

MEN'S BASKETBALL

OVER AND OUT

Beavers close 2018-19 season, lean on maturation for next year

By Micah Friez
mfriez@bemidjipioneer.com

Bemidji

Bemidji State men's basketball head coach Mike Boschee wants to see his players take charge in leading the program's turnaround.

"It has to be from within them," Boschee said. "What do they want to accomplish? What are they willing to sacrifice to attain something special? I can lead all the horses to the water, but I can't make anybody drink it. They have to be able to, inside them, want to do it. The internal motivation has to be very, very high."

The Beavers wrapped up a 10-18 season in 2018-19, which included a 6-16 mark in Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference play. BSU also won its first playoff game since 2013 with its upset over top-seeded Minnesota State on Feb. 27, which capped a season with plenty of question marks coming in.

Bemidji State fielded a team with nine new faces coming in, but a year now under its belt can help moving forward.

"I think it'll help out a great deal," Boschee said. "From where we're leaving off now to where we left off last spring, we're just so far ahead. The nucleus of our group is pretty talented. They only can get better."

Sophomore forward Derek Thompson led the Beavers in the scoring column this season, posting 13.8 points per game. Junior guard Ja Morgan followed with 12.9, plus a conference-best 6.4 assists per game, while sophomore guard Jacob Hoffman (11.6 ppg) and junior forward Logan Bader (9.8 ppg) made a habit of double-digit scoring, as well.

And now that they've had a season to work together, next year can be less focused on foundational-type details.

"Everything that we do scheme-wise will be so much easier to implement in the future because we know what we have," Boschee said. "I think everybody understands what's expected. We just have to go out and do it."

And despite a regular season that resulted in the division's No. 8 seed, Boschee was still pleased with BSU's maturation during the year.

"The growth that they made throughout the year (excites me)," he said. "It's a pretty young team that continued to get better all the time and came to practice every day with that kind of intent. The resiliency was really good throughout the whole year, and (we) continued to grow."

Bemidji State doesn't graduate any seniors from the



Micah Friez | Bemidji Pioneer

Bemidji State junior Ja Morgan (3) goes up for an easy layup in a December game against Minnesota Crookston at the BSU Gymnasium.

MEN'S: Page 5

BSU ROUNDUP

Stewart set for national debut

Pioneer Staff Report
sports@bemidjipioneer.com

BEMIDJI — Venice Stewart will be representing the Bemidji State track and field program on a brand new stage this week.



Stewart

The sophomore sprinter qualified for the NCAA Division II Indoor Championships for the first time in her career, and the feat also marks BSU's first appearance since 2011.

Stewart will take part in the 200-meter dash March 8-9, in Pittsburg, Kan., with the preliminary round scheduled for 5:15 p.m. Friday.

The Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., native qualified for the national championships with a school-record time of 24.79 at the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Championships on Feb. 23. Stewart holds the nation's 17th-fastest and the NSIC's third-fastest time this season in the event.

Stewart slotted into the third of five heats for the preliminary round, which has a field of 19 sprinters. The top eight will advance to the final heat at 6:45 p.m. on March 9.

Baseball drops 29-9 opener to Presentation

TUCSON, Ariz. — The Bemidji State baseball team had a fourth inning to forget on Wednesday. Presentation College put up 15 runs on the Beavers in the frame, leading the charge to a 29-9 win in Tucson, Ariz.

The 29 runs are the most BSU has surrendered in a game since a 41-20 loss to Minnesota State on April 11, 2015.

Bemidji State (1-4) actually led 4-0 in the early goings. Caleb Carlson and Parker Borg had matching RBI doubles in the first, and both came in to score on a Saints error in the top of the third.

The lead held at 4-1 through three complete innings, but Presentation hung a 15-spot in the bottom of the fourth through 10 hits, four walks, a hit batter, an error and a balk.

The Saints then poured it on in the late innings, adding seven runs in the fifth and six runs in the sixth that subdued another five runs from the BSU offense.

