

OUTDOORS: SHORTER GROUSE HUNT GETS A LOOK, B12

Warriors run away with it, 60-35

RICE LAKE SCORES 33 IN THE SECOND TO OUTPACE EAU CLAIRE MEMORIAL IN BIG RIVERS OPENER



PHOTO BY DAVE GRESCHNER

Rice Lake's Braeden Verbsky leaves Memorial Old Abes behind while scoring on a 63-yard play after taking a short pass from quarterback Peyton Buckley late in the second half Friday at Pug Lund Field.

BY **DAVE GRESCHNER**
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Offenses didn't need an early wake-up call in Friday's Big Rivers football opener at Pug Lund Field, hurried up 2 hours to 5 p.m. to beat a thunderstorm threat.

The Rice Lake Warriors scored 33 points in the second quarter and went on to a 60-35 win over Eau Claire Memorial in a conference slugfest featuring more than 1,100 yards of offense.

The winning Warriors had 673 of those yards in going 3-0 on the season.

Memorial scored first for a 7-0 lead, but the Warriors put up one big play after another to lead 47-21 at halftime. Rice Lake scored on all seven of its first half possessions, and two of four in the second half, stopped only by an interception and when the Warriors took a knee in the closing seconds at the Memorial 1-yard line.

It was another scoring outburst for the Warriors, who have put up 46, 36 and 60 points in their three wins behind second-year quarterback Peyton Buckley, a veteran line and a stable of backfield speedsters.

It was also another night of giving up points as Rice Lake has surrendered 32, 33 and 35 in its three wins.

This time, however, head coach Dan Hill wasn't voicing disappointment in his defense.

"The defense stepped up this week. The score didn't look like it, but we made progress," said Hill.

Hill said Memorial is a good offensive team that took advantage of the defensive errors the Warriors made. Four of Memorial's touchdowns came on plays of 16, 54, 77 and 39 yards.

"We need to make that kind of progress again and show consistency," said Hill.

The Warriors will need that defensive pressure Friday when they play at Chippewa Falls. The Cardinals, a 33-23 loser at Menomonie last Friday, features its usual and effective mix of tight power formation and spread offense.

Hill also expects a step up in defense from Chippewa Falls. So far, Rice Lake's opponents haven't been able to solve the double-double threat of senior twins Marquez and DeAirus Clerveaux.

Both can take hand-offs or catch and run with lightning speed.

On Friday, Marquez scored on runs of 56 and 55 yards, while DeAirus scored on passes of 46 and 56 yards in a catch and run game with Buckley.

The big plays came in rapid fire in the first half, when DeAirus Clerveaux scored on both of his pass plays and Marquez added the 56-yard run.

Buckley kept the ball for

SEE **FOOTBALL**, B4

RL soccer sashes to win, 2-0

BY **LEIAH FUNDELL**
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The season-opening winning streak continues for the Rice Lake soccer Warriors, now 3-0 in the Big Rivers Conference and 4-0 overall after a damp 2-0 shutout of Eau Claire North on Tuesday at home.

As a steady rain fell, both teams tried to control a slippery ball on a fast surface. Offensive pushes came from both sides throughout the majority of the game, but a couple of mistakes by Eau Claire North's back line late in the second half allowed Rice Lake to penetrate for back-to-back scoring opportunities.

Scoring for the Warriors in the 75th minute was junior forward Ben Kemp off a crossed ball by sophomore midfielder Griffin Van Gilder to put Rice

SEE **SOCCER**, B5

Warrior runners take pair of firsts

BY **DAVE GRESCHNER**
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Riding a balanced effort, the Rice Lake Warrior cross country teams both finished first in both girls and boys action at the Spooner Invitational last Thursday.

The Warrior teams' performances were nearly identical: The boys had a 47 team score, with a third place high and four runners in the top 10; the girls had a 46 team score, with a third place high and three runners in the top 10.

However, the Rice Lake boys had a more comfortable margin. Behind their 47 score was Grantsburg at 71.

The Warrior girls edged out Hayward, only two points behind Rice Lake at 48.

Warrior seniors Lucas Schmidt for the boys and Anna Penzkover for the girls led their respective teams in the 10-team meet on a 5,000-meter course.

Schmidt finished in 18 minutes and 46 seconds, behind

two Barron runners—the winner Tristan Massie, a senior, in 18:22, and runner-up Marcus Peterson, a junior, in 18:41.

