

SPORTS



Senior guard Nolan Lurvey takes some contact and maneuvers a shot around a Chargers defender on his way to scoring his 1,000th career point during last week's non-conference win over the Wittenberg-Biramwood Chargers. —Photos By William Zuelke

Lurvey hits 1,000 career points in Eagles' win over Chargers

BY GARY RIDDERBUSCH
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The Northland Pines boys basketball team faced non-conference foe Wittenberg-Biramwood in front of a large hometown crowd last Tuesday, and came away with a convincing 79-40 win.

The eighth-ranked Eagles, now 7-1 on the season and on a six-game winning streak, were led by four players in double figures and Nolan Lurvey's 20 points. Lurvey, a four-year starter, also surpassed the 1,000 career point plateau on the evening and was given the game basketball.

The Eagles started the game in their usual fashion by playing strong defense and getting easy baskets in transition to build an 11-2 lead in the first 4 minutes of the game.

The Chargers went on a 6-0 run to cut the lead 11-8 before the before the home team would go on a 13-0 run to lead 24-8 with 9 minutes to go in the half.

Pines' man-to-man defense, led by a pesky Ryan Muench, sparked another 9-0 run leading to a 35-8 advantage with 5 minutes to go. Baskets from Lurvey, Muench, Gabe Smith



Northland Pines senior Gabe Smith picks up his last week's 79-40 non-conference win at home over Wittenberg-Biramwood.

and Griffin Steimke's back to back threes put the Eagles up 45-21 at the break.

"I thought we did a great job coming out playing hard in the beginning of this game," said Pines coach Terry Klemett. "Ryan Muench is our anchor on defense and he has been playing on another level all season. We've gotten better and better and better every

practice and in every game this season and we've talked about coming out strong to start the game and we've been doing that. This team plays for each other and you can see it on the floor. I'm very proud of all the work the guys have done."

The second half was reminiscent on how the Eagles started the game on a 9-0 run to lead 54-21 with 18 minutes ago and Lurvey hit a tough basket to get his 1,000th career point.

"An unbelievable shot by an unbelievable player and a heck of a milestone for anyone that plays team sports. Our team was really happy for him," said Klemett.

The next Eagles' offensive possession was something sports fan would see on ESPN's Top 10 highlights.

Lurvey drove to the basket and got another Charger defender to double him before he got to the rim. Lurvey calmly turned away from the defender and somehow saw a cutting Smith on the baseline. Lurvey's over-the-shoulder, no-look pass was caught on point from Smith who threw down a poster of a two-handed dunk on a Chargers' defender.

"That play was a wow moment. I don't know how Nolan saw him and Gabe's cut and finish was something to watch. It got our crowd going for sure," said Klemett.

The Eagles maintained their strong defense and got

good looks on offense to finish the game with a 39-point victory.

"These guys come to battle every day. I was a little concerned having so many days off because of weather and not playing a game in over a week. Some guys have been battling sickness as well. I'm very proud of their efforts on both sides of the ball," said Klemett.

The Eagles were paced by Lurvey's 20 points, nine assists, seven rebounds and eight steals, leading the Eagles in all four categories. Muench dropped in 16 points on 7 of 9 shooting. Smith and Steimke each chipped in 15 for the winners.

"Anytime you get four guys in double figures you know your doing something good," said Klemett.

The Eagles shot an astounding 23 of 32 from the floor for 72% and 8 of 23 from beyond the 3-point line. It was the seventh game the Eagles didn't allow more than eight free throws by the opposing team.

Pines will travel to Marinette for a non-conference game today, Wednesday, Dec. 28, at 5:30 p.m.

The Eagles (2-0 in league) will return to their Great Northern Conference (GNC) schedule next Tuesday, Jan. 3, when they play at Mosinee at 7:15 p.m. They will host Medford Friday, Jan. 6, also at 7:15 p.m.

Sports Sidelines

By Doug Etten



Continue supporting area youth sports

High school sports teams are the pulse of any small-to medium-sized Wisconsin community.

