# Times-Tribune

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# **Sports**

Cardinals

BY ROB REISCHEL

jobs in the state."

start search

for their next

football coach

Middleton athletic director Jamie Sims believes the foot-

ball coaching job at MHS is

one of the best in Wisconsin.

Sims said. "But I think it's

one of the two or three best

We'll soon find out if

Former Middleton coach

Jason Pertzborn resigned

on Jan. 26 in the midst of a

bullying incident inside his

program. There's an ongoing

investigation into that inci-

dent by the Middleton Police

Department and the Middle-

ton Cross Plains School Dis-

Suddenly, Sims needs to

Sims said on Monday that

the job will be posted by Feb.

3. Sims expects the job will

stay posted for two weeks,

then he expects to begin in-

terviews in mid- to late-Feb-

Sims said the district plans

to package a teaching job with

ruary.

find a new coach - and is

optimistic he'll draw a bevy

of high-level candidates.

coaches feel the same way.

"I'm probably biased,"

Times-Tribune

# PERTZBORN RESIGNS

Football coach steps down amidst bullying scandal

BY ROB REISCHEL

Times-Tribune

Middleton High School football coach Jason Pertzborn resigned on Jan. 26 citing personal reasons. Pertzborn, who was also a Business Education teacher at MHS, resigned from that position, as well.

The Middleton-Cross Plains School Board unanimously approved both resignations.

Pertzborn had been placed on administrative leave the previous week following an incident of alleged harassment within the school's football program. That incident of misconduct — which took place more than two weeks ago — is being investigated by the Middleton Police Department and the school district.

No arrests have been made at this time.

"We are investigating allegations regarding student-to-student conduct within our football program," said Shannon Valladolid, the district director of information and public relations for the Middleton-Cross Plains School District.

Multiple sources told the Times-Tribune the incident occurred in the boys locker room at MHS after a training session that took place before school. Pertzborn was not in charge of the morning workout, but was on school grounds.

Neither Pertzborn, or those supervising the training session, were in the locker room at the time of the alleged incident.

After a series of interviews, Pertzborn was placed on administrative leave by school administrators and given the option of either resigning or being fired.

According to sources, Pertzborn hired prominent Madison attorney Stephen P. Hurley who then negotiated a buyout with the Middleton-Cross Plains School District.

Part of buyout included a gag order that prohibits Pertzborn from discussing the incident.

All teachers and MHS employees were also told by district administrators that they would face disciplinary action — including termination — if they were caught discussing



Times-Tribune photo by Mary Langenfeld

 $Jason\ Pertzborn\ (center)\ resigned\ as\ Middleton's\ football\ coach\ on\ Jan.\ 26\ amidst\ an\ incident\ of\ alleged\ harassment\ within\ the\ school's\ football\ program.$ 

See OPENING page 16

the incident with the media.

"Jason's getting a bad rap," said one person close to the situation. "They want to make him a fall guy in this whole deal and it's just not right."

A second MHS employee added: "Now they want to put this gag order on us. They're more concerned about keeping everybody quiet instead of solving any actual problems."

Middleton superintendent Dana Monogue and principal Peg Shoemaker sent a letter to families in the district on Jan. 27 saying the investigation could take several weeks. A number of parties have already been interviewed during the investigation that started more than a week ago.

"We want the community to know we take incidents like these very seriously," Monogue told the Times-Tribune. "Getting all the answers we need will take some time."

Pertzborn served as Middleton's co-head coach with Tim Simon in 2018, then took over the program in 2019.

Pertzborn's first team in 2019 went 8-3 overall and reached Level 2 of the post-season. The Cardinals moved

See PERTZBORN page 14

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# SWEET 16

## Middleton's boys basketball team moves to 16-0 after cruising past Madison East

BY ROB REISCHEL

Times-Tribune

Kevin Bavery rarely gets

Middleton's boys basketball coach is widely regarded as one of the more even tempered and nicer guys in his business.

But after Madison East trimmed a 14-point lead to four points last Saturday and forced Bavery to call a timeout, the Cardinals' boss was about as irritated as he can get.

"He wasn't real happy," Middleton senior guard Gavyn Hurley said.

Moments later, Bavery's aggravation quickly turned to delight.

Middleton embarked on a remarkable 22-3 run, pushed its lead to 23 points and cruised to a 67-45 win.

Hurley led the Cardinals with 19 points - including 10 during that decisive run seven rebounds, three assists and three steals, while senior forward Owen Cooney added 12 points and seven rebounds. Senior guard Will Comerford had 10 points, sophomore center Will Garlock had nine points and five rebounds and senior wing Kaden Fosdick had five points and six assists.

The Cardinals, ranked No. 2 in the latest Associated Press and Wissports.net poll among Division 1 teams, improved to 16-0 overall and 13-0 in the Big Eight Conference. Middleton, which is off to its best start in school history, leads the league by four games over three different teams with just seven conference games remaining.

"Coach said we didn't bring as much intensity as we needed to," Hurley said of Bavery's message during the timeout. "So we really ramped up the defensive intensity. That was a great defensive stretch. Lots of energy."

Middleton has been one of the state's elite defensive outfits all season.

The Cardinals held East to a season-low point total - the seventh time this year Middleton has held an opponent to its season-low in points. The Cardinals - who start four players that stand 6-foot-6 and the 6-foot-10 Garlock — are allowing just 50.4 points per game and have held their last five opponents to an average of just 47.8 points.

"We've gotten to that time of the season where I feel like we can play man, we can play 1-1-3 (zone), we can play 1-3-1 (zone)," Bavery said. "We can trap out of our 1-1-3. We're starting to trap corners out of the 1-3-1, which is causing problems. We've got a lot of options and we're getting better."

East would certainly concur. The Purgolders, who trailed, 29-20, at halftime, opened the second half on a 9-4 spurt and pulled within 33-29. East's Camron Henderson, who led the Purgolders with 15 points, drilled a 3-pointer, was fouled and made the free throw with

15:06 left to trim Middleton's lead to four and draw Bavery's

"We just asked 'em, are you here to play or what?" Bavery said of his message during the timeout. "I said, 'here's what we just talked about at halftime and you're not doing it."

That certainly changed during the Cardinals' decisive run.

Over the next eight minutes, Middleton scored on 11 of 16 trips and averaged 1.4 points per possession.

East, on the other hand, had scoring droughts of three, and later five minutes. The Purgolders also shot just 1-of-11 in that stretch and had nine turnovers.

Middleton, which alternated between its man-to-man defense and its 1-1-3 zone in the first half, went to a 1-3-1 zone during its big run and East had no answers against it.