Penzkover ran a 21:59 time, finishing behind Chetek-Weyerhaeuser freshman Lana Blumer, first in 21:21, and Ashland sophomore Elena George, second in 21:42.

Also in the top 10 for Rice Lake's boys were sophomore Derek Penzkover, sixth in 18:59; junior Luke Johnson, seventh in 19:50; and sophomore Jonathan Nelson, ninth in 20:07.

Rounding out the Warrior boys' varsity were senior Blake Zadra, 23rd in 21:24; freshman Kaden Kelsey, 31st in 21:52; and junior Eli Schultz, 35th in 21:58.

Also in the top 10 for Rice Lake's girls were freshman Alexi MacDonald, fourth in 22:26, and freshman Olive Spagnolo, eighth in 23:10.

Rounding out the girls'

SEE **RUNNERS**, B3



BILL THORNLEY/SPOONER ADVOCATE

Rice Lake's Anna Penzkover leads pack up hill at Spooner race Thursday.

SCORECARD

Keeping score

The Green Bay Packers open their season Sunday, hosting the Chicago Bears in a night game telecast on the NBC network. Kick-off is 7:20 p.m. at Lambeau Field. The Packers are looking to bounce back from last season's disappointing 7-9 record when quarterback Aaron Rodgers went down with an injury. Sports Illustrated magazine picks Green Bay and Minnesota to finish first and second respectively in the NFC North but both with 11-5 overall records. The border rivals Packers and Vikings will clash early, Sunday, Sept. 16, in Green Bay. The second meeting, in Minneapolis, is Sunday, Nov. 25.

Up next

More than 1,000 school-age runners will crowd the UWEC-Barron County campus cross country course Tuesday in the annual Rice Lake Cross Country Invitational. The Rice Lake Warriors are among the big field. Action begins at 4 p.m. when middle school runners take off, followed at 4:30 p.m. by the boys' varsity race and at 5 p.m. by the girls' varsity race. Junior varsity runs are at 5:30 p.m. for boys and 6 p.m. for girls.

Notebook

Condit and Kann again: After splitting running race victories in May in Eau Claire, Adam Condit of Eau Claire and Brent Kann of Rice Lake met again Saturday in the 5-mile Buckshot Run in Eau Claire's Carson Park. Condit won in 25 minutes and 50 seconds, finishing 11 seconds ahead of runner-up Kann.



Warriors remain undefeated in soccer in Tuesday's rain, B1, B5

Scorecard list

With just over 20 games remaining in the regular season of Major League Baseball, the home run races are tight in both leagues. Former Milwaukee Brewer Khris Davis, now a designated hitter for the Oakland A's, leads the American League with 40 home runs going into Tuesday night's games. But JD Martinez of Boston is only one back at 39, and Jose Rameriz of Cleveland has 37. In the National League, St. Louis first baseman Matt Carpenter has 35 home runs, two ahead of Dodgers' shortstop Manny Machado. Milwaukee's Jesus Aguilar is one of six players tied for third with 31 homers.

AMERICAN LEAGUE TOP 10 HOME RUN LEADERS

Player, team	HRs
1 - Khris Davis, Oakland	40
2 - JD Martinez, Boston	39
3 - Jose Rameriz, Cleveland	37
4 - Joey Gallo, Texas	34
5 - Nelson Cruz, Seattle	33
- Giancarlo Stanton, New York	33
7 - Mike Trout, Los Angeles	31
8 - Francisco Lindor, Cleveland	30
9 - Edwin Encarnacion, Cleveland	29
- Mookie Betts, Boston	29

NATIONAL LEAGUE TOP 10 HOME RUN LEADERS

Player, team	HRs
1 - Matt Carpenter, St. Louis	35
2 - Manny Machado, Los Angeles	33
3 - Paul Goldschmidt, Arizona	31
- Nolan Arenzo, Colorado	31
- Bryce Harper, Washington	31
- Jesus Aguilar, Milwaukee	31
- Eugenio Suarez, Cincinnati	31
- Max Muncy, Los Angeles	31
9 - Javier Baez, Chicago	30
10 - Trevor Story, Colorado	28

Adams, Hensel, Kisling post race wins

CAMERON DRIVER KEVIN ADAMS POSTS THREE FEATURE WIN IN SEASON-ENDING DOUBLEHEADER

Kevin Adams won three features and Jason Havel won two as stock car drivers at the Rice Lake Speedway ended the track's season with the Labor Day holiday twin bill Saturday and Sunday.

