

BOYS BASKETBALL



Junior Ty Creger, along with head coach, Joshua Williams, instruct movement during an offensive possession in Wednesday's game against New Prague.

STAFF PHOTO BY MITCHELL BREUER

GIRLS BASKETBALL

A season ending playoff loss for the Huskies

BY MITCHELL BREUER
SPORTS WRITER

The Owatonna girls basketball team saw its playoffs begin and end March 16, as they were defeated by Rochester John Marshall, 52-39.

The Huskies shot the ball well, having a 40% field goal percentage, which was higher than its opponents, but they were outmatched on the defensive side of things, as the team was out-rebounded 25-34, and saw fewer four fewer steals than JM.

The game marks end to the high school careers of Maggie Newhouse and Sarah Kingland. Both will continue their athletic careers in college, with Newhouse playing at St. Mary's University and Kingland at Minnesota State University, Moorhead.

JM went on to lose to Farmington, 73-35, in the section semifinals. Farmington will now advance to the section finals for a matchup against Rochester Mayo with a trip to the state tournament on the line.

SCOREBOOK

Big Nine Standings Boys Hockey

Mankato East	14-4
Northfield	12-5-1
Owatonna	12-4-1
Mankato West	11-4-2
Rochester Mayo	12-4-1

Owatonna Boys Hockey Results

March 18 – vs. Farmington – 7-1
March 20 – at Lakeville North – 0-2

Big Nine Standings Girls Hockey

Northfield	15-0
Owatonna	15-3
Mankato East	11-4-1
Albert Lea	10-6
Austin	7-9-1

Owatonna Girls Hockey

March 16 – at Dodge County – 2-0
March 17 – at Farmington – 2-7

Big Nine Standings Boys Basketball

Austin	15-2
Mankato East	13-3
Owatonna	13-4
Mankato West	13-4
Rochester Century	12-5

Owatonna Boys Basketball

March 18 – vs. New Prague – 81-56
March 20 – at Farmington – Owatonna wins by forfeit
March 25 – at Lakeville South – 7 p.m.

Big Nine Standings Girls Basketball

Rochester Mayo	13-3
Mankato West	13-3
Mankato East	13-5
Northfield	10-5
Red Wing	10-5
Owatonna	7-10

Owatonna Girls Basketball

March 15 – at Rochester John Marshall – 39-52

Gopher Standings Boys Basketball

Maple River	16-1
Hayfield	14-4
WEM	8-8
United South Central	5-8
Blooming Prairie	6-10
NRHEG	5-12
Medford	3-14

Blooming Prairie Boys Basketball

March 16 – at Grand Medow – 50-69

NRHEG Boys Basketball

March 18 – at Maple River – 46-93

Medford Boys Basketball

March 18 – at Blue Earth – 58-68

Gopher Standings Girls Basketball

WEM	15-3
Blooming Prairie	14-1
Medford	9-4
Hayfield	12-6
Maple River	6-9
NRHEG	5-13

Blooming Prairie Girls Basketball

March 18 – vs. Spring Grove – 58-24

March 20 – vs. Lanesboro – 45-34

March 23 – vs. Kingsland (game will be played at Rochester JM) – 7 p.m.

NRHEG Girls Basketball

March 17 – at Fairmont – 27-62

24-point run leads Huskies over New Prague

BY MITCHELL BREUER
SPORTS WRITER

After “winning” both of their games last week, the Huskies have their eyes set on the section championship.

The Huskies' playoff run started off normal, as they opened the playoffs with a home game Wednesday against New Prague.

The contest proved to be a close one after the first half, as Owatonna, who started off strong on a 19-8 run, only led by six heading into the second. However, it was in the second half where the Huskies took over the contest.

Owatonna started off by putting New Prague in a large hole, coming out of the break and going on a 24-point unanswered run. The Huskies did not let up though, as they continued the pace making it as they continued to build the lead, outscoring New Prague 48-29 in the half, and winning the game 81-56.

Leading the way for the team was junior Brayden Williams, who provided quite the show for the home fans, scoring a team-high 28 points.

The win set them up for Saturday matchup

against Farmington and this is where things would take a turn, as 24 hours prior to the game being played, Owatonna was already declared the winner and beginning its preparations for the upcoming section championship game.

This took place because of a COVID outbreak at the Farmington school, with the entire varsity basketball team affected by the virus. As a result, Farmington, who

entered the section tournament as the second seed, was forced to forfeit.

