

PREP VOLLEYBALL DIVISION 2 STATE SEMIFINALS | APPLETON XAVIER 3, BLOOMER 0



BRANDON BERG, CHIPPEWA HERALD

Bloomer junior Katlyn Jones watches a kill go down against Appleton Xavier in Friday afternoon's Division 2 state semifinal matchup in Green Bay.

Blackhawks swept by top seed

Jones leads 'Hawks in semifinal loss to Xavier

BRANDON BERG  
Chippewa Herald

GREEN BAY — The Bloomer volleyball team picked up steam as its Division 2 state quarterfinal matchup with Appleton Xavier rolled on. However, that still left too big of a hole to climb out of against the top seed as the Blackhawks fell in straight sets on Friday afternoon at the Resch Center (8-25, 16-25, 20-25). “I think that our team did an amazing job getting here,” Bloomer coach

Heather Henry said. “That was one of our goals at the start of the season and so we are super proud that we got here.” Bloomer struggled early against the top-seeded Hawks and after a rough opening set put together two competitive sets in defeat. Katlyn Jones finished with seven kills to lead the Blackhawks. Ciarra Seibel and Isabel Rubenzer had three kills apiece and Bella Seibel and Amelia Herrick added two each. “I thought Bloomer really, really brought it, really tested us and put some pressure on us,” Xavier coach Luke Herriges said. “I’m proud of how

our kids responded to that pressure, especially down the stretch in set two and set three.” Appleton Xavier had eight aces for the match, many coming in the first set as the Hawks dominated. Mariah Potter and Belle Shea each had three aces in the victory. Bloomer played closer in the second set and grabbed a 2-1 lead on a Xavier error before the Hawks roared to life to take a lead they wouldn’t relinquish. “There’s a lot of people here, there’s a lot of nerves, there’s all of that and so I took a timeout and said lets worry

Please see **BLOOMER**, Page B5

PREP VOLLEYBALL  
STATE NOTEBOOK

Defending  
Justman

McDonell keeps  
standout hitter from  
taking over game in  
semifinal win

BRANDON BERG  
Chippewa Herald

GREEN BAY — The McDonell volleyball team was faced with a big test on Friday morning and passed in a Division 4 state semifinal victory over Wonewoc-Center. The Macks were tasked with defending Wonewoc-Center junior outside hitter Kelsey Justman. The 5-foot-10 Justman entered state leading the Wolves with 562 kills and is committed to play in college at UW-Green Bay. Justman had 12 kills against McDonell in last year’s state semifinals and improved that total to 20, but on 51 attempts as she hit 13.7 percent for the match and wasn’t able to take over the contest. “That’s the goal,” McDonell coach Kat Hanson said of defending Justman. “She was an insane hitter and we knew that coming in. We faced her last year and now she’s a year older and a year better and I think that we did a great job of allowing her and giving her credit where we needed to and we responded with our own attack.” McDonell’s defense at the net was up to the task as a group effort formed a formidable wall with three solo blocks and 14 block assists. Junior Alayna Crawford had two of those three solo blocks and added three block assists. Junior Aubrey Dorn had one solo block and two block assists, senior Marley Hughes had five block assists, senior Josie Witkowski added two block assists and seniors Gracie Goettl and Emily Thaler had one block assists apiece. “They have a great outside hitter and I thought we responded well when she got big kills and did our job,” Hanson said.

Representation

The Western Cloverbelt Conference had two of its three

Please see **NOTEBOOK**, Page B4

PREP VOLLEYBALL DIVISION 4 STATE SEMIFINALS | MCDONELL 3, WONEWOC-CENTER 0



BRANDON BERG, CHIPPEWA HERALD

The McDonell volleyball team celebrates after a point in Friday’s Division 4 state semifinal matchup against Wonewoc-Center at the Resch Center in Green Bay.