"We showed (the 1-3-1) against Arrowhead last year (in the playoffs) and now we're even longer," Hurley said. 'We've been running that since our eighth grade team went 61-5. We're pretty good at that defense."

That's for sure.

Cooney started the run when he backed his man down on the left block and hit a soft, 7-foot turnaround after an assist from Fosdick. Two possessions later, Fosdick made a terrific pass from the right corner to an open Comerford, who drilled a 3-pointer that extended Middleton's lead to 38-29.

"We just needed to get the ball moving better," said Fosdick, whose team had a seasonlow four turnovers. "When the ball is moving like that, no one's going to be able to stop us. We have so many options. Getting everyone involved is something we're looking for and looking to do."

With Hurley at the top of the 1-3-1, Cooney, Comerford and Fosdick in the middle, and Garlock protecting the back end, the Cardinals then forced consecutive steals.

Hurley came up with the first theft, drove the length of the court and made a nifty left handed lay-up. Comerford then had a steal on East's next possession, reserve guard Joe Schwartz fired a pass ahead to Hurley who scored in the paint, and just like that Middleton's lead had ballooned to 42-29.

"The 1-3-1 turned out to be our best defense in that stretch," Bavery said. "We really pushed the ball. We made pretty good decisions in transition. And when Gavyn can get around people and finish with his length and his height, he's really tough to stop."

After an East basket momentarily stopped the bleeding, the Cardinals went on a 13-1 run that largely ended things.

Hurley had a steal on one end, drove the left baseline, and after taking a Euro Step scored at the rim to make it 44-31. East, still befuddled by the 1-3-1, then missed again. Hurley grabbed the rebound, drove the length of the court and converted another left-handed layup to give the Cardinals a 46-31 advantage.

"Mr. Gavyn Hurley gives us a special kind of energy," Fosdick said. "It just gets the guys going. When we're running up and down the court like that and he's making plays, it's just a really big momentum change. He's definitely a great creator

As East continued to struggle - turning the ball over on four consecutive possessions at one point - Middleton found its groove offensively. Junior wing Avery Houden made a clever reverse lay-up, Hurley rebounded his own miss and scored and Cooney had a rebound basket to make it 52-32.

"It was important that we came out and established what we established after that timeout," Bavery said. "We understand teams are going to make runs and part of that was due to them, but part was also due to us. And so to respond in that kind of way, just to show when we really get in transition, what we're capable of doing was nice to see."

Fosdick - Middleton's version of the Energizer Bunny capped the run in style.

First, Fosdick had a steal, raced the other way, and threw down a two-handed dunk. It was Fosdick's first dunk of the year and his first since Middleton upset Hartland Arrowhead in a regional final last season.

"I was just wide open and I was like, 'I'm a pretty bouncy fellow.' So I was like, I'm going to put one down softly and make sure it goes in," Fosdick said. "I used two hands for

Junior forward Carter Kadow then had a steal, leading to a breakout where Fosdick atgolders made a move to open the second half, things looked dicey for a second.

But only for a second.

"I never felt like we were in trouble," Bavery said.

That's because these Cardinals have done a remarkable job staying the course, never getting too high or low — even though they're in the midst of making history.

"We have not changed," Bavery said. "You ask every one of our guys what's most important and they'll say the next practice. They won't say the next game, they'll say Monday's practice and they understand that.

"We tell the players, either we're going to evolve or we're going to stay the same. The old, 'No pain, no gain' statement, we say 'No pain, no gain or remain the same.' But we can't remain the same. We have to evolve."

Middleton has done just that, adding new plays and concepts throughout the year to stay one step ahead of a gifted conference that has several teams anxious to try knocking off the Cardi-nals.

So far, though, everyone

that's tried has failed.

"It's fun. It's a lot of fun," Bavery said of Middleton's fast start. "Of course it's easier when we're winning, but win, lose or draw, there has not been a single day where I haven't enjoyed being around these guys.

"They are just unbelievable. They really are. And it's not just their personalities, it's their energy. It makes it a blast to come to practice every day."

MIDDLETON 67, **MADISON EAST 45** 

Madison East ...... 20 25 - 45Middleton ..... 29 38 - 67

ron Henderson 5 3-3 15, Clevon Easton 3 1-1- 9, Jabril Franklin 1 0-03, Trent Tucker 10-03, Jazierre Yancy 1 0-0 2, Ebrahim Jarjue 1 0-0 3, Greg Smith 2 1-2 5, Periyon Mayes 1 0-0 2, Habib Alidu-Ball 1 1-2 3. Totals: 16 6-8 45.

ley 9 0-1 19, Isaiah Oliver 1 1-2 3, Kaden Fosdick 2 1-2 5, Owen Cooney 5 2-2 12, Will Garlock 3 3-4 9, Will Comerford 3 2-2 10, Avery Houden 2 0-0 4, Torin Pettaway 1 0-0 2, Mason Roquet 1 0-0 3. Totals: 27 9-13 67.

Roquet).

## Middleton's Owen Cooney shoots between four Madison East players during the Cardinals' win over the Purgolders last Saturday.

tempted his second dunk in 20 seconds. Instead, Fosdick was fouled, then made one of two free throws to cap the incred-

After that timeout, everything kind of just clicked," Hurley said. "I got some breakouts, some rebounds I turned into points. We played great defense and that got the offense going. I feel like we're clicking as a team right now."

The Cardinals were certainly clicking early, racing to an 8-0 lead after 2 ½ minutes and extending that advantage to 16-2 after seven minutes. Comerford had five points during Middleton's early blitz and six different Cardinals scored.

East, meanwhile, missed its first 10 shots from the field as it struggled to get used to Middleton's rare size.

"We knew it was going to be their game of the year," Hurley said. "Every team now is going to be like that. So we wanted to have a fast start."

East began chipping away, though, using a 16-7 run to pull within 23-18 with 4 minutes left in the half. Middleton extended its lead back to 29-20 by halftime, but when the Pur-

EAST - (fgm ftm-fta pts) Cam-

MIDDLETON - Gavyn Hur-

**3-pointers:** East 7 (Henderson 2, Easton 2, Franklin, Tucker, Jarjue), Middleton 4 (Comerford 2, Hurley,

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# Middleton rolls past Sun Prairie East

### Cardinals set school record with 15-0 start

BY ROB REISCHEL

Times-Tribune

In the long and storied history of Middleton's boys basketball program, the Cardinals never had a team begin a season 15-0.

That all changed on Jan. 26. Middleton rolled past host Sun Prairie East, 73-48, and improved its record to a perfect 15-0 for the first time in school history. The Cardinals also moved to 12-0 in the Big Eight Conference and maintained their four-game lead over three other teams in the race for the league title.

