

Conference crown clinched

Lady Thunderbirds beat Hodags to win second straight GNC title

Brett LaBore
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

Shutouts have helped Lakeland girls' soccer to lead the Great Northern Conference. One goal was all they needed to win their second straight conference title.

The Thunderbirds (9-0 GNC) beat Rhinelander (7-2 GNC) 1-0 on a goal by Alyson Lazaroff Friday night at Mike Webster Stadium. With a two-game lead on the Hodags

with one game to go, the Thunderbirds clinched the GNC title to become back-to-back conference champions.

"This team has worked so hard each and every game to get the win. We have had many ups-and-downs this year with many injuries and really close wins. They have fought through some very tough and challenging games, but these ladies do not give up," coach Stephanie Hartzheim said. "To be able to battle through all of these challenging games and to come out with a win shows how hard this team works. Our defense has worked hard every game to only allow one goal in conference which was off of a PK."

"I know we lost a lot of seniors last year, but our pro-



BRETT LABORE/LAKELAND TIMES

The Thunderbirds celebrate Alyson Lazaroff's goal in the first half against Rhinelander Friday, May 19 at Mike Webster Stadium in Rhinelander. Lazaroff's goal was the difference in a 1-0 win.



BRETT LABORE/LAKELAND TIMES

Josie Wentland (23) and Rhinelander's Ava Lamers battle for the ball in the first half Friday, May 19 at Mike Webster Stadium in Rhinelander. Maria Gironella (3) and the rest of the Thunderbirds kept Lamers off the scoreboard.

gram is strong. I mean our coaching's phenomenal," Lazaroff said. "Our team chemistry and hard work is really what put us through this game, and I think no matter who you lose, that's something that's taught by the coaches and through the program."

Rhinelander put a lot of pressure on the Thunderbirds early. Ava Evenhouse was busy, making two huge saves just 2:44 into the game.

"Ava gets excited every practice when she gets to jump in goal to practice getting shots on her. She has really stepped up in big moments to stop some shots that could have been goals,"

Hartzheim said. "She is a hard worker that is very coachable and that has helped her become better every day."

A few minutes later, Leah Jamison took a shot that was just off target. Ava Lamers, leading the GNC in points and goals as of May 10, took a direct kick that was too high.

At 12:30, Lakeland put their own scare into the Hodags. Josie Wentland took a direct kick that hit the crossbar.

Ava made a save on Ava as Evenhouse stopped a run made by Lamers at 15:44. Wentland then set up Taylor Heleniak with a breakaway opportunity to the goal. Rhinelander keeper Mya Krouze came out of the net to

stop Heleniak's run.

Both teams had chances to score goals in a competitive first half. The game was still tied 0-0.

The Thunderbirds struck first at 24:16. Lazaroff's shot from far out found the upper-half corner of the net. The goal fired up the Lakeland crowd and gave the Thunderbird a 1-0 lead. Wentland got the assist on the goal.

"Throughout the season, I always sit at the top of the box and whatever comes out I'm just taught to kick it back in," Lazaroff said. "When Josie had the ball I was open right in the center. I just took

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Lakeland softball opens playoffs with shutout

Thunderbirds play Mosinee today at 5 p.m.

Brett LaBore
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

Hosting a playoff game for the first time in a long time, Lakeland softball won their second playoff game in as many years on Thursday.

The Thunderbirds beat 10-seeded Colby/Abbotsford 8-0 in a Division 2 regional quarterfinal game.

"It felt really good. I think we played a good game, and the energy was up," Moriah Louis said.

Lakeland scored eight runs on 15 hits. Four different Thunderbirds had three hits in the contest. It's the

first time this season the Thunderbirds have won back-to-back games against two different teams.

Ali Timmerman scored the first run of the game in the first inning. She made it all the way to third base on a shortstop error. Hannah Louis drove her in with one of her three hits. Lakeland led 1-0.

Marlee Strasburg talked about the mentality the Thunderbirds had coming into the game.

"Try our best, give 100 percent," she said. "Just hit the ball, you don't need to be a hero, but try to get on base."

That would be all the Thunderbirds would need in the game as Saylor Timmerman



BRETT LABORE/LAKELAND TIMES

Saylor Timmerman strikes out her eighth batter of the game in the third inning of a WIAA Division 2 regional quarterfinal game against Colby/Abbotsford Thursday, May 18 at Lenz Field in Minocqua. Timmerman pitched five shutout innings with 15 strikeouts.

pitched another dazzling performance. She had 15 strikeouts in five shutout innings, including four in the third inning. She allowed just one hit and walk to get her second career playoff win.

"She's an amazing leader. She brings energy and positivity to our team," Strasburg said. "It would be very hard without her."

The Thunderbirds broke the game open in the third inning. The first six batters of the inning reached base. Ali Timmerman singled to right for Lakeland's second run. That would start a string of four straight RBIs.

Hannah Louis singled followed by Moriah Louis with an RBI double to right-center field. Karlin Williams

drove in a run to make it 5-0 Lakeland's lead. Kieran Petrie kept the inning going with a two-out RBI hit to left.

"(Bargender) was pretty good. I guess I was just excited to get up there and hit," Moriah Louis said. "Moving up in the box was the main thing."

Lakeland batted around and led 6-0.

Moriah Louis came in to pitch the final two innings. She pitched two shutout innings with no hits, one walk and three strikeouts.

"I like it a lot. Kieran's a good catcher," Moriah Louis said.

For the third time in the game, Ali Timmerman scored, this time

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Will Fortier's gem helps Thunderbirds beat Hodags

Lakeland baseball finishes fourth in the GNC

Brett LaBore

OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

Lakeland baseball had a chance at sole possession of fourth place in the GNC. Though the bats didn't make a lot of noise, the Thunderbirds found a way to get a big win.

"So we were going for fourth or sixth in the conference so that's a big jump and Northland Pines is definitely a team that we got to beat. Getting shutout 14 scoreless innings is not where we want to be," Ashton Bremer said. "We've been putting the ball in play, just couldn't find gaps so just keeping the confidence up was big for us today. We still want to put up more runs, but I felt like we started to put the bat on the ball, and we got on base and got two runs in and Will (Fortier) threw a gem."

