

# THE NORTHWOODS RIVER NEWS

# SPORTS

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## Offense goes cold, Lady Hodags lose upset bid at No. 9 Mosinee

By Jeremy Mayo  
RIVER NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

The Rhinelander High School girls' basketball team had undefeated and ninth-ranked Mosinee on the ropes early in the second half Friday night until its offense ran dry.

The Hodags recorded only one field goal in the second half and Mosinee finished on a 19-1 run to take a defensive battle 37-25 in Great Northern Conference play.

Brynn Brzycki led Rhinelander with nine points and made a bucket with 16:07 to play that put the Hodags ahead 24-16. That was Rhinelander's final make from the field. Mosinee (20-0, 10-0 Great Northern) scored the next 10 points to take the lead and sealed the game with 3s on three straight possessions later in the half.

Rhinelander (13-7, 6-3 Great Northern) committed 12 turnovers, and was only 1 of 12 from the field in the second half.

"We were just ice cold. Three points in the second half is frustrating," coach Ryan Clark said. "It's frustrating because I thought we could beat those guys, but for us it was a tale or two halves. In the first half we were confident. In the second half, when they threw their little retaliation punch, I don't think we were as confident. We got a little tentative and weren't looking to score. The girls are disappointed, of course, but we played with them and showed we can compete. Now we've just got to find a way to win."

See **Mosinee**. . . page 16



PHOTOS BY BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

The Rhinelander High School boys' swim team celebrates with the Great Northern Conference championship trophy in the Tomahawk High School pool following the GNC championship meet in Tomahawk Friday, Feb. 4. The Hodags won all 11 events and scored a meet-record 497 points en route to their fourth straight conference title.

## CONFERENCE PERFECTION

### Hodag swimmers claim 4th straight GNC title in historic fashion

By Jeremy Mayo  
RIVER NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

Rhinelander overwhelmingly had the best boys' swim team in the Great Northern Conference during the 2021-22 season. On Friday night, the Hodags underscored just how wide the gap is between them and the rest of the field.

Rhinelander had a historic night in Tomahawk, scoring a meet record 497 points and earning all-conference recognition with a whopping 28 of their 32 entries as it put an exclamation point on its fourth consecutive conference championship.

The Hodags won all 11 events, and also placed second in 10 of them. The team had eight individual conference champions and every swimmer on the team's roster

of 14 scored at least one two-top finish.

Jack Antonuk was part of two conference records and claimed conference swimmer of the year honors.

Rhinelander could have scored a maximum of 501 points with its lineup on Friday. It finished four point shy of that. By any measure, the Hodags efforts against the rest of the GNC were nothing short of perfection.

"It really can't get much better than that," Hodag coach Jenny Heck said. "The boys exceeded my expectations as far as how they would swim."

The Hodags set the tone early, sweeping the top three spots in the first two events and the momentum never stopped.

Antonuk, Charlie Heck and Samson Shinnars were all four-event winners for Rhinelander. Both were on two winning relays.

Antonuk got the nod from the rest of the GNC coaches for swimmer of the year. He was part of a meet record in the 200-yard medley relay



Rhinelander's Jack Antonuk battles Tomahawk's Zach Hanse in the 100-yard breaststroke during the Great Northern Conference championship meet in Tomahawk Friday, Feb. 4. Antonuk won the race with a conference-record time of 1 minute, 1.82 seconds and was voted GNC boys' swimmer of the year.

with Carter Gaber, Daniel Gillingham and Charlie Heck (1 minutes, 40.20 second) and then broke the conference record in the 100 breaststroke (1:01.82) by outdueling the previous

record holder, Zach Hanse of Tomahawk. Antonuk also added wins in the 200 individual medley (2:04.67) and the 200 freestyle relay.

See **Perfection**. . . page 17

## Hodag Hoops' rally stalls against Mosinee

By Jeremy Mayo  
RIVER NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

For the second time this season the Rhinelander High School boys' basketball team slowed down Mosinee's offense. But, once again, the Hodags could not buy a bucket when it mattered most.

Rhinelander recorded only one field goal over the final seven minutes as its comeback bid fizzled out in a 55-44 loss to the Indians at the Jim Miazga Community Gymnasium.

Jacksen Smith had a team-high 15 points for Rhinelander and was fouled as he made a transition layup that got the Hodags within

one with 3:19 to play, but Smith missed the ensuing free throw and Rhinelander was held scoreless from there.

As a team, Rhinelander shot 31.5% (17 of 54) from the field and was only 3 of 21 from beyond the arc.

The Hodags trailed by as many as 12 in the second half before rallying, but could never fully get over the hump.

"We needed a hula hoop tonight, unfortunately," Rhinelander coach Derek Lemmens said. "We're 33% from the field and we got a really good looks, we've just to keep working so we can knock those down."

Mosinee's Davin Stoffel had 18 points and 15 rebounds, including a

jumper that put the Indians back up three with 3:08 left. That was the game's final field goal as Mosinee scored its final eight points from the foul line.

Stoffel, a 6-6 forward, had to work for his points. He was 7 of 13 from the field and just 4 of 14 from the foul line.

"He made some tough shots," Lemmens said. "The go-ahead jump shot in transition that he hits, players are going to make plays and we're not going to stop a guy like Davin Stoffel, but I felt we really didn't let him just take over the game."

See **Hoops**. . . page 16



BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Rhinelander's Caleb Olcik goes up for a basket over Mosinee's Davin Stoffel during the first half of a GNC boys' basketball game at the Jim Miazga Community Gymnasium Friday, Feb. 4.

# RHS takes 3rd at GNC wrestling meet

Lehman, Gavin Ostermann, Kurtz take individual titles

By Jeremy Mayo  
RIVER NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

A better tournament team than a dual meet over the past few seasons, the Rhinelander High School wrestling team far exceeded their dual meet performance Saturday at the Great Northern Conference championships.

The Hodags had three individual conference champions, had nine of their 12 wrestlers earn all-conference honors by placing in the top three of their weight classes and finished third in the meet at Mosinee High School.

Seniors Cole Lehman and Gavin Ostermann claimed their first individual conference titles, as did sophomore Owen Kurtz. Overall, the Hodags garnered 359 points — only 61 behind tournament champion Tomahawk and 57 behind runner-up Medford. Rhinelander finished tied for third with Lakeland in the final conference standings.

