

Spring Valley & Elmwood School/Community Highlights

Boys' hoops secure share of conference title, #1 seed in Sectional

By Ron Cipriano
Sun-Argus/Gateway News

SPRING VALLEY, WI - It was a big week for the Cardinals last week, not only did they win three straight conference games, but they also secured at least a share of the conference title, which they can win outright with a win over Elk Mound on Friday night. They also earned the number one seed in their Sectional of the WIAA Tournament that begins next week, giving them the opportunity to host the winner of #8 seed Eau Claire Regis and #9 seed Augusta next Friday, March 3.

The sweep of conference games elevated the Cardinals past Durand to first place in the Dunn-St. Croix Conference with a 12-1 record. Durand is in second place with an 11-2 conference mark. If the Cardinals beat Elk Mound tomorrow night, they will win the conference title outright, if they lose, they might share the title (depending on how Durand finishes the season). The team was brought back down to earth this past Monday (before the snows hit) with a tough loss to a very good Clear Lake team.

The regular season wraps up tomorrow with a home game, and Parent's Night, against Elk Mound. The Cardinals will then await the winner of the Regis/Augusta game to be played at home. If Valley wins at home on Friday, they would host another game on Saturday night as well.

Spring Valley 60, Colfax 38 - in SV - The first of the back-to-back games between the two was a battle in the first half. Both teams played a physical, pounding game inside and the Cardinals just couldn't get the separation from the Vikings they needed to get some distance.

Colfax really slowed the Cardinals

down in the first half, trying to keep Valley from transition and fast breaks, which worked for a while. The two teams went into the locker room tied at 24 for halftime.

The second half is where the Cardinals exerted their dominance though, dictating the pace of the game, capitalizing on turnovers, and getting the fastbreaks they wanted.

The Cardinals pulled away from Colfax by outscoring the Vikings 36-14. The Cardinals made 46% of their shots from the floor for the game, connecting on 25-of-54 shots. Meanwhile, Valley held Colfax to 37% shooting, making just 15-of-41 shots. The Cardinals took advantage of 23 Viking miscues, turning those into 25 points.

Senior Tyler Bowman led the Cardinals with 17 points and 10 rebounds, with fellow seniors Brady Bednarek (14 points) and Connor Ducklow (10 points) helping the cause.

Nathan Hyduckovich led the Vikings with 13 points in the losing effort.

Spring Valley 61, Colfax 48 - @ Colfax - This was the second game of the week for the two teams in an unusual re-scheduling twist, just two days later. The result, however, was the same.

It, again, was a tight game in the first half with Colfax taking the early lead only to see the Cardinals storm back to forge a 27-23 halftime lead.

Colfax closed the gap early in the second half, erasing their deficit right away, only to see the Cardinals slowly and methodically pull away.

Both teams played better, cutting down on turnovers, shooting better from the floor for the Vikings, which worked. But the senior had eight

Valley made 45% from the floor on 24-of-53 shots (including 5-of-20 from three-point range), while the Vikings made 40% of their shots on their home floor (20-of-50, including 0-for-5 from three-point range).

Colfax really worked hard at rebounding better this game, pulling down more offensive (14 to 5) and defensive (23 to 19) boards than the Cardinals after losing that battle the previous game. Valley had more steals (11) and fewer turnovers (11) than Colfax (6 steals and 19 turnovers) that resulted in 24 points for the Cardinals and only 10 for Colfax.

Ducklow led the Cardinals with 19 points and six rebounds while freshman Cade Stasiak had 13 points to help the effort. Eli Entzminger (14) and Nic Jensen (10) paced the Vikings in the loss.

Spring Valley 68, Mondovi 34 - Connor Ducklow may have sealed his case as the conference player of the year with this game against the Buffaloes. The senior, and the whole team really, dominated the Buffaloes. Ducklow went 14-for-17 shooting, including 3-for-4 from three-point range, for 32 points. The team scored 42 points in the paint in the game, while limiting Mondovi to just 10.

Valley forged a 30-18 halftime lead and kept their foot down on the gas in the second half for the easy conference clinching win. The Cardinals shot 61% from the field, making 30-of-49 shots in the game (including 7-for-14 from three-point range), all while limiting Mondovi to 27% shooting (12-for-45, 3-of-16 in three's).