"It's been a lot of fun," Middleton senior point guard Gavyn Hurley said.

Middleton had lots of fun against Sun Prairie East, which fell to 3-13, 2-12.

Hurley led Middleton with 16 points, 13 rebounds and nine assists, while senior wing Kaden Fosdick added nine points, four rebounds and four assists. Senior guard Will Comerford had nine points and three assists, while senior forward Owen Cooney had eight points and four re-

Both freshman guard Isaiah Oliver and senior guard Joe Schwartz had seven points, while sophomore center Will Garlock added six rebounds and junior forward Carter Kadow had four rebounds.

Middleton outrebounded East, 41-23, and had 22 assists to just nine for the hosts. Middleton also shot 49.2% from the field, while East shot 37.3%.

Middleton got off to a slow start defensively, but built a 39-28 halftime lead.

"They are essentially a dribble-drive motion team," Middleton coach Kevin Bavery said. "We did a good job of preventing them getting to the basket, but they were able to get deep enough on dribble penetration to force us to over help. They kicked the ball out to perimeter shooters and we were late, giving up some early 3's.

"We settled down after a timeout and were able to disrupt their timing by showing help, but actually playing the kick. We were able to attack both in the half court as well as in transition."

Middleton's lead could have been even greater, but East made a 75-foot shot at the halftime buzzer. Middleton also discovered it was inadvertently given three points, so a potential 17-point advantage was just 11 at the break.

"It was an incredible oncein-a-lifetime shot," Bavery said of Sun Prairie's Hail Mary shot before halftime. "It was a bit of a deflator, but it was also one of those moments where all anyone could do — fans, players, and coaches — was smile."

Middleton a lot more to smile about in the second half, as it stretched its lead to as many as 27 points before pushing its remarkable season-opening win streak to 15.

MIDDLETON 73, SUN PRAIRIE 48

Pet-taway 2..

SUN PRAIRIE EAST — Jayvion Lythjohan 2, Theodore Schofield 12, Max Glusick 2, Trystan Fry 16, Kacy Tesch 4, Gavin Van Wie 5, Max Raimer 3, Drew Kavanaugh 1, Tyler Drogue 3.

**3-pointers:** Middleton 4 (Comerford 2, Hurley, Schwartz); SPE 5 (Fry 3, Raimer, Drogue).

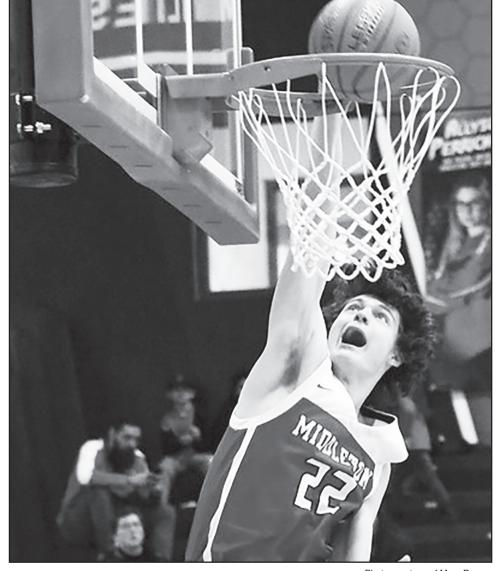


Photo courtesy of Mary Bavery

Avery Houden throws down a dunk during Middleton's win over Sun Prairie East on Jan. 26.

# **Arrowhead nips hockey Cards**

BY ROB REISCHEL

Times-Tribune

Middleton's hockey team traveled 75 miles to Hartland Arrowhead Saturday night.

The Cardinals battled heavy snow and lousy roads just to get to Hartland.

And when the contest ended, the Cardinals probably wished they would have stayed home.

Arrowhead scored just 40 seconds into overtime and edged the Cardinals, 2-1. Middleton fell to 13-8 this season, while Arrowhead improved to 14-6.

"I thought that we played two of our best periods of the year against Arrowhead," Middleton coach Dan Truehl said. "Unfortunately, we just couldn't find the back of the net."

The Cardinals outshot the Warhawks, 43-18, but couldn't convert their multiple chances.

"When you outshoot a team 43-18 you don't expect to lose," Truehl said. "We have to find a way to produce more grade 'A' opportunities and capitalize on them."

Middleton took a 1-0 lead just 1:25 into the second period when Avery Passini had an even strength goal on an assist from Ethan Lam. But that was all the scoring the Cardinals could muster.

Arrowhead tied the game, 1-1, midway through the third period. The Warhawks then got the game-winner early in



Times-Tribune photo by Mary Langenfeld

Cam Semrad and Middleton's hockey team dropped a 2-1 overtime decision at Arrowhead last Saturday.

overtime.

Goalie Cam Haynes had 16 saves for the Cardinals, but took the loss.

"Arrowhead's entire gameplan revolved around stopping Brady (Engelkes) and we're likely going to see more of that as we get into playoffs," Truehl said. "We need others to step up when they are given the chance. Cam Haynes has been our backbone all year and he played great again."

• On deck: Middleton hosted Beloit Memorial Tues-

day, then host the La Crosse Aquinas/Holmen Avalanche Saturday at 8 p.m.

Truehl will then head to the postseason meeting Sunday where the Cardinals' playoff seed will be determined.







# Middleton's girls enjoy terrific week

## Cardinals top La Follette, **Madison West**

BY DENNIS SEMRAU

For the Times-Tribune

MADISON - On a cold, bitter winter evening, Middleton didn't waste any time heating up the host Madison La Follette gym last Friday eve-

The Cardinals scored the game's first 17 points and never trailed en route to a 70-57 victory over Madison La Follette in a Big Eight Conference girls basketball game.

"It's real beneficial to start out strong because sometimes we let teams come back," Middleton senior forward Addy Gmur said. "So that dominance, in the beginning, helped us at the end of the game."

The Cardinals were seeking revenge for a loss on their home court on Dec. 2, when the Lancers rebounded from a 20-point deficit to upend Middleton 65-

But despite a late La Follette rally, there wasn't going to be a fantastic finish for the Lancers this time, only a satisfying victory for Middleton to help the Cardinals improve to 9-8 overall, including 9-5 in the Big Eight.

"My girls just went out there and played with their hearts," Middleton coach Rashard Griffith said. "Basketball is a game of runs. That's what I told the girls. The first game at home in Middleton, we were up the same. We were up big, they came back and made a run and we got in our own way.

"Today, we didn't get in our own way. We executed the game plan and got the win. I'm most proud of them that they executed the game plan. They listened. They did what they needed to do.'