And that's important to remember because those people who make up our area high school and youth level teams are not just anyone, they're the sons or daughters of our neighbors, our friends, our co-workers.

They live here. Go to school here. They work and play here. And hopefully some day a few of them will even come back here and become part of what molded and shaped them as young adults. And by supporting them and creating a positive experience we can all assist in that.

I consider myself fortunate to have grown up in a rural Wisconsin farm town where even though cows outnumbered just about everything else there was to compare to, people supported their town and it's high school sports teams.

Every time I got to take the field or court in front of a home crowd it was humbling to say the least. Even more so now as I look back.

And like many who took part with me, it offered some of the best memories of our childhood. Memories we still talk about to this day.

The wins. The losses. The bus rides. The friendships. All things that were born and made to last through high school sports.

Though I can see so many differences in the towns themselves, Eagle River to me is not all that different from the small town of Medford where I grew up.

Though I have yet to find my first dairy cow in Vilas County, I've met some incredibly dedicated individuals, coaches, athletes and families who have created positive athletic experiences here in and around Eagle River, Three Lakes and Phelps.

And as we get into the middle of the holiday season we sometimes notice these individuals and their commitments even more as they play the balancing act between managing their teams and players in and around their family schedules.

I hope that as we enter into 2023 many people make the pledge to become more active in supporting these area sports teams and their players and coaches. It might not seem like much, but even just coming out, buying an admission ticket, taking part in the 50-50 raffle, enjoying a bag of popcorn and a soda can go a long way.

And through it all we help the greater cause which is keeping sports and teams in small communities relevant.

One thing I've learned through my years of covering high school sports is community involvement breeds success. Not the other way around.

Teams that are good, and programs that remain viable have the undying support of community members and those who want to see competitive soccer, or wrestling, or basketball, or swimming. Whatever it might be.

The next time you've got a free night where it seems like there is nothing to do, open the paper and take a look at your area high school sports schedule. Get out, show your support and help keep communities and school districts in Wisconsin strong.

Hockey teams back in action following break

BY CHRIS OATMAN
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The Northland Pines boys and girls hockey teams head into the week having not played a game since mid-December.

For the Pines girls, their last game came in Ironwood, Mich., Dec. 16 where Medford used a third-period flurry to earn a 3-2 win.

This week the girls team skates south where they'll get two, hopefully more favorable matchups when they face a couple of Madison-area co-ops Wednesday and Thursday.

Over on the boys side, the last two weeks saw the Eagles have a game with Rhinelander and Wausau East-Merrill postponed because of weather.

Coach Patrick Schmidt said the extra practice time has been put to good use.

"We've been able to drill down on some things and have been working with our goalie Eli (Kerner) quite a bit more," said Schmidt. "He has some room to improve his conditioning. It's good to have him back."

Since being recently cleared to play, Schmidt is hoping Kerner adds a spark to the Pines team who in Schmidt's first season is still winless.

"The kids are excited to

have Eli back and they are antsy to start playing games again," said Schmidt. "They also want to start playing the type of hockey we've been working on with them for the past month and a half."

