

Polar League Boys

Basketball Standings

SMALL SCHOOL	W	L	P
1. Cromwell-Wright (25-3)	10	0	10
2. Floodwood (11-14)	6	4	6
2. Silver Bay (7-17)	6	4	6
4. Carlton (8-19)	3	7	3
4. Wrenshall (10-18)	3	7	3
6. McGregor (7-20)	2	8	2

LARGE SCHOOL	W	L	P
1. Esko (18-9)	5	0	10
2. Moose Lake/WR (19-8)	5	1	8
3. Barnum (13-14)	4	3	6
4. Cook County (15-11)	2	4	3
4. Two Harbors (9-18)	2	5	3
6. South Ridge (7-20)	0	5	0

SECTION 5A SNAPSHOT



DEFENSE: Cardinal senior Drew Libbon applies defensive pressure on Jaguar guard Will VanBeck. Drew scored a big bucket late and knocked down free throws.

BOYS State Tournament

QUARTERFINALS

Thursday, March 21 @ Williams Arena

- #1 Springfield (27-2) vs Spring Grove (23-4)
- #2 Ada-Borup (28-1) vs Cromwell-Wright (25-3)
- #3 North Woods (27-2) vs Westbrook-Walnut G (23-7)
- #4 Henning (28-1) vs #5 Christ's Household (22-5)

SEMIFINALS — Fri., March 22 @ Target Center
CHAMPIONSHIP — Sat. March 23 @ Target Center



CARDINAL CELEBRATION: The Cromwell-Wright Cardinals hold up their Section 5A Championship trophy this past Friday after defeating Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa 65-52 at Crosby-Ironton High School. The Cromwell-Wright Cardinals are advancing to their 2nd state tournament in school history.

Cards motto “1MORE”

Micah’s stat line included 37 points on 12-21 shooting including seven 3-pointers. He was also a perfect 6-for-6 from the free throw line. He did have a few missed shots from long range — including the blocked shot “air ball” that got it all going.

“It really doesn’t take much to get Micah going,” admitted his coach and father Bill Pocernich with a big smile. “Micah got hot at the right time and our team defense was a key just as it had been all year.”

The Cardinals only struggled early a bit attempting a full court press. BBE was prepared and zipped right through for some easy baskets. “We thought we could press them, but they tore through it pretty easily,” said Coach Pocernich. “Once we fell back in the half court defense, we picked up on what they were trying to do and caused them some problems.”

That defense, and Micah’s electrifying offensive barrage resulted in a 14-5 run to close the first half and the Cardinals had a 33-23 lead.

It didn’t take long for Micah to send a message to the BBE student section. The junior buried a 3-pointer to start the second half for a 13-point lead. The Cardinals maintained a double-digit lead for most of the half until BBE made a small run late. The Cardinals were not about to let that happen and sealed the victory with some nice drives to

the basket and solid free throw shooting.

The Cardinals advanced to the state tournament for the first time since 1996. Many of those players were in attendance watching and cheering on the 2018-19 Cardinals.

Rematch week includes a pair of wins over Tigers and “1MORE”

The Cardinals had an interesting road to the final. Not only would they have to defeat the Browerville/Eagle Valley Tigers in a quarterfinal rematch from a year ago, but they would face the Nevis Tigers again in the Subsection North Championship game. Neither Tiger team was a match for the Cardinals as they defeated Browerville/Eagle Valley 47-42 on Monday, March 11 and Nevis 69-51 on Wednesday, March 13.

The Cardinals used a terrific defensive performance to hold off Browerville/Eagle Valley in the quarterfinals. According to Coach Pocernich, the team struggled in what he called a, “Survive and advance” game. Thanks, in large part, to a solid defensive performance, the Cardinals rolled on.

Two days later, the team shed their offensive struggles and exploded for 69 points versus Nevis. Senior Marcus Pocernich lead the Cardinals with 17 points and the balanced scoring attack resulted

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