Northland Pines shut out the Thunderbirds for the second time in a week with a 6-0 win on Thursday. The Thunderbirds wrapped up conference play with a 2-1 win against Rhinelander on Saturday morning.

Northland Pines

The Eagles got out to a quick 3-0 lead in the



BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Ashton Bremer applies the tag to Rhinelander's Barak Rappley for the out at home plate as part of a double play started by third baseman Ben Peterson in the fifth inning of a 2-1 win Saturday, May 20 at the Lakeland Union High School baseball field in Minocqua.

first inning against Lakeland starter Ben Peterson.

"They opened the game with a single and then a double," coach Steve Anderson said. "We had an error and then another single scored two more runs."

Northland Pines scored one run each in the second and third innings. Landyn Hoefft went 4/4 at the plate with two doubles, an RBI and run. After beat-

ing Lakeland on the mound on Tuesday, he used his bat to beat the Thunderbirds on Thursday.

Nolan Lurvey had two hits and two runs. Austin Samanske had a home run as part of four extra base hits for the Eagles.

Peterson gave up 13 hits in seven innings of work. He allowed six runs, five earned, with one a walk. He had three strikeouts.

"Ben had a decent night on the mound," Anderson said. "He was relatively efficient and five earned runs is something we should be able to overcome, but five errors really hurt our confidence and made it hard to back up Ben as well as we should have."

Lakeland totaled just four hits and no walks against Northland Pines starter Jonathan Miller. He went all seven in-

nings with five strikeouts to get the win.

"We are in a bit of a hitting slump and need to find ways to score runs. We had times in this game where we hit the ball hard, but we hit it right at somebody," Anderson said. "Unfortunately that's baseball sometimes."

Mitchel Fulton reached base twice with a single and hit-by-pitch. Merick Trotter and Nate Ariola had doubles.

Five errors led to one unearned run for Peterson. Lakeland had more errors (five) than hits (four) on Thursday.

Rhinelander

The Thunderbirds sweep the season series over the Hodags. After falling behind early in their last two games, the Thunderbirds got out to a lead right away.

"It was definitely big," Danny Gahler said. "It changed the momentum for us, got us a lot of energy that we needed, carried us through most of the game and, yeah, kept making plays, kept the energy up, kept getting after it."

Will Fortier opened as Lakeland's starter. He got two big outs with two runners on to end the top half of the first inning.

Lakeland would score both of their runs in the bottom half of the inning. Logan Gray-Ives, batting lead-off on Saturday, got hit by a pitch. Bremer singled to center. Gahler loaded the bases with a hit to left off Rhinelander starter Max Ratty.

A ground ball in the infield by Fortier netted a run. The Hodags got the out at second, but a run came home to score. Next up, Nate Ariola drove in an RBI as he reached first base on an error. Ratty did strand two runners with two

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Third place finish for Lakeland boys' tennis

Sawyer Brown/Gage Bowe finish second team all-conference at GNC Meet

Brett LaBore

OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

Having the Great Northern Conference Meet at home gave the Lakeland boys' tennis team an opportunity to play with familiar surroundings. They had a number of all-conference selections.

As a team, the Thunderbirds finished third out of five teams in the tournament with 19 points. They also finished third with 71 total points on the season. Rhinelander won the conference tournament with 40 points and took first overall.

"We've kind of played in third place all year. Our doubles has not been our strong suit. In the GNC Tournament all three doubles teams came alive and played strong and tough," coach Ted Dasler said. "That's really all I care about. Giving your best effort and learning each time you are out. Winning will take care of itself. This young team is growing and the best is yet to come. With six out of 10 players receiv-

ing some type of all-conference recognition, we are in good shape if we continue to improve over the summer."

No. 3 doubles Sawyer Brown/Gage Bowe came into their bracket as the two-seed. They won their first matchup over Medford's Keagan Gehrke/Oliver Swiantek by a 7-5, 6-2 score. Playing them earlier in the week, it was the second time in four days Lakeland beat the duo.

"That happens often when a team loses a tough first set. When players look back and can't let go of the past, just like life, the present bites them," Dasler said. "We also don't want players to settle in and be happy with just the first set when there's lots more to play for. Sawyer and Gage stayed focused."

Brown/Bowe was Lakeland's only appearance in a conference championship match. They took on Eli Lundt/Dawson Pontell. Rhinelander took home the conference crown with a 6-1, 6-1 win.

With a second place finish, Brown/Bowe were placed on the second team all-conference list.

"I think they had a fantastic run in the tournament," Dasler said. "It tells me they are growing in communication, togetherness as a single doubles unit and understand-



BRETT LABORE/LAKELAND TIMES

Sawyer Brown, left, and Gage Bowe celebrate a point during their No. 3 doubles match vs. Medford at the GNC Meet Thursday, May 18 at the Lakeland Union High School tennis courts in Minocqua. Brown/Bowe finished second team all-conference.

ing of proper shots and targets."

Dominic Gironella ended up getting the two-seed at No. 1 singles. Dalton Fritz of Rhinelander got the three-seed while Medford's Brayden Balcari earned the top spot.

Gironella and Fritz split the

season series with one win each. It was another tight contest on Thursday.

A strong start gave Gironella the 6-3 win in set one. He won a number of rallies and forced Fritz into making mistakes. Gironella also used his lob shot to his advantage when Fritz went

to the net.

In the second set, Gironella led 4-3. Fritz started to pick up some momentum. He won two straight games to make it 5-4. This time, Fritz forced Gironella into mistakes. Fritz also had a num-

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One more win before playoffs

Lakeland golf wins by one stroke over Medford

Brett LaBore

OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

The Lakeland golf team has been no stranger to close meets, even winning by a stroke. They did it again, winning a non-conference invite by one stroke over Medford on Friday.

The Thunderbirds shot a 319 to win the 2023 Saints Last Chance Invite at Lake Wissota Golf Course in Chippewa Falls. The Raiders shot a 320 for second place.

"A lot of those teams are Division 2 teams. Those are very nice, really good, solid golf teams. Nice for us to have that competition. Really important for the guys to play with those better teams and really prepare you for the playoff run," coach Scott Howard said. "Regionals — really good teams there and sectionals incredible golf teams. It prepares us for those types of things."