Cameron racer Adams finished the season with a flurry, winning his sixth Modified feature of the season on Saturday and both Midwest Modified features on the weekend.

Adams won the summer's final four Midwest Mod features for a total of eight.

Havel got his fourth and fifth checkered flags of the season in Pure Stock.

Other winners during the doubleheader were Shane Kisling and Terran Spacek in Super Stock, Sam Fankhauser and Eric Olson in Street Stock, and Justin Oestreich in Modified.

Kisling, Fankhauser and Oestreich were first-time winners this season in Rice Lake, while Spacek and Olson won for the second time.

Oestreich of Elk River, Minnesota, had a strong weekend as he finished second to Adams on Saturday before swapping positions with Adams on Sunday.

On the first night, Adams started on the pole and led start to finish. Cory Mahder pushed Adams hard until going down with serious front end issues midway through the race.

Oestreich took over second place and finished strong in that spot.

On Sunday, Oestreich took over first place early from Jake Miller. After Adams and Ashley Anderson threaded their way into contention, Adams closed in on Oestreich.

It came down to a two-car battle after Anderson dropped a drive shaft with five laps to go. Riding the inside lane, Oestreich

barely held off the charging Adams, and the Minnesota driver picked up \$1,000 for his win by a margin of .199 seconds.

Havel leads Pures twice

Jason Havel led off his twin win weekend with Saturday's victory in the Pure Stock special that featured 32 drivers going after the enhanced purse of \$500.

Havel took the lead early as the first five laps were closed by five caution flags. When racing stayed green, Havel dominated, opening up a comfortable margin on Andrew Hanson, Dan Boissy and Randy Graham.

When the field was bunched one last time for a yellow flag, Havel pulled away from Hanson for the win. Hanson held on to second, with rookie driver Boissy in third.

On Sunday, Havel drove into the lead by passing Kyle Copp and James Vendela in the early stages. Once in front, Havel stretched his lead and cruised to his fifth Pure Stock win this season.

Copp fought off a late challenge from George Richards to claim second place.

Kisling wins in return

Former area racer Shane Kisling, now of Park Falls, came back to his home track to win Saturday's Super Stock feature, but not before surviving an opening lap tangle with fellow front row start Curt Myers.

Kisling bounced off the wall while an eight-car crash ensued beside him, taking out the cars of Andy Grymala, Nick Oreskovich, Mike Siewert and Steve Davidson.

Kisling was on the pole for the restart and got ahead of Matt Deragon



PHOTO BY DOUG ZIMMER

Former Rice Lake area resident Shane Kisling, now of Park Falls, poses with daughter Peyton after Saturday's win in the Super Stock class of the Rice Lake Speedway Labor Day special.

and the father-son duo of Randy and Terran Spacek. As the final 13 laps went nonstop, Kisling was shadowed by Terran Spacek, who pulled to the leader's rear bumper.

But Kisling gave no opening as he became the 11th different Super Stock driver to win this season.

Runner-up Terran Spacek came back on Sunday to get the win. The Phillips racer used the high side to get past several cars and close in on early leader Deragon.

Spacek stayed on the high groove to pass Deragon, who then got in a three-car battle with Eric Olson and Jesse Redetzke for second place. After Deragon left with a smoking engine, Redetzke rallied past Olson for second place.

Adams doubles in Midwest

Kevin Adams won Saturday's Midwest Modified main event after starting in seventh place. When the Cameron driver got past fellow Cameron

racer Joe Chaplin Jr. for second place, Adams took off after the leader Michael Truscott.

Adams passed Truscott on the low side and went on to the win. Truscott finished runner-up, ahead of Cal Iverson.

On Sunday, Adams went to the high side to battle his way through heavy traffic and wrestle the lead away from Craig Elliott, who was driving a strong race in search of his first win of the season.

In the final two-lap sprint, Adams powered away, leaving Elliott in second place while Iverson took his second straight third place.

Fankhauser gets first win

Sam Fankhauser waved the Street Stock checkered flag for the first time in Rice Lake this season with Saturday's victory.

Fankhauser shared the front row with Cody Kummer before taking over the lead he would not give up despite hard challenges from Eric

Olson and Zach Manley.

