

SPORTS

THE TRIUMPH . . .



THE RIPON COLLEGE women's basketball team celebrates with the Midwest Conference Tournament plaque after defeating Monmouth 62-55 in the championship game last week Saturday. *Jonathan Bailey photo*

Red Hawk women win conference tourney; clinches NCAA tourney bid

By Jonathan Bailey
jbailey@ripontpress.com

For the second time in three seasons, the Ripon College women's basketball team is going dancing.

The Red Hawks defeated the Monmouth Fighting Scots 62-55 last week Saturday in the championship game of the Midwest Conference Tournament to earn an automatic bid into the NCAA Division III Tournament.

Ripon also topped the Fighting Scots 55-48 in the title game in 2019 to clinch its first tournament berth in 10 years, while falling to them a year later 74-69. All three of the meetings took place in Ripon's Willmore Center.

The Red Hawks found out Monday during an NCAA Division III selection show that it will face the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Friday at 7:30 p.m. in UW-Whitewater's Kachel Gymnasium.

"It's exciting to end conference [play] on a high note and to have another week

to play together and grow together and just spend time with each other," Ripon head coach Lauren Busalacchi said of making it to the NCAA Tournament.

Ripon never trailed in the game against Monmouth, but did have to stave off some runs by the Fighting Scots.

The Red Hawks jumped out to a 5-0 lead. Then, after Monmouth came back to tie the game at 7, they closed out the first quarter on a 10-2 run to take a 17-9 advantage into the second quarter. Following a Monmouth 3-pointer to begin the second

quarter, the Red Hawks scored 13 of the next 15 points to go ahead 30-14.

Ripon went into halftime leading 32-18 due in large part to the Fighting Scots shooting just 20% (6 of 30) from the field, which included 18% (2 of 11) behind the 3-point line. Meanwhile, it converted 52% (12 of 23) of its shots from the field, including 40% (2 of 5) from long range. Ripon also shot 7 of 8 at the free-throw line in the first half.

"Defensively, we were just really proud of the number of steps that we were getting," Busalacchi said of the first half. "Rebounding-wise, too, I think the first half we did a really good job. And then just being aggressive on the offensive end as well. We strung together a couple scores in a row, which is a big deal for us."

COMING UP

✓ **What:** Ripon (18-9) vs. No. 11 UW-Whitewater (23-4), NCAA Tournament First Round

When: Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Where: UW-Whitewater

Monmouth didn't go away quietly in the second half as it shot the ball much better, converting 50% (15 of 30) of its shots from the field. It started the second half on a 17-6 run to close the deficit to 38-35 with five minutes left in the third quarter, before Jordan Bukouricz and Alison Leslie knocked down back-to-back 3-pointers.

Leslie was fouled on her 3-pointer and made the free throw to complete the four-point play to give the Red Hawks a 45-35 lead with a little less than four minutes to play in the third quarter. Monmouth scored the next three points, before Cassidy Walters sank a 3-pointer and jumper to make it 50-38 entering the fourth quarter.

The Fighting Scots then begin the final quarter on an 8-0 run to close to within four with six minutes left. Walters, a cancer survivor who has come on strong late in the season, answered with a pair of jumpers to stem the tide and give Ripon a 55-48 advantage with around four minutes left.

See **CLINCHES**/page 17

AND THE HEARTBREAK

RC men drop 2OT thriller to Cornell in title game

By Jonathan Bailey
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The Ripon College Red Hawk men's basketball team checked off one of the boxes it wanted to accomplish this season by winning its first Midwest Conference Championship since 1999 and the right to host the tournament.

It fell just short of checking off the other as it dropped a heartbreaking double-overtime thriller to the Cornell Rams 82-79 last week Saturday at home in the championship game of the conference tournament.

With the win, Cornell claimed the conference's automatic berth in the NCAA Division III Tournament. The Red Hawks' season, on the other hand, comes to an end with a record of 18-9 overall and 13-3 in conference.

