

SPORTS



FOR THE HERALD
Chi-Hi/McDonell gymnasts Lilly Schultz, Ava Krista, Ella Spaeth, Izzy Keck and Jocelyn Davis hold up their Division 1 sectional team championship plaque on Saturday at Chi-Hi.

SATURDAY PREP ROUNDUP

Sectional championship

Chi-Hi/McDonell gymnastics dominates on way to state tourney

CHIPPEWA HERALD
The Chi-Hi/McDonell gymnastics team dominated the competition during the regular season and so again to start the postseason on Saturday, winning a Division 1 sectional championship with many strong performances at Chi-Hi.
The co-op finished with a team score of 141.45 points to finish well in front of Hudson (135.825) and Eau Claire (135.225) for first place to advance to next Saturday's state championships in Wisconsin Rapids.
Izzy Keck, Ava Krista and Lilly Schultz were first through third, respectively, all-around to lead the dominant performance with Ella Spaeth in sixth and Jocelyn Davis finishing 12th for the co-op.
Keck was victorious in the floor exercise (9.425) and vault (9.45) and was also fourth on the uneven bars and will compete at state in those individual events as well as the team competition. Krista won a sectional title on the bars (9.15) and was third on the floor (9.175) and vault (9.3) and the sophomore will also compete in three individual events in Wisconsin Rapids. Schultz was second on the floor (9.4), fourth on the beam (9.725) and tied for fifth on the bars (8.625) as another co-op member

Please see **ROUNDUP**, Page A8

PREP WRESTLING STATE



SEAN DAVIS, LEE SPORTS WISCONSIN
Cadott's Brayden Sonnentag celebrates his fourth state championship after beating Fennimore's Ian Crapp in the Division 3 132-pound championship match at the WIAA individual state wrestling championships on Saturday at the Kohl Center in Madison.

Historic company

Cadott's Sonnentag becomes 23rd wrestler in Wisconsin history to win four state titles

BRANDON BERG
Chippewa Herald
MADISON — Brayden Sonnentag walked into the Kohl Center on Saturday with a chance to join a rare group.
And the Cadott senior did just that as he won his fourth Division 3 state individual wrestling championship on Saturday night.
Sonnentag (49-0) captured the crown by grinding out a 1-0 decision victory in the championship match at 132 pounds over Fennimore's Ian Crapp.
"He sets his goal when he's seven years old and he's relentless in pursuing what his dreams were and he had two really, really hard-fought matches so he had to earn his fourth state title,"

Cadott coach Josh Spaeth said. "I think a lot of pressure is off him after tonight being that accomplished his goal."
Sonnentag became the 23rd wrestler in state history to win four championships and was later joined by Kewaskum's Braeden Scoles, Prairie du Chien's Rhett Koenig and Kaukauna's Greyson Clark in the four-time champion club. As the final seconds ticked off the clock the normally stoic Sonnentag showed plenty of emotion to the Cadott fans seated matside and held up four fingers on each hand to signify his place in Wisconsin wrestling immortality.
"It's a hard one," Spaeth said of Sonnentag's four titles. "Very few people have been able to do

that and he works every single day of the year. I don't think people understand the amount of time he puts in."
His final two matches at state were tight ones as Sonnentag earned a 3-2 decision win over Mineral Point's Kade Rule in Friday's semifinals. Sonnentag won titles at 106, 120 and 126 in his first three seasons.
Freshman Iszy Sonnentag finished second in girls competition at 100 as she fell in the state championship by a 10-4 decision to De Pere's Brooke Corrigan (8-0). Sonnentag (38-2) worked quickly to reach the finals with three pinfall wins throughout the earlier rounds all coming in 29 seconds or quicker.
"She's knows where she's at

and what she's got to do and hopefully we're back here next year looking to win a state title with her," Spaeth said of the freshman.
Earlier in the day four other Cadott seniors capped their careers in consolation bracket action. Tristan Drier concluded his career by finishing in third place overall at 152.
Drier (43-3) won both of his

Please see **WRESTLING**, Page A8

VIEW: A collection of photos from throughout the state individual wrestling tournament by pointing your smartphone at this QR code and tapping the link **NEWSVU**