Mondovi really keyed on slowing Bowman in the game, which worked. But the senior had eight

assists, most of them to Ducklow, to lead the team.

Valley had 13 turnovers in the game while forcing the Buff's into 20 miscues.

Evan Gray led Mondovi with 10 points in the losing effort.

Clear Lake 68, Spring Valley 57 - This non-conference game late Monday night was a battle of two of the areas really good teams. Clear Lake has a number one Sectional seed in Division Five and the Cardinals have a number one Sectional seed in Division Four.

The hard-fought battle saw the Cardinals have one of their worst shooting nights in a long time, final stats weren't available as of press time, however.

Clear Lake forged a 34-32 halftime lead, but the two teams battled back-and-forth throughout the game. Unfortunately for the Cardinals, the foul differential and poor shooting hurt their chances as it seemed at times, they just couldn't buy a bucket.

The Cardinals were led in scoring by sophomore Jameson Bauer with 16 points, Ducklow had 12 and Bowman had 13 to help.

Clear Lake had four players reach double-digits in scoring, led by Riley Peterson's 18 points in the paint, Karl Kobernick had 16 (four three-pointers), Will Cain had 11 and Tyson Blanchard went 10-for-10 from the free throw line for 10 points. Clear Lake had 17-of-23 free throws in the game (73%) compared to Valley just going 6-for-7 (85%) from the stripe for the biggest difference. Valley was whistled for 21 fouls in the game compared to just 11 for Clear Lake.

Girls' BB season heads to playoffs with tough losses to SCC and Elk Mound last week

By Ron Cipriano
Sun-Argus/Gateway News

SPRING VALLEY, WI - Ending the regular season on a losing streak is not how teams want to head into the WIAA playoffs. Add to it that the Cardinals are playing a very tough Fall Creek team on the road doesn't bode well either, but if there is one thing you can be sure of, this team will not go without a fight.

The Cardinals scrap every chance they can, and the pair of losses last week are testaments to that.

Saint Croix Central 49, Spring Valley 31 - The Cardinals struggled shooting in this game, otherwise the score could have been much different. Valley managed to shoot just 20% from the floor in the game, making 10-of-51 shots, compared to 32% for the Panthers (20-of-63).

Both teams were pretty evenly matched otherwise. The Cardinals had 24 turnovers to 20 for SCC. The two teams were whistled for 24 and 22 fouls each. Valley was more aggressive with 13 steals compared to just six for the Panthers.

Central forged a 26-17 halftime lead with a little bit of a run in the

final minutes of the first half. The Cardinals couldn't climb back out of that hole in the second half.

Valley was led by freshman Halle Thomas with 12 points and 10 rebounds, and sophomore Mara Ducklow with 12 points. The problem for the Cardinals was only four

nine points each, another had seven for some more balanced scoring. Alayna Hackbarth had 13 rebounds as well.

Elk Mound 69, Spring Valley 30 - While the Cardinals shot better, Elk Mound shot really well.

The Mounders battled with the

their shots in the game, making 10-of-31 from the floor (including 4-for-12 from three-point range), while the Mounders made 53% in the game on 27-of-51 shooting (11-for-24 from three-point range).

Turnovers continued to plague the Cardinals as they had 24 miscues (along with 13 steals for the Mounders) in the game. Elk Mound had just 11 turnovers with just five steals for the Cardinals for a 36-10 scoring difference in points off turnovers.

Fittingly, senior Allison Graham led the Cardinals with 12 points on senior night. Ducklow had nine points to help the effort.

Ellie Schiszik led the Mounders with 19 points (five three-pointers), while Tori Blaskowski had 17 points and Brooke Emery had 12 for the winners.

The Cardinals end the regular season with a 6-18 regular season record, 3-11 conference mark in the Dunn-St. Croix. The Cardinals were scheduled to play on Tuesday night at Fall Creek, however, the weather changed that game to Wednesday night. If the Cardinals won, they would play at fourth seeded Durand on Friday night.



other players scored with none having more than two points.

The Panthers were led by Katie Gostovich's 17 points and 16 rebounds. Two other players had

Cardinals for a little bit early, then took off for a 47-20 halftime lead before coasting home with the win on senior night for the Cardinals.

