

—photo by Joel DeWitt

half. A put back basket by Drew Olson would cut the lead to four. But, Mondovi would go on an 18-4 run to finish the half up 27-9.

The Hilltoppers would start the second half with a scoring flurry. Olson would hit a five-foot shot on their first possession to give them

a lift. Elek Anderson would hit a 15-footer from the elbow on the next possession. Brady McCarthy would follow that up with a layup to cut the lead to 31-15.

However, 16 points was as close as the Hilltoppers would get on the evening. The Buffaloes would reassert themselves and cruise

to a 22-point win with a final of 57-35.

The Hilltoppers only shot 30 percent from the field on the evening, going 14-46 including 0-6 from behind the arc. Olson was the only Glenwood player in double figures with 11 points.

Durand
Unlike Mondovi, Durand (11-2, 17-5) was stumbling a bit in the standings when they traveled to Glenwood City to play the Hilltoppers. Losers of two straight, which took them out of the top spot in the conference standings, they were hoping to right the ship.

However, the Hilltoppers would make things tough on the Panthers early on. Anderson would start the scoring on the opening possession with a shot from close range. After three straight Mondovi buckets, Morgan Eggert would find an open lane and the bucket to cut the lead to 7-4.

Buckets by Anderson and Max Janson would pull Glenwood City to within one point at 9-8. A 3-pointer by Owen Swenby at the 11:30 mark in the first half would see the Hilltoppers take the two-point lead.

The Panthers would tighten their defense for the remainder of the half and hold the Hilltoppers to only two buckets in the last 11 minutes, while they would put in 13 points to take the 22-15 lead into halftime.

After falling behind by 13 points early in the second, Glenwood City would cut the deficit to eight when Olson hit a 3-pointer with 3:54 remaining in the game. However, the Hilltoppers would be held scoreless till a final 3-pointer by Olson at the buzzer that put the final at 54-38.

The home court saw the Hilltoppers shoot much better on the evening going 16-46, including 5-12 from 3-point range. Olson once again paced his team offensively with 11 points.

Bulldog boys still searching for conference win

by Joel DeWitt
Sports Correspondent
Still searching for the first conference win of the year, the Bulldogs boys' basketball team would face a couple of tough opponents. Elk Mound and Elmwood/Plum City both sit near the top of the Dunn-St. Croix conference, and as such would be tough to beat.

Boyceville (0-13, 4-17) hosted Elk Mound on February 15 in hopes of securing that win. While they were able to hang tight in the first half, the Mounders would pull away in the second half for the 82-47 win.

They'd travel to Elmwood to face third-place Elmwood/Plum City on February 18. A slow start would doom them as they would only score 17 in the first half en route to a 12-43 Wolves win.

The Bulldogs will have one final chance to find that elusive first conference win on February

24 when they host rival Glenwood City to finish the regular season.

The Bulldogs traveled to Webster this past Monday, February 21 to play the Pirates in a non-conference tilt, results will be in next week's edition.

The WIAA announced the Division 4 playoff pairings for the opening round of the tournament and the 12th seeded Bulldogs will travel to Park Falls on March 1 to face 5th seeded Chequamegon. Tipoff is at 7:00 p.m.

Elk Mound
Heading into the Elk Mound game Boyceville had been struggling to find their shot, however they did find some success early in the game. Two 3-pointers by Caden Wold and another by Simon Evenson would pace the way for 23 points in the first half. Wold and Evenson would lead their team in the first with eight and six points, respectively.

However, Elk Mound (7-6,

13-10) would knock down eight 3-pointers in the first half. That total would account for two-thirds of their first half output of 36 points to take a 13-point lead at intermission.

The second half would see a couple different players emerge as scoring threats for Boyceville. Mason Bowell would hit a 3-pointer on his way to eight in the half. Jack Phillips would also connect from deep as he added seven points in the second half.

Elk Mound would prove to be too tough offensively. They would connect on another eight 3-pointers in the second half on their way to scoring 46 in the final 18:00 as they cruised to the 82-47 win.

Evenson and Boswell lead all Bulldog scorers with ten points apiece.