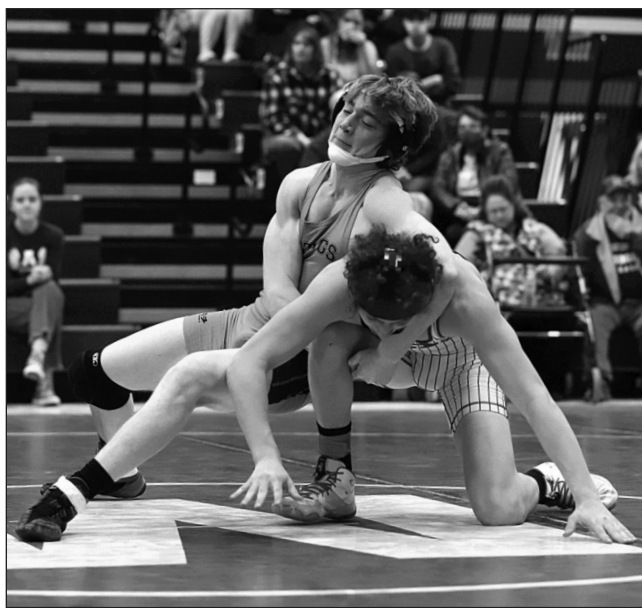
“Overall, today we competed hard. We avenged some losses. When that kind of stuff happens, it’s usually a pretty good day,” Hodag coach Scottie Arneson said. “We scored team points when we could. There were points left out there but just about everybody did, but kudos to Medford and Tomahawk, they were the better teams today.”

Lehman, wrestling in a four-man bracket at 145 pounds, pinned all three of his opponents en route to the title. He stopped Tomahawk’s Hudson



PHOTOS BY BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Rhinelander wrestlers, from left to right, Owen Kurtz, Cole Lehman and Gavin Ostermann display their championship brackets after winning individual weight classes at the Great Northern Conference championship meet in Mosinee Saturday, Feb. 5.



Rhinelander's Cole Lehman puts Antigo's Jayson Arrowood into a headlock during the 145-pound championship match at the Great Northern Conference championship meet in Mosinee Saturday, Feb. 5.

Mattake at 2:55 in round one, pinned Medford's Cory Lindahl in 52 seconds in his second match and secured the title with a second-period pin of Antigo's Jayson Arrowood.

Arneson said Lehman's decision to shed some pounds from the football season to get down to 145 paid off with a conference title.

“We looked at where we thought we could be the most successful and where he could have the best practices. He's done that,” Arneson said. “That was awesome to see. He was all pumped up. He tried psyching himself out with every single guy that he was wrestling. I said, ‘Cole, you're better than all of these guys. You've just got to start

believing in yourself.’ He put together really good matches today and he's starting to believe in himself. I think the sky's the limit from here on out.”

Gavin Ostermann cruised on Saturday, pinning all four of his opponents at 182 in the first period. That included stopping Mosinee's Logan Johnson in 1:45 in the championship match. Ostermann had a much easier time against Johnson than he did in a dual meet at Mosinee Jan. 25. Ostermann trailed in that match before getting a third period takedown and pin.

It was the first conference title for Ostermann, who placed third at 170 as a freshman but then switched to swimming for the Hodags his sophomore and junior seasons.

“When you take two years off, it takes some time, but we're starting to have really good practices and we're starting to peak when we should and the results are speaking for themselves,” Arneson said.

See **Wrestle** . . . page 16

# Hodag gymnasts score season high in Marshfield

By Jeremy Mayo  
RIVER NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

Even with only five gymnasts available Friday night, the Rhinelander High School gymnastics team managed a season-high score in the Marshfield Invite.

The Hodags registered their best scores of the year on vault and floor exercise and scored 107.15 points as they placed seventh in an eight-team invite.

“The girls came down and they just seemed to be in really good spirits and came down to have fun. They all pulled together,” coach Heather Sturtevant said.

Rhinelander was not in podium contention on Thursday, as half of the teams scored in excess of 125 points, but the Hodags put together solid performances in a number of events.

Freshman Sophie Miljevich once again led the team as she placed 17th in the all-around with a score of 29.4 points. She was Rhinelander's top finisher in all four events, taking 19th on vault (8.125), 21st on balance beam (7.05), 23rd on floor exercise (7.775) and 25th on uneven bars (6.45).

“Sophie, that was a nice, consistent (night),” Sturtevant said. “We'd love to hit that 30 (in the all-around), but she's hanging around. That's four consistent meets being in the 29s. We're getting there.”

Rhinelander had only four vaulters, but all of them put up some of their best marks of the season. In addition to Miljevich, Wendy Fronk and Abby Belbot each scored 8.0 to tie for 25th and Leta Cole had a 7.5.

“Of the four girls we had vaulting, three were personal best — Lita, Abby and Sophie — and Wendy tied her personal best,” Sturtevant said. “That was a season-high for us with that vault score. Three 8s, I'll take that any day. That was wonderful.”

Fronk finished 20th in the all-around (26.05) while Belbot was 22nd (24.55). Both had their highest scores and best finishes of the night on vault.

The 107.15 team score surpassed the previous team high of 106.825 set Jan. 20 in a Great Northern Conference crossover dual at Antigo. In addition to vault, Sturtevant said improvements on floor and balance beam helped bolster

the team's score.

“Floor, we didn't get any personal bests, however everyone was really consistent, so that was a season-best team score for us,” she said. “That definitely helped. We've had meets where one or two of them did really well and then somebody's had a bobble. This time all four girls on floor were really solid.”

“We're making inroads on beam. We only had seven falls today so we improved our score from last time about a point and a half. That definitely helped. We still had our falls, but we were much more consistent than our last couple of meets.”

Marshfield scored 130.9 to win its home invite by 1.525 points over Waupun. Milton, Antigo and Rice Lake rounded out the top five. Waupun's Abby Roecker won two events and the individual all-around (34.55).

Mosinee was the only other GNC Small team in the field, placing sixth with a 114.15. Rhinelander hosts its final dual meet of the season against Mosinee Thursday night in the Hodag Dome.

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# SPORTS DIGEST

## Registration open for Knights spring hockey

The Northern Wisconsin Knights, in conjunction with the Rhinelander Ice Association, announced registration is underway for the Knights' second year of spring hockey, which will be held in April and May at the Rhinelander Ice Arena.



The program seeks players born between 2008 and 2015 for the seven-week session.

“Northern Wisconsin Knights is back for the spring of 2022,” the group stated in a press release. “This year with more experience, more competition, and all the excitement of development spring hockey; with none of pressure of tryouts and travel teams.”

“This year the Knights are looking for players from Mites through Bantams to continue their hockey season training with high level coaches promoting development through skill appropriate drills and competition. We strive to create an environment of healthy competition and fun, all while developing the skills that make your player better.”

All players registered will be able to participate as the program is based around two 1-to-2-hour practices each week. Additionally, the club states it has plans to incorporate 3-on-3 tournament-style competition into its development plan.

“Similar to the old pond hockey days, 3-on-3 half ice hockey is designed to promote competition, fast-paced skill development, all while giving the players a chance to hone the skating, passing, stick handling and teamwork skills needed, to be successful in this game,” the press release stated.

Registration is available online at [rhinelanderice.com](http://rhinelanderice.com). Registration is \$325 for RIA members and \$425 for non-members. A one-day-a-week session for Mini Mites (5- and 6-year-olds) is also available with a registration fee of \$150 for RIA members and \$200 for non-members.

For more information, visit [www.rhinelanderice.com/knights](http://www.rhinelanderice.com/knights) or contact Knights' Hockey Development Coordinator Randy Ostrom at 715-493-9331.

