

SPORTS SCHEDULE

9 THURSDAY

BOYS BASKETBALL
 * River Valley @ Lancaster
 * Highland @ River Ridge
 * Cassville @ Shullsburg

10 FRIDAY

GIRLS BASKETBALL
 * Richland Center @ Lancaster
 * River Ridge @ Belmont
 * Potosi/Cassville @ Benton

11 SATURDAY

BOYS BASKETBALL
 * Cassville @ Juda

WRESTLING
 * Lancaster & River Ridge @ D3 Mineral Point Regional

GYMNASTICS
 * Platteville/Belmont/Lancaster Invite

BOYS SWIMMING
 * D2 Sauk Prairie Sectional

13 MONDAY

BOYS BASKETBALL
 * Lancaster @ Benton

GIRLS BASKETBALL
 * Lancaster @ Black Hawk
 * River Ridge @ Wauzeka-Steuben
 * Albany @ Potosi/Cassville

14 TUESDAY

BOYS BASKETBALL
 * Shullsburg @ River Ridge
 * Belmont @ Potosi

GIRLS BASKETBALL
 * Belmont @ Potosi/Cassville

16 THURSDAY

BOYS BASKETBALL
 * River Ridge @ Highland

GIRLS BASKETBALL
 * Lancaster @ PdC
 * Benton @ River Ridge
 * Highland @ Potosi/Cassville

GYMNASTICS
 * SWC Conference Meet @ Prairie du Chien

STANDINGS

BOYS HOOPS

Platteville	-----	6-1	15-5
Dodgeville	-----	6-1	10-8
PdC	-----	5-2	6-12
Richland Ctr.	--	2-5	6-12
Lancaster	-----	2-5	4-15
River Valley	---	0-7	3-16

Darlington	-----	9-1	18-2
Mineral Point	--	9-1	17-2
Cuba City	-----	8-2	13-5
Fennimore	-----	5-5	12-8
Southwestern	5-5	11-7	
Iowa-Grant	---	2-8	8-12
Boscobel	-----	2-8	3-15
Riverdale	-----	0-10	4-14

Potosi	-----	8-1	14-4
River Ridge	-----	7-1	16-4
Highland	-----	4-3	10-9
Benton	-----	4-4	13-6
Shullsburg	-----	4-5	9-11
Cassville	-----	2-7	7-12
Belmont	-----	0-8	3-17

GIRLS HOOPS

PdC	-----	7-0	16-4
Platteville	-----	6-1	16-4
Dodgeville	-----	4-4	9-12
River Valley	---	3-5	7-13
Lancaster	-----	2-6	9-10
Richland Ctr.	---	1-7	3-17

Cuba City	-----	11-0	18-2
Mineral Point	--	9-1	16-4
Darlington	-----	6-4	12-8
Fennimore	-----	5-6	9-12
Boscobel	-----	3-7	10-10
Iowa-Grant	---	3-7	6-13
Riverdale	-----	2-8	5-14
Southwestern	2-8	2-17	

Belmont	-----	7-0	16-5
River Ridge	-----	6-1	13-6
Shullsburg	-----	5-2	13-8
Highland	-----	3-5	10-10
Benton	-----	1-7	3-18
Potosi/Cass	---	0-7	7-11



Comets collect win over Belmont
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BOYS BASKETBALL

Potosi takes down T-Wolves

Mike Uppena picks up 300th career coaching victory

BY A.J. GATES
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POTOSI – “One butt kicking deserves another.” With a smile on his face and a shake of his head, those were the words uttered by River Ridge boys’ basketball coach Tom Neises as he and Potosi coach Mike Uppena exchanged greetings at the conclusion of last Tuesday night’s Six Rivers West conference showdown.

Coach Neises’ Timberwolves, who came into the contest with an unblemished conference record of 7-0, had just been handed their first league loss of the season, and in convincing fashion, 61-38.

With the win, coach Uppena’s Chieftains improved to 8-1 in league play, their only conference loss of the season coming to the Timberwolves on Dec. 16, also in convincing fashion, 66-44.

Together, the Chieftains (8-1) and Timberwolves (7-1) now share the top spot in the Six Rivers West conference standings, Potosi having to play league games against Belmont (Feb. 14), Shullsburg (Feb. 17) and Benton (Feb. 23), while River Ridge still has to play Shullsburg (Feb. 14), Belmont (Feb. 23) and Highland twice (Feb. 9&16).

If either team want’s to claim a share of this year’s league title, the formula is simple.

“I think we have proven that we are the top two teams in the conference, so a split is very normal,” said coach Neises. “Now the question is, can both teams win the rest of their games and share it. That will be our challenge.”

“We still have a lot of work to do,” coach Uppena said. “We have to go to Benton and Shullsburg the last two games of the year, and we haven’t played well at their place, ever.”