Elmwood/Plum City
The Bulldogs would once again find themselves in an early hole

against a tough Elmwood/Plum City squad. Wolves forward Luke Webb would prove to be one of the top players in the area as he would pour in 12 points in the first 18:00 minutes.

The Bulldogs countered with their own big-man; Grant Kaiser would put in six in the opening frame led his team. However, that wouldn't be enough firepower to keep it close as Elmwood/Plum City would jump out to a 30-17 lead at halftime.

As with the game against Elk Mound, Bowell would get hot in the second half and contribute ten. Yet, that wouldn't be enough as the Wolves outscored the Bulldogs by six after halftime to hold on for a 62-43 victory.

Bowell once again led his team offensively, this night with 12 points. Nick Olson and Kaiser were close behind with eight apiece.

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An Outdoorsman's Journal

A column by Mark Walters

Sturgeon with a Spear

Hello friends,

This week's column is going to bThere are some things that I am good at and many that I am not. Spearing a sturgeon on Lake Winnebago is one of the things that I try hard at but except for one time about 15 years ago I always come home empty handed. I try hard, I really enjoy myself and it does not bother me a bit that I really suck at embedding my spear into an 80-pound dinosaur from the deep.

Friday, February 11th High 41, low 9

So here is my plan. This year I am alone, I am driving to Oshkosh, getting on the ice by South Side Ice/Yacht Club and will immerse myself for 48-hours in a city of spearing shacks.

There is a sleet, snow falling, it is 2:00 pm the wind is supposed to pick up to a sustained 20-mph at 4:00, I have a lot of work to do and of course I have my most loyal friend "Ruby" along.

First job and this was physical and scary. I am going to cut a hole in the ice the size of a coffin with my Jiffy ice auger and my chainsaw which has a 20-inch bar. My plan was to first mark the entire outside edge of the hole with the auger, then go down to about 16-inches with it staying in dry ice. In my perfect world I would cut the final 4-inches with my Jonsered 2165.

Brief description - extremely physical while wearing chest waders with an error of cutting too deep with the auger so my hole flooded which meant the saw end of this job was in the water. In the end I was soaked with sweat and had a block the size of a bathtub to push under the ice.

I decided to cut it in half with the auger and because I had to lean over so much, I had two experiences where I literally got sucked into Winnebago by the ten inch auger, both times I about filled my waders with something besides water as I got out of my predicament.

I was proud as hell when the job was done, and I opened a can of beer as the wind hit gale force. I decided to turn my radio on while I built camp. Crapola, my batteries were dead.

I use my Eskimo Fatshack for spearing and living in. The Fatshack is 13x8 feet pops up like a turkey blind, can really catch the wind and of course you do not want to fall in the hole which you are setting it over.

I get the Fatshack up, spill my beer, the wind is my music and I decide to start running my four gas lines. One for my heater a brand new Mr Buddy, my third one in 13-months. Another for my cookstove and two for my propane lights.

More bad luck as I realize I forgot all but one of my gas lines, choices had to be made, my punishment, make due with what I had.

Next, I had to put a 32x28 foot tarp on my shack so it would be dark inside. I used my truck as a wind block, but this was a gamble as it was very close to the coffin sized hole in the ice. I got the tarp on the shack and used the slush from my hole to hold it down.

I set up my kitchen, cot, enjoyed a PBR and cooked an excellent supper. The wind was so powerful that sleep was not my friend as it seemed I would be blown east to the Atlantic ocean in my Fatshack.

Saturday, February 12th High 12, low minus 6

Spearing hours are from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm. I actually enjoy this even though over about 15-years I have only seen one sturgeon and it is dead. No one around me got one this morning and the group I speared with the last two years The Bornemann's who spear near Stockbridge had the same luck. I should have been near them because they are fun, but I figured I had better mix up this story, so I went to Oshkosh.

Sunday, February 13th High 7, low minus 10

Once again today I was not presented with a shot and at 1:00 it was time to take down the shack and pack The Chevy Hotel. I had just started my task when I got a text from Hailey Bornemann and a great photo. Alicia Duffrin, who is from Fifield, was sitting with her husband Leon and she had thrown her spear into what would be a 71-pound sturgeon with just 15 minutes left in the spearing day.

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