Fankhauser's win made gave the Street division 12 different winners in 2018.

Olson got his second win of the second on Sunday, dominating the 15 laps from pole to wire. Danny Richards started eighth and moved to the second spot, chasing Olson to the checkered flag.

Saturday's action drew 137 drivers. While Sunday's show had fewer drivers, it came on the heels of some heavy morning rain. Track crews were able to get the racing oval in shape, and Sunday's program went off on schedule despite some muddy conditions in the infield and pit areas.

RICE LAKE SPEEDWAY Results Saturday, Sept. 1

WISSOTA MODIFIED

• **20-lap feature:** Kevin Adams, Cameron; Justin Oestreich, Elk River, Minnesota; Grant Southworth, Bloomer; Scott Duval, Bloomer; Mark Hanson, Chippewa Falls; Michael Truscott, Chippewa Falls; Pat Hoffman, Rice Lake; Neil Balduc, Bessemer, Michigan; Cole Varsho, Stratford; Mike Anderson, Jim Falls.
• **Heat winners:** Adams; Cory Mahder, Chippewa Falls; Oestreich; Gary Baxter, Eau Claire.

WISSOTA SUPER STOCK

• **20-lap feature:** Shane Kisling, Park Falls; Terran Spacek, Phillips; Matt Deragon, Ashland; Randy Spacek, Phillips; Eric Olson, Ladysmith; Tommy Richards, Mondovi; Jeff Brauer, Eyota, Minnesota; Bart Steffen, Eau Claire; Aaron Wilson, Eau Claire; Cody Kummer, Medford.
• **10-lap B feature:** Luke Schultz, Cameron; Steffen; Tucker Quinn, Ladysmith; Rick Randall, Wakefield, Michigan; Steve Martin, Farmington, Minnesota.
• **Heat winners:** Richards; T.Spacek; Kisling; Nick Oreskovich, Mason.

WISSOTA MIDWEST MODIFIED

• **15-lap feature:** Kevin Adams, Cameron; Michael Truscott, Chippewa Falls; Calvin Iverson, Eleva; Joe Chaplin Jr., Cameron; Shane Halopka, Greenwood; Tanner Hicks, Ashland; Jason Gross, Osceola; Travis Anderson, Colfax; Wayne Stricker, Highbridge; Scott Splittstoesser, Cottage Grove, Minnesota.
• **10-lap B feature:** Chris Bretting, Washburn; Fran Hanson, Almena; Chase Friendt, New Richmond; Brayton Cisneros, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota; Crag Haas Thorp.
• **Heat winners:** Splittstoesser; Adams; Derek Haas, Thorp; Gross.

WISSOTA STREET STOCK

• **15-lap feature:** Sam Fankhauser, Rice Lake; Zach Manley, Chetek; Eric Olson, Ladysmith; Cody Kummer, Medford; Mike Knudston, Osseo; CJ Wagner, Rice Lake; Braden Brauer, Eyota, Minnesota; Parker Anderson, Phillips; Travis Loew, Barron; Jamey Fisher, Chetek.
• **Heat winners:** Olson, Fankhauser, Kummer.

WISSOTA PURE STOCK

• **20-lap feature:** Jason Havel, Rice Lake; Andrew Hanson, Iron River; Dan Boissy, Trego; Randy Graham, Trego; CJ Wagner, Rice Lake; James Vendela, South Range; Kyle Copp, Brule; Adam Pratt, Bloomer; Chris Endle, Mondovi; Will Fisher, Shell Lake.
• **10-lap B feature:** Mike Roth, Deerwood, Minnesota; Max Prusak, Hopkins, Minnesota; Ryan Lindenfelser, Trego; Ryan Hill, Colfax; Trenten Holub, Sarona.
• **Heat winners:** Pratt; Hanson; Cooper Berlin, Rice Lake; Graham.

Turtleback to host high school meet

A high school golf meet of the seven Big Rivers schools is this Thursday, teeing off at 3:30 p.m. at Turtleback course in Rice Lake.

The Rice Lake Warriors are among the field. Warriors playing on varsity are AnnaMarie Jones and Albany Severud.

In last Thursday's conference meet at Hudson, Jones shot a 59 to place in the middle of the 30-golfer field. Severud finished with a 78.

The medalist was Lexi Meade of Eau Claire Memorial with a 41.