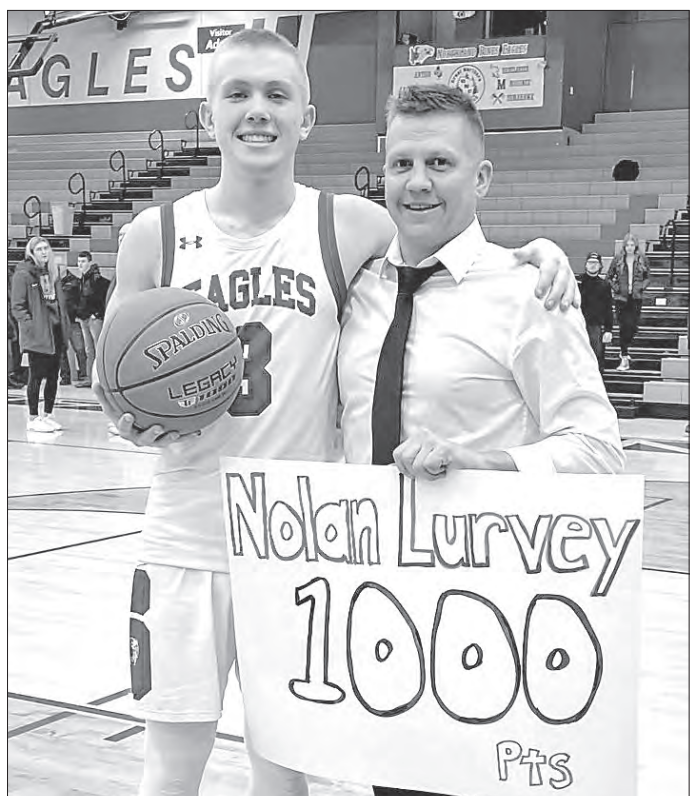
After a tough start the team currently rests at 0-7, though offensively it hasn't come at a lack of opportunity or effort. Pines has outshot their opponents in more than half of those seven games.

Schmidt talked about a big key for Pines if they're able to start a winning streak over the course of the next few games.

"It's getting them to understand the roles that each of them plays and understanding why we do some of the things we do," he said. "The kids cannot worry about failure or mistakes because that's the way they learn, trial and error."

The team will be back in action this Thursday and Friday at a four-team tournament in West Salem. De Pere plays Tomahawk at 4 p.m. in Thursday's first semifinal game, with Northland Pines taking on West Salem at 7.

The third-place game is Friday at noon, followed by the championship game at 3 p.m.



Pines head coach Terry Klemett presents Nolan Lurvey with the official game ball following him scoring his 1,000th career point in last week's win over Wittenberg-Biramwood.

—Contributed Photo

SPORTS

Shepard, Roy earn wins for Rebel-Jays as team gets tested at Bay Port quad

By WILLIAM ZUELKE
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The Three Lakes-Lakona-Wabeno Rebel Jays participated in a quadrangular meet at Bay Port High School near Green Bay last week which brought with it another week of mixed results.

On the positive side, Ryan Roy, who participated in just his second meet of the year, came away victorious in each of his three matches on the day as he earned two pins and a major decision. He led the team in points with 16.

Brady Shepard was the only other wrestler on the team to score on the mat as he earned seven team points through two separate wins, one a major decision.

"Ryan is getting better every day," said head coach Seth Senter after the meet. "And the improvement should continue as he works off some of the rust from his time away from the sport. The rest of the guys played hard today and Brady had some success but the competition, while limited to four schools, was pretty tough as

we were in a group with some top tiered programs.

"I'm always ok with any result as long as the guys give it their all while on the mat."

Host team Bay Port High School led the competition by beating Southern Door 72-12 in the first round, and then beating the Rebel Jays 77-6 in the second round before sweeping the meet by beating Wrightstown 50-27.

The Rebel Jays lost to Wrightstown in the first round (53-22) and finished the day with a loss in the third round to Southern Door by a score of 29-19.

The second-round action against Bay Port was the most active on the day for the Rebel Jays because of a better weight class alignment which resulted in eight different wrestling matches. The other rounds only had five active matches each leaving multiple forfeit wins for each team.

In fact, forfeited matches dominated the day as 24 of the 42 scheduled matches for the Rebel Jays ended with a forfeit and a six-point oppo-



Rebel Jays wrestler Brady Shepard, shown here after winning a recent match during a meet held in Crandon, was one of only two

wrestlers to secure a win last weekend at the Bay Port Quadrangular meet outside of Green Bay. —Photo By William Zuelke

sition score if a team could not field a wrestler at specific

weight classes.

Forfeited matches can work for or against a team, but in the action last week, the Rebel Jays won four wins by forfeit and lost 14 leaving them with a 60-point total deficit for the event.

By deep contrast, the highest scoring team on the day (Bay Port Pirates) won 16 forfeit matches without a loss for a positive scoring impact of 96 points which played a major role in their overall success.

Senter pointed out that two of the three rounds of the quad were fairly competitive for the Rebel Jays.