NBA | BUCKS 104, SUNS 101

Winning without Giannis

Bucks edge Suns for 14th straight win

STEVE MEGARGE
AP Sports Writer
MILWAUKEE — Jrue Holiday scored 33 points, Brook Lopez made a tiebreaking layup with 24.8 seconds left and the Milwaukee Bucks edged the Phoenix Suns 104-101 on Sunday for their 14th consecutive victory.
This nationally televised game didn't include Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo or Phoenix's Kevin Durant.
Durant has yet to appear in a game for the Suns and hasn't played since Jan. 8 because of sprained right medial collateral ligament. Antetokounmpo was out with a bruised right quadriceps after leaving in the first quarter of the Bucks' 128-99 victory over the Miami Heat on Friday.
"It's enough where he can't play today, but I think we're also confident that this is just a fairly common occurrence in our league," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said before the game. "You hit knees, you knock, sometimes it takes a day or two, and it's really nothing more than that. The level of conversations have all been kind of along that line."
Holiday led all scorers, while Lopez had 22 points and 12 rebounds. Middleton added 11



Lopez

Please see **NBA**, Page A8



Milwaukee Bucks (43-17) at Brooklyn Nets (34-25)
When: Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Barclays Center, Brooklyn
TV: Bally Sports Wisconsin

PREP BOYS HOCKEY DIVISION 2 SECTIONALS | MENOMONIE 3, R/A/M 2

Last-minute goal lifts Mustangs past RAM

BRANDON BERG
Chippewa Herald
SOMERSET — The Menomonie boys hockey team got the stop.
Then it got the shot.
Hayden Weir's goal with less than a minute left pushed the Mustangs back to state for the first time since 1991 with a 3-2 Division 2 sectional championship victory over Eau Claire Regis/Altoona/McDonell on Saturday afternoon at Somerset Ice Arena.
Weir deflected a shot with less than 30 seconds left to put the

Mustangs (10-17-1) in front after RAM rallied from a 2-0 deficit to tie the game in the third.
Weir's goal came after the Mustangs killed a RAM power play a few minutes earlier, denying a chance to complete the comeback before the sophomore forward made it happen in front of the net after Menomonie won a late faceoff in the opposing zone.
"We just tried to tell the kids

Please see **HOCKEY**, Page A9

VIEW: A collection of photos from Saturday's RAM boys hockey game by pointing your smartphone at this QR code and tapping the link. **NEWSVU**

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL DIVISION 5 REGIONALS

MCDONELL 61, TURTLE LAKE 44

Third regional title in a row

Macks pull away from Lakers for regional crown
BRANDON BERG
Chippewa Herald
The McDonell girls basketball team avoided a slow start for the second consecutive night, starting fast on the way to a 61-44 Division 5 regional championship win over Turtle Lake at McDonell.
The Macks (22-5) advance to face top-ranked Prairie Farm in Thursday's sectional semifinal at Chi-Hi.
Emily Cooper led all scorers with 25 points for the Macks and Aubrey Dorn scored 13 points as the Macks won their third consecutive regional championship.
After a slow start in Friday's



VIEW: A collection of photos from Saturday's McDonell girls basketball game by pointing your smartphone at this QR code and tapping the link. **NEWSVU**

BRANDON BERG, CHIPPEWA HERALD
McDonell seniors Emily Thaler (24) and Marley Hughes (1) and junior Emily Cooper (22) celebrate with the team's Division 5 regional championship plaque on Saturday evening at McDonell.

Please see **TITLE**, Page A8

WHAT’S ON TAP

MONDAY

Boys Basketball—Gilman at Cadott, 6:15 p.m.

TUESDAY

Boys Basketball Regionals—Gilman at McDonell, 7 p.m.; Spooner at Bloomer, 7 p.m.; Cadott at Melrose-Mindoro, 7 p.m.; Stanley-Boyd at Wautoma, 7 p.m.; New Auburn at Clear Lake, 7 p.m.; Cornell at Prairie Farm, 7 p.m.; Lake Holcombe at Owen-Withee, 7 p.m.; Thorp at Eau Claire Immanuel, 7 p.m.