Senior co-captain Audrey Deptula lit up the gym with a game-high 35 points in a clash of NCAA Division I recruits that included La Follette junior sensation Alayna West, who entered the game averaging 30.2 points and a phenomenal 17 rebounds per game.

"We started out in man-toman (defense) with us shading to her side. Then in the second half, we went to a 2-3 zone," Deptula said of the game plan.



Times-Tribune photo by Mary Langenfeld

Audrey Deptula erupted for 35 points in Middleton's win at Madison La Follette on Jan. 27.

"It's always fun going against another good player like that. I always look forward to it. Alayna is so good and super athletic and such a high-skilled player. She's going places, and I couldn't be happier for her."

But unlike the first meeting, where West dominated the Cardinals and finished with 43 points, 20 rebounds and seven steals, Middleton kept her relatively in check.

"The game plan was to play together, first and foremost and (Alayna) wasn't going to beat us, bottom line," Griffith said after West finished with 19 points and 12 rebounds before fouling out of the game in the final minute. "If everyone else on the team beat us, that's different. But (West) wouldn't

"I told the girls I got it from (Verona coach) Angie (Murphy). West is not doing it to us. That's the same motto she had. No. 3 is not going to do that. If everybody else is going to beat

us, that's fine. But she was not about to do to us what she did in Middleton Not tonight."

Junior forward Mackenzie Zimmerman got the Cardinals off to a great start, scoring off post moves on back-to-back assists from freshman guard Brooke Michelotti and Deptula.

The Cardinals then scored on their next three possessions on layups from junior forward Stevee Kraemer and freshman guard Rowan Bourne before Deptula scored off an offensive rebound for a 10-0 lead with just over 3 minutes into the

Madison La Follette coach Will Green called a timeout to try to stem the tide.

But the Cardinals didn't let up, keeping the pressure on defensively and attacking the rim on offense.

"It was a 'keep off the brakes, we can't slow down' moment," said Kraemer, who registered a strong game on both the offensive and defensive boards. "We had to keep going because we couldn't have a repeat of the last game."

Following the timeout, Deptula went coast-to-coast for a layup off her own steal and then drained a 3-pointer before Kraemer added two free throws on the ensuing three Middleton possessions for a 17-0 lead with 13:06 remaining in the

Deptula, who finished with five of her seven steals in the first half, said the Cardinals didn't waste any time taking care of business.

"Our energy was really good," she said. "We were just in the gaps for Alayna. Everyone was in the passing lanes. We were reading their eyes and able to get some steals. Everyone boxing out on the boards was a key factor, too."

La Follette (9-8, 9-6) finally ended its scoring drought when West converted a layup at the 11:57 mark.

The Lancers were held scoreless spanning their opening 13 possessions, missing all six field goal attempts and four free throw attempts while also committing seven turnovers.

Although La Follette never led, Green was proud of the Lancers' overall effort.

"We got it down to 11, but it's hard to have a start like that on your home floor," Green said. "To dig yourself out of a 17-point hole is kind of tough.

"But I do like the fight. This team is young. Even though I want them to be better. It's a progression, and we know that.

'So the fight was there, and I was proud of them not trying to get it all back in one time. We took it possession by possession and if we had a little more time, it might have had a different outcome. But I did like the fight."

The Lancers, who missed 11 of their first 13 free-throw attempts, made four straight wrapped around a fastbreak layup from West to pull with 22-10 with 7:33 left in the first

But Middleton scored the next eight points on the way to an 18-4 run to open up a 40-14

Deptula scored 12 points, including two treys, in the surge that was fueled by five turnovers, which Middleton converted into three fastbreak

"In practice, we do coast-tocoast layups, where we run fullcourt and shoot a layup for five minutes straight," she said. "It's pretty challenging, but I feel it really helps overall."

While Deptula was the only Middleton player to score in double figures, eight Cardinals scored at least one point with Gmur and junior guard Londyn Holewinski, who sank two 3-pointers, each adding eight points.

"It's really helpful," Deptula said of the Cardinals diversifying their scoring. "When people are able to knock down shots, it opens up opportunities for everyone else to score because they have to play up tighter and lanes open up to drive. Then other people get the opportunity to shoot. It just really helps out each and every one of us."

Senior guard Linden Boycks drained a 3-ball from the left corner to send Middleton into halftime with a 46-26 lead.

But the Lancers weren't going down without a fight.

Da Jianna Haves scored eight of her 15 points, including two 3-pointers, and senior post player Payton Bade scored six of her seven points in the second half as the Lancers pulled within 65-54 with just over 3 minutes to play.

West capped an 11-2 run with a layup but Middleton pushed the lead back to 69-54 when Deptula sank four free throws spanning back-to-back possessions.

"We gave up a big lead (in the first game) so we had that fire going," Deptula said. "We just didn't want that to happen again. Alayna wasn't going to beat us."

But after West sank the first of two free throws and scored on a fastbreak layup with over a minute to play, she fouled out and the Lancers couldn't come any closer.

"The best thing about this group is I get them back another year except for the one senior, Payton Bade," Green said. "Da Jianna (Hayes) is a pretty good shooter. We just haven't been able to see that yet. Alayna West is working on trying to get them the ball and I'm hoping they find their groove. She's a very aggressive player."

Middleton, though, worked diligently to make sure that West earned everything she got. Griffith said it took a team effort to keep West in relative check.

"Stevee played a great game. Zim played a great game. Audrey played a great game. All of them. I'm proud of each and every one of my girls. They did well," Griffith said. "My satisfaction and gratification comes from seeing them change for the better.

"Seeing them come out of their shells as basketball players, but more importantly as student-athletes. That's what I preach to them all the time. It's about education first, about whom you are as a person moving forward."

But Griffith said the Cardinals, who have won three of their last four games, can't rest on their laurels.

"My seniors are the tip of the spear right now," Griffith said. "I look to them and I lean on them for their guidance and their experience when they're out there playing.

"They're bringing the younger girls along. I've got two freshmen in the lineup and a third one on the bench. To bring them along with them and keep building and instilling confidence.

"It's not over yet. I'm old school. The second you rest is when you have problems. You've got to keep pushing."

• Middleton 81, Madison West 27 - The Cardinals crushed the host Regents in a Big Eight Conference game on Jan. 24.

• On deck: Following a non-conference game against Stoughton on Tuesday, Middleton hosts Janesville Parker in a Big Eight Conference game on Thursday at 7:15 p.m.

The Cardinals then play at Beloit Memorial in a league game on Saturday at 1 p.m.