Chieftains | SEE 2B



photos by A.J. Gates

(Above) Potosi senior Gavin Wunderlin attacked the basket on a regular basis last Tuesday night against visiting River Ridge, finishing with a team-high 25 points. After suffering a 66-44 loss to River Ridge earlier in the season, the Chieftains defeated the Timberwolves Tuesday night, 61-38. (Left) Potosi senior Sam Udelhofen celebrates with teammates Dayton Udelhofen and Gavin Wunderlin on the bench in the closing minutes of Tuesday night victory.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

River Ridge girls improve to 6-1 in league play

Timberwolves set to do battle with league-leading Braves Friday night

BY A.J. GATES
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CASSVILLE – Thanks to a second-half surge where they outscored their opponent 29-18, the River Ridge varsity girls basketball team turned a 27-27 halftime tie into a 56-45 victory over their hosts from Potosi/Cassville last Thursday night.

Coach Veronica Zinkle’s Timberwolves improved to 6-1 in Six Rivers West conference action, and sit one game behind league-leading Belmont (7-0) with three league games remaining,

Following this past Tuesday night’s home game against Shullsburg, the Timberwolves will travel to Belmont Friday night.

With the loss, coach Brad Bierman’s squad fell to 0-7 in league play with Benton, Belmont and Highland remaining on their conference schedule.

The Timberwolves had a very balanced scoring attack, with four different players combining to score all but three of their team’s points.

Leading the charge with 16 points was Jessica Patterson,

who was an impressive 5-of-9 from the field, including 4-of-7 from 3-point range. She also pulled down six rebounds to go along with two assists.

Close behind her was Shayna Graf, who finished with 15 points, six rebounds, two assists and a team-high five steals, while Reghan Zinkle added 13 points.

Adding nine points in the win was Mandi Wehrle, who also had three rebounds and two assists in the win.

As a team, the Timberwolves made 19-of-44 (43%) total shot attempts,

including 9-of-22 (41%) from long range. They were 9-of-17 (53%) from the free throw line.

The Chieftains got a team-high 11 points from Emily Bierman, followed by Ruby Roe with eight and Lillie Cooley and Miranda Kieler each with seven.

The Chieftains follow up this past Tuesday night’s non-conference contest at Lancaster with a road conference game at Benton Friday night. They will then host Albany on Monday, Feb. 13.

River Ridge 56, Potosi/Cassville 45
 (from Thursday, Feb. 2, at Cassville)
 River Ridge 27 29 - 56
 Potosi/Cassville 27 18 - 45
River Ridge - Mandi Wehrle 9, Melissa Sletten 3, Shayna Graf 15, Reghan Zinkle 13, Jessica Patterson 16. Totals - 19-44, 9-17 56.

Potosi/Cassville - Cassie Cooley 6, Lillie Cooley 7, Manhattan Udelhofen 6, Ruby Roe 8, Miranda Kieler 7, Emily Bierman 11. Totals - 12 17-24 45.
3-point goals - RR: (9-22) M. Wehrle 3, Graf 1, Zinkle 1, Patterson 4; P/C: C. Cooley 1, Udelhofen 2, Kieler 1. **Team fouls** - RR 19, P/C 18. **Fouled out** - Wehrle (RR), Graf (RR), L. Cooley (P/C).



photo by A.J. Gates

Potosi’s Miranda Kieler tries to get around River Ridge’s Abby Wehrle during last Thursday night’s contest.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Neises to call it quits at end of the season

BY A.J. GATES
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PATCH GROVE – Midway through his fourth season as head coach of the River Ridge boys’ basketball program, Tom Neises has come to the conclusion he has had enough, and will retire at the end of this season.

Neises, who is already a member of the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame, came into the 2022-23 season with a career coaching record of 343-175, having coached for over 40 years at numerous high schools throughout the state.

So far this season, his Timberwolves are in contention for the program’s fourth consecutive Six Rivers West conference championship, holding a league record of 7-1 and an overall mark of 16-4.

Neises became the ninth head coach in River Ridge’s 24-year history when he was hired in 2019, taking over a program that had just one winning season in the past six years, and hadn’t won a conference title since 2006.

Neises righted the ship almost instantaneously, leading the Timberwolves to a conference title in 2019-20 with a league mark of 11-1 and an overall mark of 20-5.

In the next two years to follow, his Timberwolves won back-to-back conference titles with unbeaten league records of 12-0, and went a combined 46-3 overall, losing in the regional finals each year.

In his first three years at River Ridge coming into this season, Neises’ Timberwolves have won three conference titles with a combined league record of 35-1. Their only conference loss coming by one point in a double-overtime thriller to Potosi.

This season has been a little tougher for coach Neises, who told his team of his intentions to retire before taking the court at last Thursday night’s practice.

“I’ve been thinking about this since the second week of the season, and I just needed to get it off my chest and say it to the kids,” explained Neises. “I just really wanted to deal with it and move on and enjoy the rest of the season.”

According to Neises, a number of factors contributed to his decision, one he most likely would have made at the conclusion of last season had things gone the way he had hoped.

“In all honesty, and I told the kids this, if we would have beaten Luther last year, which I thought we should have, I’m not sure I would have come back this year,” said Neises.

Neises | SEE 4B