## Hodag Nordic competes at state sprints

The Rhinelander High School Nordic ski team took part in the first day of the WNSL State Sprints championships in Madison on Saturday.

Saturday's event was the team freestyle relay race. Sisters Brynn and Liana Teter had the best finish for Rhinelander, advancing to the JV finals, where they placed third overall. Olivia Gillen and Anna Wood just missed out on the JV finals, placing fourth in their heat. Callie Threlkeld paired with Peak Nordic's Nora Kandzoria and finished fifth in her heat.

Neither of Rhinelander's entries on the boys' JV category advanced out of the heat races. Charlie Loomis and Travis White were sixth in their heat while Gavin Hackbarth and Iain Rumney were eighth in their heat.

The meet was set to conclude with individual classic races on Sunday.

## WIAA competitive balance committee discusses feedback, data analysis

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Competitive Balance Ad Hoc Committee held its fourth meeting on Wednesday at the organization's headquarters.

After receiving an update on recent committee-related communication work and efforts to be transparent and engage all members, the committee reviewed new feedback from the feedback form.

The committee spent most of its meeting time discussing what data the committee should use to analyze historical competitive balance. The committee used small and large groups to have an engaged and robust conversations. Members also began discussing their thoughts about competitive balance models used in other states. This topic will continue during the next committee meeting, which will take place virtually Thursday, Feb. 17.

The next in-person meeting will be conducted at the WIAA office Tuesday, March 1, 2022.

# Northern Edge falls in wild finish 10-5 to Onalaska

By Jeremy Mayo

RIVER NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

The Rhinelander/Antigo/Lakeland/Wabeno girls' hockey co-op went from being blown out to suddenly in position for a wild comeback Friday night against Onalaska before momentum swung back the other way late.

The two teams traded six goals in the final 4 minutes, 7 seconds of regulation as the Hilltoppers held on for a 10-5 victory over the Northern Edge at the Langlade County Multi-Purpose Building in Antigo.

The Edge trailed 7-3 midway through the third, but got a power play goal from Kassidee Linssen to start the rally. Then goals 13 seconds apart from Taylor Heleniak and Maria Gironella suddenly cut the lead to two with 1:47 remaining. Onalaska answered with a pair of empty-net goals and tacked on one more with 22 seconds left to account for the final margin.

"It was a really fun third period," Northern Edge coach Tom Roeser said. "After that first period it was a really fun game to coach and I think the girls had a lot of fun playing."

The Edge started slow in the contest, outshot 19-5 in the opening period as they fell behind 2-0. Though shots were more even in the second, the Hilltoppers buried four more goals to take a 6-1 lead through two periods.

McKenna LaFleur got Onalaska started with a short-handed tally at the 10:31 mark of the first period and Anna Szymanski added another score with 13 seconds remaining as the Hilltoppers took a two-goal lead to the first intermission.



SCOTT WALBECK/ANTIGO DAILY JOURNAL

Northern Edge's Maria Gironella is tripped by Onalaska's Kali Bronston during the first period of a girls' hockey game in Antigo Friday, Jan. 4. Gironella scored twice for the Northern Edge in a 10-5 loss.

Kiya Bronston scored her first of three goals 1:31 into the second period before the Edge got on the board courtesy of a pair of Lakeland players. Gironella scored on the power play from Heleniak to cut the lead to two.

Onalaska answered less than a minute later sixth Szymanski's second goal of the contest. Lydia Walz scored at the 6-minute mark and then Bronston added a power play goal to put the Hilltoppers up five.

"We got outplayed in the first period," Roeser said. "The second period we started generating more quality shots. We didn't generate a ton of shots, but they were more

quality shots. We killed off of some penalties, killed off a 5-on-3."

Heleniak scored short-handed for the Edge 2:12 into the third to give the team some life. Bronston answered by finishing her hat trick at the 8:41 mark before the late-game scoring fireworks erupted.

After the Edge trimmed the lead to two, Jaden Hammes scored on an empty net with 1:21 to play. Payton Sawyer added another empty netter with 32 seconds to play. Adeline Lee capped off the scoring with a tally off the ensuing faceoff.

Onalaska outshot the Edge 56-26 in the contest. Ellie Stank stopped 46 pucks in 54 chances in defeat.

The Edge finished the night a season-best 2-for-5 on the power play.

"Our power play was working a lot better than it typically does, which is odd for us because they were playing really aggressive, chasing and our girls showed a lot more patience and started walking to the net when they could and it paid off for them," Roeser said.

The Edge (1-10) has a busy final week of the regular season, with three home games in three different locations. It began last night in Rhinelander against Medford, in a game that concluded after deadline. The Edge hosts Wisconsin Valley Union in Minocqua tonight and closes out the week against Arrowhead in Antigo on Friday night.

The Edge's lone win of the season came back in December against Medford, and the team lost 5-2 at Arrowhead Jan. 8 in a game in which the Edge was tied after two periods.

Roeser said he was hopeful that Friday's competitive contest will build positive momentum for the Edge's stretch run.

"I think this was a good builder for this week," he said. "I never discredit Medford, they're always a hard-working team and we really struggle scoring goals against them, even though we put a lot of shots on them. I'm hoping we generate a lot better quality shots Monday night and keep them from scoring. Valley Union, I think that should be a great contest. I think we're fairly evenly matched, but it all depends on which Northern Edge team comes out to play, too."

Jeremy Mayo may be reached at [jeremy@rivernewsonline.com](mailto:jeremy@rivernewsonline.com).

# Hodags blast East-Merrill 10-0 ahead of tourney run

By Jeremy Mayo

RIVER NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

The Rhinelander High School boys' hockey team matched a program record for wins in a season Thursday night and will have at least three chances to break the record down the stretch.

Leo Losch scored for times Thursday night, Cal Laggis added a pair of goals and Caleb Shefveld recorded his second shutout of the season as the Hodags blanked East-Merrill 10-0 at the Rhinelander Ice Arena.

The win moved Rhinelander to 16-5-0 on the season, matching the Hodags' 16-win total from the 2017-18 campaign.

"If you would have told me we were going to get to 16 this year really without the lifeblood of the team, Joe Schneider, I wouldn't have believed you," coach M.J. Laggis said. "I'm not going to say there's any silver lining in Joe getting hurt. There's not, but one thing we did do is it forced other guys to step up and try to make plays. You can never replace a Joe. You don't want to replace a Joe, but other guys were forced into that role that Joe's been so outstanding in, in our program. I can't say enough about our team effort."

Joe Schneider, who underwent surgery Wednesday on his injured left knee, and the rest of Rhinelander's senior class were honored prior to the game. Three of the Hodags' five seniors started with Carter Detienne on the same line as Cal Laggis and Shefveld in goal,



Rhinelander goalie Caleb Shefveld braces to make a save while Rhinelander's Dalton Fritz and East-Merrill's Nick Bodner battle in front of the net during the third period of a non-conference boys' hockey game at the Rhinelander Ice Arena Thursday, Feb. 3. Shefveld recorded nine saves in his second shutout of the season.

giving fellow senior goalie Garrett Kulhanek a night off.