Butternut women golfing in league

Golfers in the Butternut Hills women's league played last Thursday in 18-hole and nine-hole divisions. Results were:

• **18-hole division - Aug. 30**
• Flight One: low gross-Jennifer Brigham 100, low net-Jeanne Bednar 77, low putts - Bednar 31.

• Flight Two: low gross-Kathy Johnson 108, low net-Mary Harrington 72, low putts-Johnson 31.

• Flight Three: low gross-Pati Parker 113, low net-Judy Nelson 71, low putts-Jan Sutherland 29.

CITY OF RICE LAKE RECREATION

Rice Lake Swimming Pool, Thursday, Sept. 6, to Wednesday, Sept. 12

Thursday and Tuesday, noon-1 p.m.	Noon lap swim
Friday, Monday and Wednesday, 6-8 a.m.	Lap swim
Friday, Saturday, Monday and Wednesday, 6-8 p.m.	Open swim
Saturday and Sunday, 1-4 p.m.	Open swim
Friday, Monday and Wednesday, 7-7:45 a.m.	Aqua Dynamics
No Aqua Zumba this week	

Sunday Family Day 1/2 off admission price. Call pool at 715-234-4279 for more information.

• Chip-ins: Judy Nelson #4, Mary Ann Solie #14.
• Tee to Green event winners: First Flight-Jennifer Brigham 67, Second Flight-Mary Harrington 72, Third Flight-Lou Swoboda and Judy Nelson 87.

• **9-hole division - Aug. 30**
• Flight One: low gross-Denise Jechorek and Cindy Baumann 48, low net-Bev Grocke 34, low putts - Sheila Bergren 15.
• Flight Two: low gross-Wanda Zeug 52, low net-Holly

Herland 35, low putts-Kitty Burdick and Amy Carlson 16.

• Flight Three: low gross-Mary Ann Carlson 73, low net-Barb Derring 51, low putts-Derring 13.
• Chip-ins: Patty Frankiewitz #1, Herland #1, Bergren #6.

Golf

LynnDale's Mens Wednesday League after Aug. 22 Team

Team	Points
V&S Construction	626.0
Edward Jones - Bohn	607.5
Hooch's Hardwood/Masonry	595.0
TJ's Custom Painting	578.0
Fox Taxidermy	567.0
Elks Lodge	534.0
LaPoint Tire & Auto	528.5
Hoots on the Water	524.5
Lamperts	508.0
Viking Coke/Ardisam	353.0

LynnDale's Mens Thursday League after Aug. 23 Team

Team	Points
RL Bus Service	299.5
Link Ford & RV	290.0
B&R Motors	289.5
Triple K Farms	286.0
Thompson-Nelson Insurance	280.5
RL Weighing Lightweights	276.5
WITC	270.5
Spectrum Painting	270.0
Quanex	267.5
KNG	264.0

Trap at Tuscobia

Tom Elliott and Ron Giese each hit 25 straight targets while taking first place in Class A and Class B respectively during the 16th week of shooting at the Tuscobia Trap Club range north of Haugen. Also in 16-yard action, Rocky Bank topped Class C.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Volleyball Warriors at home Thursday

BY DAVE GRESCHNER
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After an 11-day break following their season-opening tournament, the Rice Lake Warrior volleyball team opens the Big Rivers dual season this Thursday night on the home court.

The Warriors host Eau Claire Memorial in a 7 p.m. start.

Rice Lake placed 23rd in the 40-school Menomonee Sprawl on Aug. 24-25.

The Warriors have six varsity players returning from last season, including setter Paityn Tiefs and hitters Jasmine Mlejnek and Allison Drost.

All three are seniors on a varsity roster that has eight seniors, two juniors and one sophomores.

Also expected to pick up the 2018 attack are seniors Olivia Marsh, Mady Falstad and Calli McCullough; junior Ella Weber; and sophomore Jordan Pagac.

Leading the defense will be specialists Taylor Maki and Anna Taylor, both seniors, and Lexi Orr, a junior.

The Warriors went 23-11 overall last season, including 2-4 in the Big Rivers. Rice Lake won three postseason matches for a Division 2 regional title and then lost in the sectional semifinal to St. Croix Central.

After Thursday's home opener vs. Memorial, the Warriors play in the Osceola tournament Saturday and host Amery in a nonconference match Tuesday.