A title to defend

Macks sweep Wolves,  
advance back into  
state title game

BRANDON BERG  
Chippewa Herald

GREEN BAY — The McDonell volleyball team returned to the Resch Center as the reigning Division 4 state champion and looked the part on Friday in a straight-set win over Wonewoc-Center (25-18, 25-13, 25-20) in the state semifinals. The Macks (40-12) advance to face Monticello on Saturday morning for a state championship. McDonell faced the Wolves in the state semifinals for a second year in a row and just like last year the Macks worked quickly to secure the sweep. “I’m really proud of the way we came out together and played as a team today,” McDonell coach

Kat Hanson said. “I thought we executed our gameplan really well and kept composure against a great Wonewoc(-Center) team. The Macks never trailed in any of the sets and took the lead for good in each set by the third point as McDonell fifth consecutive straight-set sweep of the postseason. Last season McDonell put it together late in the season and won the state title as a No. 2 seed but this year the Macks entered the postseason as a No. 1 seed in their half of the sectional and as the top-ranked team in the final Wisconsin Volleyball Coaches Association Division 4 state coaches poll of the regular season. “I think coming off a state championship season you feel that pressure,” Hanson said. “Everyone expects that you repeat and I think while that’s the goal the bigger goal is to improve and become a team. We’ve al-

ready been successful at that and so the rest is just a bigger blessing. We came out today and did what we do best and they leaned on each other when things got tough. You could see smiles on faces and you could see the weight off their shoulder.” Josie Witkowski led a balanced effort at the net with 10 kills in the win. Aubrey Dorn had eight kills and hit close to 39 percent for the match while Marley Hughes had six kills and Alayna Crawford added five kills. “I think I went into it with the mindset that this could be our last – being a senior and playing at state – this could be our last game, so just give it your all and when one thing goes bad just forget about it,” Witkowski said. “Roll the ball under the net. You’re fine and (move onto) the next play.”

Please see **MCDONELL**, Page B2

Up Next

Division 4 State Championship

(1) McDonell (40-12)  
vs (3) Monticello (31-1)

When: Saturday, 9 a.m.

Where: Resch Center, Green Bay

TV: Bally Sports Wisconsin

For updates from Saturday’s state title game, follow Brandon Berg on Twitter (@brandon\_berg) and check The Chippewa Herald’s Facebook and Twitter pages throughout the day and check out Monday’s edition of The Chippewa Herald.



**VIEW** a collection of photos from Friday’s Division 4 state semifinal volleyball game by pointing your smartphone at this QR code and tapping the link. **NEWSVU**

PREP VOLLEYBALL DIVISION 1 STATE QUARTERFINALS | BURLINGTON 3, CHI-HI 2

Mistakes hurt in defeat

Cardinals struggle from  
service line in tight loss

BRANDON BERG  
Chippewa Herald

GREEN BAY — The Chi-Hi volleyball team made a push to the Division 1 state tournament for the first time by battling back from a pair of 2-1 set deficits. Thursday evening the Cardinals were on the other side as Burlington rallied to a five-set win over in the state quarterfinals (25-23, 12-25, 25-22, 17-25, 9-15) at the Resch Center. Chi-Hi (41-3) jumped out to a 3-1 lead in the fifth set on back-to-back kills from Paige Steinmetz. From there the teams played back and forth with Chi-Hi last leading after a kill from Maddie Hunt 7-6. From there the Demons (38-4) scored five of the next six points to grab an 11-8 lead and force a

Cardinal timeout. Chi-Hi got one point back on a kill from Sami Perlberg but the Demons notched the final three points with a block to seal the win to advance to Friday’s state semifinals to meet defending state champion Oconomowoc. “I think we fought and fought and fought and never gave up,” Chi-Hi coach Luke Heidtke said. “For our first trip here, it’s remarkable to come down here and play some different teams from different areas of the state so we knew Burlington was going to be tough. But I’m just so proud of our team being

Please see **CHI-HI**, Page B2



**VIEW** a collection of photos from Thursday’s Division 1 state semifinal volleyball game by pointing your smartphone at this QR code and tapping the link. **NEWSVU**



BRANDON BERG, CHIPPEWA HERALD

Chi-Hi senior Sami Perlberg goes up for a kill in a Division 1 state quarterfinal contest against Burlington on Thursday evening in Green Bay.