BRIEFLY

MLB

Machado rips RBI double after agreeing to \$350M deal

PEORIA, Ariz. — Manny Machado continues to be a very rich man. He also is still a very good hitter.

Machado ripped an RBI double on Sunday, the same day he agreed to a new \$350 million, 11-year contract that will keep him with the San Diego Padres through 2033, according to a person with knowledge of the deal.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because Machado must pass a physical before the deal is finalized.

Machado got a big cheer from Padres fans on a chilly afternoon in Arizona before a spring training game against the Diamondbacks. The third baseman struck out in his first at-bat before lacing a line-drive double off the base of the left-field wall in San Diego’s nine-run second inning.

The 30-year-old Machado had said that after this season, he planned to opt out of the \$300 million, 10-year free agent deal he signed in 2019. With the \$120 million he already has received, the new deal increases the free-spending Padres’ commitment to Machado to \$470 million over 15 years.

Machado finished second in the NL MVP race last year. He’ll anchor a superstar-laden lineup that includes Xander Bogaerts, Juan Soto and Fernando Tatis Jr., who can return on April 20 from an 80-game suspension for performance-enhancing drugs.

Machado batted .298 with 32 home runs and 102 RBIs last season.

NFL

Jaguars extend contracts for Robertson-Harris, Hasty

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The Jacksonville Jaguars have signed defensive lineman Roy Robertson-Harris and running back JaMycal Hasty to contract extensions.

Robertson-Harris, coming off the best season of his NFL career, signed a three-year, \$30 million extension, according to NFL Network.

Robertson-Harris had one year remaining on a three-year, \$23.4 million deal. He started all 17 games in 2022 and finished with 45 tackles, 12 quarterback hits and three sacks. He was at his best down the stretch and in the playoffs, leading the way on a defense that finished 12th in the NFL in points allowed.

Hasty would have been a restricted free agent once the new league year began next month. He ran for a career-high 194 yards and two touchdowns last season as Travis Etienne’s primary backup.

Robertson-Harris and Hasty joined quarterback C.J. Beathard in getting deals done in the past week. Beathard signed a two-year extension to remain Trevor Lawrence’s backup.

Jacksonville is trying to keep much of its 2022 roster intact. Tight end Evan Engram, right tackle Jawaan Taylor and defensive ends Arden Key and Dawuane Smoot are among the team’s top pending free agents.

WOMEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Clark’s 3-pointer lifts No. 6 Iowa over No. 2 Indiana, 86-85

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Caitlin Clark’s buzzer-beating 3-pointer lifted No. 6 Iowa to an 86-85 win over No. 2 Indiana on Sunday.

Clark, who scored 34 points and added nine rebounds and nine assists, took the inbound pass from Kate Martin with 1.5 seconds left, dribbled once, and took an off-balance shot from the right side that rolled in as the horn sounded. Clark immediately ran off the court into the crowd before returning to the court to celebrate with her teammates.

Indiana had held the Hawkeyes without a field goal in the final 1:30, taking an 85-83 lead on Mackenzie Holmes’ two free throws. Iowa coach Lisa Bluder called a timeout and advanced the ball to midcourt to set up the game-winning shot.

Martin had 19 points for the Hawkeyes. Monika Czinano had 13.

The Hawkeyes (23-6, 15-3 Big Ten), denied a chance to share the Big Ten title after Tuesday’s 96-68 loss to Maryland, snapped the 14-game winning streak of the Hoosiers (26-2, 16-2) and finished in a tie with Maryland for second place in the conference.

Clark had scored on the final plays of every quarter. She had layups at the end of the first and second quarters, and made two free throws in the final seconds of the third quarter.

Holmes led Indiana with 21 points. Chloe Moore-McNeil and Sydney Parrish had 18. Grace Berger had 16.

Iowa opened the game with a 13-2 run, making its first five shots.

From staff and wire reports

TELEVISION SCHEDULE

MONDAY

MEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL: North Carolina at Florida State, ESPN, 6 p.m.; Baylor at Oklahoma State, ESPN, 8 p.m.; West Virginia at Iowa State, ESPN2, 8 p.m.; Nevada at Wyoming, CBSN, 8 p.m.

WOMEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL: Villanova at Seton Hall, FS1, 6 p.m.; DePaul at Marquette, FS1, 8 p.m.

WOMEN’S COLLEGE GOLF: The Darius Rucker Intercollegiate, GOLF, 1:30 p.m.

MLB SPRING TRAINING: NY Mets vs St. Louis, ESPN, noon

TUESDAY

MEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL: Marquette at Butler, FS1, 5:30 p.m.; Clemson at Virginia, ACC, 6 p.m.; Iowa at Indiana, ESPN2, 6 p.m.; NC State at Duke, ESPN, 6 p.m.; Boston College at Wake Forest, ESPN, 6 p.m.; Florida at Georgia, SEC, 6 p.m.; Saint Louis at VCU, CBSN, 6 p.m.; Villanova at Seton Hall, FS1, 7:30 p.m.; Texas Tech at Kansas, ESPN, 8 p.m.; Arkansas at Tennessee, ESPN2, 8 p.m.; San Diego State at Boise State, CBSN, 8 p.m.; Texas A&M at Ole Miss, ESPN, 8 p.m.; Virginia Tech at Louisville, ACC, 8 p.m.; Michigan State at Nebraska, BTN, 8 p.m.; South Carolina at Mississippi State, SEC, 8 p.m.; Fresno State at New Mexico, FS1, 9:30 p.m.; Colorado State at San Jose State, CBSN, 10 p.m.

WOMEN’S COLLEGE GOLF: The Darius Rucker Intercollegiate, GOLF, 1:30 p.m.

MLB SPRING TRAINING: Houston vs NY Mets, ESPN, noon; Milwaukee vs Chicago Cubs, BSWI, 2 p.m.

NBA: Milwaukee at Brooklyn, BSWI, 6:30 p.m.; Washington at Atlanta, TNT, 6:30 p.m.; Minnesota at LA Clippers, TNT, 9 p.m.

NHL: N.Y. Islanders at Minnesota, BSN, 7 p.m.

NBA

From A7

points and 10 rebounds.

Devin Booker scored 24 points, Deandre Ayton had 22 and Chris Paul added 18 for Phoenix. Ayton also had 11 rebounds.

Middleton found Lopez for the go-ahead basket with 24.8 seconds remaining. Phoenix called a timeout and got the ball to Devin Booker, who lost possession as Holiday forced the steal and Lopez got the loose ball.

Joe Ingles made the first of two free throws to extend Milwaukee’s lead to 103-100 with 11.3 seconds left. Ingles missed the second free throw and the ball initially

was ruled out of bounds on Milwaukee.

But after Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer challenged the call, replays determined the ball actually went out on Phoenix. Jrue Holiday sank the first of two free throws with 10 seconds left but also missed the second, making the score 104-100.

Booker was fouled on a 3 by Joe Ingles with 0.9 seconds left but missed the first free throw. Booker made the second and intentionally missed the third, but Lopez got the rebound to seal the victory.

Milwaukee rallied after trailing by seven midway through the fourth quarter. After Holiday’s 3-pointer gave the Bucks a 100-98 lead with 2:12 left, Booker made

Title

From A7

65-34 regional semifinal win over Owen-Withee, the team put more of an effort on coming out quickly against the West Lakeland Conference champion Lakers.

“We slowed down a little bit last game so we made sure we started out strong and kept going strong,” McDonell senior Marley Hughes said.

McDonell threatened to run away with the game late in the first half before a strong close pulled Turtle Lake to within single digits at 30-21.

But the second half would belong to the Macks and specifically Cooper as the junior sharpshooter scored 18 of her points including four 3-pointers as McDonell

found success getting Cooper open looks against Turtle Lake’s zone defense.

“We run a lot of plays for Emily and she’s got a lot of pressure on her but she does very well with it and she always is on point and ready to be there,” Hughes said of Cooper.

Cooper hit her four triples before the halfway point of the second half to help McDonell build a 51-30 advantage.

Defensive the Macks were able to limit 6-foot junior Mackenzie Tarman to 13 points, well under her season average of nearly 21 points per game.

“That was our key,” McDonell coach Don Cooper said of his team defending Tarman, “minimize her touches and just know

a tying jumper over Holiday with 33 seconds remaining.