"While we had some bright spots on individual matches against Southern Door and Wrightstown," he said, "Competing against Bay Port and their extensive roster in all weight classes made it difficult for us to find the best combination of

wrestlers to take on their best in each weight designation."

Gus Fink (285 lb.) and Max Clark (106 lb.) were the only Rebel Jays to benefit from forfeits as each scored 2-1 records based on four forfeit wins and each received 12 points while Levi Newman (170 lb.), Paul Lewis (152 lb.) and Noah Kincaid (145 lb.) fought hard in each of their three matches only to be shut out of the win column and point totals for the day.

Hayden Demerath was also shut out of scoring as he fell early in his only match of the day against Peyton Garcia of Bay Port.

Roy who wrestled in the 182 lb. weight class earned his three wins by beating Carter Gilson of Wrightstown in a first period pin followed by a third period pin in the second round against Ayden Bruckner of Bay Port and

then winning by major decision against Jonas Jandrin of Southern Door.

Shepard scored his individual match wins by beating Riley Verbeten of Wrightstown (major decision) and by defeating Wyatt Wilke of Southern Door (decision).

The Rebel Jays will be on the road again this week as they head to the University of Wisconsin in Oshkosh for a two-day invitational event that will be attended by more than 50 high schools in the state.

Competition begins Thursday at 9:30 a.m. and runs through Friday afternoon at the university's Kolf Sports Center.

The team will then participate a little closer to home in an invitational set Saturday, Jan. 7 in Merrill where they will face approximately 25 regional teams at Merrill High School.

Hockey Schedules 2022-23

NORTHLAND PINES HIGH SCHOOL - BOYS

Tue. 11/22	@ DC Everest	L7-3	Thu. 1/5	@ Antigo	7 pm
Tue. 11/29	@ Pacelli Catholic	L 6-5 OT	Tue. 1/10	Ashland	6 pm
Fri. 12/2	@ Waupaca	L 8-3	Thu. 1/12	@ Medford	7 pm
Sat. 12/3	@ Waupan	L 6-1	Tue. 1/17	Tomahawk	7 pm
Tue. 12/6	Shawano	L 8-5	Sat. 1/21	@ Marshfield	3 pm
Thu. 12/8	Lakeland Union	L 6-2	Tue. 1/24	@ Mosinee	7 pm
Tue. 12/13	@ Ashland	L 6-0	Fri. 1/27	Tournament	5 pm
Thu. 12/15	Rhineland	ppd.	Sat. 1/28	Tournament	12 pm
Thu. 12/22	@ Merrill	Cancelled	Tue. 1/31	@ Lakeland Union (GNC Meet)	7 pm
Thu. 12/29	@ West Salem (Tourn.)	TBD	Thu. 2/2	@ Shawano	7 pm
Fri. 12/30	@ West Salem (Tourn.)	10 am	Tue. 2/7	@ Lakeland Union (GNC Meet)	7 pm
Tue. 1/3	Pacelli	7 pm	Sat. 2/11	@ Medford (GNC Meet)	4 pm

NORTHLAND PINES HIGH SCHOOL - GIRLS

Fri. 11/25	vs. Arrowhead L 10-2; vs. Brookfield L 16-1	Mon. 1/9	@ Rhineland	7 pm	
Sat. 11/26	vs. Lakeshore	L 16-3	Tue. 1/10	@ Hayward	5 pm
Fri. 12/2	Chippewa Falls	L 14-1	Thu. 1/12	Marshfield	7 pm
Mon. 12/5	@ Rhineland	L 10-4	Sat. 1/21	Arrowhead	1 pm
Fri. 12/9	@ Eau Claire North	L 12-1	Tue. 1/10	@ Medford	6 pm
Sat. 12/10	@ Black River Falls	L 8-0	Tue. 1/31	Hayward	6 pm
Fri. 12/16	Medford*	L 3-2	Mon. 2/6	Rhineland	7 pm
Wed. 12/28	@ Baraboo (Stoughton)	7 pm	Sat. 2/11	Beaver Dam	1 pm
Thu. 12/29	@ Baraboo	3 pm	Tue. 2/14	Regionals	TBD
Thu. 1/5	DC Everest	7 pm			