Jan. 27 Middleton 70, Madison La Follette 57  $\mathbf{Middleton} \dots \dots \mathbf{46} \ \mathbf{24} - \mathbf{70}$ La Follette ...... 26 31 - 57 MIDDLETON — Rowan Borne 1 0-2 2, Audrey Deptula 13 4-4 35, Maggie Cochrane 0 0-0 0, Mia Wissink 0 0-2 0, Londvn Holewinski 3 0-0 8, Addy Gmur 2 4-5 8, Emily Utter 0 1-3 1, Linden Boycks 1 0-0 3, Kenzie Zimmerman 3 0-0 6, Evin Jordee 1 0-2 3, Stevee Kraemer 1 2-2 4, Brooke Michelotti 0 0-0 0. Totals 25 11-20 70.

MADISON LA FOLLETTE (fg ft-fta pts) — Kelicia Caldwell 0 3-4 3. Alavna West 6 7-13 19. Ravne Mitchell 3 0-0 7, Ava Larson 0 0-0 0, Da Jianna Hayes 6 0-2 15, Payton Bade 3 1-6 7, Serena Olson 2 2-4 6. Totals 20 13-29 57.

3-point goals: Mid. 9 (Deptula 5, Holewinski 2, Boycks 1, Jordee 1); MLF. 4 (Mitchell 1, Hayes 3). Total fouls: Mid. 23, MLF 17.

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# Swimmers capture title at Middleton Invite

BY ROB REISCHEL

Times-Tribune

Middleton's boys swimming and diving team has enjoyed an unforgettable season.

The Cardinals added another chapter to their terrific year last Saturday.

Middleton won its own invite, totaling 415.5 points and edging runner-up Stevenson (III.) 403. Madison West (324), Madison Memorial (315) and Sun Prairie East rounded out the top five at the 14-team in-

"It was great to have schools from out of state and conference at the meet to have variety in competition before championship season," Middleton

BY ROB REISCHEL

week.

Times-Tribune

Middleton's wrestlers won

two of three dual meets last

The Cardinals downed Madi-

Middleton then defeated

Monona Grove/McFarland, 39-

36, and fell to Lodi, 72-0, at a

Here's how the Cardinals

MONONA GROVE/MCFAR-

113: Kaleo Cardoso (MGE)

120: Joe Cristoforo (MIDD)

126: Xavier Denman (MGE)

132: Quran Dunne-Morgan

138: Jaden Denman (MGE)

145: Finn Grauwels (MIDD)

152: Joel Karls (MGE) over

160: Corben Falk (MIDD)

170: Seth Bunn (MIDD) over

182: Bryce Falk (MIDD) over

195: Hayden Ballweg (MGE)

Gallagher (MGE) (Fall

over Dominick Hyatt (MGE)

over Sam Zanton (MIDD) (Inj.

(MGE) over Aiden Dowd

triangular on Jan. 24.

fared at each weight class:

MIDDLETON

over (MIDD) (For.)

over (MGE) (For.)

over (MIDD) (For.)

(MIDD) (Dec 0-0)

(Fall 5:30)

(MIDD) (For.)

(MGE) (For.)

over (MGE) (For.)

LAND 36

son La Follette, 48-30, on Jan.

coach Wes Lagerhausen said. "For the day we broke six meet records and two pool records."

Middleton's meet records included the following events:

• 200 Medley Relay - The foursome of Jack Madoch, Sam Wolf, Theo Wolf, Max Carter finished first in a time of

• 200 Freestyle - Nick Chirafisi won the event in 1:41.84.

• 50 Freestyle - Jack Madoch finished first in 20.96 sec-

• 100 Freestyle — Jack Madoch won the event in 45.72

• 200 Freestyle Relay -The quartet of Jack Madoch, Caden Van Buren, Jack Madigan, Nick Chirafisi finished first

**Wrestlers** win two

of three dual meets

220: Gavynn Cooper (MIDD)

over Brevid Roth (MGE) (Dec

285: Adham Elshaboury

106: Chaston Dotzauer

(MGE) over Tavish Frank

**LODI 72, MIDDLETON 0** 

Tavish Frank (MIDD) (Fall 0:18)

106: Levi Ness (LODI) over

113: Drew Lochner (LODI)

120: Caleb Lord (LODI) over

126: Evan Clary (LODI) over

132: Braedon Dorshorst

138: Owen Breunig (LODI)

145: Evan Stevenson (LODI)

152: Zane Licht (LODI) over

160: Kylar Clemens (LODI)

170: Mason Breunig (LODI)

182: Mason Lane (LO-DI)

195: Isaiah Groskopf (LODI)

over Tiem Nguyen (MIDD) (Fall

220: Nick Week (LODI) over

over Seth Bunn (MIDD) (Dec

over Bryce Falk (MIDD) (Dec

over Corben Falk (MIDD) (Fall

over Sam Zanton (MIDD) (Dec

over Finn Grauwels (MIDD)

(LODI) over Aiden Dowd

Joe Cristoforo (MIDD) (Fall

(MIDD) over (MGE) (For.)

(MIDD) (Fall 1:26)

over (MIDD) (For.)

(MIDD) (For.)

(MIDD) (For.)

(MIDD) (Fall 0:50)

over Tiem Nguyen (MIDD) (Dec Gavynn Cooper (MIDD) (Fall

• 400 Freestyle Relay -The foursome of Max Carter Theo Wolf, Nick Chirafisi, Sam Wolf finished first in 3:10.29.

The pool records included: 100 Freestyle — Jack Ma-

• 500 Freestyle - Nick Chirafisi finished first in 4:38.46.

Middleton also had several other terrific performances, in-

• Theo Wolf won the 100yard backstroke, while Max Carter was third.

· Sam Wolf was second in the 200-yard IM and second in the 100-yard breaststroke. • Theo Wolf was third in the

100-yard butterfly

· Jackson Esteves was third

285: Henry Koeppen (LODI)

**MIDDLETON 48, MADI-**

160: Corben Falk (MIDD)

170: Seth Bunn (MIDD) over

182: Bryce Falk (MIDD) over

195: Tiem Nguyen (MIDD)

220: Gavynn Cooper (MIDD)

285: Jackson Mankowski

106: Tavish Frank (MIDD)

113: Tyler Vang (MLF) over

120: Blake Baldis (MLF) over

126: Daniel Jimenez (MLF)

132: Irie Jackson (MLF) over

138: Sam Zanton (MIDD)

145: Finn Grauwels (MIDD)

over Samuel Clark-Gonzalez

(MLF) (Fall 0:00) 152: Emanuel

Furlow (MLF) over Cougar Har-

kins (MIDD) (Dec 6-3)

over Anikin Vang (MLF) (Fall

Aiden Dowd (MIDD) (TF 16-1

Joe Cristoforo (MIDD) (MD 18-

over Santiago Jimenez (MLF)

(MLF) over Adham Elshaboury

(MIDD) (Fall 0:00)

over (MLF) (For.)

over (MIDD) (For.)