Lakeland used this invite as one final tune-up before the playoffs start today.

"Really our mindset on that was we had our final conference tournament on Tuesday and had a full week until regionals," Howard said. "(One more) tournament to keep the guys sharp. No substitute for competitive golf. That was just our mindset on that one — last competitive round for postseason would be beneficial for the guys."

Not only did Lakeland come out on top by a razor thin margin against the Raiders,

but they also had to fend off St. Croix Central (323) and Bloomer (324). Four teams were separated by five or less strokes.

"Every shot counts there," Howard said.

Zach Hintz of Medford won the invite with a 74. Gray Wagner stepped up to a shoot a three-over 75, one of his best rounds of the year. That put him tied for second with St. Croix Central's Nick Mueller.

Wagner shot a 40 on the front nine and a one-under 35 on the back nine. His 35 tied for the best nine-hole total, front or back. It was also the best score on the back nine for the entire field.

"It was chilly, kind of cold. Gray's a grinder. Sometimes weather like that brings out his best," Howard said. "We knew he'd be back and really proven that to us these past two tournaments by leading the team, great confidence booster for him going into regionals Tuesday."

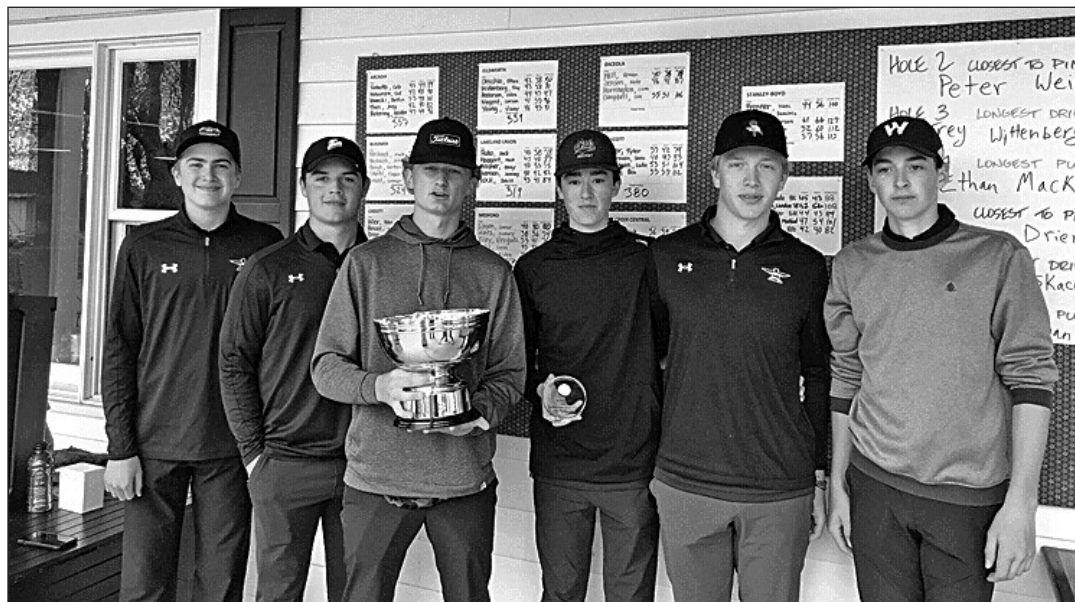
Wagner shot a four or lower on every back nine hole but the 13th hole where he shot a five.

"(It started) at Inshalla (Country Club), could see his confidence growing there," Howard said. "(He) really carried it over the second half of his round."

Rubo shot a 78 to tie for sixth place. He also had a better back nine with a 38. He shot a 40 on the front nine.

Both Rubo and Matt Haggart faced adversity when they broke a club.

"Jack actually broke the shaft on his driving iron, his 2-driving iron which he uses. He's usually hitting that. That was taken out of play. And then his 3-wood as well," Howard said. "Matt Haggart



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOGRAPH

Lakeland golfers, from left, Davis Kock, Matt Haggart, Chandler Savel, Gray Wagner, Jack Rubo and Jeremy Hensen take time for a photo after their first place finish at the 2023 Saints Last Chance Invite Friday, May 19 at Lake Wissota Golf Course in Chippewa Falls.

... face broke on his driver. A lot happened there so that's been a point of emphasis to me over the weekend, take things out of my golf shop that will help them out. We're scrambling a little bit trying to make some equipment changes with these top guys."

Jeremy Hensen finished as Lakeland's third best golfer with an 82, tying him for 15th place. He shot his best on the front nine with a 39, the lowest front nine score for the Thunderbirds. He totaled a 43 on the back.

"Jeremy's been solid. (He) just keeps rolling, keeps going along. He's making a difference and confidence continues to grow so we're going to need him coming Tuesday and hopefully beyond," Howard said. "He's a guy that definitely improved himself."

Davis Kock returned to varsity action for the first time

since April. He ended up tying for 20th. He totaled an 84 — a 43 front nine and 41 back nine. He finished two-under par for his last six holes.

"That's something we haven't seen at all. That was really cool to see," Howard said. "Great finish by him. I think he sees that now. He knows he's able to do it. Really young player put together a stretch of holes like that. This was a big step in the right direction for a young player."

Kock competed in a playoff with Lawson Bain on Monday for the fifth and final playoff spot. That JV tournament took place in Three Lakes.

"(Davis) just proved he can do it. He's gonna get an opportunity to play for that spot," Howard said.

Haggart tied for 25th with an 86. He totaled a 47 on the front nine. He had a much

better back nine, shooting a 39.

Chandler Savel played as Lakeland's sixth golfer, shooting an 89.

Up next, the Thunderbirds (11-1, 6-1) begin playoffs with a Division 1 regional match today at Northwood Golf Club in Rhinelander starting at 9 a.m.

"Most of our guys are pretty familiar with it. Played there for conference, only played the front nine twice. So we'd love to win, but ultimately advancing is key there to continuing our season," Howard said. "(The) two keys for Northwood are club selection off the tee and putting the ball in play there and liming our three-putts. If we can do those two things as a team, we'll be just fine."

