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BOMBER BUMMER: Braham football suffers lopsided defeat in section finals. **PAGE 10**

Vikings can't be 'de-Railed'

BY BILL STICKELS III
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Looking at the scoresheet, it appeared that North Branch's third-straight Section 7AA championship win was much of the same as their previous matches during the 2019 section tournament – an easy victory. But as it is many times with sports, the scoresheet can be deceiving.

Although the Vikings dispensed of the Proctor Rails in just over an hour by scores of 25-21, 25-18, 25-23, North Branch came away from the match knowing they just went through a battle.

"Proctor was a nice team, and they put up a good fight defensively and offensively," North Branch head coach Mike Selbitschka said. "We had to earn that win."

Right out of the gates, it became obvious that Proctor's game plan was to try and take away as many opportunities as possible for senior Cianna Selbitschka. The Rails' serves were consistently aimed away from the Vikings' star player when she was in the backcourt, and when she rotated to in front of the net, she was frequently faced with double-team blocks.

That plan worked, but only to a cer-



Members of the North Branch volleyball team rush the court in celebration of their third-straight section volleyball championship after the Vikings defeated Proctor 3-0 on Saturday, Nov. 2, in Cloquet. The Vikings will again play in the State Class AA tournament Nov. 7-9 in St. Paul.

tain extent as the Vikings' team depth showed through, making it very hard for the Rails to strictly focus on their main target.

"My thought is that they knew that she was going to be a threat," said Selbitschka. "However I don't believe they knew how much of a threat the rest of the team really was."

Junior setter Paige Sheehan deftly spread her assists throughout the rest of North Branch's attackers, keeping the Rails guessing which direction the Vikings would be coming from. Outside hitter Haley Hadrava picked up nine kills for the night, with middle hitters Paige Peaslee (seven kills) and Reagan Irons (six kills) attacking from the mid-

dle. To top it off, Sheehan sprinkled in a few tip-kill attempts for good measure.

"We are finding many ways to attack and put pressure on our opponents," said coach Selbitschka. "I believe this year we have more weapons that are a threat than ever before. We really work

SEE VOLLEYBALL, PAGE 8



CONTRIBUTED

Warren Bengston plans to enjoy time with Laddie in retirement.

Reining it in: Farrier retires after 52 years

BY MEGAN BERGMAN
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Some say a love affair can begin with one glance, a feeling, a calling deep down in one's own soul. A moment like this can happen anywhere. For Warren Bengston, he remembers this moment quite vividly staring out a school bus window almost 70 years ago. That one moment was a calling that would follow Bengston, 80, for the rest of his life.

"Riding the school bus one day," he recalled, "we went by a farm that had four horses out in the

pasture."

The year was 1952 when Bengston was 13 years old, growing up in Fridley.

"I asked my parent's permission and I rode my bike up there," he said, "and I said to the guy, 'If I do work for you here, will you let me ride a horse?' And he did. Shortly after I started doing that, he decided to have a riding stable. He bought horses like crazy, about 40 or 50 of them."

Bengston worked there for 3-4 years before he graduated from high school. In the beginning, his payment was riding the horses.

"Once he (the owner) had started the riding stable, he did begin to pay me a wage," Bengston said. "But prior to that, I worked around the farm there cleaning barns, and then he let me go for a ride on a horse. And that was my pay."

But his love of horses would never compare to Bengston's first love – his love of his one true Savior and Lord.

Bengston attended Bible college for the next four years after high school. On the weekends, he

SEE FARRIER, PAGE 8

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