Game two of the doubleheader was still underway at press time.

The Beavers will be back on the diamond at 4 p.m. today to play St. Cloud State for a nonconference meeting in Tucson.

Presentation 29, Bemidji State 9
BSU 202 0230—9 7 4
PC 001(15)76X—29 22 1
WP: D'Amico (5 IP, 7 H, 6 R, 4 ER, 3 BB, 7 SO, 1 HR)
LP: Olson (3 IP, 6 H, 8 R, 8 ER, 2 BB, 0 SO, 1 HR)

Football sets spring practice schedule

BEMIDJI — Spring practice will officially get underway March 25 for the Bemidji State football team.

BSU head coach Brent Bolte released the initial spring practice schedule on Wednesday, which includes the annual Green and White Spring Game slated for 2 p.m. April 20 at Chet Anderson Stadium.

ROUNDUP: Page 5

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Consistency troubles held BSU back in 2018-19

By Micah Friez
mfriez@bemidjipioneer.com

BEMIDJI — For three weeks during the 2018-19 season, the Bemidji State women's basketball team was turning a corner behind elevated play and individual progress.

But for much of the rest of the year — both before and after — the Beavers struggled to reach the same level of play.

"You can certainly find excuses why we haven't taken the next step, but I need to be better about getting our kids ready to perform every game," BSU head coach Chelsea DeVille said. "There shouldn't be multiple 20-point losses. That's just unacceptable. I need to make sure I get our kids playing at a high level so they're ready to compete every night."

Bemidji State finished the year 6-22 overall and 3-19 within Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference play. All three conference wins came during a two-week stretch in January, and a playoff upset against top-seeded Concordia-St. Paul followed on Feb. 27.

"We saw glimpses of individual kids, what they can be. We have a lot of kids who have such a high ceiling, and I'm really excited to continue to work with them to get them better individually," DeVille said. "... We need kids to understand not only their role and what they can be great at, but also what their teammates are good at. That's my job to make



Micah Friez | Bemidji Pioneer

Bemidji State freshman Taylor Vold handles the ball during a December game at the BSU Gymnasium.

sure that they're taught better and work better together. It takes some time."

Sophomore center Taylor Bray led the Beavers this season with 9.6 points and

WOMEN'S: Page 5



John Autey | The Rink Live

East Grand Forks forward Ethan Trebil (4) sends Minnesota River forward Ken Ringle to the ice on a hard check in front of the benches in the second period of a Class A quarterfinal game at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul on Wednesday.

Parker's quick-strike goals power Green Wave into semifinals

By Jess Myers
Forum News Service

ST. PAUL — Ever since a rough regular season game versus St. Cloud Cathedral three months ago, the East Grand Forks Green Wave has wanted a chance at redemption. In Wednesday's state hockey tournament opener, they earned that chance.

Tanner Mack and Landon Parker each scored twice for the Green Wave as they broke open a close game in the third period, beating Minnesota River 5-2 to advance to the state semifinals. There they'll

get a rematch with Cathedral, which beat East Grand Forks 7-2 on Dec. 1.

Tucker Brown had 19 saves for the Green Wave (21-8-0), allowing a pair of Minnesota River goals in the second period after allowing one in the team's three-game run through the Section 8A playoffs. Parker, a sophomore, scored twice in 63 seconds early in the third period.

"We knew after the first two periods that we were playing a little soft and we'd have to come back in the third and make a statement, coming out fast and hard, moving the puck" said Parker. "It kind of

worked out for us."

The opening period looked like what you would expect from a tournament-experienced team like the Green Wave and the first-timers from Minnesota River. East Grand Forks led 2-0 on goals by Jackson Galstad and Mack, and out-shot the Bulldogs 18-5.

Minnesota River made a push early in the second period, testing Brown with a few point-blank shots, but he held strong. The game

HOCKEY: Page 5