(MIDD) (For.)

over Langston Dyer (MLF) (Fall

over Liam Bakken (MLF) (Fall

over Adham Elshaboury

(MIDD) (Fall 2:38)

(MLF) (For.)

(MLF) (For.)

SON LA FOLLETTE 30

in the 500-yard freestyle, while Noah Dorn was eighth.

· Esteves was fourth in the 200-yard freestyle and Dorn was ninth.

• Max Carter was fourth in the 50-yard freestyle, while Caden Van Buren was 10th.

• Dane Landretti was eighth

**Board Agenda for January** 

in the 1-meter diving competition.

• Jack Madigan was ninth in the 100-yard freestyle.

• JV: Middleton's JV team won the Big Eight Conference meet on Jan. 26, posting 575.5 points to edge runner-up Madison West (552.5).

"As a coach I couldn't ask for anything more and it was an amazing way to end the season for them," Lagerhausen said.

• On deck: Middleton hosts the conference diving meet Friday at 6 p.m. and the conference swimming meet Saturday at 1 p.m.

#### 9, 2023 - Meeting Minutes MIDDLETON-CROSS **PLAINS AREA** SCHOOL DISTRICT

**District Services Center** 7106 South Avenue, Middleton, WI

#### 1. Call to Order Regular Board Meeting at 7:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Bob Hesselbein.

Present: President Bob Hesselbein, Vice President Gail Shepler, Clerk Simrnjit Seerha, and Board Members: Annette Ashley, Bob Green, Tabitha Hansen. Catherine Kells and Paul Kinne

Not Present: Treasurer Sheila Dahmen Hibner

Present: Others Superintendent Dana Monogue, Deputy Superintendent Sherri Cyra, Assistant Superintendent Romero-Johnson, Silvia Assistant Superintendent Jerrud Rossing, Director Erin Wheeler, Director of Secondary Education Keith Schneider, Principal Jill Peg Gurtner, Principal Shoemaker. CTE and Coordinator Dave Thomas

#### 2. Recognition

#### A. MHS One Act Play Award Recipients

Drama Teacher Katrina Brunner and theater students from the one act play "The Perfect Ending" were recognized for their Wisconsin State Theatre Awards.

#### 3. Minutes

#### A. Approval of the Minutes of December 12, 2022

MOVED Shepler by SECONDED by Green to approve the Regular and Closed Minutes of December 12, 2022. Motion carried unanimously, 8-0.

#### 4. Communications

#### A. Citizen Comments

There were no citizen com-

#### B. Correspondence/Board Communications

Tabitha Hansen stated that students were excited to be back in school again. Before winter break, Bob Hesselbein visited all the schools and thanked principals and the staff for their work during 2022.

#### C. Legisiative Update

There was nothing to report. 5. Superintendent's Report

#### A. Upcoming Events and **Updates**

Superintendent Monogue shared information about the April school board elections. There are five available seats with four candidates registered and qualified for the ballot. She reported that the high school stadium project is on track and should be completed in June and that there is an Exceptional Women event in April which is a fundraising event for the new stadium. Four board members and the superintendent will attend the State Education Convention next week. The district thanked Mark Walther for coordinating the crossing guards in the City of Middleton for 47 years.

#### 6. Consent Agenda Administrative / Business Services

MOVED by Kinne SECONDED by Ashley to

PUBLIC NOTICE • PUBLIC NOTICE • PUBLIC NOTICE • PUBLIC NOTICE • PUBLIC NOTICE approve the following items on the consent agenda: 6.a. Approval of Bills Payable, 6.b. Approval of Treasurer's Report. and 7.a. Approval of Employee Services List. Bob Green asked that the Employee Services item be removed from consent. MOVED by Kinne and SECONDED by Ashley to accept the amendment. Motion carried unanimously, 8-0.

A. Approval of Bills Payable The board approved under consent agenda the check list totaling \$5,200,744.53. (Exhibit

#### B. Approval of Treasurer's Report

The board approved under consent agenda the current Treasurer's Report (Exhibit B)

7. Consent Agenda Employee Services - Certified Staff

#### Approval Resignations/Staff Appointments/Retirements

Bob Green congratulated JoEllen Pauls and Jerry Moen on their retirements and thanked them for their service. MOVED by Hansen SECONDED by Seerha to approve the employee services list as presented. Motion carried unanimously, 8-0. (Exhibit C)

#### 8. Consent Agenda **District Consent Items**

There were no District Consent items to approve.

9. Items for Information/ Discussion

#### A. Report on 2023-2024 Calendar and Independent **Learning Plans**

Deputy Superintendent Sherri Cyra presented information on the calendar for next year along with the minutes and set up for independent learning plans. The secondary team consisting of Keith Schneider, Dave Thomas, Peg Shoemaker, and Jill Gurtner discussed the independent learning plans for the 2023-2024 school year. The planning has been vetted through a lot of different avenues. They will use feedback for future planning. Peg Shoemaker highlighted several options that they are working on. The plan is to support choice and opportunities for business connections. Board members asked questions throughout the presenta-

#### B. Open Enrollment - Policy and Enrollment Review

Superintendent Sherri Cyra reported on the 2023-2024 open enrollment preliminary plan. After looking at our projections and sections, administration is recommending that we do not open up an enrollment seats for next year. There was a review of the open enrollment policy also and there are no changes to that. The board will vote on the policy and plan at the January 23, 2023 Regular Meeting.

#### 10. Items for Approval A. Approval of 2023-2024 Calendar

Superintendent Deputy Sherri Cyra reviewed the independent learning days in the information section of this agenda. There are no date changes since the board reviewed this at the last meeting. MOVED by Green SECONDED by Hansen to approve the 2023-2024 calendar. Motion carried unanimously, 8-0. (Exhibit D)

#### B. Approval of Supervisor Contracts

MOVED SECONDED by Ashley to approve the supervisor contracts for 2023-2024. Motion carried unanimously, (Exhibit E)

#### C. Appoint Three Board Members to Teacher **Handbook Committee**

Superintendent Monogue requested three board members to serve on the Teacher Handbook Committee. Sheila Dahmen Hibner. Bob Green and Simrnjit Seerha volunteered. MOVED by Hansen SECONDED by Kinne to appoint the three board members listed above. Motion carried unanimously, 8-0.