"It's certainly gutting," Ripon head coach Ryan Kane said of the loss. "The suddenness of the season ending every year is always very shocking. I think it's harder when the outcome is still in the balance and then it ends."

He added what makes it tougher is that the Red Hawks have been in the championship game four of the last six seasons, winning two and losing two, and know



OWEN THEUNE STANDS shell-shocked in front of Cornell players as they celebrate an 82-79 double overtime win last week Saturday. *Jonathan Bailey photo*

what the emotions are like of winning the tournament title. They won the tournament in 2019-20, before the coronavirus pandemic canceled the 2020-21 Midwest Conference season.

"You really want that for your guys and the people that are surrounded with the program: the campus, the community," Kane said. "It's always a little bit harder because you know what it could have felt

like."

Despite the loss and the many second guesses that could take place, Kane was pleased with his team's fight.

"In the end, both teams played really, really hard," he said. "I'm really proud of the effort that our guys gave not just in those 50 minutes on Saturday, but just everything they gave over the course of the 19 weeks of our season."

Last week Saturday's conference tournament championship game got off to a bit of a slow start for Ripon as it fell behind 7-2 four minutes in. But it rallied to score 10 of the next 12 points to take a 12-9 lead and eventually built a 31-21 advantage, which was their largest of the game, with a little more than a minute remaining in the first half.

The Rams, however, closed the first half and began the second half on a 10-0 run to tie the game at 31. They continued to ride that momentum to take a 43-37 lead with a little less than 10 minutes left to play in regulation.

Part of Ripon's struggles during that 12-minute stretch, which saw them get out-scored 22-6, were turnovers as it gave the ball away seven times. It also knocked down just 3 of 13 shots from the field in that span.

The Red Hawks bounced back to tie the game at 48 with six and a half minutes left and from there the game was back and forth, with the teams trading the lead five times and being tied twice, including at 62 to end regulation.

Ripon led by three points a couple times in the final six minutes, which included 62-59 with 1 minute, 17 seconds

See **DROP**/page 16

DROP/Ripon uses late run to top IC

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left, but were unable to put the Rams away. It turned the ball over on its final two possessions of regulation.

In the first overtime, the Red Hawks got on the scoreboard first with an Owen Theune layup. Cornell scored the next three points to take a 65-64 lead with three and a half minutes left, but Ryan Steffes and Theune answered with baskets to put Ripon back out in front 68-65 with around two minutes to play. Cornell responded with a 3-pointer to tie the game at 68 with 51 seconds left. Both teams then missed shots to send it into another overtime.

Ripon didn't take its first lead in the second overtime until Dominic Galati and Drew Jorgensen knocked down back-to-back 3-pointers to make it 76-73 with three minutes left. After the Rams got within 76-75, Jorgensen sank another 3-pointer to put Ripon up 79-75 with a little less than two minutes to play. Those were the last points the Red Hawks scored, however, as the Rams finished on a 7-0 run, with the game-winning basket coming with 34 seconds left.

While the Red Hawks made three 3-pointers in the second overtime to give themselves a chance at coming away with the victory, they struggled mightily from long range in the game. They shot just 29% (7 of 24) behind the 3-point line.

Overall, Ripon finished shooting 46% (31 of 68) from the field. "Some shots just didn't fall," Kane said, noting that he felt that the Red Hawks were going to shoot the ball well given their struggles the night before against Illinois College. "I think they were all, for the most part, really good looks."

Meanwhile, the Rams shot 47% (28 of 60) from the field, which included 56% (10 of 18) from behind the 3-point line.

"We did a good job of making their shots as difficult as possible, but you've got to give them credit," Kane said. "Their best player, [Cooper] Kabela, stepped up and made some big shots and they got some production from Marcus Quirk, who banked one in and he made some big shots for them this whole weekend, so hats off to those guys."