TIP-INS

Suns: Booker increased his career point total to 12,143 to overtake Shawn Marion (12,134) for fourth place on the Suns’ all-time list. The Suns’ career scoring leader is Walter Davis, with 15,666 points from 1977-88.... The Suns lost for just the fifth time in their last 17 games.

Bucks: Wesley Matthews missed a second straight game due to a right calf strain. He also won’t be available Tuesday at Brooklyn. “I’m hopeful it’s not significant time,” Budenholzer said. “He won’t be available on Tuesday and

we’ll see after that.” ... Pat Connaughton returned after missing the Heat game with a sore left calf, but he went scoreless in 13 minutes. Ex-Suns forward Jae Crowder had seven points. He made two 3-pointers during Milwaukee’s fourth-quarter comeback.

UP NEXT

Suns: At Charlotte on Wednesday in the second game of a four-game trip. The Suns beat the Hornets 128-97 at Phoenix on Jan. 24.

Bucks: at Brooklyn on Tuesday. In their only previous meeting this season, the Bucks beat the Nets 110-99 at home on Oct. 26.

have clashed in the sectionals.

The Panthers are the top seed in the sectional and were ranked number one in the final Associated Press Division 5 state poll of the regular season.

Thursday’s winner will move one game away from state and meet either South Shore or Siren in next Saturday’s sectional championship game in Barron.

“As each game goes, the competition gets tougher and tougher and the teams they play with heart, they play with passion,” coach Cooper said. “Prairie Farm is going to come with heart and passion. It’s good that we came together as a family and overcame adversity, overcame the challenges with snow all week. It was just great to see.”



TODD SOMMERFELDT, LA CROSSE TRIBUNE

Cadott’s Iszybelle Sonnentag tries to get control of De Pere’s Brooke Corrigan during their 100-pound championship match at the WIAA individual state wrestling championships at the Kohl Center on Saturday.

behind La Crosse Aquinas (129.5), Fennimore (122) and Mineral Point (78.5).

“When you stick together and work hard together great things can happen,” Spaeth said of his team.

Bloomer/Colfax junior Kendra Hamman secured a podium finish in her first trip to the girls state tournament by finishing fifth at 185. Hamman (6-4) was pinned by Rhinelander’s Abby Swanson in her first match of the day but came back to pin Chilton/Hilbert’s Gwen Breckheimer for fifth. Hamman pinned Breckheimer and Muskego’s Kahlyn Geiger in her first two championship round matches of the tournament on Thursday before being pinned by Clintonville’s Keela Deering in the semis on Friday night.

Cornell/Gilman/Lake Holcombe junior Troy Duellman ended his second trip to the Division 3 state tournament with his first podium finish as he came home sixth at 145. Duellman (30-9) lost both his matches on Saturday, falling by 1-0 decision to Fennimore’s Syler Zdanczewicz in the semis and by a 6-2 decision versus Clear Lake’s Tyler Sunday in the fifth-place match. Duellman opened competition Thursday by pinning Bonduel’s Colin Fischer before a 4-3 decision loss to Cedar Grove-Bel-



SEAN DAVIS, LEE SPORTS WISCONSIN

Cadott’s Levi Lindsay goes for a trip on Boyceville’s Bash Nielson during the Division 3 195-pound third place match during Friday’s WIAA individual state wrestling championships at the Kohl Center in Madison.

gium’s Mason Hoopman in Friday’s quarterfinals. Duellman advanced to Saturday by pinning Kewaunee’s Matt Wery in the consolation opener.

Thorp/Owen-Withee senior Nathan Zarins concluded his first trip to the Division 3 state tournament and his career with a podium finish in taking sixth at 285. Zarins lost both his matches on Saturday, first

by 4-3 decision to Westfield’s Ty Monfries before a 10-4 decision loss to Phillips’ Brandon Sommers for fifth. Zarins beat Random Lake’s Diego Brandt by 1-0 decision in Thursday’s opening round before he was pinned by Fennimore’s Evan Gratz in the quarterfinals. Zarins bounced back with a 3-1 decision over Cumberland’s Jack Chafer in Friday’s consolation opener to stay alive.