Girls basketball sign-ups taken

Registrations are now being taken for girls in K-8 wanting to play in the Rice Lake girls basketball league and on traveling teams.

The season begins Saturday, Sept. 29, with a clinic put on by the UW-Eau Claire Blugolds.

Play will be held every Saturday through Nov. 17 for Grades K-6 at Rice Lake Middle School.

Registration deadline is Thursday, Sept. 20. Online sign-ups can be completed at www.ricelakegirlsbasketball.com, and in-person sign-ups are taken at the Rice Lake Community Services building next to MarketPlace.

For more information email ricelakegirlsbasketball@gmail.com or call Sara Scheu at 715-651-8906.

Volleyball sign-ups due on Wednesday

Online registration is now open for the Lil Diggers Volleyball program for girls in kindergarten through fourth grade.

Practice dates at Rice Lake High School gym are Mondays, Sept. 10, 17 and 24, and Tuesday, Oct. 2. Practice times are 3:30-4:30 p.m., with the final date including time for ice cream and photos.

Skills instruction, under the direction of Rice Lake High School volleyball coach Robin Sommerfeld, will include passing, setting, serving and attacking.

Cost is \$30, which includes a T-shirt. All proceeds from the program go toward the purchase of new volleyball equipment in the Rice Lake School District.

Registrations are due by Wednesday, Sept. 5. To register, use the link

Lil Diggers under the Registration tab on the ricelakevolleyball.com website.

Questions can be mailed to ricelakevolleyball@gmail.com.

Pick-up soccer at Moon Lake

Soccer players ages 12 and over and of all abilities are invited to pick-up soccer games Thursdays and Sundays at 5:30 p.m. at Moon Lake Park in Rice Lake.

Shin guards are recommended. Join the Facebook group, "Rice Lake Pick-Up Soccer" for more information.

Bicycle club ride marks 50th year

The North Roads Bicycle Club will commemorate its 50th anniversary with the September Song 50-mile ride on Saturday.

The self-reliance ride begins at Indian Mounds Park in Rice Lake, with registration from 9-10 a.m. Cost is \$1 for a cue sheet. The single loop route will follow blacktop roads through the Long Lake and Bear Lake areas.

For more information call 715-234-4127.

The club also sponsors free social rides every Thursday, leaving from Rice Lake's Veterans City Park on Lakeshore Drive at 6 p.m. Ride distance, pace and route is decided by riders.

Ace at Turtleback

Lonny Saulsbury of Kasson, Minnesota, hit a hole-in-one Aug. 19 at Turtleback golf course in Rice Lake. Saulsbury, golfing with Ron Miller, used a seven iron to ace the 133-yard 13th hole.

Disc golf flying in Rice Lake

Fifth Red Cedar Open draws 48 players at UWEC-Barron County campus

BY RYAN URBAN
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Forty-eight players spanning a range of abilities competed in the 5th Annual Red Cedar Open disc golf tournament in Rice Lake on Aug. 25.

That number is double that of any previous Red Cedar Open—a sign of growth in the local disc golf scene.

Rice Lake has had a course on the UWEC-Barron County campus since 2007. In the past 5 years courses sprang up in Chetek, Cumberland, Barron, Spooner, Turtle Lake and—just this month—in Bruce.

The sport is akin to conventional golf, but played with plastic discs. The goal is to throw the disc into a metal chained basket in as few throws as possible. Disc golf courses typically feature nine to 18 holes, each being several hundred feet in length.

Discussions are in the works between local disc golfers and Barron County to expand the Rice Lake course to 27 holes.

The local disc golf community is fairly large and diverse, but loosely organized.

"Disc golf players are oddballs," said disc golfer Trenton Vielbig. "But they're always nice, they're interesting and they come from many different backgrounds."

Vielbig is a UW-Platteville student who has spent the past three summers in an internship at Ardisam in Cumberland.

As president of the Platteville disc golf club, Vielbig has sought to grow the sport in Rice Lake as well. He served as tournament director for the Red Cedar Open, and hosted disc golf clinics on Mondays and leagues on Wednesdays during the summer.

Since the first disc golf competitions in the 1960s, the sport has remained a somewhat obscure, laid-back hobby with a non-conformist culture.

While the sport remains a bit obscure and eccentric, it is growing in popularity and recognition.