#### D. Appoint Member to the Legislative Committee

After a brief discussion, Bob Hesselbein volunteered. MOVED by Shepler and SECONDED by Kinne to appoint Bob Hesselbein to the Legislative Committee. Motion carried unanimously, 8-0,

#### E. Appoint Board Delegate for the Education Convention

Gail Shepler volunteered to be the delegate. MOVED by Green SECONDED by Kinne to accept Gail Shepler as the board delegate representing the board at the Education Convention. Motion carried unanimously, 8-0.

#### WASB Vote on Resolutions for the State School Board Convention

MOVED Green by SECONDED by Kinne to appoint the delegate, Gail Shepler, to vote on behalf of the entire board at the convention. Motion carried unanimously,

#### Approval of First Reading of Board Policies

Annette Ashley reviewed the draft policies. There were several changes and additions suggested by the board. MOVED by Green SECONDED by Hansen to approve the first reading with the proposed changes that were discussed which will be brought back for the second reading at the January 23 meeting. Motion carried unanimously, 8-0.

## H. Action on Pope Farm Lot

Assistant Superintendent Jerrud Rossing reviewed the offer with the board. MOVED by Kinne SECONDED by Shepler to approve the Pope Farm lot offer as presented. Motion carried unanimously, 8-0. (Exhibit

#### 11. Convene in Possible Session Closed Under Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1) (c)(f)

by SECONDED by Hansen to move into closed session at 8:11 p.m. for superintendent contract. Motion carried unanimously, 8-0 on a roll call vote.

12. Reconvene in Open Session

#### 13. Next Meeting Dates and Adjournment

#### A. Future Meeting Date B. Potential Board Agenda Items

#### C. Adjournment

MOVED by SECONDED by Hansen to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:12 p.m. Motion carried unanimously, 8-0.

Cheryl Janssen, **Board Secretary** 

Publish: 2/2/23 WNAXLP

# Gymnasts sixth at **Memorial Invite**

#### BY ROB REISCHEL

Times-Tribune

Middleton's girls gymnastics team finished in sixth place in the 10-team White Division at the Madison Memorial Invite

last Saturday. Burlington/Badger won the invite with a team score of 129.850, while Middleton had a 124.850 score.

Middleton freshman Ana

Bollig was ninth in the allaround competition with a 31.850 score, while freshman Eva Szczepanski was 10th at

Cardinals senior Lucy Hellenbrand was fifth on the balance beam with an 8.150, while Bollig and Szczepanski tied for eighth (8.10) and Kenavan Lindner was 25th (7.10).

Szczepanski was ninth on the uneven bars (7.90), while Lindner was 10th (7.850), freshman

Abby Arnold was 15th (7.50) and Bollig was 20th (7.250).

Bollig was seventh on the was 37th (7.650).

And on the floor, Bollig was 23rd (8.150), Szczepanski was 35th (7.550).

vault (8.350), Szczepanski was 30th (7.850), sophomore Aubrey Anderson was 35th (7.70) and sophomore Jaelynn Kemp

26th (7.950), Buna Karanezi was 30th (7.70) and Arnold was



Times-Tribune photo by Mary Langenfeld

Jason Pertzborn — who resigned as Middleton's football coach last week — went 26-14 during his four years as the Car-

## PERTZBORN

continued from page 9

their 2020 season to the spring of 2021 due to COVID-19, where they went 3-3 in a Middleton's 1987 state chammodified six-game schedule.

Middleton went 8-4 overall in 2021 and reached Level 3 of the playoffs for the first time since 2016. The Cardinals then went 7-4 in 2022 and reached the second round of the postseason.

In all, Pertzborn's teams went 26-14 (.650) and extended their streak of playoff appearances to 26 consecutive years — which is tied for the longest in Division 1 with Hartland Arrowhead.

Pertzborn — a 1990 MHS graduate — grew up in the Middleton program.

Pertzborn was a reserve on pionship team - the last group of Cardinals to hoist a gold ball. He then was a twoyear starting quarterback at MHS and a standout baseball player.

Pertzborn played baseball for three years at UW-Stevens Point and graduated from there with a business degree in 1995. He later added a teaching degree from Concordia University.

Pertzborn's first high school football coaching experience came under Jay Redders at Madison West from 1998-

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2001. Pertzborn was also the Regents' offensive coordinator in both 2000 and 2001.

Pertzborn joined Middleton's staff in 2002 as a volunteer assistant at the sophomore level.

Pertzborn later served as the head sophomore coach for 10 seasons, then jumped to the varsity level in 2013 and became the Cardinals' offensive coordinator.

When the 2022 football season ended, Pertzborn was

optimistic, excited and enthusiastic about Middleton's future.

Pertzborn knew the Cardinals would be returning nine all-conference players in 2023 and had a chance to field Middleton's best team in more than a decade.

"I can't wait," Pertzborn said. "We could have a great

If they do, it will now happen without Pertzborn.

#### **TOWN OF CROSS PLAINS ADVERTISEMENT TO BID**

The Town of Cross Plains is soliciting requests for proposals for chip seal work and crack filling work in the Town during 2023

#### Chip Seal

West from end of Old Sauk Pass to Stagecoach and N and W

Rocky Dell Road south from Town Line to Highway 14. East/West section of S. Birch Trail

Repave/Replace

Replace N/S section of N. Riley section

#### Crack Fill areas per Town Patrolman

Contact Patrolman for more information/tour: Bruce Boehnen, Patrolman Town of Cross Plains tcppatrol@tds.net (608) 220-3071

All work must be completed prior to September 1, 2023

The Town reserves the right to award only a portion of the work available for bid, to award projects by individual roads to separate bidders or to award all road projects to one bidder. The Town also reserves the right to refuse any or all bids or reject the low bid for cause.

Bids should be mailed to the Community Center and must be received by 4:00 PM Thursday, February 9, 2023. Bids will be opened at 6:45 PM on Thursday, February 16, 2023 and will be awarded at the regular Board Meeting February 16, 2023 at 7:00

> Nancy Meinholz, Clerk Town of Cross Plains 3734 County Road P Cross Plains, WI 53528

Publish: 1/26/23, 2/2/23 WNAXLP

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS 2023 Town of Middleton Road Rehabilitation Betsy Lane, Cherry Wood Lane, Valley View Road

The Town of Middleton will receive Bids in electronic format only, through QuestCDN.com, for the 2023 Town of Middleton Road Rehabilitation project until 10:00 am local time, February 9, 2023, at which time they will be publicly opened virtually and read aloud. The bid opening meeting can be accessed by Google Meet at the following web address: meet.google.com/sym-pokr-nwx

In general, the work consists of pulverizing the existing pavement, undercutting areas of poor subgrade, repaving the mainline road, and restoration of driveway aprons and shoulders to match the new road profile. The project areas included in the project are the full lengths of Betsy Lane, Cherry Wood Lane, and Valley View Road from Mound View Road to Meadow Road. The overall rehabilitation work includes the following approximate quantities: 15,370 SY asphalt pulverization, 3,650 tons of hot mix asphalt, removal and replacement of concrete and asphalt driveway aprons, installation of 12,290 lineal feet of gravel shoulders, restoration of the work area, and other miscellaneous items in conformance with the Contract Documents.