Ripon also dealt with foul trouble in the game and had three players in Jaylen Mahone, David De Valk and Luke Meinholz foul out either late in regulation or in the overtime sessions. Kane noted that while Ripon has good depth, it tightened its rotation the last three games and he didn't feel comfortable going to a player who hadn't played all game.

"If I would have known that we were going to have that kind of foul trouble, I would have probably played some different guys throughout the course of the game so they could have felt like they had an opportunity," Kane said. "... And they're a big team, and when you don't have some size that you can match up with them, they took advantage of it right away."

Mahone, a Brandon native, led Ripon in scoring with 14 points before fouling out late in regulation. Meinholz, who fouled out early in the second overtime, and Ryan Steffes added 13 points each, while Theune contributed 12

points and 11 rebounds. The Red Hawks also received nine points from Jorgensen and eight apiece for Galati and De Valk.

Ripon uses late run to top IC

The Red Hawks had their hands full just to advance to the championship game as they needed a 19-5 run in the final six-plus minutes to defeat the Illinois College Blue-boys last week Friday 61-51 in a tournament semifinal contest.

The run, which was fueled by the defense, helped Ripon overcome a rough shooting night as it converted just 38% (18 of 47) of its opportunities from the field. That included shooting just 33% (4 of 12) from behind the 3-point line.

Illinois College shot just slightly better from the field at 40% (20 of 50), which included 24% (4 of 17) on long-range shots.

"It was a rock fight ... and when it's a rock fight, I really like our team in those kinds of games," Kane said. "And that's what ended up happening. I think we did a great job down the stretch. I said the first team to 60 probably wins this game, and if we can not let them get to 60, I think we'll win and we did. We just really settled in defensively."

The "rock fight" was evident in the first half as Ripon led just 24-22 after 20 minutes of play. The Red Hawks led for the majority of the low-scoring half, but never by more than four points as both teams struggled to get into a rhythm.

In the second half, Galati came out and knocked down back-to-back 3-pointers for Ripon to make it 30-22. Ripon led again by eight points at 33-25 after a Steffes



BRANDON NATIVE JAYLEN Mahone holds up three fingers after making a shot from behind the arc against Monmouth as the Ripon student section erupts. Jonathan Bailey photo

3-pointer with 17 minutes left, but couldn't add onto the advantage.

The Blueboys fought back to take a 37-36 lead with less than 12 minutes to play and led by as many as five points at 45-40 with eight and half minutes remaining, before Ripon went on its run to end the game and secure the win.

A big reason the Red Hawks were able to come away victorious, besides their defense, was their ability to get to the free-throw line and knock down shots. They attempted 29 free throws in the contest, 22 of which came in the second half, and made 21 of them. Meanwhile, Illinois College shot just 11 free throws and converted seven.

Steffes particularly was busy at the line for Ripon as he went 10 of 14 en route to finishing with a game-high 20 points.

Mahone added 12 points in the victory, while De Valk chipped in 10 points and Galati contributed nine points.

Looking ahead

While the Red Hawks came up




RIPON'S BENCH MOB goes crazy after Dominic Galati hit a 3-pointer in the second half of Ripon's 61-51 win over Illinois College last week Friday. Jonathan Bailey photo

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OFFICIAL NOTICE
VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Election Day may submit a request to vote an absentee ballot to their municipal clerk. A qualified elector is any U.S. citizen who:

- will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day.
- has resided in the ward or municipality where they wish to vote for at least 28 consecutive days before the election.

The elector must also be registered to vote to receive an absentee ballot.

Proof of identification must be provided before an absentee ballot may be issued.

Making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail
Contact your municipal clerk and request that an application for an absentee ballot be sent to you for the primary or election or both. You may make written application to your municipal clerk for an absentee ballot in person, by mail, by email or at MyVote.wi.gov.

Your written request must include:

1. your voting address within the municipality where you wish to vote.
2. the address where the absentee ballot should be sent, if different from the address above.
3. your signature.
4. A copy of your photo identification.