Sam Schneider honored his older brother by wearing Joe's No. 11 jersey on Thursday.

"To see Joe crutch in here tonight on senior night and get announced, his brother Sam wore his jersey. I'll say it again, Joe's probably pound-for-pound the hardest working player I've ever been around. I think the world of him, glad he can play college baseball and glad his brother wore his number tonight."

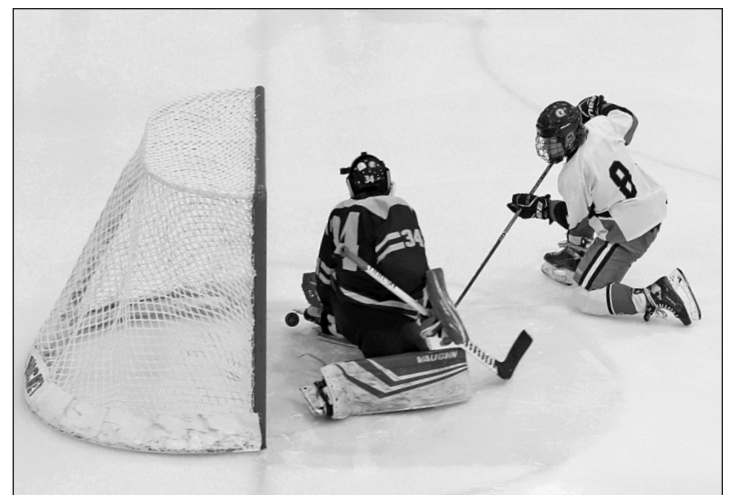
Laggis and Shefveld especially stood out. Laggis had four assists, giving him 41 on the season which currently ranks fourth in the state, according to Wisconsin Prep Hockey. Shefveld stopped all nine shots he

faced, including a couple of quality East-Merrill chances in the third to preserve the shutout.

"We did everything we could to give that shutout away on Chevy and he made a couple of nice saves at the end there. I think he wanted it that way too," coach Laggis said. "He seemed pleased that we did that. Garrett Kulhanek, what a team player. He started Tuesday, Chevy started tonight and they're going to kind of go the way they go down the stretch here."

"Carter Detienne did some good things up and down the ice. Cal was all over the ice again tonight and he's a fantastic playmaker. I'm really pleased with the way he played as well."

Rhinelander jumped on the Bluejacks (1-20-0) for four



PHOTOS BY BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Rhinelander's Leo Losch beats East-Merrill goalie Connor Burton for a goal during the second period of a non-conference boys' hockey game at the Rhinelander Ice Arena Thursday, Feb. 3. Losch scored four goals in the Hodags' 10-0 victory.

goals in the first period, tacked on four more in the second, and outshot East-Merrill 68-9 overall in the contest.

Losch took over the team lead by scoring his 33rd, 34th, 35th and 36th goals of the season on Thursday. He got the scoring started 2:05 into the contest and then scored Rhinelander first three goals of the second period. Two of those tallies came in the first 26 seconds of the period and he tacked on another at the 6:56 mark to put Rhinelander up 7-0. Cal Laggis assisted on all four goals.

Laggis also scored himself off a 2-on-1 from Losch at 7:48 in the first. Joey Belanger and Finn Tulowitzky added goals eight seconds apart later in the first as Rhinelander led 4-0 after 17 minutes.

AJ Turek scored his third

goal in two games, cashing in on a rebound chance off a Belanger shot at the 7:21 mark of the second.

Freshman Zach Edyvean tipped in a Cody Everson shot 11:11 into the third and Cal Laggis capped off the scoring 11 seconds later, walking in on a breakaway off the ensuing face-off.

Though Rhinelander dominated again, coach Laggis said he still felt like his team — similar to last Tuesday's 12-1 win over Medford — did not play its best hockey against an overmatched opponent.

"I thought we got faster as it went. We got a lot of pucks to fall, obviously, and that's a good thing. But we know as a team we've got to be sharper on every end of the ice coming up here," he said.

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# Wrestle

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Kurtz went the distance in two of his three matches at 285, but was always in command. Kurtz took care of Mosinee's Zach Owens 15-2 in his first match and pinned Lakeland's Esaube Brown in the second. Kurtz then knocked off Antigo's Brady Vanderweerd, ranked No. 8 in the latest Wisconsin Wrestling Online Division 2, 285-pound rankings, 13-3 in the championship match.

"Owen, I think he put together his best day of competing," Arneson said.

Aiden Ostermann, Tanner Schmidt and Joe Fugle all recorded runner-up finishes for Rhinelander. Aiden Ostermann pinned his first three opponents at 106, but was stopped by Tomahawk's Presley Gutbrud in the first period of the championship match. Similarly, Fugle started the day with three pins at 220 before losing by technical fall to Tomahawk's Marcus Matti, who was later named the conference's wrestler of the year. Schmidt was second in a three-man bracket at 126. He lost to Medford's Jude Stark in his first match before pin-



BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Rhineland's Owen Kurtz controls Antigo's Brady Vanderweerd during the 285-pound championship match at the Great Northern Conference championship meet in Mosinee Saturday, Feb. 5.

ning Tomahawk's Andrew Tollefsen.

Sean Boman (132), Robert Schramke (138) and Reid Schultz (195) added third-place finishes for Rhinelander to receive honorable mention in their respective weight classes.

"We had some good showings. We were competing hard and avenged some losses," Arneson said. "We taught some different techniques this week and we actu-

ally saw some of our athletes that don't like to use real moves, they were using real moves today and it was paying off today. We were avenging some losses with techniques that we learned just this week."

The Hodags begin postseason play this coming Saturday in a WIAA Division 1 regional meet at Marshfield.

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# Mosinee

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Trailing much of the first half, Rhinelander went on a 15-3 run over the final seven minutes to take a 22-15 lead to the break. Sophomore Lily Treder hit a pair of 3s to give the Hodags a 15-13 lead. Megan Brown scored seven points in the half for Rhinelander, including a runner with four seconds remaining to push the lead to six.

"The first half we played really good defensively. We rebounded the ball hard," he said. "It was kind of a slugfest both ways, but we had a little run to end the half. We did a good job attacking, being physical and strong."

Clark said Mosinee tweaked its pressure defense in the second half, which caused problems for the Hodag offense.

"They adjusted their press a little bit to a three-quarter (court) and we really just struggled against that," he said. "We weren't attacking and weren't real confident to bring it up against the

pressure. Then in the half court I didn't think we shot it very confidently and we didn't look to attack very well."

A pair of layups by Lexi Freiboth and one from Kate Fitzgerald cut the lead to 24-23 with 11:23 left. Adalyn Lehman tied it on a free throw with 10:52 remaining and Claire Selenske gave Mosinee the lead on its next possession.