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Mercer's KD Knipp, Eiley Schoeneman win conference titles

Mercer girls place third in final Indianhead Conference Meet

Brett LaBore

OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

Two Tigers won three events at the Indianhead Conference Meet last week in what turned out to be a successful day for the Mercer track and field teams.

The Indianhead Conference Meet took place Tuesday, May 16 at Ashland High School. The Mercer girls finished third out of eight teams with 96 points. South Shore won with 149. The Mercer boys finished sixth out of 10 teams with 32 points with just four boys.

"Great moments to watch as a coach. Kids giving everything they got, and the kids cheering each other, something I won't forget," coach Adam Miller said. "Cause it's been a rough

year in Mercer with the referendum and things not going our way in basketball. The conference meet — it was special, and something I'm not going to forget."

This was the last Indianhead Conference Meet ever as the conference gets renamed to the Northern Lights Conference next year.

Conversely, this was the first time that both first and second place were recognized as all-conference performers. First place was rewarded with first team all-conference and second place honorable mention.

"Over the years you think about baseball and softball and basketball and every sport has that. For example, (Eiley) and Nora (Skoraczewski of Drummond) are (two) of the best throwers in the state and to have Eiley not be all-conference would be terrible," Miller said. "So it's awesome we have all-conference in two places now."

Girls

KD Knipp and Eiley



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOGRAPHS

KD Knipp, right, and Rylinn Rossi celebrate their all-conference finishes in the 200-meter dash during the Indianhead Conference Meet Tuesday, May 16 at Ashland High School. Knipp also won the 100-meter dash.

Schoeneman won individual conference titles to put them first team all-conference.



Eiley Schoeneman is all smiles after winning the shot put during the Indianhead Conference Meet Tuesday, May 16 at Ashland High School. Schoeneman placed second in the discus as well.

Knipp won the 100 and 200 in Ashland. With Mellen's Makenah Stricker out with injury, Knipp won both races in convincing fashion.

"(Makenah) didn't run so a little disappointed. Definitely was the goal for (KD) to be conference champ in those two events, and she got to run the 4x200 which took second," Miller said.

In the 100-meter dash, Knipp won with a time of 12.91, almost a full second over second place. She then beat out teammate Rylinn Rossi in the 200-meter dash with a time of 28.38. Rossi finished runner-up for honorable mention with a time of 29.93.

"We wanted (Rylinn) to run a little bit better time in the 100, she was real disappointed. (I had) to tell her to forget about it," Miller said. "And one of the best things I've seen was KD way up in front ... Rylinn probably had 20 meters to go. KD turned around with wide open arms and hugged Rylinn. It was a great moment to watch when Rylinn got second and KD so excited for her teammate."

Eiley Schoeneman took home the conference crown in the shot

put. She had a throw of 35-2.5. She beat out Drummond's Nora Skoraczewski who threw a 33-6.5.

"Eiley had an unbelievable day. She beat (Nora) for the first time this year, came back from injury. She's 100 percent now," Miller said. "So that was fantastic for Eiley to be first place and conference champ and beating Nora from Drummond. Hopefully (Eiley) can do the same thing at regionals and sectionals."

Schoeneman finished honorable mention in the discus. She had a mark of 103-3. This time, Skoraczewski won the title with a throw of 122-8.

Company had a runner-up placement in triple jump. She had a mark of 30-3. South Shore's Addy La-Fontaine won with a mark of 31-10.

"Too bad we don't have (Marta) for next year. She's just catching on. I think she has a good opportunity to go

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Crown

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a touch, and I just shot, and we practice those every single day, and I just felt really prepared for the moment.”

Friday was Lazaroff's first goal since May 2 vs. Antigo. It came when the Thunderbirds needed it most.

“Alyson has been getting closer and closer every game to scoring. To be able to score the only goal in such a big game was an exciting moment,” Hartzheim said. “She has worked hard to get her shot on goal, and we knew it would come in a big moment.”

A physical game, both Wentland and Rhinelander's Emma Chiamulera picked up a yellow card shortly after the goal. There was a total of 20-plus fouls called in the game.

“We knew going into the game it would be physical,” Hartzheim said. “We had to mentally be ready going into the game knowing we need to be ready to challenge every ball, and it would be a physical challenge.”

Heleniak passed it to Lazaroff as the Thunderbirds looked for their second goal. Lazaroff's shot was too high.

“They're really starting to work together, they're really getting their groove,” Callie Ullius said about the offense. “People are hustling to the ball all the way to the sidelines, and Alyson scored that goal, but the rest of the team made it happen.”

A Rhinelander corner kick turned into a loose ball in the box. But, a foul on Rhinelander ended the threat.

Lakeland led 1-0 at halftime, the same score at halftime when the two teams met earlier in the season in Minocqua. The Hodags would need at least one goal to keep their conference title hopes alive.

“It's super exciting, we still have one more game. This year we knew it was going to be difficult, especially coming off of last year's win,” Maria Gironella said. “We had to work just as hard and it's super exciting, we really came together this year and we were able to pull it off.”

Rhinelander's Helena Wisner picked up the Hodags' second yellow card of the game at 49:03. That led to a Lakeland direct kick that was off target. Shots were nearly equal with Rhinelander holding a slight 15-14 advantage.

Krouze saved a through ball right before Heleniak could get there. Krouze also made a save on a shot by Wentland. Krouze totaled 10 saves in the game.

A Hodag corner kick at 68:00 gave Rhinelander a chance to tie the game. It was cleared away.

“They're a very good team. And in the conference it's always been us vs. them battling for the top. We really had to dig deep in this game,” Lazaroff said. “The rivalry is really important obviously, creates a lot of chemistry. The field was electric tonight so it was a really big win for us.”



BRETT LABORE/LAKELAND TIMES

Ava Evenhouse goes to make a save on the ball in the first half against Rhinelander Friday, May 19 at Mike Webster Stadium in Rhinelander. Evenhouse totaled eight saves in the shutout win.

Once again, Gironella was tasked with marking Lamers, making sure she didn't get good looks at shots.

“Tonight I was man-marking Ava which I just stay on her the entire time,” Gironella said. “I was trying to prevent her from getting the ball or doing anything with it when she does get it.”

Lakeland kept the Hodags off the scoreboard for the second straight game. It was the first time since April 27 that Rhinelander was shutout, the first meeting between the two teams.

