

# Chieftains

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Though last Tuesday night's outcome certainly plays an impact on this year's conference title, it also had historic significance for each of the two coaches as well.

For coach Neises, Tuesday night's loss ended an impressive 32-game conference winning streak that stretched back to a 64-63 double overtime loss to coach Uppena on Feb. 14, 2020. In this, his fourth season at River Ridge, Neises has accumulated a career conference record of 42-2.

"I told the kids after the game, this is our first conference loss in over three years," said Neises. "That's not so bad. You know, I played in this conference and I know about the rivalries and how difficult that is."

For coach Uppena, Tuesday night's victory was his 300th career coaching win, giving him a 21-year record of 300-198.

"It's all about all the players we've had. I mean I haven't taken a single shot in any of the games. It's about the players and what they do and them

buying into what you're trying to accomplish," Uppena said of the accomplishment.

The beginning of last Tuesday night's battle started off similar to what fans might have expect, with each team trading baskets and neither team jumping out to a big lead.

Behind eight straight points from Potosi point guard Sam Udelhofen, the Chieftains held a 10-6 advantage at the midway point of the first half, until River Ridge sophomore

from there," said Neises of his team's start.

The two teams exchanged basket for the first five and a half minutes of the second half, with Potosi taking their largest lead of 13, and River Ridge getting as close as nine.

With 12:30 to play in the contest, a 2-point field goal by River Ridge's Braden Crubel pulled the Timberwolves to within 34-23, which was as close as coach Neises' squad would get to the Chieftains the rest of the way.

Potosi followed with a 10-0 scoring run, which extended their lead to 44-23 with 10:06 to play, and eventually took their largest lead of the game at 53-27 four minutes later on a sweet assist by Gavin Wunderlin to an open Aidan Uppena under the basket.

The Timberwolves were unable to make any kind of a comeback in the final six minutes, as Potosi held on for a 23-point victory, redeeming themselves from their 22-point loss to the Timberwolves earlier in the season.

"I was disappointed in my team and in myself that we didn't live up to the moment," said coach Neises of the loss. "I barely recognized the team

*"These guys like to get up and down the floor, they like to run in transition. I think that's another reason why they have been playing so well, they're hungry for that part of the game."*

- Mike Uppena

Luke Patterson hit a two-point jumper to pull his team within 10-8 with 8:42 showing on the clock.

In the final eight minutes of the opening half, Potosi outscored the Timberwolves, 12-5, taking a 22-13 lead into the locker room at intermission.

"We missed like five layups the first six minutes of the game, and it went downhill

that was wearing the road uniforms Tuesday night. I just really didn't expect that. They played the way I thought they would play, and we didn't."

Since the holiday break, coach Uppena's squad has seemingly found its identity, which comes from an aggressive defensive mindset that was on full display Tuesday night.

"Our defense has improved a lot for sure," Uppena said. "I think a lot of it has to do with the fact that it creates offense for us sometimes. They're excited for a challenge defensively and they're taking pride in it right now."

"We've developed into a team that has multiple guys who can guard different types of players, so we can keep throwing people at any of the team's best player, where other teams might not have that luxury," he added.

"These guys like to get up and down the floor, they like to run in transition," said Uppena. "I think that's another reason why they have been playing so well, they're hungry for that part of the game."

Offensively, Potosi did a particularly good job of attacking the basket, outscoring the Timberwolves, 36-18, in the paint.

Leading the charge for the Chieftains was Gavin Wunderlin, who scored a game-high 25 points on 9-of-18 shooting from the floor and



photo by A.J. Gates

Potosi's Oliver Post and River Ridge's Andrew Nies battle for a loose ball during last Tuesday night's Six Rivers West conference clash. The Chieftains handed the Timberwolves their first conference loss of the season, and only their second league loss in four seasons. With the win, Potosi (8-1) moves into a first-place tie with River Ridge (7-1) for the Six Rivers West conference title.

7-of-8 from the free throw line. Wunderlin was particularly big in the second half, where he scored 20 points and was a perfect 6-for-6 from the charity stripe.

Wunderlin also led Potosi in assists with four, and in steals with three.

"He's been attacking the rim more and it's been a work in progress for him throughout the year, where some nights he's a little more aggressive than others," Uppena said. "The last few weeks though he's really been doing a nice job of attacking the rim and getting to the free throw line."