* at Ironwood

EAGLE RIVER FALCONS

Fri. 12/2	Calumet Wolverines	L 5-3	Sat. 2/11	Marquette Mutineers	8 pm
Sat. 12/3	@ Calumet Wolverines	W 10-5	Fri. 2/17	Mosinee Papermakers	8 pm
Fri. 1/6	Portage Lake Pioneers	8 pm	Sat. 2/18	@ Mosinee Papermakers	8 pm
Sat. 1/7	Portage Lake Pioneers	8 pm	Fri. 2/24	@ Calumet Wolverines	6:30 pm
Sat. 1/14	@ Portage Lake Pioneers	6:30 pm	Sat. 2/25	@ Portage Lake Pioneers	6:30 pm
Sat. 1/21	Fond du Lac Bears	8 pm	Sat. 3/4	Portage Lake Pioneers	8 pm
Fri. 1/27	@ Marquette Mutineers	6 pm	Fri. 3/10	Marquette Mutineers	8 pm
Sat. 1/28	@ Marquette Mutineers	6 pm	Sat. 3/11	@ DePere Deacons	7:30 pm
Sat. 2/4	DePere Deacons	8 pm	Fri. 3/24	@ Fox Cities Ice Dogs	7:30 pm
Fri. 2/10	Fox Cities Ice Dogs	8 pm	Fri. 3/25	@ Fond du Lac Bears	8 pm

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NPBA KICKOFF — The Northland Pines Basketball Association (NPBA) kicked off its basketball season with the Northwoods Skills Challenge held in November at Northland Pines High School. Students in grade four to eight participated and were able to show off their

basketball skills. They were tested on passing, dribbling and shooting, as well as an optional 3-point challenge. The top three boys and top three girls in each grade were awarded trophies. The first-place winner was given a trophy and a shirt courtesy of NPBA. —Contributed Photo

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WEEK 17 DEADLINE: NOON, FRIDAY, DEC. 30

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Predict this week's winners for your chance to win \$150!

The Vilas County News-Review's Football Contest is easy and fun! Simply circle the winner of each game listed. Game 1 has added importance. Each game represents one point. A perfect score is 16 points. Be sure to fill in the Tiebreaker section. For any game ending in a tie, or if a game is delayed, postponed or rescheduled for any reason, the point will be thrown out. See official rules below.

You must be at least 8 years old to enter. To enter, clip along the dotted line, then place game entry in the drop box at any of our sponsor's retail outlet. Entrants must list name, address and phone number clearly... information must be legible. Illegible entries will be disqualified. Decisions of the Contest Judge (News-Review) are final.

Drop off your entry forms at the participating businesses listed below, or at the Vilas County News-Review office. Deadline is noon Friday unless otherwise stated.

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- Denver @ Kansas City
- Miami @ New England
- Indianapolis @ New York Giants
- New Orleans @ Philadelphia
- Carolina @ Tampa Bay
- Cleveland @ Washington
- Pittsburgh @ Baltimore
- Jacksonville @ Houston
- San Francisco @ Las Vegas
- New York Jets @ Seattle
- Los Angeles Rams @ Los Angeles Chargers
- Iowa vs. Kentucky (NCAA)
- Alabama vs. Kansas St. (NCAA)

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How to Play
For each of the 16 games listed at left, circle the team you are picking to win.
One entry per person.

Game of the Week
You must correctly pick the winner of Game 1 to advance in the contest. If you pick Game 1 incorrectly, you cannot win the weekly contest, unless all entrants pick Game 1 incorrectly.