Evenhouse had a total of eight saves in the contest, coming up with some of her biggest saves of the season to date.

“Ava was fantastic tonight as a freshman coming in, and she still hasn't gotten a ton of shots in games, but she did so good tonight coming out,” Gironella said. “And our defense also amazing. Callie at the helm always sweeping up the balls and everyone else coming together, working together, communicating and they just did so well tonight and all our games.”

Ullius, Cale Quade, Charley Cleveland, Noley Guthrie and Landry Lenz's defensive effort put the Thunderbirds in a position to win with another shutout.

“Every minute is stress at every time. Even if it's on the other side of the field, I'm always stressed, I'm always

waiting for it to get bombed over my head,” Ullius said. “I think we've been really working on our shape as a checkmark and just supporting each other, and I think that it's improved a lot as we've learned to do that a little better each time. So every time, every game that we play, we are much better, and we are improving much better as a team.”

Up next, the Thunderbirds (13-1, 9-0) look to go a perfect 10-0 in conference play when they host Antigo tonight at IncredibleBank Field. The game starts at 7 p.m.

Brett LaBore may be reached at brett@lakelandtimes.com or sports@lakelandtimes.com.

Shutout

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on a wild pitch in the sixth inning. Moriah Louis had her second RBI of the game as she hit Hannah Louis home.

The Lakeland bats came to play. Ali Timmerman, Hannah Louis, Williams and Strasburg had three hits each. Moriah Louis had two hits.

“It was really good actually,” Strasburg said. “I think everyone has been working hard at practice, trying to get the balls, study the pitcher so that we know what we're coming into and just trying to get a hit on the ball.”

The Thunderbirds (8-11, 5-7) are hoping to bring the bats with them at two-seeded Mosinee (18-4, 9-3). The two teams split the season series. In a doubleheader on April 24, Mosinee won game one 4-1. Lakeland then won game two 2-0.



BRETT LABORE/LAKELAND TIMES

Lila Biller fields the ball before throwing to first for the out in the seventh inning of a WIAA Division 2 regional quarterfinal game against Colby/Abbotsford Thursday, May 18 at Lenz Field in Minocqua.

“I think we're very excited to play Mosinee,” Strasburg said. “I think we need to get our bats on the ball ... and just have 100 percent on our team plays

so that we can stop them from scoring and score ourselves.”

Tonight's regional semifinal game takes place at Mosinee High School. First pitch is

scheduled for 5 p.m.

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Lakeland Youth Football 2023 registration underway

Registration is underway for the 2023 Lakeland Youth Football Season. It is available for all boys entering the fifth or sixth grade in the fall 2023 school year.

Practices are held on

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at Brandy Park. Games are Saturdays at 11 a.m. The team plays in the High-8 League against Chequamegon, Eagle River, Hurley and Lac du Flambeau. In addition,

they also schedule games against other area teams.

The cost to register is \$120 and all equipment is provided by Lakeland Youth Football (except cleats). The link for the online registration form

is: <https://lakelandyouthfootball.sportngin.com/register/form/622385356>.

For additional information, feel free to contact Brian Lenz (program director) at 920-948-8846 or brianlenz44@gmail.com.

Want to see more photos?

To see photos from games, check out the *Lakeland Times* SmugMug page at <https://the-lakeland-times.smugmug.com>.

Celebrate National Tennis Month this May in Eagle River

Tennis is booming, and the Greater Eagle River Tennis Association (GERTA) is inviting you to join in the game as part of National Tennis Month this May.

National Tennis Month is a nationwide grassroots effort driven by the United States Tennis Association (USTA) and its industry partners celebrating tennis, a sport which challenges one both physically and mentally. Their goal is to bring awareness about the sport and its benefits by bringing existing and new players to the game with special events and play opportunities in our community.

Greater Eagle River Tennis Association (GERTA) is partnering with the United States Tennis Association (USTA) in promoting their kick-off for the 2023 tennis season on Tuesday, May 30, at the GERTA courts located at 120 S. Forrest Street, Eagle River. Court fun and games for all ages will be from 3 to 5 p.m. There will be food and drinks for participants from 5 to 6 p.m., and then they will have adult players round robin competition from 6 to 8 p.m. This is a free event. To register contact greatereaglerivertennis@gmail.com or call (715) 542-2337 to ask for a flyer.

Gem

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strikeouts.

"We jumped on them early, got two runs quick. Our pitcher Will Fortier just threw an absolute gem tonight. Threw a no-hitter through four, just an absolute gem," Gahler said. "(Our) defense was great, didn't make a whole lot of errors. We put the ball in play a lot, and that's what really helped us."

The rest of the game went by rather quickly. The game lasted roughly 90 minutes as Fortier and Ratty pitched efficiently and effectively.

"So our strategy was just kind of stay on the outside half of the plate. (Will's) got a great slider so set that fastball and slider, threw in a curve this week and we thought that was a good mix from that slider, kind of buckle people," Bremer said. "I mean, even when he was missing his pitches, he had that pop, he was executing the high fastball. He got a lot of people so he just threw a great game today."

Danny Gahler had

himself a day defensively at shortstop. He made nearly every play and got runners out at first and second base.

"You got to make routine look routine, got to make those plays. Just got to get those outs," Gahler said. "Defense is key in this game and especially got my first baseman, Mitchy, made a heck of a play out there at the end there on my bad throw, but a lot of plays for me tonight. It was good."

Fortier did run into some trouble in the fifth inning as Rhinelander threatened to tie or take the lead. AJ Turek walked to load the bases with one out. Ratty helped his cause with an RBI single to shallow center. Just one run scored as Lakeland got the ball in quickly.

Third baseman Ben Peterson made what might have been the play of the game. With Rhinelander having all the momentum and Sam Schneider up at the plate, Peterson started a double play.

Schneider hit a ground ball to Peterson. He stepped on third and fired to catcher Bremer at home who tagged out the runner. The double



BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Nate Ariola looks for a hit at the plate in the sixth inning against Rhinelander Saturday, May 20 at the Lakeland Union High School baseball field in Minocqua.

play changed the momentum back to Lakeland's side. They still led 2-1.