Founded in 1976, the Professional Disc Golf Assn. has more than 300,000 members—double the amount there were in 2010.

PHOTO SUBMITTED
Travis Blaeser drives a disc in Aug. 25 tourney in Rice Lake.

There are full-time touring professional players, with tournament highlights featured more and more often on the likes of Sportscenter.

"It's becoming more professional. There's more and more athletes getting into the sport," said Vielbig.

Vielbig plays tournaments nearly every weekend during the warmer months, traveling as far as South Carolina, where National Collegiate Disc Golf Championships are held every spring.

Vielbig said he hopes to grow the sport at all levels in the community.

Draw of disc golf

Disc golf is a sport many players pick up in high school or college. But the regulars at Rice Lake's course span generations.

Rick Eckstein and son Jake, 13, have played together at least twice per week since moving to Rice Lake almost 4 years ago.

Jake said he found disc golf to be cheap to get into and the course in Rice Lake good for beginners.

Rick said, "The first time we met Trenton (Vielbig) was the first time we saw anyone throw over 400 feet. We went up to him and said 'How do you do that?' He literally worked with us for 2 1/2 hours."

At age 60, Steve Olson is another regular on the course after picking up the sport 3 years ago.

"It's you against the course," said Olson. "It doesn't matter what age you are, it's fun."

"It's easy to get out on a work night and unwind and relax. You can be as competitive as you want. Ultimately, it's just you going for your personal best," said Larson.

Runners

CONTINUED FROM B1

varsity were senior Tricia Cich, 15th in 23:59; junior Rosa Bixler, 16th in 24:04; senior Cady Buchli, 25th in 24:24; and junior Grace Arrigoni, 31st in 26:18.

In boys' team scores, behind Rice Lake and Grantsburg were Northwestern (81), Superior (100), Barron (109), Hayward (118), Ashland (202), Spooner (228) and Shell Lake (229).

In girls' team scores, behind Rice Lake and Hayward were Northwestern (88), Superior (112), Ashland (146), Chetek-Weyerhaeuser (167), Barron (176), Grantsburg (209), Spooner (209), and Frederic/Luck (237).

Rice Lake's runners race in the Fall Creek Invitational on Saturday morning.

The Rice Lake Invitational follows on Tuesday when the Warriors host the 33-school meet at the UWEC-Barron County campus. Action begins at 4 p.m. with the middle school run, followed by boys' varsity at 4:30 p.m., girls' varsity at 5 p.m., boys' junior varsity at 5:30 p.m., and girls' junior varsity at 6 p.m.

Mitch Maloney, 37, traveled from Eau Claire to play the Red Cedar Open.

"We had a lot of people from Eau Claire here," he said. "It seems like Rice Lake as a community really got involved."

Maloney, who also sells disc golf products for Disc Golf 365, said he got into the sport to feed his competitive side.

"I keep playing because of the people," he said.

As for Vielbig, "I like watching the disc fly, I think that's what we all like."

The same could be said for the ring of the basket chains on a good shot, or just being in the outdoors.

Discs are not shaped like standards Frisbees. The rims are thicker, with a beveled edge, so they can be thrown with more velocity.

Dozens of companies produce hundreds of different discs in various plastic blends, some hard and smooth, others soft and grippy. Like clubs in a ball golf bag, disc golf discs have different characteristics. Some fly far but with little control. Some fly straight but for shorter distance. Some hook left or right. And putters are used at close range, flying straight into the basket chains. A disc typically cost \$10-15.

"It's great for families, or anyone who wants something cheap and easy to do," said Vielbig.

He added, "It gets you out walking, and you can take it to whatever level you want. It's tough when you first start, but if you have the will to improve, you will enjoy it."

And you might say disc golfers come in all shapes and sizes.

"People of any physique can do it," said Vielbig. "I can throw farther than people twice the size of me. It's not about strength; it's about form."

Vielbig is back at college now, but those interested learning to play can search Rice Lake Disc Golf on Facebook.

As for the Red Cedar Open, the winner was Ben Villeneuve of Eau Claire at 6 under par, followed by Jake Schoettle of Eau Claire at -4 and Vielbig at -3.

BILL THORNLEY/SPOONER ADVOCATE
Warrior Luke Johnson in Thursday race.

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Soccer

CONTINUED FROM XX

Lake on the board.

Less than 5 minutes later in a set play, a corner kick by junior midfielder Louis Larson to the head of senior midfielder Logan Severson was converted into a goal.