Roundup

From A7

that will be busy at state.

Spaeth finished tied for seventh on the vault and 10th on the bars while Davis’ best performance came on the floor where she tied for 15th. The trip to state is the fourth time a Chi-Hi team has advanced to state but the first for the first-year co-op.

I am so happy for the girls,” Chi-Hi/McDonell coach Katie Thalacker said. “They have been working

so hard in the gym and I am happy with the day. Not our best beam set, but we really rallied back on floor.”

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Prairie Farm 82, New Auburn 40

At Prairie Farm, the Panthers pounced on the Trojans in a Division 5 regional final matchup.

Morgan Berg scored 15 points to lead New Auburn (22-5) and Katie Reimer added 10.

Marnie Kahl had a game-high 23 points for the Panthers (26-0).

Prairie Farm advances to face McDonell on Thursday in the sectional semifinals at Chi-Hi.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Eau Claire Memorial 84, Chi-Hi 69

At Eau Claire, the Old Abes pulled away from the Cardinals in a Big Rivers finale.

Mason Monarski had a big night in defeat for the Cards (14-10, 8-6) with 39 points including a 7-for-14 effort from 3-point range and 10 rebounds. Christian Crumbaker added 11 points.

Mason Stoik scored 27 points and Cooper Jespersen added 22 points for the Old Abes (19-5, 12-2).

McDonell 74, Colby 67

At Osseo, the Macks beat the Hornets to secure a Cloverbelt Crossover championship.

Canan Huss led all scorers with 34 points for the Macks (23-1) while Eddie Mittermeyer and Aidan Misfeldt scored 18 and 10 points, respectively.

Tevin Rue and Mateo Lopez had 16 points each for Colby (17-5).

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL DIVISION 4 REGIONALS | COLFAX 56, CADOTT 35



Cadott senior Laken Ryan passes from the floor against Colfax on Saturday evening at Cadott.

BRANDON BERG PHOTOS, CHIPPEWA HERALD

Shooting to victory

Several long-range shots carry Vikings past Hornets

BRANDON BERG
Chippewa Herald

CADOTT — The Cadott and Colfax girls basketball teams aren't shy about letting it fly from beyond the arc.

The Vikings were successful from long range on Saturday, hitting eight 3-pointers in a 56-35 Division 4 regional championship victory over the Hornets.

Colfax senior Aynsley Olson hit four of her team-high five 3-pointers in the second half in helping the Vikings improve upon a 26-14 halftime lead.

"Anybody who knows me knows I'm not about throwing threes up there, they've got to be selective and I thought we were excellent with our shot selection tonight and making sure the looks that we got were good ones and they went in, so that was good," Colfax coach Courtney Sarauer said.

Those good looks came from finding holes in the Cadott defense, leading to open shots that went down.

"In the end we didn't get everything we wanted," Cadott coach Dave Hazuga said. "I thought we still played alright. The ball just didn't go down. I think our issues were more on the defensive end."

The Hornets made five 3-pointers, but none in the first half and one through the first 27 minutes of the game. Lauryn Goettl scored 17 points to lead Cadott and cut the Vikings lead to eight early in the second half on a basket to cap an 8-0 run and get within 29-21.

But from there the Vikings started to pull away with Olson hitting her second three of the half as a part of six straight Colfax points.

Colfax (19-6) methodically pulled away as Cadott had too many empty possessions on offense to put together a comeback.

Olson led Colfax with 19 points and also drew the praise



Cadott's Morgan Moldrem guards a Colfax player.

of Sarauer for her defensive work against the ultra-athletic Goettl. McKenna Shipman scored 14 of her 17 points in the first half with strong work around the basket before the Vikings started finding their stroke from long range.

Laken Ryan scored nine points on three second-half 3-pointers and Elly Eiler finished with seven points for Cadott (20-6).

Saturday's loss was a tough end to what was one of the most successful season in Cadott program history in many ways. The Hornets finished second in the Western Cloverbelt standings and received votes during the season for both the Division 4 WisSports.net and Associated Press state polls. The team hit the 20-win mark for the first time since the mid 1980s, if not ever, and was playing in its first regional final since 1998.