The deadline for making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail is:
5 p.m. on the fifth day before the election, Thursday, March 31, 2022.

Note: Special absentee voting application provisions apply to electors who are indefinitely confined to home or a care facility, in the military, hospitalized, or serving as a sequestered juror. If this applies to you, contact the municipal clerk regarding deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.

Voting an absentee ballot in person
You may also request and vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office or other specified location during the days and hours specified for casting an absentee ballot in person from the Clerk.

In-Person absentee voting is not allowed prior to March 22.

Pam Ferch, Metomen Deputy Town Clerk
N6971 State Road 44-49, Ripon
Phone: (920) 960-2535 for appointment

Cindy Beier, Ripon Town Clerk
Ripon Town Hall
N8191 Douglas Street, Ripon
Phone: (920) 748-2019 for appointment
In-Person Office Hours: Tuesday and Friday 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Roxanne L. Tarnow, Rosendale Town Clerk
W11324 Rose-Eld Road, Ripon
Phone: (920) 979-5498 for appointment

Pat Heyer, Springvale Deputy Town Clerk
PO Box 150, Rosendale
Phone: (920) 979-0620 for appointment

Ann Schommer, Ripon City Clerk
City Hall, 100 Jackson Street, Ripon
Phone (920) 748-4915
Hours: Monday-Friday – 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

NO in-person absentee voting may occur on the day before the election
Monday, April 4.

The municipal clerk will deliver voted ballots returned on or before Election Day to the proper polling place before the polls close on **Tuesday, April 5, 2022.**
Any ballots received after the polls close will **not** be counted. WNAXLP

CLINCHES/Ripon holds on to defeat Illinois College *continued from page 13*

Bella Opelt also made a free throw in that stretch.

“Kass has a scorer’s mentality,” Busalacchi said. “Her best characteristic as a basketball player is just how aggressive she can be in her versatility, whether it’s in the paint with her length and athleticism, or even knocking down an open shot from the outside. She was an over 2,000-point scorer in high school. These last couple of weeks, just to be a witness to that again ... it’s been a lot of fun and a testament to her just persisting through some tough times.”

Ripon led by at least five points for the rest of the contest, with Kiana Fall knocking down a 3-pointer, Bukouricz coming up with a steal and making two free throws and Leslie making 2 of 4 free throws to ice the victory.

Leslie, who became just the fifth player in program history to score 400 points in a season and moved into 18th place on the school’s all-time scoring list with 826 points, led Ripon with 21 points despite being the focal point of the defense.

“There’s nobody tougher than Al[ison] in what she’s had to face this year and how she’s approached just becoming more of a versatile player,” Busalacchi said, referring to the face guarding, double teams and triple teams the junior shooting guard has had to encounter. “She’s starting to score from the [free-throw] line more because she’s starting to post up a little bit more and take her player off the dribble. Even pulling up mid-range were skills that she didn’t have to do as a freshman. She just had to knock down 3-[pointer]s consistently every game as a freshman.”

Walters added 13 points in 15 minute off the bench. Bukouricz also came off the bench and chipped in with seven points and four steals in the victory to go along with playing stellar defense.

Busalacchi noted she was really proud of Bukouricz’s mental toughness to come in and have her best game in her collegiate career in the tournament championship game, and some of her best games in the last few games.



MEMBERS OF THE Ripon College women’s basketball team celebrate after winning the Midwest Conference Tournament last week Saturday. *Jonathan Bailey photo*

“It’s a testament to who she is and her competitive spirit,” Busalacchi said. “We needed that. It was just huge for her to come in and knock down that 3-[pointer] after Monmouth got within 38-35]. She got to the line. [She] had that three-point play opportunity the night before; that was a big energy kind of game-changing moment as well against Illinois College ... We’ve kind of waited and we’ve wanted that to happen all-year long and for it to happen now is awesome.”

