

# SPORTS

Sports Editor Gary Giombetti, 218-262-1014  
ggiombetti@mesabtribune.com

Deputy Editor Jim Romsaas, 218-471-1326  
jromsaas@mesabtribune.com

Sports Writer Ben Romsaas, 218-471-1325  
bromsaas@mesabtribune.com

GARY  
GIOMBETTI



COLUMNIST

## College athletes get plenty to play sports

I see the Supreme Court has stepped into the ongoing battle to get college athletes paid.

Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote in his opinion that the NCAA should somehow facilitate their athletes because of the money those sports bring into the schools.

Maybe I've written about this before, but in my humble opinion, these athletes don't necessarily need to be paid.

If they want to pay them, be my guest, or give them the opportunity to use their likeness in any way it may feel profitable.

I'm not dead-set against it, but I heard one morning show guest, when this opinion came out, say that these athletes don't get anything.

Excuse me? What do you mean they don't get anything?

Don't they get a free education? Don't they get free room and board? Don't they get the opportunity to eat as much as they want? Don't they get a stipend when they're on the road to purchase meals?

The cost of a college education isn't cheap. That can add up to somewhere between \$25,000 and \$50,000 a year at some schools.

They may not be making a lot of money, but don't tell me they don't get anything.

If getting a free education isn't enough, then our priorities are all messed up.

SEE ATHLETES, B3



MARK SAUER

Virginia/Mi-B and Eveleth-Gilbert/Mesabi East players stand at center ice for the playing of the national anthem before the start of their Section 7A playoff game at the Miners Memorial Building on March 20, 2021. The game was the last varsity contest held at the arena, which will soon be demolished. Starting this season games will be played at the new, state-of-the-art Miners Entertainment and Convention Center, which opens in September.

# MINERS: END OF AN ERA

Facility, a 'home away from home' for many, will be missed; 60-plus year history recalled

BY JIM ROMSAAS  
MESABI TRIBUNE

VIRGINIA — The Miners Memorial Building in Virginia was a home away from home for many local kids since it opened more than 60 years ago.

That was no more true than for Maureen Padgett, the daughter of longtime Parks and Recreation Director Jim "Padge" Padgett.

Maureen Padgett was just 6 years old at the time her dad got the job in 1968. Until his passing on July 9, 1984, she spent a lot of time playing and working at the Miners, which will soon be replaced by the state-of-the-art Miners Event and Convention Center.

"I played there, laughed there, cried there, worked there, learned there, but most of all myself and my siblings, we literally grew up there!" she told the Mesabi Tribune.

Since opening 62 years ago, the building has been home to Blue Devil hockey games, many star hockey players from the area, tournaments,

figure skating, wedding dances, the circus, bull riding, home, sport and travel shows, high school dances, professional wrestling, public skating, curling and much, much more.

Padgett has numerous memories of the building and she got to relive them recently on a visit to the facility.

"On my final walk through of Miners, the memories hit me hard. I stood in my Dad's corner of preference and tears began to roll down my cheeks. Sadness took over. Never again will I see what I was looking at."

From her dad's office and tunnels she and her siblings once played in to the "stinky" lockers they cleaned and the Zamboini they rode on, Padgett shed many tears saying her goodbyes.

"When I opened the front door, I looked back, smiled and quietly said, 'Come on Dad, it's time to leave now, you don't have to watch over the building any longer.'

I'm so thankful I got to spend so much time at

SEE MINERS, B2



The ice is resurfaced prior to the start of the March 20, 2021, Section 7A match up between Virginia/Mi-B and Eveleth-Gilbert/Mesabi East at the Miners Memorial Building in Virginia.



Jim "Padge" Padgett resurfaces the ice at the Miners Memorial Building in its earlier years. Padgett served as the Virginia Parks and Recreation director from 1968 to 1984.

SUBMITTED

# Virginia Sr. American Legion blanks Ely, remains unbeaten

BY BEN ROMSAAS  
MESABI TRIBUNE

VIRGINIA — The Virginia Senior American Legion baseball team had another outstanding outing Friday night, downing Ely 10-0 in five innings to move to a perfect 10-0 on the season.

Tom Nemanich got the start and the bump for Post 239 as he did battle with Post 248's Dalton Schreffler. Nemanich was on all night long and the defense behind him was stellar, wrapping up the five inning game in just 46 pitches.

Nemanich finished with no runs on two hits and one walk while fanning four. Schreffler's night started off

strong but got bumpy in the third as Ely gave up six runs and three more in the fourth. Schreffler exited the contest after 3.1 innings with eight runs on seven hits and three walks. He fanned two.

Andrew Zika pitched the final 1.2 innings for Post 248, giving up two runs on one hit and three walks.

Virginia's strong night at the plate was kickstarted in the third inning

with leadoff hitter Ryan Hujanen doubling to deep left field from the No. 7 spot in the lineup. One out later, Cole Schaefer put runners on the corner with a hard hit infield single.

Schaefer stole his way to second with Landin McCarty at the plate. The top of Post 239's lineup now at the plate, McCarty hit an infield single of his own to score one run, putting Virginia on the scoreboard first.

Nick Peters kept things moving for Virginia, doubling down the left field

line to score two more runs. After a flyout from Mason Carlson, Nemanich came up to the plate and reached on a walk to put runners back on the corners.

A walk to Daniel Moore filled up the bases with Ryan Scherf coming to bat next. Scherf knocked two home on a single of his own to put Post 239 up 5-0. Hujanen back at the plate for the second time this inning, the Virginia left fielder hit a dribbler into left for a single, but a throwing error from Ely to home plate allowed the next run to

SEE LEGION, B3

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financial security?®



Erik Peterson  
605 N 8th St  
Virginia, MN 55792  
218-749-3766  
erik.peterson@  
countryfinancial.com

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