Rhineland's last point of the half — an Audrey Schiek free throw — made it 26-25 with 9:44 left. But a pair of 3s by Fitzgerald and a triple by Placek pushed Mosinee's lead to 10 with 7:30 to play.

Fitzgerald paced Mosinee with 11 points while Freiboth, Lehman and Selenske all had seven.

Rhineland's leading scorers entering the night — Schiek and Ava Lamers — were held to a total of three points.

The Hodags host Medford tonight before going on the road this coming Friday for another tough test against Lakeland.

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## LOCAL SCOREBOARD

### BASKETBALL

#### BOYS' BASKETBALL

##### Great Northern Conference Standings as of Saturday, Feb. 5

Team	GNC	Ovr
Mosinee	9-0	18-1
Northland Pines	6-1	13-3
Medford	6-3	13-5
Rhineland	4-3	8-9
Lakeland	3-6	7-13
Antigo	1-8	2-16
Tomahawk	0-9	3-16

##### Friday's Games

Mosinee 55, Rhinelander 44  
Lakeland 51, Antigo 29  
Medford 80, Tomahawk 37  
**Monday, Feb. 7**  
Antigo at Wittenberg-Biramwood (NC), late  
**Tuesday's Games**  
Tomahawk at Lakeland, 7:15 p.m.  
Rhineland at Medford, 7:15 p.m.  
Northland Pines at Mosinee, 7:15 p.m.

##### Mosinee at Rhinelander Friday, Feb. 4

Mosinee 27 28 — 55  
Rhinelander 22 22 — 44  
**MOSINEE (55):** Grod 1-4 0-1 3, Dorn 1-4 1-2 3, Jirschele 3-9 8-9 14, Miller 1-8 2-4 5, Stoffel 7-13 4-14 18, Uphall 1-2 0-0 3, Garski 2-2 0-0 0, Kowalski 1-2 0-0 3. Totals 17-44 15-28 55.

**RHINELANDER (44):** Smith 6-16 2-4 15, Huff 0-6 1-4 1, Olckias 2-4 1-3 5, Jamison 2-10 0-0 5, Zettler 3-5 3-3 9, Welk 2-3 0-0 5, Orth 1-1 0-0 2, Brown 0-0 0-0 0, Gretzinger 1-8 0-0 2. Totals 17-54 7-13 44.

**3-Point Goals:** Mos 6-15 (Garski 2-2, Uphall 1-1, Kowalski 1-2, Grod 1-3, Miller 1-4, Dorn 0-2), Rhi 3-21 (Welk 1-1, Smith 1-5, Jamison 1-7, Huff 0-3, Gretzinger 0-5). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** Mos 35 (Stoffel 15), Rhi 42 (Jamison 9). **Assists:** Rhi 4 (Smith 2), Mos 8 (Jirschele 3, Stoffel 3). **Total Fouls:** Mos 13, Rhi 20.

### GIRLS' BASKETBALL

#### Great Northern Conference Standings as of Saturday, Feb. 5

Team	GNC	Ovr
Mosinee	10-0	20-0
Lakeland	7-2	12-8
Rhineland	6-3	13-7
Medford	5-4	6-12
Northland Pines	3-6	7-13
Antigo	2-8	3-19
Tomahawk	0-10	4-13

##### Thursday, Feb. 3

Lakeland 74, Medford 32  
**Friday's Games**  
Northland Pines 70, Wakefield-Marenisco, Mich. 19 (NC)  
Lakeland 74, Antigo 48  
Medford 52, Tomahawk 27  
Mosinee 37, Rhinelander 25

##### Monday's Games

White Lake at Tomahawk (NC), late  
Ewen-Trout Creek, Mich. at Northland Pines (NC), late  
Menomonie at Medford (NC), late  
**Tuesday's Games**  
Medford at Rhinelander, 7:15 p.m.  
Mosinee at Northland Pines, 7:15 p.m.  
Lakeland at Tomahawk, 7:15 p.m.

##### Rhineland at Mosinee Friday, Feb. 4

Rhineland 22 3 — 25  
Mosinee 16 21 — 37  
**RHINELANDER (25):** Schiek 0-2 1-2 1, Johnson 0-4 0-0 0, Brown 3-6 0-0 7, Lamers 1-6 0-0 2, Brzycki 4-7 0-0 9, Spencer 0-0 0-0 0, Treder 2-5 0-0 6. Totals 10-35 2-4 25.  
**MOSINEE (37):** Freiboth 3-6 0-0 7, Placek 1-3 2-2 5, Lehman 1-7 5-11 7, Selenske 3-9 0-0 7, Fitzgerald 4-10

1-2 11, Maurer 0-1 0-0 0, Shnowske 0-1 0-0 0, Baumann 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 12-42 8-15 37.

##### 3-Point Goals:

Rhi 3-14 (Treder 2-4, Brown 1-2, Johnson 0-2, Schiek 0-3, Lamers 0-3), Mos 5-20 (Fitzgerald 2-5, Placek 1-1, Selenske 1-5, Freiboth 1-6, Lehman 0-1, Maurer 0-1, Shnowske 0-1). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** Rhi 27 (Johnson 6), Mos 26 (Lehman 6). **Assists:** Rhi 8 (Schiek 3), Mos 11 (Freiboth 4). **Total Fouls:** Rhi 18, Mos 10.

### BILLIARDS

#### Rhineland Men's Pool League Thursday, Feb. 3

GREEN DIVISION	W	L
Moonlighting 1	113	40
Dawn's Lakeside	104	49
River Street Tap	96	57
Spencer's Den	85	68
Sammy Jr's 2	75	78
Pine Harbor 1	60	93
Country Bar	48	105
WHITE DIVISION	W	L
Pine Harbor 2	89	64
Big Daddy's	80	73
Moonlighting 2	74	79
Rocky's Roadhouse	68	85
Sammy Jr's 1	66	87
Pat's Tavern	54	99
Jailhouse	53	100
RED DIVISION	W	L
Town & Country 2	114	39
Brokers 2	99	54
Twin Pines 3	87	66
Wayne's Place	80	73
Bucktheads	70	83
Fisher's Resort 2	71	82
Porkies II	68	85
Twin Pines 2	68	85
BLUE DIVISION	W	L
Fisher's Resort 1	100	53
Twin Pines 1	98	55
Town & Country 1	82	71
Brokers 3	77	76
Birchwood	69	84
H2H Public House	66	87
Cabaret Cove	60	93

##### Thursday's Results

Brokers-2 9, Fisher's Resort-2 0  
Town & Country-2 7, Twin Pines-3 2  
Moonlighting-1 6, Spencer's Den 3  
Dawn's Lakeside 5, Pine Harbor-2 4  
River Street Tap 5, Sammy Jr's-2 4  
Sammy Jr's-1 5, Rocky's 4  
Fisher's Resort-1 6, Brokers-3 3  
Bucktheads 6, Twin Pines-2 3  
H2H Public House 5, Birchwood 4  
Pine Harbor-1 5, Country Bar 4  
Wayne's Place 6, Porkies II 3  
Pat's Tavern 5, Moonlighting-2 4  
Twin Pines-1 5, Town & Country-1 4  
Big Daddy's 7, Jailhouse 2  
**Bye: Cabaret Cove**  
**Table Runs:** Chuck Craig, Steve Hagen.  
**8 Ball Break:** Ken Neddo, Carl Howard.

