

HOMESTEAD SENIOR POKORNY STARS ON STATE GYMNASTICS STAGE



Photos submitted by Jerry Rossi

WISCONSIN RAPIDS — Homestead senior Maggie Pokorny, shown competing on the balance beam, left, and floor exercise, right, took first place in two events Saturday at the WIAA Div. 1 state gymnastics meet in Wisconsin Rapids. She won the floor exercise with a score of 9.500 and vault (9.800), took third on bars (9.450) and was second in the all-around (37.55). As a team, the Highlanders took sixth place (137.0667). Pictured, center, are individual state qualifiers, left to right, Maggie Lundstrom, Gillian Hopkins, Pokorny and Hannah Rempel. Macy Diemer, Ava Grosso, Audrey Gruenwald, Kyla Imana and Hannah Peterson also competed for the Highlanders at the state team meet.

CEDARBURG 53, GRAFTON 30



Photo by Mark Justesen

Players from the Cedarburg girls basketball team celebrate with their fans by taking a victory lap Thursday after defeating Grafton in a WIAA Div. 2 sectional semifinal game in Port Washington.

Bulldogs get defensive

Van Ermen gives Cedarburg a lift in sectional semifinal triumph

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PORT WASHINGTON — Sometimes the Cedarburg girls basketball team wins a game by relying on its powerful offense. However, in a WIAA Div. 2 sectional semifinal Thursday against Grafton, the Bulldogs used suffocating defense to earn a 53-30 victory over the Black Hawks in a neutral-site game played at Port Washington.

"I thought our defense was outstanding," Cedarburg head coach Dave Ross said. "We made some changes a couple weeks ago and it really came out tonight. We cut down on so many errors that we've had in the past. That's what you have to do in these games."

Courtney Van Ermen, a reserve guard who played a big role in the victory for the Bulldogs, added that everyone did their part to hold the Black Hawks to just 10 field

goals in the contest.

"It was a whole team effort," the sophomore said. "The defense was phenomenal. Everyone was helping and we've been really practicing that. We've been putting in different kinds of defenses and we've been really doing well."

Grafton head coach Matt D'Amato suggested that his team needed time to settle into the sectional game after the Black Hawks managed just five points over the opening nine minutes while falling into an early 12-5 deficit that became an 18-7 hole with six minutes remaining in the half.

"I think we were a little bit out of sorts at the beginning," D'Amato said. "We let a little anxious energy get the best of us, and trying to corral that took a little bit more (time) than what we would have liked."

Cedarburg reached the sectional round last season and Ross believes that gave his club an edge, especially in the early going.

"I'm sure Grafton was just like us. They're excited about the regional championship and you try to ride that, and one of the things that we may have had a slight advantage with was that our girls played this game last year," he said.

However, Grafton was able to net nine straight points to pull within 18-16 with 2:38 left in the period and trailed just 23-18 at the break.

The Black Hawks might have been even closer if not for the efforts of Van Ermen. She gave Cedarburg a big lift with five points and six rebounds before the break.

"Coming off the bench and she's getting rebounds and steals, she hits a 3, she gets a layup, she's just a really good athlete," Ross said, adding that Van Ermen was earning more minutes by the week. "I think she's gained some of that confidence playing with the team"

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CEDARBURG 64, WEST BEND WEST 45

Bulldogs clean the glass in win

Defensive stops and rebounding spark convincing victory

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CEDARBURG — Cedarburg made sure that points were hard to come by and second chance opportunities even more rare Friday for West Bend West during the first half of a WIAA Div. 2 boys basketball regional semifinal.

While the Bulldogs were being stingy at the defensive end, the team starting lighting up the scoreboard at the offensive end of the floor, which allowed Cedarburg to build a 37-16 lead at the break on the way to a 64-45 victory.

"Obviously with it being a conference team, we were pretty familiar. We've had two games with them beforehand and we know they like to get out quick in transition," West Bend West head coach Ryan Matenaer said. "We know they can knock down 3s and that was kind of the message to our guys, is give ourselves a chance defensively to settle in five-on-five."

The Spartans may have known the task at hand, but was powerless to stop it.

Cedarburg held West to 24% shooting in the opening half, including 0 for 9 from 3-point range, and the Bulldogs limited the visitors to just three offensive rebounds over the first 18 minutes.

"We knew coming into the year that would be one of our biggest weaknesses," Cedarburg head coach Nick Mueller said about his team's occasional struggles to clean the glass, which were not apparent against the Spartans. "There's been some games where that's cost us wins. It was nice to see we had some guys step up."

"It's great that the guys are recognizing that is still a weakness of ours and that our guards are willing to come down and scrape and help us out, because we are a pretty strong defensive team, but when we give up offensive rebounds, it's demoralizing."

Getting the guards to help collect the

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Photo by Mark Justesen

Cedarburg sophomore Logan Zahour drives to the basket Friday during a WIAA Div. 2 regional semifinal basketball game. He scored nine points in a 64-45 win.