Ripon holds on to defeat Illinois College

Getting to the championship game wasn’t easy for the Red Hawks as they had to overcome a nine-point first half deficit and then hold on late to come away with a 68-65 win over the Illinois College (IC) Lady Blues last week Friday.

“We knew IC would come out just blazing,” Busalacchi said. “They’ve said for a long time that they hadn’t had their full team all season until the last couple of weeks. ... They were just on the upward trend that way. They had awesome energy. They were knocking down a lot. Post-wise, they’re super tough and for us to be able to just withstand that and stay in a safe zone like we did the first half and then come out in the second half and just start knocking down some more shots [was the difference].”



ALISON LESLIE CELEBRATES in front of a raucous student section after making a 3-pointer while getting fouled. *Jonathan Bailey photo*

Ripon trailed the Lady Blues 18-15 after the first quarter and was down 32-23 with a little more than two minutes left in the second quarter before finishing the half on a 7-2 run to get within 34-30 entering the intermission. Leslie scored the first basket in that run, while Opelt added a 3-pointer and layup to help close the gap.

The Red Hawks continued to trail, however, until they went on a 17-4 run to end the third quarter and begin the fourth. The run turned a 44-39 deficit into a 56-48 advantage, which was their largest lead of the contest.

Leslie was the leading force behind that stretch, which spanned a little more than eight minutes, as she scored eight of the 17 points. Opelt and Bonnie Jensen each added four points and Walters was responsible for the other.

Ripon maintained a seven-point advantage with a little more than four minutes remaining, before Illinois College went on a 6-0 run to get within 64-63 with a minute left. Bukouricz and Illinois College’s Lilly Pepper then traded layups, before Leslie made a jumper to give Ripon a 68-65 lead with 12 seconds remaining in the contest.

Following both teams exchanging turnovers, the Lady Blues had a chance to tie the game at the end of regulation. Jensen had other ideas, however, as she blocked the 3-point attempt to secure the victory for the Red Hawks.

Ripon finished the game shooting 48% (30 of 62) from the field, but shot just 12% (2 of 17) behind the 3-point line. Meanwhile, the Lady Blues converted 42% (24 of 57) from the field. They also struggled from long range as they made just 15% (2 of 13) of their 3-point attempts. Illinois College did attempt 11 more free throws and made six more.

“We had one of our worst [3-point] shooting games, especially at home and during the conference season,” Busalacchi



KASSIDY WALTERS releases a shot against Monmouth. She scored nine-straight points in the second half to help hold off the Scots. *Jonathan Bailey photo*

8-of-13 shooting. “Bella’s played big for us all year,” Busalacchi said. “She’s such a constant on the defensive end, which is what has earned her that starting spot. And then offensively, just her ability to create space in the paint and knock down some mid-range shots for us, as well as finish at the rim [is big]. For her to step up on one of the biggest stages of the year as a freshman just takes a ton of mental toughness and a lot of resolve and she has that and we’re super proud of her.”

Leslie led Ripon in scoring in the winning effort with 19 points, while Jensen chipped in with 14 points. Fall also contributed seven points, while pulling down five rebounds and dishing out a team-high six assists.

NCAA Tourney Preview

Ripon (18-9) at UW-Whitewater (23-4)

Friday at 7:30 p.m. in Whitewater, Wis.

Tale of the tape

The Ripon College Red Hawks will face the No. 11-ranked University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Warhawks Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the first round of the NCAA Division III Tournament inside UW-Whitewater’s Kachel Gymnasium.

It will mark the Red Hawks’ second tournament appearance in the last three seasons and sixth overall, while the Warhawks are making their sixth-consecutive trip to the big dance and their 13th appearance in the last 14 years.

Ripon is entering the game as winner of 10-straight contests, which is the third-longest winning streak in school history. It won its fourth-straight Midwest Conference Championship after going 15-1 in conference play and its second conference tournament title in three years with a 62-55 win over Monmouth last weekend.