##### Rhineland Women's Pool League Wednesday, Feb. 2

DIVISION A	W	L
H2H Public House	84	48
Bucktheads	75	57
Woodpecker	74	49
Fisher's Resort	64	59
Pine Harbor	57	66
Moonlighting	52	71
Big Daddy's	40	92
DIVISION B	W	L
Rocky's Roadhouse	87	45
Brokers 2	80	34
Twin Pines	78	45
River Street Tap	72	60
Birchwood	69	63
Wayne's Place	59	64
Town Pump	56	76
Brokers 1	52	80

##### Wednesday's Results

Big Daddy's 5, Pine Harbor 4  
H2H Public House 8, Moonlighting 1  
Woodpecker 7, Bucktheads 2

Rocky's 6, Wayne's Place 3  
River Street Tap 7, Town Pump 3  
Brokers-2 6, Brokers-1 3  
Birchwood 5, Twin Pines 4  
**Bye: Fisher's Resort**  
**Table Run:** Mary Grobe

##### Ladies One-on-One Pool League Tuesday, Feb. 1

TEAM	W-L	Pts
Maday's Fish Trap 1	14-1	642
Cockatiels 1	11-1	526
Prairie Rapids Tavern	6-6	447
Holly's	5-10	545
Tilted Loon	5-7	426
Cockatiels 2	4-8	408
Maday's Fish Trap 2	0-12	381

##### Tuesday's Results

Holly's 3, Fish Trap-2 0  
Fish Trap-2 2, Prairie Rapids 1  
Tilted Loon 2, Cockatiels-2 1  
**Bye: Cockatiels-1**  
**Individual Standings:** 1, Tess Vehrs, FT1, 493 points. 2, Marie Reil, Ck1, 439. 3, Gladys Salo, FT1, 422. 4, Amy Steinbach, FT1, 411. 5, Penni Maday, FT1, 406. 6, Deb Timmons, PRT, 403. 7, Debbie Ohm, Hol, 395. 8, Maggie Schmidt, Hol, 393. 9, Chris Foster, FT1, 392. 10, Jen Anderson, TL, 388.

### BOWLING

#### HODAG LANES

##### Ladies Friendly League Tuesday, Feb. 1

High Game	W-L	Pts
Vicki Larson		231
Jacki Fore		224
Joey Tess		219
Sharon Cline		215
Cory Hoffmann		211
High Series	W-L	Pts
Joey Tess		578
Cory Hoffmann		578
Vicki Larson		567
Jacki Fore		547
Diane Goslin		515

##### Standings as of Feb. 1

Team	W-L
Hodag Country Fest	100-54
Rick's Pro Shop	98-56
Associated Bank	95½-58½
Acres Chicks	86-68
Rhineland Brewing Co.	85½-68½
Nick's Side Chicks	83½-70½
Country Bar	78-76
Play By Play	76-78
Tom's Drawing Board	74-80
Avco Vacuum Cleaner Co.	73-81
Hodag Honda	59½-94½

##### Wednesday Tavern League Wednesday, Jan. 26

High Game	W-L	Pts
Pat Koffler		268
Tony Shaltis		268
Nick Plouff		264
Ron Jablonski		258
Nate Russell		257
High Series	W-L	Pts
Nick Plouff		733
Tony Shaltis		725
Pat Koffler		723
Ron Jablonski		706
Kevin Craft		700

##### Standings as of Jan. 26

Team	W-L	Pts
Rocky's Roadhouse	74-45	
Nick's Hodag Lanes	67-52	
Culver's	61-58	
Hodag Honda	58-61	
30 Days in the Hole	55-64	
Shirts, Signs & Designs	42-77	

### GYMNASTICS

#### PREP GYMNASTICS

##### GNC Small Division Standings as of Saturday, Feb. 5

Team	Pts.	GNC
Medford	6	3-0

Mosinee 2 1-1  
Rhinelander 2 1-1  
Lakeland 0 0-3

##### Thursday, Feb. 3

Medford 131,425, Mosinee 118.1  
**Friday's Meet**  
Mosinee 6th, Rhinelander 7th/8, Marshfield Invite (NC), 4:30 p.m.  
**Thursday's Meets**  
Mosinee at Rhinelander, 5:45 p.m.  
Wisconsin Rapids at Medford (NC), 5:45 p.m.

##### Marshfield Invitational Friday, Feb. 4

**Team Scores:** 1, Marshfield, 130.9 points. 2, Waupun, 129.375. 3, Milton, 126.525. 4, Antigo, 125.725. 5, Rice Lake, 120.55. 6, Mosinee, 114.15. 7, Rhinelander, 107.15. 8, Grantsburg, 73.75.

##### All-Around: 1, Abby Roecker, Wpn, 34.55. 2, Ellie Jensen, Mar, 34.1. 3, Avery Ash, RL, 32.25 ... 17, Sophie Miljevich, Rhi, 29.4. 20, Wendy Fronk, Rhi, 26.05. 22, Abby Belbot, Rhi, 24.55.

**Balance Beam:** 1, Jensen, Mar, 9.0. 2, Nicole Roecker, Wpn, 8.5. 3 (tie) A.Roecker, Wpn; Lilli Ganz, Milt, 8.2 ... 21, Miljevich, Rhi, 7.05. 27, Fronk, Rhi, 6.35. 29, Claire Wilberding, Rhi, 6.15. 33, Leta Cole, 5.85. 37, Belbot, 5.7.

**Floor Exercise:** 1, A.Roecker, Wpn, 9.55. 2, Kaley Zarda, Ant, 9.1. 3, Phoebe Hernandez, Mar, 9.075 ... 23, Miljevich, Rhi, 7.775. 29, Fronk, Rhi, 7.4. 31 (tie), Belbot, Rhi; Wilberding, Rhi, 7.2.

**Uneven Bars:** 1, A.Roecker, Wpn, 7.25. 2, Jensen, Mar, 7.95. 3, Solenne Lonsdal, Mar, 7.925 ... 25, Miljevich, Rhi, 6.45. 30, Cole, Rhi, 5.7. 32, Fronk, Rhi, 4.3. 34, Wilberding, Rhi, 4.1. 36, Belbot, Rhi, 3.65.

**Vaulting:** 1, Ash, RL, 8.85. 2, A.Roecker, Wpn, 8.55. 3, Tyra Ripley, Milt, 8.525 ... 19, Miljevich, Rhi, 8.125. 25 (tie), Fronk, Rhi; Belbot, Rhi, 8.0. 34, Cole, Rhi, 7.5.