Complete digital project bidding documents are available at www.vierbicher.com or www.questcdn.com. You may download the digital plan documents for \$42.00 by inputting Quest project #8377553 on the website's Project Search page. Please contact QuestCDN.com at 952- 233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with this digital project information. Please make your check payable to Vierbicher and send it to 999 Fourier Drive, Suite 201, Madison, WI 53717. Please contact us at 608-821-3959 if you have any questions.

All Bids shall be uploaded and submitted through Quest only with EJCDC C-430 Bid Bond equal to five percent (5%) of the Bid payable to the OWNER. All Bids uploaded and submitted through Quest shall also be accompanied with Bid Form 00 41 43.

The Bidding Documents may be examined at the offices of Vierbicher Associates, Inc., 999 Fourier Drive, Suite 201, Madison, WI 53717.

The CONTRACTOR shall be required to pay not less than the minimum wage rate as established by law.

The Town of Middleton reserves the right to waive any informality and to reject any or all Bids. The letting of the work described herein is subject to the provisions of Sections 60.47, 66.0901 and 66.0903, Wisconsin Statutes.

Vierbicher Associates, Inc. 999 Fourier Drive. Suite Madison, Wisconsin 53717 Town of Middleton 201 7555 W. Old Sauk Road Verona, WI 53593

Publish: 1/26/23, 2/2/23 WNAXLP

#### **ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS** 2023 Road Maintenance **Town of Middleton, Wisconsin**

#### TIME AND PLACE FOR BIDDING

Notice is hereby given by Town of Middleton, that it will receive sealed Bids for the 2023 Road Maintenance until 11:00 a.m. on February 16, 2023, at which time they will be publicly opened virtually and read aloud. The bid opening meeting can be accessed by Google Meet at the following web address: meet. google.com/jxb-ktek-yug.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF WORK**

The Project consists of chip seal maintenance (granite cover aggregate) for selected streets on the Town's 2023 Road Maintenance List. The project will include restoration of the work areas, traffic control, and other miscellaneous items in conformance with the Contract Documents.

#### **CONTRACT DOCUMENTS**

Complete digital project bidding documents are available at www.vierbicher.com or www.questcdn.com. You may download the digital plan documents for \$42.00 by inputting Quest project #8147889 on the website's Project Search page. Please contact QuestCDN.com at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with this digital project information. An optional paper set of project documents is also available for a non-refundable price of \$75.00 per set Please make your check payable to Vierbicher and send it to 999 Fourier Drive, Suite 201, Madison, WI 53717. Please contact us at 608-821-3959 if you have any questions.

#### SUBMITTING PROPOSALS

All Bids shall be uploaded and submitted through Quest only with EJCDC C-430 Bid Bond equal to five percent (5%) of the Bid payable to the OWNER. All Bids uploaded and submitted through Quest shall also be accompanied by Bid Form 00 41 43.

The Bidding Documents may be examined at the offices of Vierbicher Associates, Inc., 999 Fourier Drive, Suite 201, Madison, WI 53717.

#### **WAGE RATES**

The CONTRACTOR shall be required to pay not less than the minimum wage rate as established by law.

In awarding the contract, Town of Middleton reserves the right to waive any informality and to reject any or all Bids. The letting of the work described herein is subject to the provisions of Sections 60.47, 66.0901, and 66.0903, Wisconsin Statutes.

**Engineer** Vierbicher Associates, Inc. 999 Fourier Drive, Suite 201 Madison, WI 53717

<u>Owner</u> Town of Middleton 7555 W. Old Sauk Rd. Verona, WI 53593

Publish: 2/2/23, 2/9/23 WNAXLP



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## **OPENING**

continued from page 9

the football position. And if everything goes smoothly, Sims hopes to have his new football coach by early March.

"The fortunate thing about this unfortunate situation is the timing," Sims said. "Hopefully the timing of it all lends itself to lots of applicants.

"I'm confident we'll get some good interest, not just state-wide, but collegiately, as well, and hopefully from outside the state."

There's no question the Middleton opening should be one of the most coveted positions in the state.

The Cardinals have a tremendous history of success, qualifying for the WIAA Division 1 playoffs for 26 consecutive years. That's tied for the longest streak among Division 1 teams with Hartland Arrowhead.

Middleton is the largest high school in the state with 2,378 students, so there are plenty of able bodies roaming the hallways. The district passed a referendum in Nov., 2022, that — among many other things — will upgrade the football facilities. And Middleton has a youth program that's second-to-none.

What Middleton also has, though, is an image problem.

The bullying incident left the program with an enormous black eye. The perception by some is that Pertzborn was made the fall guy for the entire incident.

When Sims was asked if Middleton's program suddenly had an image problem he said, "That's a given."

According to sources, several members of Middleton's 2022 football staff met on Jan. 27 to discuss their future. It's believed several of those coaches will opt not to return in 2023

"A lot of guys just don't trust our district right now," one source said.

Sims stressed that whoever is hired as Middleton's next coach will have the full support of the athletic department and district administrators. And Sims believes his administrative and athletic experience will be beneficial in the search for Middleton's next coach.

Sims was a standout offensive and defensive lineman at Madison County High School (Ga.) in the late 1990s, then played offensive line at the University of West Georgia. He later returned to Madison County High as a teacher and coach before moving his family to Wisconsin.

Sims began working at Black Hawk Middle School in Madison in the 2015-'16 school year, where he was the dean of students. Sims advanced to assistant principal, interim principal, then principal at Black Hawk, and earned his Masters in Educational Leadership from Edgewood College during that time.

He was later named athletic director at MHS in June, 2020

"Support from our staff is critical, and whoever we hire will have our full support," Sims said.



Times-Tribune photo by Mary Langenfeld

Middleton athletic director Jamie Sims has begun the search for a new football coach.

Sims said he expects there will be a two-phase interview process, in which the applicants will be narrowed down

and the top candidates will be brought back for Round 2.

Just what that list of candidates looks like remains to be

seen.

"I'm confident we'll have a strong pool of applicants," Sims said. "It's a great job and when you pair it with a teaching position it becomes even better. So we'll see how it goes."

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