Tiebreaker 1
Total combined points scored (both teams) in **Game of the Week.**

Tiebreaker 2
Total combined offensive yards (both teams) in **Game of the Week.**

DEADLINE - NOON - FRIDAY DEC. 30

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OFFICIAL RULES

- The object is to pick the winner of 16 games. Games will include professional and college games played Friday, Saturday or Sunday. The weekly winner will be the entrant with the most points... 16 being the most possible. The weekly winner must have the Game of the Week correct. If there is a tie, it goes to Tiebreaker 1, the total points scored by both teams in the week's designated game. If that fails to determine a winner, the judges will go to Tiebreaker 2, total offensive yardage from scrimmage in the designated game. If there is still a tie, a drawing at the News-Review, Eagle River, will be used.
- No points are awarded on tie games, or in case any game is not played for any reason during the scheduled week. Should the News-Review make an error listing a game/games, those games will be thrown out, not counted.
- Entering the Football Contest constitutes permission by the entrant for his or her name and photograph to be used for news and reasonable promotion purposes at no charge.
- Employees of this newspaper and their immediate families are ineligible to participate. No entries will be accepted after the posted deadline.
- Any inquiry about a protest of weekly results must be made by noon on the Friday following the announcement of the winner. The decision of the Contest Administrator is final.
- No purchase is necessary. Facsimile game entry forms will be accepted. Enter contest by dropping entry forms into the Contest Container at participating co-sponsors, or by faxing to 715-479-6242.
- Weekly deadline for entry will be noon Friday, except when noted otherwise on the weekly entry form.
- Neither this newspaper nor any co-sponsor will be responsible for illegible entry forms or those lost, stolen or damaged in any way.
- Limit: **one entry per person per week.** Each entry must represent the original work of one entrant; group entries, systems or other attempts to enter multiple entries will be disqualified. Filling out extra forms and putting your friends' or relatives' names on them violates this rule. Any such entries are destroyed prior to grading.

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SPORTS



ALUMNI GAME — The Eagle River Falcons mens hockey team welcomed back past players for the annual Alumni Game held last Friday evening at the Eagle River Dome. The game held a special significance as teams and players paid tribute to the memory of long time Falcons/Nothenaire legend Junior Ludwig

who passed away in October. The event was held in conjunction with a free community skate event, and fundraiser for the Vilas Food Pantry. The Falcons return to Great Lakes Hockey League action next week when they host Portage Lake, Jan. 6 at the Dome. Game time is set for 8 p.m. —Contributed Photo

Lady Jays win back-to-back as they return to .500 mark

By WILLIAM ZUELKE
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

With a 47-40 win over visiting Prentice the Three Lakes girls hoops team won back-to-back games last week for the first time this season.

On the heels of a lopsided win over Elcho, the Lady Jays got a team-high 16 points from Kallie Volk to go along with 13 from Kailyn Fogerty in the win over Prentice.

Karlee Weavers tossed in eight points of her own including the first points of the game, as she hustled for an offensive rebound on the Bluejays first possession and scored an easy layup.

Prentice jumped to a brief lead after Leah Nehls drained a three pointer on the far side of the court, but their next trip was cut short by a Jenna Erikson steal and an easy layup for Volk as the Jays retook the lead.

Both teams went on scoring streaks and Three Lakes led by as many as 10, but Prentice ended the half with eight straight to make it 22-20 at the break.

The second half brought much the same as the Lady Jays took another 10-point lead only to have it again

reduced to four just minutes later. But the Jays controlled the possessions down the stretch, coming away with an important win.

The victory brings the Bluejays record to 4-4 on the year, though they remain in the middle of the pack in the Northern Lakes Conference (NLC) standings at 1-2.

“It was nice to see the girls come out with such high energy tonight,” said co-head coach Tony Pharo. “Unfortunately, it was disappointing that they didn’t follow through with their intensity during the last five minutes of the first half.”

“Our half-time meeting was used to strongly explain how important it is to keep the intensity levels up every second on the court and the girls responded with a strong second half which allowed them to win the game and bring their record up to 4-4 heading into the Christmas break,” he said.

Co-head coach Michele Brown added that it was an important win for the team.

“It was a nice win that brought us back to the .500 winning level where I thought we needed to be at this point in the season considering the number of new and experienced players we started with,” she said.