"For these girls it was just a magnificent 20-win season (and) third round in the playoffs," Hazuga said. "Yeah they didn't want it to end but they also realize they've done something no other

Cadott team has ever done."

Cadott graduates a strong senior class of Eiler, Goettl, Morgan Moldrem, Eva Enestvedt and Ryan, players that were vital in the team's return to prominence.

"They're going to be a hard act to follow but we've got some players we think are going to try to do that," Hazuga said of the seniors.

The Vikings advance to Thursday's sectional semifinal to meet Phillips at Chetek-Weyerhaeuser. While Colfax is no stranger to deep postseason runs, this one is a bit different. The Vikings have just two seniors on the team (Molly Heidorn and Olson) and came into the season short on varsity experience.

Colfax finished the regular season tied with Durand-Arkansas for second place in the Dunn-St. Croix standings behind Division 3 regional champion Elk Mound.

"We had a lot of kids who had not played varsity basketball before," Sarauer said. "You could tell at the beginning of the season we were working through some stuff

but we've got a lot of kids who can play. We were just trying to figure out who we were and what worked well for us. I'm super proud of how they've evolved as the season went on, just taking everything I've said and everything (assistant coach Joe Doucette) has said and worked to be the team they are right now."

Phillips routed Ladysmith 65-44 on Saturday and won the North Marawood Conference championship during the regular season. Thursday's winner advances to Saturday's sectional finals to meet either Neillsville or Fall Creek for a trip to the state tournament in Green Bay.

"I think this group is playing its best basketball right now at the end of the season and that's what we want," Sarauer said.



VIEW: A collection of photos from Saturday's Cadott girls basketball game by pointing your smartphone at this QR code and tapping the link. **NEWSVU**

MICHIGAN 87, UW 79

Badgers falter late

Wolverines force overtime, deal Wisconsin painful loss

TODD D. MILEWSKI
Wisconsin State Journal

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Michigan's Hunter Dickinson appeared to step on the University of Wisconsin's Tyler Wahl during the first half Sunday.

He put another big foot down on the Badgers as time expired in regulation, hitting a desperation 3-pointer to force overtime.

The Wolverines won 87-79 after the extra session at the Crisler Center, ripping a victory away from a Badgers men's basketball team that was seconds away from their first time winning consecutive games in 2023.

Dickinson's heave from long distance came after UW appeared to have an inbounds pass with 2.1 seconds left defended well. But Dickinson, often a thorn in UW's side both on and off the court, made a clutch shot.

The Badgers led 75-73 in overtime after Max Klesmit hit a 3-pointer but Kobe Bufkin finished a three-point play with a free throw to put the Wolverines ahead for good.

Bufkin led all scorers with 28 points, while Connor Essegian set a career high with 24 for the Badgers. He also set a program record for made 3s by a freshman in a season, passing Brad Davison with a 3-pointer 3:25 into the second half.

Klesmit scored 19 points on 7-of-12 shooting, including 5 of 8 on 3-pointers, for a Badgers high. He previously scored a career-high 27 points twice in his two seasons at Wofford.

UW chipped away at a Michigan lead that was 11 points late in the first half and 10 early in the second.

Essegian stopped in the paint out of a Badgers timeout and scored with his right hand to put the Badgers ahead 66-65 with 25.1 seconds remaining.

Michigan went to Bufkin but UW's Max Klesmit denied his path to the rim and Bufkin forced up a shot that Klesmit got a piece of. Kamari McGee got fouled and hit a pair of free throws.

Klesmit blocked a Bufkin corner 3-point shot out of bounds with 2.1 seconds left before Dickinson delivered the big shot.

UW (16-12, 8-10 Big Ten) fell to 4-6 on the road and 3-7 in day games. Michigan (17-12, 11-7) won a third straight game.

The Wolverines outscored UW 26-10 over the last 12:24 of the first half as the Badgers' shooting cooled and Dickinson dominated the paint.

Here are two things that stood out.

Dickinson launches Wolverines

The Badgers were fine with Dickinson settling for jump shots from outside the paint early. Once the Michigan center got going inside, the Wolverines took over.

