

SECTION 7A GIRLS BASKETBALL

Cardinals roll into Section finals

Dwight Cadwell
sports@pineknotnews.com

The Section 7A No. 1 seeded Cromwell-Wright Cardinals have won three straight tournament games and are now one game away from the state tourna-

ment. They were set to play No. 2 seed Mountain Iron-Buhl for the championship Thursday night at UMD after this issue of the Pine Knot News went to print.

It's been quite a run already.

The Cardinals opened section play last week with a 75-20 victory over North-

east Range in Cromwell. Taya Hakamaki scored 23 points — including 17 in the first half — enroute to the opening-round win. Shaily Hakamaki scored 12 second-half points on her way to 20 points on the night. Cromwell connected on six three-pointers and they were 10-12 from the free throw line.

With the first-round win, the Cardinals advanced to face South Ridge in the section quarterfinals. The Cromwell-Wright team scored 16 three-pointers, including five from Andrea Pocernich. Taya Hakamaki and Shaily Hakamaki led the way with 22 and 21 points respectively, and Pocernich added 19 in the commanding 88-39 victory.

"We have been playing well and shooting the ball even better. I like our chances in the tournament and the only way we can run into trouble is if we make the unforced errors," head coach Jeff Gronner said, adding that they "have a lot of weapons that everyone knows about, but there are several role players who maybe don't get the press they should which allows the others to be more successful."

Following Saturday's win over the Panthers, the Cardinals faced Deer River in the semifinals. Following a very tough first half in which Cromwell-Wright led by only five points (24-19), Shaily Hakamaki hit two big three-pointers early in the second half and Taya Hakamaki scored 17 of her 21 points in the half — both of which allowed the Cardinals to pull away and get the victory.

Shaily Hakamaki ended with a game-high 26 points as the Cardinals moved into the section finals.

"The Warriors came out with a strong matchup zone in the first half and with their size advantage, we had issues moving the ball like we normally do, which caused us to turn the ball over more than

Taya Hakamaki drives past Natalie Bakkedahl (51) for 2 points off a layup during the first half at UMD's Romano Gymnasium.



Junior Emmalee Hoover puts up a basket for 2 points early in the first half at UMD's Romano Gymnasium. *Photos by Matthew Moses / Pine Knot News*

we are used to," Gronner said. "We made some adjustments at halftime and we picked up the pressure defensively. I think we just wore them down in the second half."

The Cardinals were set to face the eight-time defending Section 7A champion MIB Rangers with a trip to the state tournament on the line. The two teams played twice this season with each team winning at home. Cromwell-Wright last played in the state tournament in 2017 when they played in Section 5. The Cardinal girls team went to state in both 2016 and 2017.

Lumberjacks, continued from page 18

had 13. Levi Winkels had 11 points, David Ellies added six; both Easton Fothergill and Trent Johnson recorded three points, and Dawson Persons had two points.

The win moves the Lumberjacks into the Class AA Section 7 semifinals on Friday at Duluth East. Cloquet will play at 6 p.m. versus the Princeton Tigers, who come in with a record of 24-3.



Cloquet senior guard Markus Pokornowski (3) goes up for a layup while Thunderhawks guard Stacy Washington (10) does his best to block the shot.

IT'S TIME FOR Round Up

If your child will be 5 years old on or before September 1, it's time to register for kindergarten!

Kindergarten registration is fun and important!
We have special days set at each school for registration.

Mark your calendar: 8:45-10:20 am or 12:45-2:20 pm
Tues, March 12 at Washington Elementary
Thurs, March 14 at Churchill Elementary

Bring to registration: completed registration form, student's birth certificate, home language questionnaire and an updated immunization record & health history.

Registration paperwork is online. Click on the "Enrollment" tab in the Quick Links section on the bottom left side of the home page.

If you are new to Cloquet, are unsure if your child is counted in the 2019-20 kindergarten group or live within another district and plan to have your child attend Cloquet Schools please call the central administration office at 218-879-6721, ext. 6204 to have him or her included.

Special note: All children must complete early childhood screening before coming to kindergarten. If your child has not completed this screening, please contact Cassie at 218-879-9291 to set this up.

We can't wait to meet you and show you all the fun and exciting learning opportunities available at Cloquet Public Schools!

Welcome to Kindergarten and Cloquet Public Schools!



Children will:

Meet the teachers
See the classrooms
Interact with other kindergarteners
Ride on the school bus
Have a yummy snack

Parents will:

Meet the teachers
See the classrooms
Learn about a typical day of kindergarten
Get bus information
Have a time for questions and answers



www.isd94.org