“Karlee got us started with her early rebound and score and we were able to build a good lead with eight first half points by Kallie and seven by Cassidy, allowing us a large enough lead to be able to sustain the late first half 10-2 run by Prentice.”

Brown said Prentice’s first-half run probably wouldn’t have happened had the Jays been able to stay away from foul trouble.

“That allowed them to sneak back in,” she said. “We came out and played a much better second half, outscoring Prentice by five points to take home the win.”

Volk’s 16 points and six steals went along with six rebounds and three assists. Brown said she felt Kailyn Fogerty also had a nice offensive night.

“Especially in the second half when we really needed scoring,” she said. “She was also asked to run the offense for a large part of the first half when Jenna Erikson left the game with an ankle injury and did a nice job until Jenna was able to return.”

Weavers had her most productive game of the season with eight points which went along with 15 rebounds and five steals.

“This game shouldn’t have been as close as it was

we missed a lot of easy shots and went only 2 of 16 from the three-point line,” said Brown. “We’ve also got to get better at finishing shots, especially around the hoop.”

Brown said her team is still turning the ball over too often, although she has seen improvements in the past two games.

Next up for the Bluejays is a non-conference game Dec. 28 against Niagara (6-1) in Three Lakes. Game time is set for 2 p.m.

Brown said she is looking forward to this game as the teams always seem to play well against each other and will be looking for continued game improvement from the girls.

The Jays will continue their long home stretch with another non-conference game against Wakefield-Marenisco on Tuesday, Jan. 3. They will then host rival Florence in NLC action on Thursday, Jan. 5.



Kallie Volk (No. 10) leaps toward the hoops for two point during last week’s non-conference matchup at home against Prentice. Volk ended the game with 16 points to lead all scorers.

—Photo By William Zuelke



Three Lakes freshman Kailyn Fogerty (No. 12) collects some attention as she drives through

the lane towards the hoop in a recent game against Prentice. —Photo By William Zuelke

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SPORTS

Pines girls fall to Chargers, face Marinette on the road

By DOUG ETTEN
SPORTS EDITOR

The Northland Pines girls basketball team struggled in all facets of the game last week in a Tuesday home loss to Wittenberg-Birnamwood.

After dropping the non-conference matchup 71-19, coach Jim Beyer didn't mince words when describing his team's performance. "We struggled from the beginning with the press, and then just didn't defend or rebound well," he said. "Wittenberg-Birnamwood is a solid team, but we just didn't play well at all."

Pines was led offensively by Paige Hodkiewicz who dropped in five. She was followed by four each from Aubrey Beyer and Emily Rottier-Douangmala.

The Lady Chargers had three players in double figures led by Reese Rogowski with 22. She also added nine assists and had seven steals to go with three rebounds on the evening.

Though the visitors were just 4 of 16 from behind the three point line, they shot nearly 50% overall from the field in taking the lopsided win.

The loss has Pines going into this week at 1-7 overall on the season. Their only win so far came in the second Great Northern Conference matchup of the season when they beat Tomahawk in early December.

Next up for the Lady Eagles will be a tough Marinette team on the road, Dec. 28.

The Marines come into



Aubrey Beyer leaps toward the hoops for a shot attempt during last week's non-conference matchup against Wittenberg-Birnamwood. —Photo By William Zuelke

this contest at 7-3 overall on the year and 5-1 in the North Eastern Conference. The team did lose to Antigo, 60-53 just last week. Antigo handled Pines by double-digits in the GNC opener just over a month ago.

They are led by sharp-shooting sophomore guard Riley Kieffer who was averaging 15 points per game across the first part of the season.

Following the non-conference tilt on the road, Pines will begin 2023 with a GNC matchup as they'll host Mosinee, Jan. 3. Following that they travel to Medford, then host Lakeland before taking on Antigo for the second time this season.

Lakeland (3-0) remains atop the GNC followed by Mosinee (3-1), Antigo (2-2), Rhinelander (2-1), Medford (1-2), Pines (1-2) and Tomahawk (0-4).

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