Valley connected on 32% of

Schmitt going to state!

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SAINT CROIX FALLS, WI - Spring Valley senior Max Schmitt earned the right to wrestle in Madison starting today with a Third Place finish in the WIAA Sectional here last weekend.

Schmitt, who holds a 21-12 season record, battled through the 152-weight class bracket only to face a familiar foe in the Championship match.

Schmitt opened the wrestling as the lone Spring Valley-Elmwood wrestler, with a major decision win over James Braun, a junior from Phillips, with a 17-5 score to advance the semifinal match.

Cody Wagner, a junior from Mondovi, gave a good fight with Schmitt, but the Cardinal wrestler was able to outlast the Buffalo wrestler to a 3-2 decision win. It

was sweet revenge for Schmitt as Wagner had previously beaten Schmitt with a fall victory in the D-SC dual match in the first period. Wagner moved to the consolation side of the bracket.

Schmitt then lost a tough 5-2 decision to Tristan Drier of Cadott, the Regional Champion from the weekend before. Drier had beaten Schmitt 8-3 the weekend before so it was a better match for the senior, but still disappointing to lose.

The loss meant that Schmitt would have to possibly wrestle for second place or third place, both spots get to advance to Madison. If Wagner won the consolation match with Tommy Quinn, a senior from Cameron, then Schmitt would get second place. Quinn was able to beat Wagner 10-2 to force the match with Schmitt, who was coming off the tough loss to Drier. Quinn won

8-2 over Schmitt for second place.

The second and third place wrestlers from each sectional begin wrestling on Thursday while the sectional champions will receive first round byes and wrestle on Friday. Schmitt will have a tough match on his hands with a match-up with Coleman senior Will Bieber (44-6 and ranked fourth in Division Three at 152 pounds in the state). Bieber will be looking to make a statement having not entered as a Sectional Champion, losing to Stratford senior Elijah Lucio (34-2,

ranked 2nd in the state).

Wrestling on Thursday will happen approximately 7:15, but with six mats going at one time, the start times are just estimates. Matches can be monitored and watched on trackwrestling.com or possibly through other WIAA links.



I don't really dislike winter, but I do dislike having animals in the winter. It seems when the temperature drops below zero, and there is snow on the ground, all my chores get harder. It gets harder to get the water to the animal pen. Gone are the days of just turning on the hose and letting it go, now I must lug buckets, or when conditions permit, fill the tank in the UTV, get the pump, and wrestle the hose over the fence.

I got off work a little early last Wednesday and accompanied by my new co-worker/office dog/sidekick Ruby, decided to get the chores out of the way. I loaded my little sled up with two bales of hay, a 5-gallon pail of water, and figured in ten minutes I'd be smooth sailing and free to relax.

Although the outside temp was higher, the wind was nasty, and made the air much cooler. I chucked the hay over the fence, dumped the water into the heated bucket, and went through the gate to check the coop. I always leave Ruby outside the fence, while she doesn't hurt the birds, she gets excited, and Bonnie (the goat) likes to head butt her so it's the safer alternative for everyone. I shut the gate behind me and trudged my way up to the door.

Now, our chicken coop door is a regular sized door made from a piece of plywood. On the outside, we have a black metal latch that slaps into place and keeps the door shut, nice and tight. For this latch, it only opens from the outside. You have to pull the black piece up for the metal pin to slide out. For a long time, we had a rope that would lace through the top piece and into the coop so that if the door shuts, you could pull it and let yourself out.

Well, it just so happens that a few months ago, that rope broke. I didn't think much of it and just made sure to open the door wide so it wouldn't slam shut. Remember that wind I mentioned?

As I was pouring my layer of feed into the feeder, a large gust came blowing up the hill, knocked on the door and SLAM, it shut with me still inside. Now, I've hypothesized ways to escape the chicken coop because this isn't the first time this has happened. Usually, Tony is close by helping with the chores, but I had ventured out on my own and he was nowhere to be seen through the dirty little coop window.

Needless to say, I guess I better fix that darn rope, otherwise, if you ever see my column missing, check to see if I'm locked in the chicken coop.

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