He scored eight points on the Wolverines' first four possessions out of the under-eight-minutes timeout to turn a 20-16 deficit into a 24-20 Michigan lead.

He took advantage of UW's Steven Crowl on the first three, scoring with a left-handed hook shot on the third after two layups off post moves. The Badgers brought in Carter Gilmore but he fouled Dickinson, who made two free throws.

Dickinson finished with 23 points on 9-of-13 shooting. He added 10 rebounds.

Shots won't go

UW was 8 of 13 on field goals after Essegian made a layup for a 17-9 lead 7:36 into the game. It made only one of its next 15 shots, a 3-pointer by Steven Crowl.

Seven Badgers players missed shots during a stretch where Michigan outscored them 17-3 over just 8:57. Six of the misses were layups by five different players; two were blocked.

UW also wasn't able to get to the free throw line until Wahl got fouled inside with 11:52 left in the second half.



No. 5 Purdue Boilermakers (24-5, 13-5) at Wisconsin Badgers (16-12, 8-10)

When: Thursday, 8 p.m.

Where: Kohl Center, Madison

TV: Fox Sports 1

Hockey

From A7

to relax, to take of their responsibilities, take a deep breath and keep it simple." Menomonie coach Matt Ellis said of the final period.

RAM (14-10) tied the game near the midpoint of the third period when Elijah Schmidt scored on an assist from Ben Biskupski.

Menomonie goaltender Jack Drout was strong in net throughout for the Mustangs and said his team entered the third period simply looking to win the period. They tied it, but that still got them where they wanted to go.

The teams played to a scoreless first period with both squads having power-play opportunities early. Regis/Altoona/McDonell had the first chance 5-on-4 less than two minutes into the game when Sam Dahms was called for a trip. The Mus-

tangs killed the penalty and soon after found themselves with a man advantage following at interference call on Tanner Robinson. RAM added another penalty less than two minutes later but was able to kill a short 5-on-3 into a 5-on-4.

Scoring picked up in the second period with the Mustangs finding the net twice before RAM had a response. Hayden Weir corralled a deflection off a faceoff in the RAM zone and raced down the ice before beating goaltender Alex Erickson for the first goal with less than five minutes remaining in the second. It didn't take the Mustangs long to double their lead as freshman Ryan Xu got one past Erickson a little more than two minutes later to push the lead to 2-0. But RAM had a response late as freshman Tanner Robinson took advantage of a Mustangs turnover in their own zone and beat Drout to bring RAM within one less than two minutes after Xu's goal.

Menomonie is onto state for the first time since winning the championship in 1991. Regis/Altoona/McDonell was seeking the co-op's first trip.

"It feels really cool," Drout said of going to state. "I'm honored to be a part of the team with the boys and they're the real winners. They're the ones that scored the goals. I'm just back there stopping shots."

Regis/Altoona/McDonell and Menomonie have both been close to the state tournament in recent years. The Mustangs were a game away in 2020, falling to Somerset 3-2 in the sectional finals. RAM also was a game away from state, losing to Somerset 2-1 in 2021.

RAM graduates a large senior class of Isiah Martin, Tristan Gardner, Zack Howell, Schmidt, Evan Gustafson, Sam Peterson, Biskupski, Brandon Wagner, Evan Eckes, Sam Knickerbocker and Erickson.

Both teams advanced to Saturday's sectional finals with

high-scoring victories in Tuesday's semifinals. The second-seeded Mustangs doubled up Baldwin-Woodville 6-3 in Menomonie, jumping out to a 3-0 lead after the first period on the way to the win. Cody Dahms scored three of the team's first five goals as Menomonie led 5-0 as Dahms completed the hat tricks with about four minutes left in the second period. Baldwin-Woodville closed the gap to 5-3 in the third before Hayden Weir had an empty-net goal to secure the win. David Fern and Colton Sztokowski each had goals as well for Menomonie and Drout stopped 48 shots.

Fourth-seeded RAM also used a three-goal first period to set the tone in its semifinal win, knocking off top-seeded Black River Falls 7-4. Evan Gustafson scored four goals, Evan Eckes added two and Elijah Schmidt found the back of the net in the victory while Erickson made 40 saves in goal.