Sam Udelhofen chipped in 16 points, going 4-of-8 from downtown, and scoring a team-high 11 points in the first half. He also pulled down a team-high 10 rebounds for a double-double.

Adding eight points for the Chieftains was Dawson Weber, followed by six from Dayton Udelhofen.

The Timberwolves got a team-high 20 points from Braden Crubel, who was 8-of-24 from the field, including 1-of-9 from 3-point range. After being limited to just two points in the first half, Crubel scored 18 in the second. He also pulled down a team-high five rebounds and had a team-high three steals in the loss.

Adding eight points was Matthew Nies, followed by Brady Bunge with five.

The Timberwolves struggled from the field against the aggressive defensive pressure of the Chieftains, making 15-of-56 (27%) total shot attempts, including 3-of-19 (16%) from 3-point range. They were a perfect 5-of-5 from the free throw line, while committing 14 turnovers.

The Chieftains were 25-of-55 (45.5%) from the field, including 4-of-13 (31%) from downtown, and were 7-of-10 (70%) from the charity stripe while committing 14 turnovers as well.

"One thing I'll say about Potosi is they have the look of a team that could make a pretty good run in division five," Neises said. "Based on the teams that we have played and that I've seen, I think Mike's team has a chance. I don't know what's up north, but I think they have a really good chance."

In last Friday night's Six Rivers East-West crossover games, Potosi defeated Argyle 78-57, while River Ridge won over Barneveld 55-48.

The Chieftains got a team-high 23 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists from Sam Udelhofen, while Wunderlin chipped in 21 points, followed by 11 from Aidan Uppena.

In their win over Barneveld, River Ridge got a team-high 18 points, eight rebounds and four steals from Braden Crubel.

Matthew Nies was close behind with 15 points and six boards, while Aidan Gage and Brady Bunge each added six points.

The Six Rivers West teams won all seven match-ups with Belmont beating Juda 56-40, Benton beating Pocatonia 74-41, Cassville beating Albany 73-49, Highland beating Black Hawk 64-47 and Shullsburg beating Monticello 85-59.

In a non-conference contest this past Monday night, River Ridge defeated host De Soto, 63-50, led by Matthew Nies' 18 points, followed by 10 from Anthony Davis and nine from Braden Crubel.

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**Potosi 61, River Ridge 38**  
(from Tuesday, Jan. 31, at Potosi)

River Ridge	13	25	38
Potosi	22	39	61

**River Ridge** - Brady Bunge 5, Carter Copsey 3, Braden Crubel 20, Matthew Nies 8, Luke Patterson 2. Totals - 15-56, 5-5 38.  
**Potosi** - Sam Udelhofen 16, Dayton Udelhofen 6, Dawson Weber 8, Oliver Post 2, Isalah Groom 2, Aidan Uppena 2, Gavin Wunderlin 25. Totals - 25-55, 7-10 61.  
**3-point goals** - RR: (3-19) Bunge 1, Copsey 1, Crubel 1; P: (4-13) S. Udelhofen 4. **Team fouls** - RR, P 10. **Fouled out** - None.

**River Ridge 55, Barneveld 48**  
(from Friday, Feb. 3, at Barneveld)

River Ridge	25	30	55
Barneveld	24	24	48

**River Ridge** - Anthony Davis 2, Aidan Gage 6, Brady Bunge 6, Braden Crubel 18, Matthew Nies 15, Andrew Nies 5, Luke Patterson 3. Totals - 16-34, 15-26 55.  
**Barneveld** - Kasey Helgeson 18, Trenton Owens 4, Brayden Ambler 2, Tucker Shipman 10, Ryan Gust 14. Totals - 15-11-48.  
**3-point goals** - RR: (8-14) Gage 2, Bunge 2, Crubel 3, Patterson 1; B: Helgeson 2, Shipman 1, Gust 4. **Team fouls** - RR 16, B 23. **Fouled out** - Helgeson (B).

**Potosi 78, Argyle 57**  
(from Friday, Feb. 3, at Argyle)

Potosi	35	43	78
Argyle	22	35	57

**Potosi** - Sam Udelhofen 23, Dayton Udelhofen 2, Dawson Weber 6, Logan Kruser 5, Jaxon Oyen 3, Isalah Groom 5, Aidan Uppena 11, Gavin Wunderlin 21, Ezra Groom 2. Totals - 32-64, 8-12 78.  
**Argyle** - Noah Moen 2, Caden Stoeger 6, Ike Waage 22, Max Godfrey 16, Mason McNett 11. Totals - 22-59, 7-23 57.  
**3-point goals** - P: (6-22) S. Udelhofen 2, Kruser 1, Oyen 1, Wunderlin 2; A: (6-21) Waage 4, Godfrey 2. **Team fouls** - P 16, A 15. **Fouled out** - None.