Sophomore goalkeeper for the Warriors, Zach Holmstrom had 10 saves on the night.

“He came up very big for us,” said head coach Shawn Gilbert.

Rice Lake 2, River Falls 1

The Warriors proved Thursday night in River Falls that they can indeed make every shot count. Rice Lake had two shots on goal, both of which found the net.

Lead scorer for the Warriors this year, Larson scored in the first half assisted by senior forward Mason Nolin and sophomore midfielder Ethan Peterson.

That goal was followed by a second half goal off a corner kick by Larson

to the head of sophomore forward Bryce Brettingen.

Up 2-0, Rice Lake thought it would earn its first shut out of 2018, but River Falls took advantage of a small lapse in the Warrior back line to gain a goal in the 87th minute.

Rice Lake went on to win 2-1. River Falls was limited to just a handful of shots.

Gilbert said the boys’ quality of play wasn’t quite up to par, but was happy with another conference win on the road.

“It was enough to get the win at a field that has historically been tough for us to win on,” said Gilbert.

The Warriors begin the first of a six-game whirlwind schedule on the road to Hudson this Thursday at 7 p.m. followed by a home triangular with Ashland and Amery this Saturday at Pug Lund Field.

Rice Lake faces Ashland at 3 p.m., Ashland and Amery play at 5 p.m. and Rice Lake meets Amery at 7 p.m.



PHOTO BY LEIAH FUNDELL

Rice Lake Warrior Owen Hultman, right, collides with North Husky in Tuesday’s soccer action in Rice Lake.

The Amery Warriors effectively ended the Warriors’ state hopes last year after defeating Rice

Lake 2-1 in the Division 3 sectional semifinals.

“This week will be a huge test for us, six games

in 8 days,” said Gilbert.

The Warriors sneak in another nonconference game on Monday at 4:30

p.m. at Baldwin-Woodville, followed by Tuesday’s conference game at Menomonie at 5 p.m.

Tennis Warriors fall to Chippewa Falls, 4-3

BY LEIAH FUNDELL
lfundell@chronotype.com

Rice Lake Warriors have had a rough couple of weeks in tennis, dropping two more matches for an 0-4 overall record and an 0-2 record in the Big Rivers after falling to Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire Memorial last week.

The Warriors’ match against River Falls on Tuesday was rescheduled due to rainy weather.

Rice Lake’s singles and doubles teams dropped all seven matches in straight sets to perennial power Eau Claire Memorial last Friday for a 7-0 loss on the road.

Rice Lake played more evenly while hosting Chippewa Falls last Thurs-

day, trading set wins in both singles and doubles action but coming up one match short for a 4-3 loss.

Senior Kyrstin Hanson won straight sets against Chippewa Falls’ Claire Walter, 6-2 and 6-0.

Warrior sophomore Alexa Robarge dropped her first set, 6-2, to Chippewa Falls’ senior Mikayla Runge, then rallied through her next singles set, 7-3, to win the tie breaker game, but dropped the third set 6-3 for the loss.

Rice Lake sophomores Paige Diercks and Grace Green both dropped their sets in singles play, for a Chippewa Falls 3-1 win in singles action.

Rice Lake doubles teams fared better, winning two of three

matches.

Leading the Warriors were seniors Claire Dennis and Alicia Kinziger, who dropped their first set, 6-3, to Chippewa Falls juniors Ashley Hanley and Alexis Zenner. Dennis and Kinziger then rallied for 6-3 and 6-2 wins for the match victory.

Also gaining a win for Rice Lake were seniors Julia Stinson and Amanda Petersen, who dropped their first set, 6-3, only to rally for two tie-breaking second and third sets, 7-5 and 7-5, against Chippewa Falls seniors Sammie Riedel and Maddie Schmidley.

Warrior junior Sam Brown and senior Alexis Triplett dropped their first and third sets, 6-2



PHOTO BY LEIAH FUNDELL

Senior Amanda Petersen connects with a volley during last Thursday’s match against Chippewa Falls. Petersen and doubles partner Julia Stinson won in three sets.

and 6-1, but won the second 6-3.

The Warriors play their rescheduled match at River Falls this Thursday at 4 p.m., followed by a quadrangular with Altoona, Eau Claire North and New Richmond in New Richmond on Saturday.

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