### HOCKEY

#### PREP BOYS' HOCKEY

##### Great Northern Conference Standings as of Saturday, Feb. 5

Team	Great Northern	Overall	
Pts.	W-L-OV-OL	W-L-T	
Lakeland	18	6-1-0-0	13-4-0
Rhineland	16	5-1-0-1	16-5-0
Mosinee	15	5-2-0-0	13-8-0
Antigo	14	4-2-1-0	14-7-1
Waupaca	12	4-3-0-0	11-8-0
Tomahawk	6	2-4-0-0	7-14-0
Medford	2	0-6-1-0	6-13-0
N'land Pines	1	0-6-0-1	3-16-0

##### Thursday, Feb. 3

Northland Pines 4, Pacelli 3 (NC)  
Rhinelander 10, East-Merrill 0 (NC)  
Lakeland 6, Kingsford, Mich. 2 (NC)  
Chequamegon/Phillips 3, Medford 1 (NC)  
**Friday's Game**  
Ashland 5, Tomahawk 4, OT (NC)  
**Saturday's Games**  
Antigo 4, West Salem 2 (NC), New Richmond 13, Northland Pines 0 (NC)  
Madison Memorial 6, Mosinee 1 (NC)  
**Tuesday's Games**  
**GNC Tournament Semifinals**  
Waupaca at Lakeland, 7 p.m.  
Mosinee at Rhinelander, 7 p.m.  
**GNC Tournament Consolation Games**  
Northland Pines at Antigo, 7 p.m.  
Medford at Tomahawk, 7 p.m.

# WIS. SPORTS GLANCE

## Milwaukee BUCKS

34-21, 2nd NBA Central

### SCHEDULE

**Saturday:** Milwaukee 137, Portland 108  
**Sunday:** at L.A. Clippers, late  
**Tuesday:** at L.A. Lakers, 9 p.m. (TNT)  
**Thursday:** at Phoenix, 9 p.m. (TNT)

### NBA STANDINGS AS OF FEB. 5

EASTERN CONFERENCE					WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB	Northwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	31	21	.596	—	Utah	32	21	.604	—
Brooklyn	29	23	.558	2	Denver	28	24	.538	3½
Toronto	28	23	.549	2½	Minnesota	27	25	.519	4½
Boston	29	25	.537	3	Portland	21	33	.389	11½
New York	24	29	.453	7½	Oklahoma City	17	35	.327	14½
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB	Pacific Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	33	19	.635	—	Phoenix	42	10	.808	—
<b>Milwaukee</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>.611</b>	<b>1</b>	Golden State	40	13	.755	2½
Cleveland	32	21	.604	1½	L.A. Clippers	27	27	.500	16
Indiana	19	35	.352	15	L.A. Lakers	26	28	.481	17
Detroit	12	40	.231	21	Sacramento	20	35	.364	23½
Southeast Division	W	L	Pct	GB	Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	34	20	.630	—	Memphis	37	18	.673	—
Charlotte	28	26	.519	6	Dallas	30	23	.566	6
Atlanta	25	27	.481	8	New Orleans	20	32	.385	15½
Washington	24	28	.462	9	San Antonio	20	34	.370	16½
Orlando	12	42	.222	22	Houston	15	37	.288	20½

## #11 Wisconsin BADGERS

MEN'S BASKETBALL — 18-4, 9-3 Big Ten

### SCHEDULE

**Feb. 2:** No. 18 Illinois 80, No. 11 Wisconsin 67  
**Saturday:** No. 11 Wisconsin 51, Penn State 49  
**Tuesday:** at No. 13 Michigan State, 6 p.m. (BTN)

### BIG TEN STANDINGS AS OF FEB. 5

Team	Conf.	Ovr.	Michigan	5-5	11-9
18 Illinois	10-2	17-5	Iowa	4-6	14-7
4 Purdue	9-3	20-3	Penn State	4-7	9-10
<b>11 Wisconsin</b>	<b>9-3</b>	<b>18-4</b>	Northwestern	4-8	11-10
13 Michigan State	8-3	17-5	Maryland	3-8	11-11
16 Ohio State	6-3	13-5	Minnesota	2-8	11-8
Indiana	7-5	16-6	Nebraska	0-12	6-17
Rutgers	7-5	13-9			

## #24 Marquette GOLDEN EAGLES

MEN'S BASKETBALL — 16-7, 8-4 Big East

### SCHEDULE

**Feb. 2:** No. 24 Marquette 83, No. 12 Villanova 73  
**Tuesday:** at No. 17 Connecticut, 5:30 p.m. (FS1)  
**Feb. 12:** at Butler, 3:30 p.m. (FS1)

### BIG EAST STANDINGS AS OF FEB. 5

Team	Conf.	Ovr.	Creighton	5-5	13-8
15 Providence	9-1	19-2	Seton Hall	5-6	14-7
12 Villanova	10-3	17-6	St. John's	5-6	13-9
<b>24 Marquette</b>	<b>8-4</b>	<b>16-7</b>	Butler	4-8	11-12
17 Connecticut	6-4	15-6	DePaul	2-9	11-10
21 Xavier	6-5	16-6	Georgetown	0-9	6-14

## Green Bay PACKERS

13-5, NFC North Champion

### SCHEDULE

**Jan. 22:** San Francisco 13, Green Bay 10  
**NFL PLAYOFF GLANCE**

### WILD CARD WEEKEND

**Saturday, Jan. 15**  
 Cincinnati 26, Oakland 19  
 Buffalo 47, New England 17  
**Sunday, Jan. 16**  
 Tampa Bay 31, Philadelphia 15  
 San Francisco 23, Dallas 17  
 Kansas City 42, Pittsburgh 21  
**Monday, Jan. 17**  
 L.A. Rams 34, Arizona 11

### DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

**Saturday, Jan. 22**  
 Cincinnati 19, Tennessee 26  
 San Francisco 13, Green Bay 10  
**Sunday, Jan. 23**  
 L.A. Rams 30, Tampa Bay 27  
 Kansas City 42, Buffalo 36, OT

### CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Sunday, Jan. 30**  
 AFC Championship Game, Cincinnati 24, Kansas City 21, OT  
 NFC Championship Game, L.A. Rams 20, San Francisco 17

### PRO BOWL

**Sunday, Feb. 6**  
 AFC vs. NFC, at Las Vegas, late

### SUPER BOWL LVI

**Sunday, Feb. 13**  
 Cincinnati vs. L.A. Rams, at Los Angeles, 5:30 p.m. (NBC)

# Hockey

From page 15

The Hodags were set to learn their fate for the WIAA tournament on Sunday in a sectional seeding meeting that concluded after deadline. The Hodags will have two strong tests to prepare for the WIAA playoffs, beginning with tonight's GNC tournament semifinal contest at home against Mosinee.

"They're going to come in here for blood based on what happened in Mosinee," coach Laggis said, referencing Rhinelander's 6-3 win over the Indians Jan. 25. "That's a good thing. We need that challenge. We need to play a team that's just

fired up, ready to go, and we've got to keep getting better down the stretch.

