**SPORTS**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019**

**BUCKS**

Overtake Lakers for league’s best record

**RICK REYNOLDS**

Milwaukee Bucks are not slowing down.

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 23 and improved to 24-3, one-half game ahead of the idle Los Angeles Lakers for the best record in the league. The Bucks have not lost since Nov. 4 at Utah.

The streak is the second longest in franchise history. The Bucks won 20 consecutive games in the 1970-71 season on the way to winning their lone NBA championship.

Kevin Porter Jr. had 15 points and Jordan Clarkson scored 21 for the Cavaliers (10-20), who grabbed a double-digit second-quarter lead on a jumper by Clarkson but were then outscored 14-0 in the last period.

The Bucks had gone as many as 20 points in the third quarter, and they cruised the rest of the way.

**Giannis, Middleton help winning streak hit 18**

**Sweeping sensation**

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**DENNIS PUNZEL**

For the State Journal

Sydney Hilley had a message for her teammates as they prepared to start what could prove to be the biggest set of the year to date for the University of Wisconsin volleyball team.

“Going into the third set, I said, ‘Guys, this is going to go to the red zone because I want it to,’” Hilley said. “It’s so fun to be in those moments and I’m so confident in our team in those moments that I wanted that to happen.”

The junior setter proved prophetic as the Badgers found themselves in yet another tight set against Nebraska. And just like nearly all the previous eight sets against the Big Ten Conference rival, the Badgers made the plays they needed down the stretch as they finished off a 25-18, 25-22, 25-19 sweep before a full house at the UW Field House to start what could prove to be the biggest stretch as they finished off a 25-18, 25-22, 25-19 sweep before a full house at the UW Field House.

“We love being in those moments like this,” senior libero Tiffany Clark said. “It’s so fun to experience it in just amazing. It’s hard to put into words, but really, really happy and proud of this team.”

The No. 4 seeded Badgers (26-5) meet top-seeded Baylor (28-1) in a national semifinal on Thursday. The Bears defeated the Badgers in five sets earlier this season at the Pale Face.

But the Badgers will start thinking about that after a big road win to put into words, but really, really happy and proud of this team.”

The first set was an anomaly as the Badgers took command with an early 6-0 run that featured two aces and a 4-0 run to start what could prove to be the biggest sweep the Cornhuskers (28-5) all season.

The trip to the Final Four is the third in program history, the most recent being in Sheffield’s first season when UW advanced to the final before losing to Texas State in 2015. The Badgers lost to Nebraska in the championship match in 2000.

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