"That was huge cause Ben played it perfectly. Stepped on third, he didn't really have to rush it cause it was a hard hit ball and threw a perfect ball to me," Bremer said.

"I didn't really have to do much, I just had to catch and tag out. So I give that one all to Ben, he played it perfectly. After having that error and coming back from that, that showed some grit there so that was awesome."

The Thunderbirds did-

n't get a lot of action on the base paths. Bremer walked and stole second base. Ratty got the final two outs he needed in the fifth.

In the sixth inning, Ariola had an infield single. Trotter grounded into a double play to clear the bases.

It came down to the seventh and final inning. Fortier remained in the game as pitcher, looking for three more outs. He quickly got the first two outs on two pitches.

Dylan Vanderbunt kept Rhinelander alive as he reached on an error. Lakeland calmly got the final out on a ground ball, getting the fielder's choice at second.

Fortier ended up going all seven innings giving up just two hits, one earned run and three walks with seven strikeouts.

Lakeland played non-conference Chequamegon on Monday in the regular season finale. Coverage of this game will be in the Friday, May 26 edition of *The Times*.

Up next, the Thunderbirds (8-12, 5-7) open playoffs as the ninth-seed against Merrill, the eight-seed. The two teams split a doubleheader on April 29. This regional quarterfinal game takes place Thursday, May 25 at 5 p.m. in Merrill.

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Third

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ber of overhead slams at the net.

Gironella didn't make it easy on Fritz. At one point, Gironella lost his racquet, picked it up and kept playing. Fritz won two out of the three next three games to win 7-5. Fritz proceeded to win the tiebreaker 10-5 to advance to the championship.

"I think Dominic got a little frustrated. A couple things didn't go his way. Some of it was the luck of the bounce," Dasler said. "Dom is a great competitor, and I think it was just a blip in the overall season."

Now in the third place game, Gironella ended his day on a positive note. He beat Antigo's Nolan Bunnell for the third time this season by a 6-2, 6-4 score. Gironella was honorable mention all-conference.

"Gironella takes coaching well and will try everything to help solve the riddle of his opponents' play," Dasler said.

Angus Callender joined Gironella for honorable mention all-conference. At No. 4 singles, he opened as the three-seed with a 2-6, 2-6 loss to Antigo's Garrett Tomczyk.

Angus Callender moved to the third place game where he took on Medford's Brett Lundy. Angus Callender won a close set one by a 7-5 score. Taking advantage of his lead, Angus Callender closed out the match with a 6-3 second set win for third place.

"Angus has learned a ton in a few short weeks and only a few singles matches. The biggest thing I would like to keep seeing is supreme effort every single time," Dasler said. "No excuses. He's putting that men-

tality together."

The final honorable mention all-conference selection came at No. 1 doubles with Axle Jacobs/August Callender. They were the three-seed in the tournament. They fell 2-6, 5-7 to Keagen Austreng/Marcus Lansing in the semifinals.

Just like they did earlier in the week, Jacobs/August Callender got a big win vs. Medford's Mason Reimann/Parker Hill. Lakeland won 6-1, 6-2 for third place.

"We've employed the Aussie formation and that surprises some opponents," Dasler said. "But (Axle/August) are getting better at understanding angles and the proper target, and it's paying off."

Carson Tegland didn't end up all-conference at No. 2 singles, but he did get a victory. Tegland began play as the five-seed vs. Ezra Braun of Antigo. Tegland won 6-0, 6-1 to begin his day.

Tegland had to take on Rhinelander's John Currie, who won both matches vs. Tegland in the regular season. Currie won 6-0, 6-4 as Tegland made it much more competitive in the second set.

Tegland was the only Thunderbird to play three matches on Thursday. He took on Bennett Eckendorf in the third place match, who was 2-0 on the season vs. Tegland. It was another close match for Tegland. He came back to win the second set 7-5 to send it to a tiebreaker. Eckendorf won 10-8 to take third.

"I think Carson had a fantastic day. He needed some positive things to happen, and they did," Dasler said. "No matter the outcome, I told him I was proud of the way he played — with grit and energy."

Jack Stepec came in as the



BRETT LABORE/LAKELAND TIMES

Jayson Wahlgren returns the ball to his opponent while on the run in his No. 2 doubles match against Rhinelander at the GNC Meet Thursday, May 18 at the Lakeland Union High School tennis courts in Minocqua.

two-seed in his semifinal match with Rhinelander's No. 3 Gavin Denis. Denis earned a 6-3, 6-1 win. In the third place match, Stepec took on Antigo's Michael Hagerty, who he beat a few weeks back. In a match that went to yet another tiebreaker, Hagerty got the win by a 7-5, 4-6, 10-6 score.

"I do know Jack loves the game of tennis and will do everything he can to bring energy to a match," Dasler said.

No. 2 doubles Isaac Olson/Jayson Wahlgren took on the top-seeded

Rhinelander duo of Leo Losch/Charlie Heck. Rhinelander won 6-0, 6-0.

Olson/Wahlgren moved to the third place game where they played Medford's Cale Schulz/Jude Stark. This was a rematch from earlier in the week that Medford won closely. Schulz/Stark won set one 7-5. Olson/Wahlgren won 6-2 in the second set. Moving to a tiebreaker, Medford won 10-5.

"Isaac started punching his volleys more, and it changed the outcome on quite a few points," Dasler said. "I think they are gelling a bit as we

head to subsectional."

Lakeland finished 0-4 in games that had tiebreakers.

Lakeland (6-11, 4-4) played in a Division 2 subsectional match at home on Monday. Coverage of this playoff match will be in the Friday, May 26 edition of *The Times*.

Should anyone advance, Lakeland will head to Eau Claire for a Division 2 sectional match on Thursday, May 25.

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Mercer

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to sectionals in triple,” Miller said. “She was also in our 4x200 that took second — pretty excited.”

Company had a height of 4-6 in the high jump. That placed her third in her first conference meet.

Rossi placed fifth in the 100-meter dash to gain points for the Tigers. She ran a time of 14.33.

Thais Bellec (25-4.5) placed fifth and Anya Brandenburg (24-10) sixth in the shot put.

Mercer’s 4x200- and 4x400-meter relays finished second place. Their 4x200 team of Company, Rossi, Alex Saarnio and Knipp ran a 2:03.22.