Owatonna will now enter the section championship this Thursday with a week's worth of rest, by far the longest they have gone without a game since the season started.

Unfortunately for the Huskies, they will have to go on the road against an opponent they are familiar with in Lakeville South. South will also

enter the game only playing one game in the playoffs, though this was the original schedule for them, as they earned an opening round bye by being the top seed. After that, all they had to do was successfully defeat Northfield to get their date with Owatonna.

Tip-off for this matchup will be at 7 p.m. with the winner advancing to the state tournament, which will begin on March 30.



Junior Evan Dushek, stares down a New Prague player during the Huskies matchup on Wednesday.

STAFF PHOTO BY MITCHELL BREUER

GIRLS HOCKEY

Fatigued Huskies fall in playoffs

BY MITCHELL BREUER
SPORTS WRITER

Even though the Huskies saw their season come to an end, last week proved to be an eventful week for Owatonna girls hockey team.

The Huskies were supposed to kick off their playoff run March 15 against Dodge County, however, inclement weather moved the action to Tuesday.

With another day of rest, the team took to the road and performed well, defeating Dodge County 2-0. The Huskies took off in the second period, where junior Olivia Herzog and freshman Molly Achterkirch scored the game's lone goals.

However, this situation forced the Huskies into a predicament they had not dealt with all season, as they would have to go back on the road Wednesday for a game against Farmington. It was the first time

all season they would play back-to-back games.

“Coming off of a win the night before against Dodge County, playing back-to-back nights is challenging,” Head Coach Tony Cloud said. “So, coming into the game, trying to do everything we could to keep Farmington off the board, but with a team like that, they're going to find ways to score goals and get chances.”

And find chances they did, as Farmington would put up seven goals to Owatonna's two, ending the Huskies' season.

The game started off close, as at the end of the first period Owatonna was only down one after a goal by senior Grace Wolfe. However, Farmington dominated the second, shutting out the Huskies and scoring three unanswered goals.

In the final period, Owatonna was able to get a punch back, as Herzog delivered a goal, however

Farmington would end the night with two more.

“I was really proud of the girls on what they were able to accomplish, not being able to prepare necessarily for the game, because we didn't have any practices in between to really game plan things for Farmington, besides more of a chalk talk before the game,” Cloud said. “So, but they went out and did what they were supposed to and what they could do and coming up against a good team.”

The game would prove to be the last with Owatonna for Wolfe and fellow senior Sydney Hunst, who will continue their athletic careers into college. Wolfe will play with St. Cloud and Hunst will head to St. Benedict.

As for Farmington, the No. 1 seed proved why they were ranked at the top, as they went on to defeat Lakeville South Friday becoming section champions.

NRHEG's Roesler earns fourth place at state prelims

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

New Richland-Hartland-Elendale-Geneva's (NRHEG) wrestling team had four of its wrestlers qualify for the Section 2A-3A State Preliminary Round and one of them, Ralph Roesler, came in fourth place.

In the 182-pound quarterfinal round, Roesler lost by major decision 12-3 to Jackson County Central's William Freking, but he bounced back in round one of the consolation bracket by defeating Fulda-Murray County Central's Christian Kuball by decision 9-8.

Roesler then faced Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial Area's Brenden Jones in the consolation semifinals and won by decision 8-1 to advance to the third-place match. There, he once again competed against Freking. This time, the match was much closer, but Freking held on for 3-2 win by decision and Roesler had to settle for fourth place.

At 152 pounds, NRHEG senior Thor Routh lost by fall to Jackson County Central's Payton Handevit in the quarterfinals. Like Roesler, he won his next match, but unlike his teammate Routh won by fall over Adrian Area's Rilee Heidebrink to advance to the consolation semifinals.

Unfortunately, in the consolation semifinals, he lost to Kenyon-Wanamingo's Bray Olson by 9-6 decision.

NRHEG's last two wrestlers who qualified for the state preliminary round were Nikolas Petsinger, who competed at 126 pounds, and heavyweight Makota Misgen. However, Petsinger lost his quarterfinal match by 6-3 decision and lost round one of the consolation bracket by decision 5-3 in the first sudden victory period. Meanwhile, Misgen lost his quarterfinal match by fall in the first period and lost round one of the consolation bracket by fall in the third period so both of them did not place.