The Red Hawks are led by Alison Leslie (15.1 ppg), Skyylar Brescia (9.6 ppg, 7.1 rpg), Bonnie Jensen (9 ppg, 5 rpg, 2 apg) and Kiana Fall (7.9 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 3.5 apg).

UW-Whitewater is coming off a 77-63 loss to UW-Eau Claire in the title game of the WIAC Tournament and has lost two of its last three games after starting off the season 23-2. It went 12-2 in WIAC play, winning the regular-season championship.

The Warhawks, who have five players averaging seven points or more, are led by Aleah Grundahl (16.4 ppg) and Johana Taylor (8.7 ppg, 7.4 rpg, 2.7 apg and 1.9 bpg). Ripon is no stranger to facing WIAC schools as it faced six this year. It went 1-5 in those contests, with its lone win coming against UW-River Falls to start the year.

The winner of the game will face the winner of a game between DePauw and Illinois Wesleyan Saturday at 7 p.m. at the same site.

Keys to victory

According to Ripon head coach Lauren Busalacchi, the Red Hawks need to try to limit UW-Whitewater’s second-chance opportunities and play one of their best games on the defensive end. Offensively, she noted they have to take care of the basketball as Whitewater is going to apply a press and be physical. Getting to the free-throw and knocking down the attempts Busalacchi believes will be crucial in order to make up some points, as well as grinding out possessions and maximizing as much of the 30-second shot clock as possible every time it gets the ball.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

FINAL NOTICE TO DOG OWNERS

LATE FEES TO BE ASSESSED AFTER

APRIL 1, 2022

Pursuant to Section 174.052, Wisconsin Statutes, notice is hereby given to all owners of dogs in Fond du Lac County that rabies vaccinations and dog licenses are required under the statutes.

Vaccination by a veterinarian against rabies of all dogs is required (Section 95.21 (2)) within 30 days after the dog reaches 4 months of age, and re-vaccinated before the certificate expires or within three years of the previous vaccination. Notice is hereby further given that evidence that the dog is currently immunized against rabies must be presented before a license can be issued. To qualify for the minimum license fee for neutered males or spayed females, presentation of evidence attesting to same must be presented when applying for the license.

PENALTIES

A **minimum late fee of \$5.00** shall be assessed the owner of each dog 5 months of age or over who fails to obtain a dog license by April 1st of each year, or within 30 days of acquiring ownership on or before the dog reached licensable age. The minimum late fee may be raised by municipal action.

Any owner who fails to have a dog vaccinated against rabies as required by statute may be required to forfeit not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$100.00.

2022 dog licenses can be obtained from your LOCAL TREASURER.

LISA FREIBERG
Fond du Lac County Clerk

WNAXLP

OFFICIAL NOTICE

City of Markesan Seeks Full-Time Public Property & Streets Supervisor

The City of Markesan in Green Lake County is looking to hire a full-time Public Property and Streets Supervisor

Some of the duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to: street and storm water maintenance including snow removal, cleaning, and repairs; upkeep of lawns, parks, and cemeteries; operation and repair of vehicles and equipment; and the cleaning and maintenance of city facilities.

Qualifications: Graduation from High School or the equivalent. Must be able to work independently, multi-task, and have good computer and communication skills. Must be able to operate and repair equipment and vehicles. Previous Public Works, mechanical and construction experience a plus. Valid State of Wisconsin Driver’s License is required and a Commercial Driver’s License is recommended.

Wages and Benefits: Wages dependent on qualifications, benefits include health & life insurance, retirement plan, paid vacations & holidays, sick leave and other benefits.

Application forms and a complete job description are available at www.markesanwi.gov, or the Markesan City Hall, 150 South Bridge Street, Markesan, WI 53946.

Phone 920-398-3031.

Submit completed applications and a resume by 3:00 p.m. on March 3, 2022 to City of Markesan City Clerk at 150 South Bridge Street, Markesan WI 53946

City of Markesan is an equal opportunity employer.

Elizabeth A Amend, City Clerk-Treasurer

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