“I went to KD and asked her if she’d run it with the girls cause we talked about her not running it and definitely she wants to help out her teammates, and it was just a great moment,” Miller said. “I think if they would run that event more we would take some time off with hand-offs.”

Mercer’s 5:50.89 put them second in the 4x400. Ava Milashus, Brandenburg, Saarnio and Tyla Tourtillott ran in that relay. Tourtillott made a comeback as the fourth leg to help the Tigers get second.

“Ava and Anya really don’t run. They throw and play softball. Anya had a home run over the fence, our first Mercer girl ever to hit home run over the fence,” Miller said. “Tyla got the baton and she probably was 30-40 meters behind second place and she caught right up to her and stayed behind her until 100 meters to go and kicked it in and beat third place by five seconds. It was just really cool for Anya and Ava to push themselves to give themselves a chance at the end.”

Boys

Conrad LaBarge had the top individual finish for the boys. He placed third in the high jump with a height of 5-4. He also finished third in the triple jump with a mark of 35-5. His long jump of 14-11.5 put him seventh.

“(Conrad) can clear 5’10, just his back and his butt is way over,” Miller said. “The problem is with his kick,” Miller said. “Wouldn’t be surprised (if he was) 5’8 or 5’9 at regionals.”

Richie Allen had a top five finish in the 800-meter run. He finished fifth with a time of 2:29.75.

“He ran a good 800, and so we’re focused on that 800 in regionals,” Miller said. “I think



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOGRAPH

From left, Luis Segura-Martell, Dylan Eith, Richie Allen and Conrad LaBarge pose for a photo with the baton during the Indianhead Conference Meet Tuesday, May 16 at Ashland High School. They scored all 32 of Mercer’s points and were named all-conference in the 4x800-meter relay.

he can run probably somewhere around a 2:15.”

In the 1,600, Luis Segura-Martell finished seventh with a time of 5:47.28 while Dylan Eith placed eighth with a time of 5:49.59.

Allen ran a 6:03.83 for 10th place in the 1,600. Having already run in the 4x800-meter relay, he didn’t have the energy to run a top time in the mile.

“(It was the) first time he ran the 4x800, and he pushed himself,” Miller said. “His mile was not good. He struggled. But that’s OK.”

Eith finished seventh in the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 52.96.

The Tigers only had one relay team — the 4x800. They found success with a second place finish. Allen, Eith, Segura-Martell and LaBarge ran a time of 10:03.76. Solon Springs/Northwood won with a time of 9:59.99.

“Conrad and Luis stepped up in the (4x800). For them to help out Dylan and Riche was really, really cool and watching them get second and really wasn’t even

close,” Miller said. “That was a good thing for those four to make all-conference as well.”

Mercer ran in a Division 3 regional meet on Monday. Coverage of this meet will be in the Friday, May 26 edition of *The Times*.

Up next, the Tiger track and field teams take part in a Division 3 sectional meet Thursday, May 25 at Cameron.

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LOCAL SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

PREP BASEBALL

GNC Standings as of Saturday, May 20

Team	GNC	Ovr
x-Mosinee	11-1	19-2
x-Medford	11-1	20-4
Antigo	7-5	8-9
Lakeland	5-7	8-12
Northland Pines	4-8	8-13
Rhineland	4-8	6-12
Tomahawk	0-12	0-17

x-Clinched GNC title

Wednesday, May 17

Medford 6, Antigo 2

Mosinee 14, Wautoma 2 (NC)

Thursday, May 18

Rhineland 13, Tomahawk 1

Mosinee 16, Antigo 3

Northland Pines 6, Lakeland 0

Friday’s Games

Wittenberg-Biramwood 11, Tomahawk 1 (NC)

Medford 4, Stratford 3 (NC)

Mosinee 7, Merrill 5 (NC)

Saturday’s Games

Lakeland 2, Rhineland 1

Mosinee 5, Kaukauna 2 (NC)

Hortonville 11, Antigo 1 (NC)

Wrightstown 6, Northland Pines 1 (NC)

Chequamegon 3, Northland Pines 2 (NC)

Monday’s Games

Northland Pines at Three Lakes (NC), late

Lakeland at Chequamegon (NC), late

Tigerton at Tomahawk (NC), late

Antigo at Merrill (NC), late

Medford at Marshfield (NC), late

Wausau East at Rhineland (NC), late

Tuesday’s Games

Crandon at Antigo (NC), 4:30 p.m.

Stratford at Rhineland (NC), 5 p.m.

Waupaca vs. Mosinee, at Wausau (NC), 7 p.m.

Thursday’s Games

WIAA Division 2 Regional Quarterfinals

Lakeland at Merrill, 5 p.m.

Northland Pines at Gale-Etrick-Trempealeau, 5 p.m.

Rhineland at Antigo, 5 p.m.

WIAA Division 3 Regional Quarterfinals

Tomahawk at Clayton/Turtle Lake, TBD

Northland Pines at Lakeland

Thursday, May 18

Northland Pines 311 000 1 — 6 13 1

Lakeland 000 000 0 — 0 4 5

N’LAND PINES LAKELAND

ab r h bi ab r h bi

Hoelt 1b 4 1 4 Bremer c 3 0 0 0

Lurvey ss 4 2 2 0 Gry-lves 2b3 0 0 0

McCmck rf4 1 1 1 Gahler ss 3 0 0 0

Samnske c 4 1 1 1 Fortier 3b 3 0 0 0

Kroepfln cf 4 0 2 2 Ariola rf 3 0 1 0

Muench 3b 4 0 0 Trotter cf 3 0 1 0

Miller p 3 1 2 0 Peterson p 3 0 0 0

Sellnow dh 3 0 1 0 Fulton 1b 1 0 1 0

Whngntn 2b3 0 0 0 Tobias 1 0 0 0

Nowak lf 3 0 1 0

Totals 33 6 13 5 Totals 26 0 4 0

Northland Pines IP H R ER BB SO

Miller, W 7 4 0 0 0 5

Lakeland IP H R ER BB SO

Peterson, L 7 13 6 5 0 3

LOB: Northland Pines 6, Lakeland 6.