**River Ridge 63, De Soto 50**  
(from Monday Feb. 6, at De Soto)

River Ridge	27	36	63
De Soto	29	21	50

**River Ridge** - Brady Bunge 4, Carter Copsey 5, Braden Crubel 9, Matthew Nies 18, Andrew Nies 8, Anthony Davis 10, Elliott Thornton 1, Luke Patterson 8. Totals - 24-56, 7-9 63.  
**De Soto** - Jackson Trussoni 3, Landon Pedretti 24, Harris Krueger 7, Mason Zink 5, Harley Schams 7, Evan Koch 4. Totals 14-16-50.  
**3-point goals** - RR: (8-18) Copsey 1, M. Nies 3, A. Nies 2, Patterson 2; DS: Trussoni 1, Pedretti 3, Zink 1, Schams 1. **Team fouls** - RR 16, DS 11. **Fouled out** - Bunge (RR).

**Tuesday Afternoon Women**  
(Results from Jan. 31)

1. Buddies	52-32
2. Aces	43-41
3. Alley Queens	39-45
4. Lucky Strikes	34-50

**High individual game:** Sue Moore 184, Edna Hoffman 172, Sue Moore 152. **High individual series:** Sue Moore 470, Edna Hoffman 433, Linda Riedl 418.

**Tuesday Night Women**  
(Results from Jan. 31)

1. Eagle Cave	53.5-26.5
2. H&N	44-36
3. Copper Dome	43-25
4. Zippy's	42.5-37.5
5. Lancaster Auto Body	41-39
6. Happy Joes	39.5-40.5
7. Martha's Hot Mustard	38.5-41.5

**High individual game:** Erica Collins 197, Jen Rice 178, Patti Foster 169, Chris Schneider 168. **High individual series:** Jen Rice 494, Erica Collins 452, Chris Schneider 434, Nelle Schroeder 431.

**Wednesday Night Major**  
(Results from Feb. 1)

1. Zippy's	18-2
2. Tim Slack Realty	13-7
3. Lancaster Auto Body	11-9
4. WGLR	11-9
5. Bloomington Meats	10-38
6. Fuller's Milker Center	7-13
7. Legal Eagles	6-14

**High individual game:** (Men) Joe Mumm 286, Jon Kipper 257, Joe King 255. (Women) Rachel Kipper 226, Rachel Kipper 213. **High individual series:** (Men) Joe Mumm 656, Jake Timmerman 637, Mike Hutchcroft 634. (Women) Rachel Kipper 623.

**How Sweet It Is Prairie du Chien**  
(Results from February 2)

1. Eagles Auxiliary	36-12
2. Home A Gins	34-14
3. Ma's Bakery	30-18
4. Leisure Time	26-22
5. Bloomington Meats	10-38
<b>High team game:</b> Eagles Auxiliary 479, Home A Gins 469, Ma's Bakery 431. <b>High team scratch series:</b> Eagles Auxiliary 1276, Ma's Bakery 1274, Home A Gins 1259. <b>High individual scratch game:</b> Kelley Petsche 205, Donna Staples 180, Kim Moravits 179. <b>High individual scratch series:</b> Kelley Petsche 507, Donna Staples 496, Bonnie Chapman 444.	



photo by A.J. Gates

Potosi coach Mike Uppena collected his 300th career coaching victory last Tuesday night against River Ridge, giving him a 21-year career coaching record of 300-198.

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### Bowling

**Monday Marauders**  
(Results from Jan. 30)

1. 2 Dogs & 1 Cat	30-18
2. Let's Jam	28-20
3. Turkey Lurkey	27-21
4. RU Serious	22-26
5. Too Legit to Split	21-21
6. 6th Sense	20-28
7. Dream Team	20-28

**High individual game:** (Men) Jeff Zehner 242, Jon Kipper 242, Joe King 236. (Women) Jen Rice 226, Kim Moore 190, Rachel Kipper 182. **High individual series:** (Men) Joe King 691, Jon Kipper 661, Tim Rice 607. (Women) Jen Rice 530, Rachel Kipper 529, Kim Moore 522.



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