Laggis said tonight and Saturday's opponent in the final round — either Lakeland or Waupaca — will serve as strong dress rehearsals for the WIAA tournament.

"We're going to play two really difficult games before the (WIAA) tournament, and that's a good thing. We need that," coach Laggis said. "As important as those games are, it's still another week to try to get better, improve, play in key situations see what we can become here in the next week and a half."

*Jeremy Mayo may be reached at jeremy@rivernewsonline.com.*

# Perfection

From page 13

"Jack had a great meet with that conference record he got in the breaststroke, and his IM was fantastic," coach Heck said. "With a conference record and great swims overall, I think he was well-deserving of that honor. We had a lot of kids who were really deserving of that. With so many wins, how do you judge?"

Charlie Heck, a junior, swept the sprint freestyle events, taking the 50 (22.62) and the 100 (50.50). Shinners, a freshman, claimed the distance freestyle events, winning the 200 (1:51.14) and the 500 (5:03.63).

Brock Arrowood won the 100 butterfly (54.56) and Carter Gaber took the 100 backstroke (55.81).

It all started with the relays for Rhinelander. The Hodags swept the top three spots in the 200 medley, the top two in the 200 freestyle and the top three in the 400 freestyle.

Conference meet stipulations allow a team to have only two relays that count toward its team score, so Rhinelander's C entries in both the 200 medley and 400 freestyle swam exhibition. Despite being unable to score, coach Heck said both C relays were honored by the coaches with honorable mention all-conference certificates for having the third-best times in both events.

"It started out with that medley relay. Their goal was to go 1-



BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Rhinelander's Samson Shinners competes in the 200-yard freestyle during the Great Northern Conference championship meet in Tomahawk Friday, Feb. 4. Shinners, a freshman, was a four-event conference champion for the Hodags on Friday.

2-3 and that's what we did with amazing splits. In all the relays were 1-2 or 1-2-3. I'm really proud of the depth," she said. "They just really went after it."

Shawn Denis and Mathias Fugle added their names to the list of Rhinelander conference champions on the night as parts of winning relays. Denis and Fugle were on the winning 200 freestyle relay with Antonuk and Shinners (1:33.82). Fugle was part of the 400 freestyle relay with Gillingham, Shinners and Charlie Heck (3:22.60).

The Hodags swept the top four spots in the butterfly with Arrowood, Gillingham, Marcus O'Malley and Jacob Schoppe. Gillingham was also the runner-up in the IM. Sophomore Zacha King was a runner-up in all four of his events on Friday, including second-place swims in the 500 freestyle and the 100 backstroke. Arrowood took second in the 200, Gaber was second in the 50 and Fugle was second in the 100.

Fugle (200 freestyle),

Ashton Cole (100 freestyle), Dolan O'Malley (500 freestyle) and Denis (breaststroke) added individual third-place finishes for Rhinelander.

Dolan O'Malley, Denis, Arrowood and King were the runner-up team for Rhinelander in the 200 medley relay; Marcus O'Malley, Cole, Eli Lundt and Schoppe took second in the 200 freestyle relay and Dolan O'Malley, Arrowood, King and Gaber made up the runner-up quartet in the 400 freestyle.

"Each one of these guys really had something great happen," coach Heck said. "Ashton got his lettering time by 0.03 of a second and was third in the 100 freestyle. It was a really cool thing for our seniors. Jacob Schoppe got under the minute in the fly for the first time. He's been waiting for that moment. We're really happy for the seniors that they went out with a bang."

The Hodags waltzed through the GNC this year. With most teams struggling for numbers, Rhinelander went

8-0 with a full lineup, scoring more than 130 out of a possible 140 points in seven of the eight duals. That dominance carried over to Friday night as the Hodags became the first GNC team, boys or girls, to win all 11 events at the conference championships.

It all sets Rhinelander up well for a crack at a fourth straight WIAA Division 2 sectional title this Saturday in Menomonie as the Hodags try to advance as many entries as possible to state. Jenny Heck said the difficult part will be deciding upon the team's 18 individual entries and three relays for the meet.

"The coaches have some decisions to make as far as entry, since we're limited on those for sectionals, as far as who's going to get an event because our depth is so great. It's a good problem to have," she said. "All the guys are in good position, but they're going to have to get a little bit faster for next week."

*Jeremy Mayo may be reached at jeremy@rivernews online.com.*

# Hoops

From page 13

"Our energy and our effort was good. This is a game I felt like we executed the game plan," Lemmens added.

The teams traded the lead early, but Mosinee took control with a 17-7 run late in the first half and led 27-22 at the break. The Indians then started on an 8-1 run over the first four minutes of the second to increase the lead to 12 points.

Jackson Zettler had nine points for Rhinelander and scored seven points in the second half as part of a run that got Rhinelander to within 42-36 with 9:03 to play. Ryan Jamison hit the Hodags' lone 3 of the second half to cut the lead to three and then made a mid-range jumper with 7 minutes to play to cut the lead to 44-42.

Overall, however, Rhinelander's shooters struggled to make shots against a fast, aggressive Mosinee defense. Smith was 6 of 16 from the field, Jamison was 2 of 10 and sophomore Will Gretzinger was just 1 of 8 off the bench.

"It's hard to really get great, positive energy when you're struggling to put the ball in," Lemmens said. "We've proven in many games that we're not a good, consistent shooting

team yet. That's maybe something we need to emphasize more in practice because tonight I thought we got really good looks, we just didn't knock them down."

Keagen Jirschele added 14 points for Mosinee (18-1, 9-0 Great Northern), which inched closer to the conference title. The Indians can clinch at least a share of the GNC crown with a home win over Northland Pines on Tuesday.

The Indians appear to be on pace for perhaps a No. 1 seed for the upcoming WIAA playoffs. The Hodags also lost to Mosinee 54-42 in Mosinee Dec. 17. After two low-scoring, competitive games against the Indians, Lemmens said his team would not be afraid to face them a third time in the postseason, should that matchup come to pass.

"This is the No. 1 or No. 2 team in our regional, so you can't tell me we can't go into the playoffs feeling like we can't make some noise," he said. "We really put a damper on our conference hopes, but now we look forward and we keep trucking one game at a time and we say, 'hey, how good can we be at the end of this season?' That's got to be our goal."

Rhinelander (8-9, 4-3 Great Northern) dropped its fourth straight game to fall below .500



BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Rhinelander's Ryan Jamison attempts a jump shot over Mosinee's Cole Kowalski during the second half of a GNC boys' basketball game at the Jim Miazga Community Gymnasium Friday, Feb. 4. The Hodags shot only 31.5% Friday as they fell to the Indians, 55-44.

for the first time since Jan. 3. The Hodags also fell to fourth in the conference standings, behind Medford, where Rhinelander will play tonight.

The Hodags upset the Raiders 55-49 in Rhinelander last month.

"They're going to be hungry and they're going to be angry and we're going to have to make some shots," Lemmens said.

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