2B: N Lurvey, Hoelt 2. L Trotter, Ariola. HR: N Samnske. HBP: L Fulton. SB: N Kroepfln.

SOCCER

PREP GIRLS’ SOCCER

GNC Standings as of Saturday, May 20

Team	Pts. W-L-SW-SL	Overall W-L-T
x-Lakeland	27 9-0-0-0	13-1-0
Rhineland	21 7-2-0-0	11-5-0
Medford	12 4-5-0-0	5-12-0
N’land Pines	11 3-5-1-0	6-7-3
Mosinee	10 3-5-0-1	3-9-1
Antigo	0 0-9-0-0	0-10-0

x-Clinched GNC title

Thursday, May 17

Medford 8, Antigo 0

Northland Pines 1, Mosinee 1

Pines wins on PKs, 4-3

Friday’s Games

Barron-Cumberland 3, Northland Pines 0 (NC)

Lakeland 1, Rhineland 0

Saturday’s Game

Barron-Cumberland 5, Mosinee 2 (NC)

Monday’s Game

Ashland at Northland Pines (NC), late

Tuesday’s Games

Medford at Northland Pines, 5 p.m.

Mosinee at Rhineland, 7 p.m.

Antigo at Lakeland, 7 p.m.

Thursday’s Games

Ashland at Medford (NC), 4:30 p.m.

Iron Mountain, Mich. at Northland Pines (NC), 5 p.m.

Merrill at Antigo (NC), 5 p.m.

Waupaca at Mosinee (NC), 7 p.m.

Lakeland at Rhineland

Friday, May 19

Lakeland 1 0 — 1

Rhineland 0 0 — 0

First Half: 1. Lak, Alyson Lazaroff

(Josie Wentland), 24-16.

Second Half: No scoring

TEAM STATS

Shots (On Goal) 14 (10) 15 (9)

Fouls 9 13

Offsides 1 0

Yellow Cards 1 2

Corner Kicks 4 2

SOFTBALL

PREP SOFTBALL

GNC Standings as of Saturday, May 20

Team	GNC	Ovr
x-Medford	11-1	20-2
Mosinee	9-3	18-4
Antigo	8-4	13-9
Rhineland	5-7	10-13
Lakeland	5-7	8-11
Tomahawk	4-8	7-11
Northland Pines	0-12	1-16

x-Clinched GNC title

Thursday, May 18

WR Assumption at Medford (NC), ccd.

WIAA Division 2 Regional Quarterfinals

Rhineland 1, Shawano 0

Lakeland 8, Colby/Abbotsford 0

WIAA Division 3 Regional Quarterfinals

Clintonville 17, Northland Pines 7

Tuesday’s Games

WIAA Division 2 Regional Semifinals

Rhineland at Medford, 5 p.m.

Lakeland at Mosinee, 5 p.m.

Merrill at Antigo, 5 p.m.

WIAA Division 3 Regional Semifinals

Tomahawk at Weyauwega-Fremont, TBD

Thursday’s Games

WIAA Division 2 Regional Finals

Rhineland/Medford winner vs. Merrill/Antigo winner, TBD

Lakeland/Mosinee winner vs. New London/Waupaca winner, TBD

Colby/Abbotsford at Lakeland

D2 Regional Quarterfinal

Thursday, May 18

Colby/Abbotsford 000 000 0 — 0 1 2

Lakeland 105 002 x — 8 15 1

COLBY/ABBY LAKELAND

AB	R	H	BI	AB	R	H	BI
Trenkler 2b	3	0	0	STmrmn p	1	0	0
Bargnder p	1	0	1	-Johnson	1	1	0
VanLven ss	3	0	0	ATmrmn rf4	3	3	1
Schmitt 3b	3	0	0	HLouis ss	4	2	2
Orth cf	3	0	0	MLos 3b,p4	1	2	2
Klabon c	2	0	0	Williams cf4	1	3	1
-Hammel	1	0	0	Sbg 2b,3b4	0	3	0
Higley 1b	3	0	0	Barton lf	3	0	0
Bloome lf	2	0	0	Young	3	0	0
-Breahm	1	0	0	Petrie c	3	0	1
Perez rf	2	0	0				
Totals	24	0	1	Totals	31	8	15

COLBY/ABBSORF

IP	H	R	ER	BB	K	
Bargender, L	6	15	8	7	1	
Lakeland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K
S.Timmerman, W	5	1	0	0	1	15
M.Louis	2	0	0	0	1	3

LOB: Colby/Abbotsford 5, Lakeland 8.

2B: L M.Louis, Williams. SAC: L Barton.

HBP: L Stimmerman. SB: L H.Louis, Williams, ATimmerman, Johnson.

TENNIS

PREP BOYS’ TENNIS

GNC Standings as of Saturday, May 20

Team	W-L-T	Dual GNC	Pts
x-Rhineland	8-0-0	51-5	40 142
Medford	6-2-0	35-21	23 93
Lakeland	4-4-0	26-30	19 71
Pacelli	0-7-1	13-41	14 40
Antigo	1-6-1	13-41	9 35

x-Clinched GNC title

Thursday, May 18

Rhineland 1st, Medford 2nd, Lakeland 3rd, Pacelli 4th, Antigo 5th/5, GNC Meet

Monday’s Matches

WIAA Division 1 Subsectionals

Rhineland at Wausau West, late

WIAA Division 2 Subsectionals

Antigo, Medford, Pacelli at Lakeland, late

Wednesday Match

WIAA Division 1 Subsectionals

Rhineland at Eau Claire Memorial, 9 a.m.

Thursday’s Match

WIAA Division 2 Subsectionals

Antigo, Lakeland, Medford, Pacelli at Eau Claire Regis, 9 a.m.

Great Northern Conference Meet

Thursday, May 18

Team Scores: 1, Rhineland, 40

points. 2, Medford, 23. 3, Lakeland, 19. 4, Pacelli, 14. 5, Antigo 9.

1 Singles: 1, Dalton Fritz, Rhi. 2, Brayden Balciar, Med. 3, Dominic Girolletta, Lak.

2 Singles: 1, John Currie, Rhi. 2, Saskatoon Damm, Med. 3, Bennett Eckendorf, Pac ... 4, Carson Tegland, Lak.

3 Singles: