



Photos by Brian Mozey / St. Cloud Times

Members of the River Lakes girls hockey team celebrate in front of the Gentry Academy net after a first-period goal by Myckenzie Cremers during the Class A state quarterfinals on Friday, March 27, at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul.

A MEMORABLE DAY

River Lakes played tough in 4-1 loss to Gentry Academy

By Patrick Bernadeau
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The River Lakes girls hockey team had a fine showing in its state debut on Friday.

Facing the top seed in the Class A tournament, River Lakes competed hard and even maintained a brief lead. But as time wore on, Gentry Academy, specifically its depth, was just too much to handle.

Gentry Academy scored four unanswered goals to defeat River Lakes 4-1 in a state quarterfinal game from the Xcel Energy Center.

The seeded Stars led 2-1 after two closely contested periods before putting the game away with two quick goals in the third.

"We're really proud of how our girls played," River Lakes head coach Alexis Klatt said. "They came out strong the first two periods. Gentry mixed some things up and we weren't able to keep up with them."

The top seed skated three full lines through the first two periods while River Lakes relied on two lines. Gentry Academy shortened its bench by sticking with just its first two lines in the third. With fresher girls on the ice, that adjustment paid immediate dividends.

Cara Sajevic scored unassisted just 31 seconds into the third put the private school in Vadnais Heights



River Lakes junior Jordyn Bebus takes a shot at the net during the Class A state quarterfinals against Gentry Academy on Friday, March 27, at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul.

up 3-1. The sophomore forward led her team in points and goals this season. She finished the night with two goals.

Senior forward Angelina Ruiz added to the lead with an unassisted score of her own nearly four minutes later.

"I think our girls got a little fatigued there in the third and that's part of the reason why it was hard to keep up with Gentry," Klatt said.

At the midway point of the first, River Lakes was the team applying the pressure in the offensive zone. Within a four-minute stretch, the unseeded Stars had three quality scoring chances. Senior forward Kianna Roeske had her wrist shot stopped by Rylee Bartizal on a 2-on-1 before the sophomore goaltender collected a save on senior forward Aubrey Griffin on a 1-on-1 chance following a turnover. Later, Roeske had

a rebound ring of the post.

River Lakes finally cashed in with 2:31 left in the opening period. After winning the puck on the boards behind the net, senior forward Hannah Zimmer found senior Myckenzie Cremers open on the near the right-side crease for the game's opening score.

"I think we came into the game with confidence," Klatt said. "Our girls were **MEMORABLE:** Page AB4

Twins' bench coach dies

Mike Bell succumbs to kidney cancer diagnosed in January

By Betsy Helfand
St. Paul Pioneer Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Twins bench coach Mike Bell passed away on Friday after being diagnosed with kidney cancer in January. He was 46.

Bell is survived by his wife, Kelly, and three children, Luke, Mikayla and Madeline.

"The Minnesota Twins are devastated by the loss of Mike Bell. In his short time with our club, Mike had an indelibly positive

impact — not only on the quality of our team on the field, but most importantly upon everyone whom he met," the club said in a statement. "Widely

respected in our game, all who knew Mike, on and off the field, are better for the experience. The Twins join the baseball world in mourning Mike's untimely passing; our thoughts and best wishes are with his wife, Kelly, his three children, Luke, Mikayla and Madeline, and the entire Bell family during this difficult time."

Bell, who comes from a three-generation Major League Baseball family, was the grandson of Cincinnati Reds hall of famer Gus Bell; the son of longtime player, coach, manager and current Reds executive Buddy Bell, and the brother of David Bell, the current manager of the Reds. Bell had expressed managerial aspirations of his own.

As a player, he played for parts of 13 seasons with seven organizations, reaching the major leagues in 2000 with the Reds.

"Our Reds family is overwhelmed with sadness for the Bells as they mourn the loss of Mike. This great baseball family blessed thousands of people over the 70 years it has devoted to our game," Reds Chief Executive Officer Bob Castellini said in a statement. "We are honored that Mike, like his grandfather Gus, his father Buddy, and brother David, wore a Reds uniform. Our hearts and

TWINS: Page AB4

Wildcat trio head home with hardware

Freshman Knudsen places 2nd; Bisek, McKenzie wrap up with wins

By Joe Brown
jbrown@wctrib.com

ST. MICHAEL — Of its three state quarter-finalists, the youngest of the New London-Spicer trio left the biggest mark. And the two outgoing seniors overcame some dramatics in their prep finales.

Wildcats freshman Luke Knudsen reached the Class AA 113-pound championship match, ultimately finishing in second place. At 120, senior Ty Bisek finished in third place. Fellow senior Nick McKenzie placed fifth Friday at St. Michael-Albertville High School.

"All of them went 2-1 and we won some nice, tight matches," said NLS head wrestling coach Matt Bisek. "It's a good way to end the

season; it was a fun time."

Ranked fourth at 113, Knudsen opened with a decision over ninth-ranked Cash Sixberry of Big Lake. In the semis, Knudsen shut out seventh-ranked Victor Franco of Dassel-Cokato/Litchfield, 7-0.

"I wanted to get to my different shots and score on my feet," Knudsen said.

Top-ranked Tyler Wells, of Princeton, took on Knudsen in the finals, eventually winning by 17-0 tech fall.

Finishing the year 34-2, Knudsen's hoping for plenty of other shots at a title in the future.

"It makes me excited for the future years," he said.

Trying to make the finals for a second straight year, Ty

Bisek started with a 17-0 tech fall in the quarterfinals before losing to Simley senior and Arkansas-Little Rock recruit Reid Nelson in the semis, 14-7. Facing another Division I challenge in the third-place match against Waseca's Mason Gehloff (Minnesota), it went to overtime after Gehloff got a reversal late in the third period.

"I knew he was tired," Ty said about heading into overtime. "I went into it knowing I had to set my offense up and I worked to score."

A Concordia-Moorhead commit, Ty got a takedown at 47 seconds to get the sudden victory, 10-8.

"I wanted to have some **WILDCAT:** Page AB4



Traci Westcott / Rochester Post Bulletin

New London-Spicer's Luke Knudsen wrestles Dassel-Cokato/Litchfield's Victor Franco in a 113-pound semifinal match in the Class AA individual state wrestling championships on Friday, March 26, at St. Michael-Albertville High School in St. Michael.

SCOREBOARD

LOCAL SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 27
Wrestling
Class A state individual tournament, 2 p.m. at St. Michael
Junior Hockey
Willmar at Alexandria, 8:10 p.m.
Sunday, March 28
Junior Hockey
Willmar at New Ulm, 7:10 p.m.

TV SCHEDULE

Saturday March 27
Auto racing
Formula One: Bahrain Grand Prix practice, 6:55 a.m., ESPN2

Table with 5 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists various college basketball teams and their records.

BASKETBALL

Table with 5 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Professional NBA Eastern Conference Atlantic division.

Table with 5 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Professional NBA Eastern Conference Central division.

Table with 5 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Professional NBA Eastern Conference Southeast division.

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No. 4 Florida State 64, No. 13 UNC Greensboro 54
Lucas Oil Stadium (Indianapolis, Indiana)
No. 14 Abilene Christian 53, No. 3 Texas 52

Simon Skjodt Assembly Hall (Bloomington, Indiana)
No. 8 Louisiana State 76, No. 9 St. Bonaventure 61
South Friday, March 19
Mackey Arena (West Lafayette, Indiana)

No. 15 Oral Roberts 75, No. 2 Ohio St. 72, OT
No. 9 Wisconsin 85, No. 8 North Carolina 62
Hinkle Fieldhouse (Indianapolis, Indiana)

No. 7 Florida 75, No. 10 Virginia Tech 70, OT
Bankers Life Fieldhouse (Indianapolis, Indiana)
No. 3 Arkansas 85, No. 14 Colgate 68

Lucas Oil Stadium (Indianapolis, Indiana)
No. 1 Baylor 79, No. 16 Hartford 55
No. 13 North Texas 78, No. 4 Purdue 69, OT

Simon Skjodt Assembly Hall (Bloomington, Indiana)
No. 6 Texas Tech 65, No. 11 Utah St. 53
Indiana Farmers Coliseum (Indianapolis, Indiana)

No. 5 Villanova 73, No. 12 Winthrop 63
Midwest Friday, March 19
Hinkle Fieldhouse (Indianapolis, Indiana)

No. 8 Loyola-Chicago 71, No. 9 Georgia Tech 60
No. 11 Syracuse 78, No. 6 San Diego St. 62
Bankers Life Fieldhouse (Indianapolis, Indiana)

No. 12 Oregon St. 70, No. 5 Tennessee 56
No. 10 Rutgers 60, No. 7 Clemson 56
Lucas Oil Stadium (Indianapolis, Indiana)

No. 3 West Virginia 84, No. 14 Morehead St. 67
Simon Skjodt Assembly Hall (Bloomington, Indiana)
No. 2 Houston 87, No. 15 Cleveland St. 56

Indiana Farmers Coliseum (Indianapolis, Indiana)
No. 1 Illinois 78, No. 16 Drexel 49
No. 4 Oklahoma State 69, No. 13 Liberty 60

No. 2 Baylor 101, No. 15 Jackson State 52
Pittsburgh 5, Anaheim 2
Winnipeg 5, Vancouver 1

San Jose 4, Los Angeles 2
Edmonton at Montreal, PPD
Thursday's Games
NY Islanders 4, Boston 3, OT

NY Rangers 8, Philadelphia 3
Washington 4, New Jersey 3
Carolina 4, Columbus 3, OT

Toronto 3, Ottawa 2, OT
Pittsburgh 4, Buffalo 0
Chicago 3, Florida 0

Nashville 7, Detroit 1
Minnesota 2, St. Louis 0
Dallas 4, Tampa Bay 3

Colorado 5, Vegas 1
Friday's Games
Washington 4, New Jersey 0

Edmonton at Montreal, PPD
Anaheim 4, St. Louis 1
Winnipeg at Calgary, 9 p.m.

San Jose at Arizona, 9 p.m.
Nashville at Chicago, 7 p.m.
Florida at Dallas, 7 p.m.

Winnipeg at Calgary, 9 p.m.
San Jose at Arizona, 9 p.m.
Minnesota 3, Anaheim 2

Pittsburgh 5, Buffalo 2
Winnipeg 5, Vancouver 1
San Jose 4, Los Angeles 2

Edmonton at Montreal, PPD
Anaheim 4, St. Louis 1
Winnipeg at Calgary, 9 p.m.

Minnesota 3, Anaheim 2
Pittsburgh 5, Buffalo 2
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NY Islanders 4, Boston 3, OT

NY Rangers 8, Philadelphia 3
Washington 4, New Jersey 3
Carolina 4, Columbus 3, OT

Toronto 3, Ottawa 2, OT
Pittsburgh 4, Buffalo 0
Chicago 3, Florida 0

Nashville 7, Detroit 1
Minnesota 2, St. Louis 0
Dallas 4, Tampa Bay 3

Colorado 5, Vegas 1
Friday's Games
Washington 4, New Jersey 0

Edmonton at Montreal, PPD
Anaheim 4, St. Louis 1
Winnipeg at Calgary, 9 p.m.

San Jose at Arizona, 9 p.m.
Nashville at Chicago, 7 p.m.
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Minnesota 3, Anaheim 2

Pittsburgh 5, Buffalo 2
Winnipeg 5, Vancouver 1
San Jose 4, Los Angeles 2

Edmonton at Montreal, PPD
Anaheim 4, St. Louis 1
Winnipeg at Calgary, 9 p.m.

Los Angeles Chargers - Signed LB Kyler Fackrell to a one-year, \$1.5 million contract.

San Francisco 49ers - Acquired a 2021 first-round draft pick from the Miami Dolphins for a 2021 first-round draft pick, a 2022 first-round draft pick and a 2023 first-round draft pick.

Hawaii - Announced WR Melquise Stovall has left the program and will transfer to Pittsburgh.

North Texas - Announced QB Jason Bean has left the program and will transfer to Kansas.

Dallas Mavericks - Acquired SG JJ Redick and PF Nicolo Mellini from the New Orleans Pelicans for PF James Johnson, SF Wes Iwundu and a future second-round draft pick.

Los Angeles Clippers - Acquired PG Rajon Rondo from the Atlanta Hawks for Lou Williams, cash considerations and two future second-round draft picks.

Memphis Grizzlies - Waived C Gorgui Dieng.

Miami Heat - Acquired SG Victor Oladipo from the Houston Rockets for PF Kelly Olynyk, SG Avery Bradley and the right to swap 2022 first-round draft picks.

New York Knicks - Acquired SG Terrence Ferguson, C Vincent Poirier, the draft rights to PG Emil Pledzic and two future second-round draft picks in a three-team trade with the Oklahoma City Thunder and the Philadelphia 76ers.

Oklahoma City Thunder - Acquired PG Austin Rivers in a three-team trade with the New York Knicks and the Philadelphia 76ers.

Oriando Magic - Acquired PG Jeff Teague and two future second-round draft picks from the Boston Celtics for SG Evan Fournier.

BASEBALL

PGA: WGC Dell Technologies, 9 a.m. and 9 p.m., GOLF
PGA: Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship, 1 p.m., GOLF

PGA: Dell Technologies match play, 1 p.m., NBC
LPGA: Kia Classic, 5 p.m., GOLF
Hockey
NHL championship, 6 p.m., NBCSN

Dubai World Cup races, 7 a.m., FS1
Florida Derby, 5 p.m., NBCSN
MMA
UFC 260 prelims: Miocic vs. Ngannou 2, 7 p.m., ESPN

Rugby
Premiership Rugby: Bristol vs. Harlequins, 9 a.m., NBCSN
Soccer
FA Women's Super League soccer, 7 a.m. and 11 a.m., NBCSN

FIFA World Cup qualifiers, 11:50 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., ESPN2
College soccer: Providence at Georgetown, noon, FS1

College soccer: Indiana at Michigan, 1 p.m., BTN
College soccer: Maryland at Northwestern, 3 p.m., BTN
Softball
College softball: LSU at Florida, 4 p.m., ESPN

Sunday March 28

Auto racing
Formula One: Bahrain Grand Prix, 9:55 a.m., ESPN2
NASCAR Cup Series: Food City Dirt Race, 2:30 p.m., FOX

Baseball
MLB Spring Training: Minnesota at Boston, 12:05 p.m., MLB
College basketball: NIT tournament championship, 11 a.m., ESPN

Women's college basketball: NCAA tournament games, noon and 2 p.m., ABC
College basketball: NCAA tournament games, 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., CBS

College basketball: NIT tournament games, 2 p.m., ESPN
Women's college basketball: NCAA tournament games, 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., ESPN

BASEBALL

PGA: WGC Dell Technologies, 9 a.m. and 9 p.m., GOLF
PGA: Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship, 1 p.m., GOLF

PGA: Dell Technologies match play, 2 p.m., NBC
LPGA: Kia Classic, 5 p.m., GOLF
Hockey
NHL: New York Rangers at Washington, 11 a.m., NBC

NHL: Columbus at Detroit, 2 p.m., NBCSN
NHL: New Jersey at Boston, 4:30 p.m., NBCSN

College hockey: NCAA tournament games, 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., ESPN2
NHL: Nashville at Chicago, 7 p.m., NBCSN

Soccer
FA Women's Super League soccer, 7 a.m., NBCSN
International friendly: Northern Ireland vs. U.S.A., 11 a.m., FOX

Women's college soccer: Rutgers at Wisconsin, 11:30 a.m., BTN
Women's college soccer: Villanova at Georgetown, noon, FS1

Women's college soccer: Indiana at Michigan, 2 p.m., BTN
Women's college soccer: Illinois at Michigan State, 4 p.m., BTN

CONCACAF 2020 Olympic qualifying semifinals, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., FS1
Softball
College softball, 12:30 p.m., ESPN2

College softball: Alabama at Kentucky, 2:30 p.m., ESPN2

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BASEBALL

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NLS takes fifth; Benson gymnast wins beam title

Wildcats pass some teams at state while Libby McGeary takes first on beam

By Tom Elliott
telliott@wctrib.com

CHAMPLIN — It was a good day for the New London-Spicer gymnastics team and an exceptional one for Benson/Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg's Libby McGeary.

New London-Spicer finished fifth in team competition with a score of 142.400. Watertown-Mayer/Mound-Westonka won the Class A title at Champlin Park High School with a score of 146.350.

McGeary brought home the West Central Tribune area's lone state championship. The sophomore from Benson won the balance beam with a score of 9.600. She ended up 13th in all-around scoring with a 36.500.

"Honestly, it was nearly flawless," Benson/KMS head coach Kathy Ahrndt said. "I've watched the video of her performance three times and there wasn't even a wobble."

McGeary is the first Benson/KMS gymnast to win a state title, Ahrndt said.

For NLS, the team score was the second best of the season. Head coach Cindy Jacobson was especially pleased because the Wildcats moved past a couple of teams that were ranked higher than they were.

"The girls worked super hard this week, like any team would," Jacobson said. "Taking second in our (four-team pod) was really nice."

"And beating teams that we were ranked behind (Big Lake and Worthington) was also really nice." NLS started on the balance beam and scored a 35.250.

"We did pretty well," Jacobson said. "We stuck four of our five routines."

"One fall isn't bad in a big meet like this."



Photos by Sherri LaRose-Chiglo

Willmar's Tayva Carruthers (from left), New London-Spicer's Ashlyn Olson (center) and Willmar's Abigail Coquyt (back) embrace Friday, March 26, at the state gymnastics meet at Champlin Park High School. All three are seniors.

It was the first time NLS had qualified for state since 2007. It made for a memorable season that Jacobson said impressed her because of her team's work ethic.

"I think there were three times when I told them to take a day off and they said they didn't want one," she said. "The perseverance and determination with the girls this year was unbelievable."

Ciera Anderson was NLS' top scorer. She took seventh in the all-around, sixth on the bars and fourth on the beam.

The Wildcats' Ashlyn Olson had a ninth-place finish in the floor exercise.

Willmar's Abigail Coquyt finished 10th on the bars and 12th on

the floor. The Cardinals' Lyndi Koosman was 18th in the all-around.

State Class A

team finals

Team scoring
(1) Watertown-Mayer/Mound-Westonka 146.350 ... (2) Pine Island/Zumbrota-Mazeppa 146.025 ... (3) Mankato West 143.750 ... (4) Perham/New York Mills 143.675 ... (5) New London-Spicer 142.400 ... (6) Worthington 142.075 ... (7) Big Lake 141.925 ... (8) St. Paul Highland Park 131.750.

How New London-Spicer fared:

VAULT — Lili Sampson 9.400 ... Karyn Quenemoen 9.400 ... Ciera Anderson 9.275 ... Abby Knudsen 9.200 ... Ashlyn Olson 8.625. Total: 37.275.

BARS — Anderson 9.000 ... Quenemoen 8.175 ... A. Knudsen 8.150 ... Kailyn Prehim 8.000 ... Sampson 7.475. Total: 33.325.

BEAM — Anderson 9.275 ... Quenemoen 8.825 ... Olson 8.225 ... Preheim 8.525 ... Taylor Knudsen 8.200. Total: 35.250.

FLOOR — Olson 9.300 ... Anderson 9.100 ... Quenemoen 9.075 ... Maddy Iverson 9.075 ... Preheim 8.650. Total: 36.550.

Class A

Individual finals

ALL-AROUND — (1) Jada Olsen, Perham/New York Mills, 37.8000 ... (2) Anna Mielke, Watertown-Mayer/Mound-



New London-Spicer's Ciera Anderson competes in the state Class A gymnastics competition on Friday, March 26, at Champlin Park High School.



The New London-Spicer gymnastics team prepares before the state Class A team championships Friday, March 26, at Champlin Park High School. The Wildcats finished fifth.

Westonka, 37.350 ... (3) Sawyer Gorman, Pine Island/Zumbrota-Mazeppa, 37.1750 ... (7) Ciera Anderson, New London-Spicer, 36.650 ... (13) Libby McGeary, Benson/Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg, 36.1500 ... (18) Lyndi Koosman, W, 35.2250.

VAULT — (1) Olsen, P/NYM, 9.8750 ... (2) Mielke, WM/MW 9.6500 ... (3) Avery McAllister, P/NYM, 9.6000 ... (16) Karyn Quenemoen, NLS, 9.4000 ... (17) Lili Sampson, NLS, 9.4000 ... (28) Koosman, Willmar, 9.2750 ... (29) Anderson,

NLS, 9.2750 ... (32) Abby Knudsen, NLS, 9.2000 ... (37) McGeary, Benson/KMS, 8.9750.

BARS — (1) Olsen, P/NYM, 9.6750 ... (2) Regan Kelley, WM/MW, 9.4250 ... (3) Jenna Sikel, Mankato West, 9.400 ... (6) Anderson, NLS, 9.0000 ... (10) Abigail Coquyt, Willmar, 8.8250 ... (21) Koosman, W, 8.6250 ... (23) McGeary, B/KMS, 8.5750 ... (26) Kim Joneson, Willmar, 8.5250 ... (29) Knudsen, NLS, 8.1500.

BEAM — (1) McGeary, B/KMS, 9.6000 ... (2) Amber Roble, Byron, 9.3750 ... (3)

Jaci Newman, PI/ZM, 9.2500 ... (4) Anderson, NLS, 9.2750 ... (13) Tayva Carruthers, Willmar, 8.8250 ... (23) Joneson, W, 8.3750 ... (24) Koosman, W, 8.3000.

FLOOR — (1) Gorman, PIZM, 9.650 ... (2) Rosie Unglaub, WM/MW, 9.5500 ... (3) Mielke, WM/MW, 9.4750 ... (9) Ashlyn Olson, NLS, 9.3000 ... (12) Coquyt, W, 9.2000 ... (19) Anderson, NLS, 9.1000 ... (20) Quenemoen, NLS, 9.0750 ... (24) Koosman, W, 9.025 ... (26) McGeary, B/KMS, 9.0000.

CMCS rallies to earn a state berth

Bluejays overcome double-digit deficit to win 3A title, 68-63

By Patrick Bernadeau and Joe Brown
sports@wctrib.com

REDWOOD FALLS — During Friday's Section 3A boys basketball championship, there was a point where Central Minnesota Christian was on the ropes.

Trailing 50-39 Southwest Minnesota Christian with more than 10 minutes remaining in the game, Bluejays head coach Ted Taatjes called a timeout.

"We just talked about playing one play at a time," Taatjes said. "There's no 11-point shot; you can't get it all back at once."

CMCS rallied, chipping away before a layup from junior forward Ben Van Eps gave the team a 62-61 lead with 3:13 left.

Central Minnesota Christian held the lead the rest of the way to capture a 68-63 victory over the Eagles from Redwood Valley High School.

CMCS was second seed in 3A-North. SWMC was the top seed in 3A-South. The two teams met in last year's section championship. The Eagles prevailed, 71-64. This time around, it was the Bluejays who earned their fifth state berth in program history and first since 2017.

"It feels amazing," Taatjes said. "There was a point in the second half where we were down 11 points, but we stuck together and we kept grinding. We hit a couple buckets, they turned it over and before you know it, it's a different ballgame. I couldn't be more proud of a group of guys, that's for sure."

The outside shot proved pivotal in the CMCS' comeback. Sophomore guard Ethan Bulthuis hit a corner 3-pointer to cut the deficit to 52-45. Later, a long-distance shot from junior guard Case

Mulder made it 56-52. After an Eagles bucket, Bluejays junior forward Caleb Vander Beek hauled in two offensive rebounds before senior forward Blake Greenwaldt hit a trey to make it 58-55 with 4:51 left.

The two teams traded buckets before a Mulder 3-pointer sliced the gap down to 61-60. CMCS forced a turnover on the ensuing possession, leading to a fast break. Greenwaldt dished it off to Van Eps for the good-ahead lay-in off the glass.

"We kept battling," Taatjes said. "This game got tighter and tighter. Maybe there were a little bit of nerves when they were ahead and they got a little tight, but we definitely came back and took it from them."

The Eagles did not score a field goal over the final 3:41 of regulation.

The Bluejays burned precious seconds off the

clock and forced SWMC to foul. Van Eps was fouled with 9.6 seconds left, but SWMC called a timeout prior to the foul shots. When the teams returned, Van Eps was the first player on the floor and stepped to the line. He made his two free throws to bump the lead to 66-63.

SWMC had a chance to tie it, but a 3-pointer from Carter Van Hulzen hit the backboard and did not graze the rim.

"We hang our hat on our defense all year long; that's what we do in our program," Taatjes said. "They hit a lot of shots in the first half. ... I told them, 'Hey guys, we've got to get back to the basics, keeping guys in front of us, making guys hit shots over the top, defending the post.'"

Mulder finished with a team-best 22 points. Greenwaldt had four 3-pointers as part of a 18-point effort. He also had seven rebounds and

four steals. Van Eps finished with 12 points and two blocks.

Section 3A Championship

CMCS 68,

SW Christian 63

CMCS (18-4) 30 38 — 68

SW Christian (19-3) 32 31 — 63

CMCS - Scoring: Ethan Bulthuis 9, Case Mulder 22, Blake Greenwaldt 18, Ben Van Eps 12, Caleb Vander Beek 7 ... **3-point shots:** Bulthuis 1, Mulder 2 ... **Assist leader:** Van Eps 2 ... **Steal leader:** Greenwaldt 4 ... **Block leader:** Van Eps 2

SW Christian - Stats not available

Section 3AA Championship

Morris/CA 57,

Pipestone 49

After a 17-year hiatus, Morris Area/Chokio-Alberta is headed to state.

Trailing Pipestone by four at halftime, the Tigers outscored the Arrows 30-18 in the second half to secure the Section 3AA championship in Montevideo.

It will be Morris/CA's fifth state trip. The previous state berths came in 1955, 1980, 1994 and 2004.

Jackson Loge led a trio of Tigers in double figures, finishing with 18 points on 7 of 17 shooting. He also had 11 rebounds, six assists, three steals and four blocks, all team highs.

Thomas Tiernan was 7-for-7 from the free-throw line en route to a 14-point effort. Brandon Jergenson added 12 points for Morris/CA, going 2 of 5 from 3-point range.

Joining Morris/CA in the Class AA tournament field are: Caledonia; Waseca; St. Croix Prep; Minneapolis North; Annandale; Moose Lake-Willow River; and Ferguson Falls.

Pipestone (11-11) 31 18 — 49
Morris/CA (19-2) 27 30 — 57
PIPESTONE - Stats not available
MORRIS/CHOKIO-ALBERTA - Scoring: Durgin Decker 6, Brandon Jergenson 12, Thomas Tiernan 14, Jackson Loge 18, Toby Gonnerman 7 ... **3-point shots:** Jergenson 2, Tiernan 1 ... **Rebound leader:** Loge 11 ... **Assist leader:** Loge 6 ... **Steal leader:** Jergenson 3, Loge 3 ... **Block leader:** Loge 4

Twins' Astudillo hopes to earn roster spot

By Betsy Helfand / St. Paul Pioneer Press
St. Paul Pioneer Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — It's been a few years since Willians Astudillo first burst onto the scene, quickly achieving cult hero status among Twins fans.

Days after belting a walk-off home run in September 2018, the utility man endeared himself to fans by sprinting from first to home to score on a Max Kepler double, losing his helmet to reveal flowing, curly locks along the way and saying after the game that he just wanted to "show that chubby people also run," a comment that found its way onto T-shirts.

Some of the novelty of "La Tortuga" has worn off, to be sure, but Astudillo doesn't seem to mind. What's most important to him

is going out there and taking care of his job, for himself and for his teammates. And right now, that means using his versatility to earn a spot on the Twins' bench.

"I'm not expecting the crowd and T-shirts and all that stuff that happened when I first came up," Astudillo said. "All that is cool, but it's more important for me to go out there and help my teammates."

Astudillo's versatility can help him do that. On top of Astudillo being a third catching option behind Mitch Garver and Ryan Jeffers, the Twins can slot him in at a corner infield position or even at a corner outfield spot.

Best part is, he says he feels comfortable at all of those places.

"My mind-set is really simple: I just try to prepare myself



Nathan Ray Seebeck / USA TODAY Sports
Minnesota Twins catcher Willians Astudillo (64) at bat during spring training against the Tampa Bay Rays on March 13 at Charlotte Sports Park.

for whatever the day brings, whatever position (manager) Rocco (Baldelli) needs me," he said. "I'm going to try to do my best to be 100 percent and give my 100 percent to help the Twins win. That's my mentality, and that's what I've been doing this spring train-

ing, and that's what I'm going to do moving forward."

Astudillo, also known for his contact ability at the plate, has had a nice spring offensively, entering Friday with a .355 batting average, .394 on-base percentage and .677 slugging percentage and two

home runs in 11 games. And he would appear to have a leg up on a roster spot.

The Twins still have not made their final roster decisions public. They clarified the left field picture this week by optioning top prospect Alex Kirilloff. One of Brent Rooker or Kyle Garlick seem likely to make the team, joining Jake Cave as options for left field, as well as potentially Luis Arraez from time to time.

Arraez will slot into the Marwin Gonzalez-type multi-positional everyday player role, and one spot will go to a catcher — the Twins have said Garver and Jeffers will be "two regular catchers."

Should they go with a four-man bench, that would leave one spot. The Twins already have optioned two other infielders on the 40-man ros-

ter, Nick Gordon and Travis Blankenhorn, to the minors, though they have a handful of non-roster invitees still in camp, among them JT Riddle and Tzu-Wei Lin, both of whom they would need to clear space for on the 40-man roster.

While they could go with five outfielders or add another pitcher, Astudillo hopes his skillset makes him indispensable.

"He's always ready and he does not lack confidence," Baldelli said earlier this spring. "And there's a reason why — it's not false bravado, it's legitimate. He can go out there and he has good hands and he can make plays wherever we put him. We could see him all over the field, so I feel very comfortable regardless of where we start him."

WILDCAT

From Page AB1

fun," Ty said. "Last match, can't hold anything back."

At 285, McKenzie rebounded after a loss in the quarterfinals with a second-period fall on New Ulm's Jaden Drill to reach the consolation finals. Facing fourth-ranked Max Balow of Lake City, the match was tied 2-2 after three periods. Then after a scoreless sudden-death period, McKenzie got on the board in the second overtime with a reversal. The next period saw Balow escape, only for McKenzie to score a takedown and cement fifth place with a 6-3 decision.

"I just wanted to take as much clock off and I could and ride him as much as I could," said McKenzie, who'll resume his wrestling career at Augsburg. "I didn't want to let him get an easy throw or let him get my legs or anything like that."

McKenzie, who entered the tournament ranked third, added, "It feels good to end my career on a win. ... I'm happy to be done but sad to see it go."

Link, Simes take 2nd

After taking second in the Class AA team tournament earlier in the day, four of Dassel-Cokato/Litchfield's seven individual state entrants finished sixth or better.

"It was a great day for the kids," said



Photos by Traci Westcott / Rochester Post Bulletin
Dassel-Cokato/Litchfield's Jude Link wrestles Simley's Cael Berg in a 160-pound championship match in the Class AA individual state wrestling championships on Friday, March 26, at St. Michael-Albertville High School in St. Michael.



New London-Spicer's Ty Bisek wrestles Princeton's Noah Vanderbeek in a match of the Class AA individual state wrestling championships on Friday, March 26, at St. Michael-Albertville High School in St. Michael.

Charging Dragons co-head coach Dan Buker. "All the hard work paid off and it's great for our guys to be rewarded

for a shorter, grinding season."

Junior Jude Link made the finals for the second straight season. Ranked

No. 2 in the state, Link had decisive wins in the quarters and semis that put him in the championship against top-

ranked Cael Berg of Simley. A late reversal put Link in striking distance, but Berg, who is committed to wrestle at Harvard, had an escape and prevented the D-C/Litch junior from getting another shot on offense. Berg won the match by 4-2 decision.

Another junior, Eddie Simes, made the finals for the first time. Wrestling at 152, Simes won a 3-2 decision over fourth-ranked Logan Thorsten of Foley to make the finals. For the second time in the day, Simes took on the top seed, Ryan Sokol of Simley. Sokol is ranked 10th nationally at 152 according to TrackWrestling and is committed to wrestle at Cornell. Like in the team championship, Sokol got the win for the individual title via 22-7 tech fall.

Elsewhere for the Charging Dragons, Victor Franco placed fourth at 113 while Jerry Simes (138) and Hayden Hoernemann (220) finished sixth.

Tigers twosome

Morris Area/Hancock/Chokio-Alberta's two state entrants — Davin Rose and Ethan Lebrija — reached their respective championship matches.

The top seed at 132, Rose met Watertown-Mayer's Austin Gabbert in the finals. Rose is ranked third and was undefeated going into the match while Gabbert is ranked No. 1. The match was tied 3-3 after two periods, but an escape from Gabbert seconds into the third made the difference as he won a 4-3 decision.

After knocking off No.

2 Cash Ramond of Simley in the semifinals, Lebrija faced top-ranked Jaxson Rohman of Fairmont/Martin County West in the finals. Rohman made life tough on Lebrija with six takedowns in the match, leading to a 15-6 major decision.

The state wrestling championships will conclude with Class A on Saturday, with teams wrestling at 9 a.m. and individuals beginning at 2 p.m.

Class AA championships

How D-C/Litchfield fared
113: Victor Franco: Quarterfinals: Franco maj dec Calvin Singewald, Cannon Falls, 14-5; Semifinals: Luke Knudsen, New London-Spicer, dec Franco, 7-0; Third place: Peyton Spychalla, Simley, dec Franco, 6-3 ... 138: Jerry Simes: Quarterfinals: Lucas Jagodzinski, Fairmont/MCW, dec Simes, 4-0; Consolation semifinals: Simes no contest over Rocco Visci, Big Lake; Fifth place: Griffin Lundeen, Thiel River Falls, maj dec Jerry Simes, 9-0 ... 152: Eddie Simes: Quarterfinals: Simes maj dec Joe Kozlowski, Lake City, 12-2; Semifinals: Simes dec Logan Thorsten, Foley, 3-2; Championship: Ryan Sokol, Simley, tech fall Simes, 22-7 ... 160: Jude Link: Quarterfinals: Link maj dec Alex McPhee, Proctor/Hermantown, 15-6; Semifinals: Link maj dec Blake Jagodzinski, Fairmont/MCW, 19-7; Championship: Cael Berg, Simley, dec Link, 4-2 ... 170: Tate Link: Quarterfinals: Adam Sylvester, Totino-Grace, pinned Link, 1-53; Consolation semifinals: Cale Luthens, Hutchinson, dec Link, 5-3 ... 195: Beau Nelson: Quarterfinals: Gannon Rosenfeld, Mankato West, pinned Nelson, 1-13; Consolation semifinals: Hayden VanderVoort, Hutchinson, dec Nelson, 5-0 ... 220: Hayden Hoernemann: Quarterfinals: Gavin Nelson, Simley, pinned Hoernemann, 0-38; Consolation semifinals: Hoernemann dec Bryce Kuschel, Becker, 9-2; Fifth place: Riley O'Malley, Tri-City United, pinned Hoernemann, 3-49.

How New London-Spicer fared
113: Luke Knudsen: Quarterfinals: Knudsen maj dec Jacob Thompson, Byron, 13-4; Semifinals: Lebrija dec Cash Raymond, Simley, 6-4; Championship: Jaxson Rohman, Fairmont/MCW, maj dec Lebrija, 15-6 ... 132: Davin Rose: Quarterfinals: Rose dec Nelson Anderson, Monticello, 8-2; Semifinals: Rose dec Kai-den Schrandt, Simley, 8-2; Championship: Austin Gabbert, Watertown-Mayer/ML, dec Rose, 4-3.

How United fared
152: Dain Mortenson: Quarterfinals: Logan Thorsten, Foley, dec Mortenson, 3-1; Consolation semifinals: Joe Kozlowski, Lake City, dec Mortenson, 5-3.

MEMORABLE

From Page AB1

even more excited for this game than the Willmar (section championship) game if that was even possible. They came in knowing that they had to put up a big fight, but they also came in knowing they had a legit chance."

However, that lead was short-lived.

Following a long lead pass, sophomore forward Alexa Hanrahan entered the offensive zone alone against two defenders. Her initial shot was stopped by eighth-grade goaltender Kaydence Roeske, but Hanrahan buried the rebound just through a sliver of daylight inside the post.

Gentry Academy



Brian Mozey / St. Cloud Times
River Lakes senior Aubrey Griffin skates by a Gentry Academy player during a Class A state quarterfinal game on Friday, March 26, at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul.

took the lead for good 4:03 into the second. Following a shot just behind the left circle, Sajevic swooped in to

tap in the loose puck. All four Gentry's goals came on a rebound.

River Lakes had a pair of excellent

chances later in the period. Midway through the second, senior defenseman Brianna Demming had

a snipe bounce of the crossbar.

Later, Zimmer came up empty after a lead pass led to a breakaway. After her shot was stopped, she was able to draw a penalty, but Bartizal collected a pair of saves on the 5-on-4. She had 19 saves in the win.

Kaydence Roeske finished with 32 saves.

River Lakes ends the season with a 13-6-2 record.

Gentry Academy 4,

River Lakes 1

River Lakes (13-6-2) 1
0 0-1
Gentry Academy (18-2-0) 1
1 2-4
FIRST PERIOD — (1) RL: Myckenzie Creemers (Hannah Zimmer), 14:21 ... (2) GA: Alexa Hanrahan (Skylar Salscheider), 15:53
SECOND PERIOD — (3) GA: Cara Sajevic (Riley Reeves, Angelina Ruiz), 4:03
THIRD PERIOD — (4) GA: Sajevic (unassisted), 0:31 ... (5) GA: Ruiz (unassisted), 4:28
GOALIE SAVES/SHOTS — RL: Kaydence Roeske 32/36 ... GA: Rylee Bartizal 19/20

TWINS

From Page AB1

support go out to Buddy, David and their families."

Bell joined manager Rocco Baldelli's staff as the Twins' bench coach in 2020 after spending 13 years with the Arizona Diamondbacks. The 2021 season would have been his 29th in professional baseball.

"No words can adequately express the sadness regarding Mike Bell's passing. While Mike's Twins tenure was relatively brief, his impact was significant," Twins president and CEO Dave St. Peter tweeted. "We will miss his vast baseball IQ, his character and friendship."

AREA NOTEBOOK

Wildcats' family ties run deep

The Dreier, Rich and Hanson families make up a lot of the program

New London

Every high school sports team tries to call itself a family. It's easy to see why.

You spend a lot of time together. You work together, sweat together, laugh together and sometimes share tears together.

The analogy generally works.

On the New London-Spicer girls basketball team, the Wildcats have taken it a step further. There are several actual family connections, the kind you almost only see in small towns.

There's Mike Dreier, of course. He's in his 43rd season leading the program and is the state's all-time winningest coach.

The Wildcats are back in the state tournament with an unbeaten record and ranked No. 1 in the state heading into Saturday's seeding meeting, where a first-round opponent will be determined.

There's Mike's son Joey Dreier, NLS' assistant coach. And there's Vonnie Dreier, Mike's wife and Joey's mother. She keeps the official scorebook for Wildcats games.

"My mom's been doing it for 40 years," Joey Dreier said.

But it's deeper than that.

There is the Rich family. Not only are Earl Rich's four daughters all team members, but Mike Dreier also was Earl Rich's foster parent when he was in high school.

The compelling story of Earl Rich and daughters Mackenzie, Courtney, Avery and Dakota and their connection to Mike Dreier was recently aired on KARE11-TV in Minneapolis. It's worth a watch if you're internet-inclined, which Mike Dreier isn't. Handling chores like emails is one of Joey's duties.

But NLS, those aren't the only family connections. The Hanson sisters, Ellie and Delaney, are on the team. And no, they aren't related to Emma Hanson, another key player on the team.

And the Dreier family connections go even deeper in the Wright County Conference. Annandale, one of NLS' rivals, is coached by Matt Dreier.

Yes, you guessed correctly. Matt is Joey's brother. Mike and Vonnie are Matt's parents.

NOTEBOOK: Page B2



Patrick Bernadeau / West Central Tribune

New London-Spicer head coach Mike Dreier gives out defensive instructions during the Section 3AA-North championship game on March 3, 2021 against Eden Valley-Watkins from Willmar High School.



Photos by Joe Brown / West Central Tribune

D-C/Litchfield senior Beau Nelson reacts after winning his 220-pound match against Fairmont/MCW's Max Olson to clinch a victory in the Class AA team state semifinals on Friday, March 26, 2021 at St. Michael.

GOAL ACCOMPLISHED

D-C/Litchfield winds up second in the state after falling to Simley in the final

By Joe Brown

jbrown@wctrib.com

St. Michael

Dassel-Cokato/Litchfield took some blows against the best Fairmont/Martin County West had to offer.

But even when trailing 23-10 with six matches remaining, the Charging Dragons had plenty of heavy hitters left.

And for the rest of the Class AA state semifinals, D-C/Litch dominated.

Winning the final six matches, with bonus points in five of those, the No. 3-seeded Charging Dragons earned their first trip to the state championship as a co-op, beating No. 2 Fairmont/Martin County West 41-23.

"It was great to see the kids weather that storm," said D-C/Litch co-head coach Dan Buker, who coaches the Charging Dragons along with Bryan Clemen. "We finished out on top in a couple of those matches (between 120-to-160 pounds) and since we won the coin toss, we got the matchups we wanted. You gotta give credit to the kids there."

In the championship match, top-seeded Simley had nine wins by fall, securing its third straight state championship after beating D-C/Litch, 68-6.

In the other semifinal, Simley defeated No. 4-seeded Princeton, 56-24. "Getting to the finals) was our goal as a team," said D-C/Litch junior Hayden Hoernemann. "We did the job and got our goal."

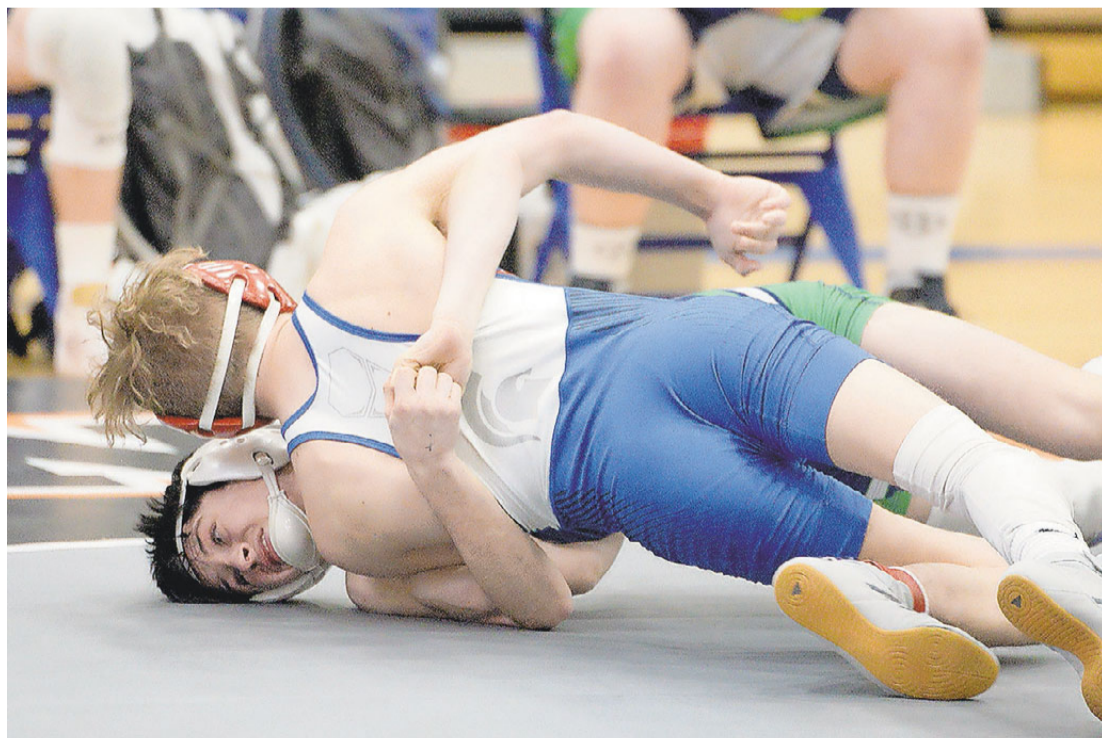
In the semifinals against the Red Bulls, the Charging Dragons jumped out to a 7-0 lead after a decision at 106 pounds by Andrew Joedeman and a major decision by Victor Franco at 113. But from that point, Fairmont/MCW entered the heart of its lineup with five straight top-10 wrestlers.

The Red Bulls won three straight, with a tech fall by Jaxson Rohman at 126 and a first-period fall by Kain Sanders at 132.

At 138, in a matchup of two top-10 grapplers, D-C/



D-C/Litchfield junior Hayden Hoernemann (left) puts the finishing touches on a win by fall on Fairmont/MCW's Wyatt Williamson during their 195-pound match in the Class AA team state semifinals on Friday, March 26, 2021 at St. Michael.



D-C/Litchfield sophomore Victor Franco (bottom) flips Simley's Peyton Spychalla onto his back for a fall in the third period of their 113-pound match in the Class AA team state championship on Friday, March 26, 2021 at St. Michael.

Litch's Jerry Simes stopped the losing streak with a 7-4 decision over Lucas Jagodzinske. Simes entered the match ranked fifth while Jagodzinske was third.

"That was a big match," Buker said of Simes' victory. "It halted any (momentum) that they had, and it helps with our confidence to win a swing match."

While Fairmont/MCW

won the next two matches, both were by decision as the Charging Dragons avoided giving up bonus points.

"We knew that was the best they had and they had to bump one of their better guys up (in Connor Simmonds)," said D-C/Litch sophomore 152-pounder Eddie Simes. "We knew they weren't as good when we got to 170."

Trailing by 13, the momentum swung quick for D-C/Litch as Jude Link won by first-period fall at 160, Tate Link survived a late scramble to take a 4-3 decision at 170, and Will O'Brien and Hayden Hoernemann both won by fall at 182 and 195, respectively.

WRESTLING: Page B5

SCOREBOARD

LOCAL SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 27
Wrestling
Class A state individual tournament, 2 p.m. at St. Michael
Junior Hockey
Willmar at Alexandria, 8:10 p.m.
Sunday, March 28
Junior Hockey
Willmar at New Ulm, 7:10 p.m.

TV SCHEDULE

Saturday March 27
Auto racing
Formula One: Bahrain Grand Prix practice, 6:55 a.m., ESPN2
Formula One: Bahrain Grand Prix qualifying, 9:55 a.m., ESPN2
NASCAR Truck Series: Pinty's Truck Race On Dirt, 7 p.m., FS1
Baseball
MLB Spring Training: Tampa Bay at Minnesota, 5:05 p.m., FSN
Basketball
College basketball: NCAA Division II tournament championship, 11 a.m., CBS
College basketball: NIT tournament games, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., ESPN
Women's college basketball: NCAA tournament games, noon and 2 p.m., ABC
College basketball: NCAA tournament games, 1:30 p.m. and 3:45 p.m., CBS
Women's college basketball: NCAA tournament games, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., ESPN2
College basketball: NCAA tournament games, 6:15 p.m. and 8:45 p.m., TBS
NBA: Houston at Minnesota, 7 p.m., FSN
Golf
PGA: WGC Dell Technologies, 9 a.m. and 9 p.m., GOLF
PGA: Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship, 1 p.m., GOLF
PGA: Dell Technologies match play, 1 p.m., NBC
LPGA: Kia Classic, 5 p.m., GOLF
Hockey
NHL: New York Rangers at Washington, 11 a.m., NBC
NHL: Columbus at Detroit, 2 p.m., NBCSN
NHL: New Jersey at Boston, 4:30 p.m., NBCSN
College hockey: NCAA tournament games, 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., ESPN2
NHL: Nashville at Chicago, 7 p.m., NBCSN
Soccer
FA Women's Super League soccer, 7 a.m., NBCSN
International friendly: Northern Ireland vs. U.S.A., 11 a.m., FOX
Women's college soccer: Rutgers at Wisconsin, 11:30 a.m., BTN
Women's college soccer: Villanova at Georgetown, noon, FS1
Women's college soccer: Indiana at Michigan, 2 p.m., BTN
Women's college soccer: Illinois at Michigan State, 4 p.m., FS1
CONCACAF 2020 Olympic qualifying semifinals, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., FS1
Softball
College softball: 12:30 p.m., ESPN2
College softball: Alabama at Kentucky, 2:30 p.m., ESPN2

Sunday March 28
Auto racing
Formula One: Bahrain Grand Prix, 9:55 a.m., ESPN2
NASCAR Cup Series: Food City Dirt Race, 2:30 p.m., FOX
Baseball
MLB Spring Training: Minnesota at Boston, 12:05 p.m., MLBN
Basketball
College basketball: NIT tournament championship, 11 a.m., ESPN

Women's college basketball: NCAA tournament games, noon and 2 p.m., ABC
College basketball: NCAA tournament games, 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., CBS
College basketball: NIT tournament games, 2 p.m., ESPN
Women's college basketball: NCAA tournament games, 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., ESPN
College basketball: NCAA tournament games, 6 p.m. and 8:45 p.m., TBS
Golf
PGA: WGC Dell Technologies, 9 a.m., GOLF
PGA: Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship, 1:30 p.m., GOLF
PGA: Dell Technologies match play, 2 p.m., NBC
LPGA: Kia Classic, 5 p.m., GOLF
Hockey
NHL: New York Rangers at Washington, 11 a.m., NBC
NHL: Columbus at Detroit, 2 p.m., NBCSN
NHL: New Jersey at Boston, 4:30 p.m., NBCSN
College hockey: NCAA tournament games, 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., ESPN2
NHL: Nashville at Chicago, 7 p.m., NBCSN
Soccer
FA Women's Super League soccer, 7 a.m., NBCSN
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Softball
College softball: 12:30 p.m., ESPN2
College softball: Alabama at Kentucky, 2:30 p.m., ESPN2

St. Louis 33 16 12 3 2 37 97106
Arizona 33 14 14 3 2 33 83101
Los Angeles 32 13 13 5 1 32 91 90
San Jose 31 13 14 2 2 30 89106
Anaheim 34 9 19 4 2 24 74115
Wednesday's Games
Ottawa 3, Calgary 1
Minnesota 3, Anaheim 2
Pittsburgh 5, Buffalo 2
Winnipeg 5, Vancouver 1
San Jose 4, Los Angeles 2
Edmonton at Montreal, PPD
Thursday's Games
NY Islanders 4, Boston 3, OT
NY Rangers 8, Philadelphia 3
Washington 4, New Jersey 3
Carolina 4, Columbus 3, OT
Toronto 3, Ottawa 2, OT
Pittsburgh 4, Buffalo 0
Chicago 3, Florida 0
Nashville 7, Detroit 1
Minnesota 2, St. Louis 0
Dallas 4, Tampa Bay 3
Colorado 5, Vegas 1
Friday's Games
New Jersey at Washington, 6 p.m.
Edmonton at Montreal, PPD
Anaheim at St. Louis, 7 p.m.
Winnipeg at Calgary, 9 p.m.
San Jose at Arizona, 9 p.m.
Saturday's Games
NY Rangers at Philadelphia, 12 p.m.
Buffalo at Boston, 12 p.m.
Vegas at Colorado, 2 p.m.
Columbus at Detroit, 2 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Carolina, 6 p.m.
Edmonton at Toronto, 6 p.m.
NY Islanders at Pittsburgh, 6 p.m.
Nashville at Chicago, 7 p.m.
Florida at Dallas, 7 p.m.
Winnipeg at Calgary, 9 p.m.
San Jose at Arizona, 9 p.m.

Memphis 21 20 .512 1.5
New Orleans 19 24 .442 4.5
Houston 12 31 .279 11.5
Thursday's Games
Portland 125, Miami 122
New York 106, Washington 102
L.A. Clippers 98, San Antonio 85
Philadelphia 109, L.A. Lakers 101
Sacramento 141, Golden State 119
Friday's Games
Brooklyn at Detroit, 6 p.m.
Phoenix at Toronto, 6:30 p.m.
Boston at Milwaukee, 6:30 p.m.
Miami at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Portland at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Houston at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Denver at New Orleans, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Memphis at Utah, 8 p.m.
Atlanta at Golden State, 9 p.m.
Cleveland at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.
Saturday's Games
Detroit at Washington, 7 p.m.
New York at Milwaukee, 7 p.m.
Houston at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Chicago at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Boston at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Memphis at Utah, 8 p.m.
Philadelphia at L.A. Clippers, 9 p.m.
Cleveland at Sacramento, 9 p.m.
Sunday's Games
Phoenix at Charlotte, 12 p.m.
Portland at Toronto, 6 p.m.
Atlanta at Denver, 8 p.m.
Orlando at L.A. Lakers, 9 p.m.

No. 2 Louisville (25-3) vs. No. 6 Oregon (15-8), 6 p.m.
Hemisfair
Sunday, March 28
No. 5 Georgia Tech (17-8) vs. No. 1 South Carolina (24-4), 12 p.m.
No. 2 Maryland (26-2) vs. No. 6 Texas (20-9), 8 p.m.
River Walk
Saturday, March 27
No. 5 Iowa (20-9) vs. No. 1 Connecticut (26-1), 12 p.m.
No. 2 Baylor (27-2) vs. No. 6 Michigan (16-5), 2 p.m.
National Semifinals
Friday, April 2
Albany Region Winner vs. Spokane Region Winner
Kansas City Region Winner vs. Lexington Region Winner
Championship Game
Sunday, April 4
Semifinal Winners

National League
Atlanta Braves - Released RHP Carl Edwards Jr.
Los Angeles Dodgers - Optioned 3B Sheldon Neuse to Dodgers alternate training site. Placed RHP Tommy Kahnle on the 60-day IL. Selected the contract of RHP Jimmy Nelson from Oklahoma City (AAA-West).
Milwaukee Brewers - Released LHP Jordan Zimmerman.
Philadelphia Phillies - Released C Jeff Mathis, RHP Ivan Nova, and RHP Hector Rondón.
St. Louis Cardinals - Optioned RHP Johan Oviedo to Cardinals alternate training site.
Football
National Football League
San Francisco 49ers - Acquired a 2021 first-round draft pick from the Miami Dolphins for a 2021 first-round draft pick, a 2022 first-round draft pick, a 2022 third-round draft pick and a 2023 first-round draft pick.
Basketball
National Basketball Association
Charlotte Hornets - Acquired SG Brad Wanamaker from the Golden State Warriors for cash considerations.
Dallas Mavericks - Acquired SG JJ Redick and PF Nicolo Melli from the New Orleans Pelicans for PF James Johnson, SF Wes Iwundu and a future second-round draft pick.
Denver Nuggets - Acquired PF Aaron Gordon and SF Gary Clark from the Orlando Magic for SG Gary Harris, PG RJ Hampton and a 2025 first-round draft pick.
Acquired C JaVale McGee from the Cleveland Cavaliers for C Isaiah Hartenstein, a 2027 second-round draft pick and a 2023 second-round draft pick.
Los Angeles Clippers - Acquired PG Rajon Rondo from the Atlanta Hawks for Lou Williams, cash considerations and two future second-round draft picks.
Miami Heat - Acquired SG Victor Oladipo from the Houston Rockets for PF Kelly Olynyk, SG Avery Bradley and the right to swap 2022 first-round draft picks.
New York Knicks - Acquired SG Terrance Ferguson, C Vincent Poirier, the draft rights to PG Emil Preldzic and two future second-round draft picks in a three-team trade with the Oklahoma City Thunder and the Philadelphia 76ers.
Oklahoma City Thunder - Acquired PG Austin Rivers in a three-team trade with the New York Knicks and the Philadelphia 76ers.
Orlando Magic - Acquired PG Jeff Teague and two future second-round draft picks from the Boston Celtics for SG Evan Fournier.
Philadelphia 76ers - Acquired PG George Hill for C Tony Bradley, a 2025 second-round draft pick and a 2026 second-round draft pick in a three-team trade with the New York Knicks and the Oklahoma City Thunder.
Acquired SF Ignas Brazdkeikis in a three-team trade with the New York Knicks and the Oklahoma City Thunder.
Sacramento Kings - Acquired SF Maurice Harkless and PF Chris Silva from the Miami Heat for PF Nemanja Bjelica.
Acquired PG Delon Wright from the Detroit Pistons for PG Cory Joseph, a 2021 second-round draft pick and a 2024 second-round draft pick.
Acquired SG Terence Davis II from the Toronto Raptors for a future second-round draft pick.
San Antonio Spurs - Acquired PF Marquese Chriss and cash considerations from the Golden State Warriors for the draft rights to C Cady Lalanne.
Utah Jazz - Acquired SG Matt Thomas from the Toronto Raptors for a future second-round draft pick.

BASKETBALL

Professional NBA Eastern Conference Atlantic GB Philadelphia 32 13 .711 Brooklyn 30 15 .667 2.0 New York 23 22 .511 9.0 Boston 21 23 .477 10.5 Toronto 18 26 .409 13.5 Milwaukee 29 14 .674 Indiana 20 23 .465 9.0 Chicago 19 24 .442 10.0 Cleveland 17 27 .386 12.5 Detroit 12 31 .279 17.0 Southeast Charlotte 22 21 .512 Atlanta 22 22 .500 .5 Miami 22 23 .489 1.0 Washington 15 28 .349 7.0 Orlando 15 29 .341 7.5 Western Conference Northwest Utah 32 11 .744 Denver 26 18 .591 6.5 Portland 26 18 .591 6.5 Oklahoma City 19 25 .432 13.5 Minnesota 10 34 .227 22.5 Pacific Phoenix 29 14 .674 L.A. Clippers 30 16 .652 .5 L.A. Lakers 28 17 .622 2.0 Golden State 22 23 .489 8.0 Sacramento 20 25 .444 10.0 Southwest Dallas 23 19 .548 San Antonio 22 20 .524 1.0

BASEBALL

Professional MLB Preseason American League Friday's Results Tampa Bay 7, Boston 3 Baltimore (Lopez 0-1) at NY Yankees (Cole 3-0), 6:35 p.m. Kansas City (Kovar 2-1) at Texas (Hearn 0-1), 9:05 p.m. National League Friday's Games San Francisco (Tropeano 0-0) at Chi. Cubs (Hendricks 2-0), 4:05 p.m. Cincinnati (Miley 0-1) at Arizona (Bumgarner 2-0), 4:10 p.m. Washington (McGowin 2-0) at NY Mets (Peterson 0-0), 6:10 p.m. Interleague Friday's Results Detroit 5, Pittsburgh 2 Colorado (Senzateia 0-1) at Cleveland (Allen 1-0), 4:05 p.m. Chi. White Sox (Rodon 0-0) at Milwaukee (Peralta 0-0), 4:10 p.m. Atlanta (Wilson 2-0) at Minnesota (Maeda 0-0), 6:05 p.m. Miami (Rogers 2-0) at Houston (Greinke 0-1), 6:05 p.m. Philadelphia (Anderson 2-1) at Toronto (Ryu 1-0), 6:37 p.m. Oakland (Bassitt 2-0) at LA Dodgers (Kershaw 0-1), 9:05 p.m. Seattle (Gonzales 1-0) at San Diego (Weathers 1-0), 9:40 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

Friday Baseball American League Boston Red Sox - Optioned SS Jonathan Arauz to Red Sox alternate training site. Detroit Tigers - Optioned C Jake Rogers and 3B Isaac Paredes to Toledo (AAA-East). Los Angeles Angels - Optioned LF Taylor Ward, C Anthony Bemboom, 2B Luis Rengifo, and 2B Jack Mayfield to Salt Lake (AAA-West). Released RHP Jesse Chavez. Minnesota Twins - Released SS Andrew Romine. Seattle Mariners - Released LHP Roenis Elias. Tampa Bay Rays - Placed RHP Nick Anderson on the 60-day IL. Selected the contract of RHP Andrew Kittredge from Durham (AAA-East).

NOTEBOOK

From Page B1

Seedings Saturday

As the year-long pandemic stretches into more than a year, the girls basketball state tournament will be different, too. Coaches will fill out a form with their seeds for the eight state entrants, then have a video meeting Saturday morning in which seeds will be announced. The state seeds will be broken up into two pods, based on geography. NLS, the Section 3AA champ, will be seeded with sections 1AA, 2AA and 4AA. Sections 5AA through 8AA will be done separately. Who's in for the AA tournament: Lake City (19-3) in 1AA, Glencoe-Silver Lake (18-4) in 2AA, NLS (21-0) in 3AA and Minnehaha Academy (17-3) in 4AA. GSL, of course, is a member of the Wright County Conference. The Wildcats beat them twice during the regular season. In the other pod, it's Providence Academy (20-1) in 5AA, Albany (21-1) representing 6AA, Esko (16-3) in 7AA and Pelican Rapids (20-1) in 8AA. The quarterfinals are either March 30 and 31 at neutral sites, most likely high school gyms that make sense geographically for the two teams involved.

The semifinals and championship are April 6-10 at the Target Center in Minneapolis.

BBE hopes for a seed

Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa head girls basketball coach Kristina Anderson was grateful the Jaguars qualified for the state tournament last year. BBE finished 19-11 and went unseeded, losing to Cromwell-Wright 67-58 in the quarterfinals when the state tournament was canceled because of the pandemic. This year, the Jaguars' aspirations are higher. "We're hoping for a No. 1 seed, especially with Henning out," Anderson said. "We'll see."

BBE is 21-1. It's only loss is 44-38 to No. 1-ranked and unbeaten Minneota. Minneota, though, is in the opposite pod. Here are the state entrants in Class A: There's BBE from Section 5A, West Central Area (17-5) in 6A, Mountain Iron-Buhl (18-4) in 7A and Cass Lake-Bena (16-5) in 8A. West Central beat Henning 64-53 in the 6A final. In the other pod, the teams are Houston (18-0) in 1A, Sleepy Eye St. Mary's (22-0) in 2A, Minneota (22-0) in 3A and Mayer Lutheran (19-2) in 4A. The pairings will be announced Saturday.

McDonald's finalists

BOLD's Drew Sagedahl is the lone West Central Tribune area player among the 30 semifinalists for the McDonald Award, which goes to Minnesota's

outstanding senior boys basketball player. This one's different from Mr. Basketball and controlled by Minnesota Basketball Coaches Association. Also on the list are notable opponents to area teams. That

includes Alexandria guard Colton Roderick, a University of Minnesota football recruit. Also on list: Brainerd forward Griffin Rushin; Eden Valley-Watkins forward Josh Streit and Melrose forward Rowan Nelson. Rushin

is headed to St. John's University in College. Streit is a North Dakota State recruit. The favorite is Minnehaha Academy 7-footer Chet Holmgren, who is ranked as the No. 1 player in the nation by several recruiting sites.

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The 2021 MLB preview you were waiting for

Dodgers, Yankees look like the teams to beat

By John Romano
Tampa Bay Times

We haven't quite put the pandemic behind us, but we do have a full season of baseball ahead of us. No more 60-game season, no more empty stadiums, no more geographic schedules. With that in mind, let's celebrate the 2021 season.

1. Los Angeles Dodgers

Go ahead, blame Stu Sternberg. Or, more specifically, Matt Silverman. They're the guys who plucked Andrew Friedman out of some non-descript financial office in Manhattan 15 years ago. Now Friedman has changed the way baseball general managers operate with his metrics-based theories, plus he has money to burn with the Dodgers. Yeah, they should win another World Series.

2. New York Yankees

The only thing standing between the Rays and the AL pennant is a team of medical alert bracelets. If Giancarlo Stanton, Aaron Judge, Corey Kluber, Jameson Taillon, Domingo German, Zack Britton and Luis Severino are reasonably healthy for major portions of the season, this is going to be a hard team to beat. Even if they're marginally healthy, it could be a chore.

3. Atlanta Braves

Sort of like the Padres, except without the sickening hype. For this season, I'll take Freddie Freeman and Ronald Acuna over Manny Machado and Fernando Tatis Jr. I'll take Max Fried and Charlie Morton over Yu Darvish and Blake Snell. And I'll definitely take competing all summer for a division crown with the Mets in the East instead of the Dodgers in the West.

4. San Diego Padres

So, here's a team you can hate. Seriously. They sign a mega free agent (Manny Machado), unveil the future face of the game (Fernando Tatis Jr.), steal a Rookie of the Year runner-up from the Rays (Jake Cronenworth), trade for three aces (Mike Clevinger, Blake Snell and Yu Darvish) and have the best weather in America. All since 2019. Well, except for the weather.

5. Tampa Bay Rays

The Rays are not as strong as last season and I'm not going to argue with you about that. On the other hand, they were the best team in the American League in 2020, so that's a pretty high standard to reach. If the placeholder rotation survives April and May, and the young pitchers in Durham come riding in on white horses this summer, the Rays still can win 90 and the pennant.

6. Minnesota Twins

For a team considered one of the best in baseball, it seems a little unnerving that the lineup is built around a 40-year-old DH (Nelson Cruz) and a 35-year-old third baseman who hit .222 last year (Josh Donaldson). Oh well, the order is pretty deep and has prospects Alex Kirilloff and Brent Rooker on the horizon. Pitching should be good enough

to win the division but not the pennant.

7. Chicago White Sox

The last time someone was elected to the Hall of Fame as a manager — then returned to managing — was Connie Mack more than 80 years ago. And that, coincidentally, is just around the time Tony La Russa was born. Now, 10 years after retiring, the 76-year-old La Russa will try his hardline cerebral approach with a lineup of bat flippers and new millionaires. Well, this seems like it should be fun.

8. Toronto Blue Jays

The lineup has seven potential All-Stars, and that's not an exaggeration. They won't all be playing in Atlanta come July, but the point is they have that potential. The question is whether the pitching staff can strive to be mediocre. That's all it will take. Just be barely respectable and the Blue Jays will have a shot at destroying a lot of wishful thinking going on in Tampa Bay.

9. New York Mets

This is the team to watch in 2021. Not because they'll be the best team in baseball, but because they will inevitably find a way to hilariously stumble. It's practically a given for teams that play Fantasy Baseball with their roster, and even more so for the Mets. Yes, they are entirely capable of winning the NL East but it will be so much more fun to watch them face dive.

10. Houston Astros

Houston had the tying run at the plate in Game 7 of the ALCS against the Rays in both the eighth and ninth innings last year. Think about that. The Rays were one hit from one of history's greatest chokes after winning the first three games of that series. It should never have come to that. The Astros were good, but not that good. And that is sort of how they look in 2021.

11. Oakland Athletics

Frustrated that the Rays have fallen just short of winning the World Series a couple of times on a shoestring budget? Just imagine Oakland fans. The A's have been in the playoffs six of the past nine years and have never won a pennant. They've never even reached the LCS. Now they've let half the team walk off in free agency and signed a bunch of duds to one-year deals. And they'll still win.

12. St. Louis Cardinals

A few years ago, the Cardinals had Jose Martinez and Jedd Gyorko on the corners of their infield. Now, thanks to the generosity of National League West teams, they have Paul Goldschmidt and Nolan Arenado. Maybe it's not vintage Goldschmidt and Arenado, but it's still pretty darned good and enough for a team with an average pitching staff to make a run in the NL Central.

13. Milwaukee Brewers

Remember when the Rays joked about playing a two-man outfield last season? The Brewers could actually pull it off. Between Lorenzo Cain and Jackie Bradley Jr., Milwaukee has two of the best center fielders in the game. They also have some decent arms in the rotation and bullpen. If they could just get Christian Yelich to hit like an MVP again, the Brewers might win the division.

14. Cleveland Indians

It's easy to write off Cleveland in 2021. The White Sox have gotten stronger in the Central and the Indians responded by dealing Francisco Lindor. But it's not a good idea to dismiss a team with Shane Bieber and Zach Plesac in the rotation, as well as Jose Ramirez in the lineup. Cleveland is a team that can hang around all summer, surprise you in September and break your heart in October.

15. Chicago Cubs

Chicago is the defending NL Central champion, which is not as impressive as it sounds. The Central was a bit of a clown show last season, and the Cubs were swept by the Marlins in the wild-card series. Since then, they have traded their best starter (Yu Darvish) and lost their top reliever (Jeremy Jeffress). Bringing in Zach Davies and Jake Arrieta helps, but probably not enough.

16. Philadelphia Phillies

Matt Moore was 39-28 with a 3.88 ERA in Tampa Bay. Since being traded in 2016, he's 15-28 with a 5.46 ERA in the majors. The Phillies are hoping he's regained some of his form after a year in Japan. If so, Philadelphia could be a dark-horse. (I also said that last year and was wrong.) The offense is

solid and the first three starters (Aaron Nola, Zack Wheeler, Zach Eflin) ain't too shabby.

17. Los Angeles Angels

Will the Angels finally return to contention? Who knows, but they should be one of the more entertaining teams in the league. Shohei Ohtani looks like he's back to 2018 form, Mike Trout and Anthony Rendon get their first full year together, and Albert Pujols will be doing a farewell tour of parks this summer. Also, this Joe Maddon seems interesting.

18. Washington Nationals

Washington was one of eight teams to have three players post a WAR of 2.0 or higher in the virus-shortened season. Six of those teams made the playoffs. The Nationals finished tied for last. That's a team with depth problems. Juan Soto, Trea Turner and Max Scherzer are stars. If Stephen Strasburg and Patrick Corbin return to form, the Nationals have a chance.

19. Boston Red Sox

Fenway Park is looking more and more Trop-like these days. GM Chaim Bloom signed versatile hitters like Enrique Hernandez and Marwin Gonzalez along with under-the-radar pitcher Garrett Richards. The Sox had the biggest payroll in the game when Bloom took over before 2020 and they've already trimmed 25%. They're not back yet, but they're coming.

20. Kansas City Royals

Shortstop Bobby Witt Jr. gets all of the attention, but the Royals have been rebuilding their franchise by choosing college pitchers at the top of the draft. In the past three years, Kansas City has selected five pitchers

among the top 40 picks, including the University of Florida's Brady Singer and Jackson Kowar. They all won't be ready in 2021, but they're starting to show up in the rotation.

21. Seattle Mariners

The last time the Mariners were in the playoffs, Lou Piniella was still in the manager's office. For the timeline impaired, that means Seattle has the longest postseason drought in the majors. With a talented farm system beginning to produce players like 2020 AL Rookie of the Year Kyle Lewis and, perhaps, 2021 contender Jarrod Kelenic, the Mariners are close to knocking on the door.

22. Cincinnati Reds

This is a really weird team. The offense looks like it could be pretty decent with Joey Votto, Nick Castellanos and Mike Moustakas, but the Reds hit a major league-low .212 last year. They lost Trevor Bauer and Anthony DeSclafani from the rotation, but still seem to think they are contenders. What the heck? In the NL Central, maybe they are.

23. Arizona Diamondbacks

A lot of mixed messaging going on in the desert lately. The Diamondbacks traded Paul Goldschmidt and Zack Greinke and let Patrick Corbin get away, too, and then turned around and signed Madison Bumgarner to a ridiculous contract last year. Bumgarner had a 6.48 ERA in 2020 and, unless he has a bounce-back season at age 31, it is hard to imagine Arizona above .500.

24. San Francisco Giants

Ever notice how no one cries about that Evan Longoria trade

anymore? He's been a solid third baseman for the Giants the past three years, but not really worth the \$43 million he has made during that time. Now, at age 35 and likely seeing decreased playing time, Longoria is still guaranteed another \$43 million over the next two years if you include his 2023 buyout.

25. Miami Marlins

Not to say the Marlins were a fluke last season, but they were outscored by nearly a run per game and still made the playoffs. It was their good fortune to have their first winning season since 2009 in a year when a .517 winning percentage got you in the postseason. Miami has a good, young pitching staff but it is hard to see them sneaking past New York and Philadelphia this season.

26. Detroit Tigers

Trivia Time! Who was the first member of the exclusive 3,000-hit, 500-home run club? A smart baseball fan would know it was either Hank Aaron or Willie Mays. A really smart fan would know Aaron got there two months ahead of Mays in 1970. Which brings us to the Tigers in 2021. Miguel Cabrera is 13 homers and 134 hits away from being the seventh member of the club. Now you have a reason to watch.

27. Baltimore Orioles

Four consecutive losing seasons later, things are looking up for the Orioles. Catcher Adley Rutschman is right behind Wander Franco as one of the game's top prospects, and Baltimore's farm system is among the best in baseball. If there's a criticism, the Orioles seem to

be moving at a leisurely pace to ensure their best minor leaguers reach the big leagues at the same time.

28. Texas Rangers

Three years ago, Nate Lowe hit a combined .330 with 27 homers and 102 RBIs in three minor-league stops for the Rays. While he showed flashes of power in the big leagues, he never seemed to have the passion the front office was seeking. Dealt to Texas in the offseason, he got off to a slow start this spring. There's potential there, but Lowe can't afford to underperform on a last-place team.

29. Colorado Rockies

Less than two years ago Nolan Arenado was considered one of the top players in the game and the Rockies rewarded him with an eight-year, \$260 million contract. And now? Not only did they trade him to the Cardinals for prospects, but they threw in \$50 million. Hard to say which looks worse for general manager Jeff Bridich in retrospect: signing Arenado to that deal or trading him.

30. Pittsburgh Pirates

You would think a 19-41 record was rock bottom. Nope. The Pirates had the worst record in baseball, then decided that they needed to rebuild. Pittsburgh traded Josh Bell, Joe Musgrove and Jameson Taillon for younger, and mostly unproven, talent. On the bright side, they claimed Michael Perez off waivers from the Rays and signed Todd Frazier to a minor league deal. Woo hoo!

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<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">COORS & COORS LIGHT</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">24PK 12OZ. CANS</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$17⁹⁸</p> 	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">MILLER HIGH LIFE REGULAR & LIGHT</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">24PK CANS AND BOTTLES</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$15⁹⁸</p> 	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">MILLER LITE, MGD, MILLER 64</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">24PK 12OZ. CANS</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$17⁹⁸</p> 	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">KEYSTONE LIGHT & ICE</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">24PK 12 OZ. CANS</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$15⁹⁸</p> 
<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">PRESS HARD SELTZER</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">12PK CANS</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$12⁹⁸</p> 	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">HEINEKEN, HEINEKEN LIGHT & AMSTEL LIGHT</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">12PK CANS & BOTTLES</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$12⁹⁸</p> 	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">KONA BREWING</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">12PK CANS & BOTTLES</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$12⁹⁸</p> 	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">KUL MOCK "MOCKTAILS"</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">NON-ALCOHOLIC COCKTAILS 4PK CANS</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$7⁹⁸</p> 
<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">MCMASTER'S CANADIAN WHISKY</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">1.75L</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$14⁹⁸</p> 	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">KARKOV VODKA</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">1.75L</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$9⁹⁸</p> 	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">TIPPY COW CREAMS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">750 ML</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$15⁹⁸</p> 	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">INDOGGO GIN BY SNOOP</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">750 ML</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$22⁹⁸</p> 

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Dobnak secures bullpen spot; Thorpe optioned

Right-hander's strong spring secures a spot on the major league club

By Betsy Helfand
St. Paul Pioneer Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — A stellar spring helped cement a spot on the Opening Day roster for Randy Dobnak, who turned in yet another solid effort Thursday night against the Red Sox.

The Minnesota Twins optioned Lewis Thorpe to the alternate training site Thursday afternoon, paving the way for Dobnak to take a role in the bullpen. Dobnak, not knowing if he could share the news, joked that he could wind up at Class-A Advanced Cedar Rapids, but manager Rocco Baldelli confirmed after the game Dobnak will start the year in the bullpen.

The Twins also re-signed pitchers Andrew Albers, Luke Farrell, Ian Hamilton, Juan Minaya, Glenn Sparkman and catcher David Banuelos to minor league camp.

"If I do make the Opening Day roster, it would be pretty cool. Obviously, it's kind of something you grow up thinking about," Dobnak said. "One thing is to be a big leaguer, and the next thing is like, 'Oh, I want to be on the Opening Day roster when they introduce everybody.' Especially this year, with fans, that would be pretty cool."



Nathan Ray Seebeck / USA TODAY Sports

Minnesota Twins starting pitcher Randy Dobnak (68) pitches in the first inning during spring training against the Tampa Rays at Charlotte Sports Park on March 13.

Dobnak has given up just one run this spring — it came on a Bobby Dalbec home run in the fifth inning of the Twins' 7-4 win over Boston on Thursday night at jetBlue Park in Fort Myers. Otherwise, it's gone about as good as it possibly could have for Dobnak, who has a 0.66 earned-run average in 13 2/3 innings.

Normally a ground-ball pitcher, Dobnak has struck out 18 this spring, thanks in part to a revamped slider that came as a result of

changing his hand positioning. Though Dobnak, a starter, will begin the year in the bullpen, Baldelli said he would be in a role "where we may call him to do different things."

"We talked about this all the time, but it's very true, he does not tend to overcomplicate the situation," Baldelli said. "He just likes getting the ball in his hand and being able to take the mound and pitch. And Randy has been incredible this camp. I mean, essen-

tially unhittable in any of his outings. And we're very, very impressed with what we've seen from him."

Twins have also been impressed with what they've seen from the southpaw Thorpe this spring and expect to see him in the majors this season. Thorpe has given up two runs in 7 2/3 innings and has seen an uptick in his velocity after an offseason of hard training.

"He's going to end up helping us this year at

some point, especially if he stays in this kind of form, but we just want to keep him locked in, focused and when we call his name, we expect him to go out there and throw just like he is at the moment," Baldelli said. "If he does that, he's going to have a lot of success."

Garver OK

Catcher Mitch Garver left Thursday's game after being struck during Jett Bandy's third-inning at-bat. After imaging, the Twins said Garver has avoided a worst-case scenario, diagnosing him with a left finger contusion.

"He's a pretty tough guy," Baldelli said. "If he was perfectly fine and got right up and said he was ready to go, he's obviously staying in the game, but we just wanted to make sure we got him looked at, and it looks like he's going to come out of this OK, but we're going to give him a day or two probably and just make sure."

Hot ticket

Tickets to the opening series at Target Field against the Mariners sold out within hours of going on sale to the general public Thursday. As of Thursday evening, the Twins had sold out nine games — all weekend

games between April 8 and May 6.

The Twins still had tickets available for eight games: a four-game series against the Red Sox in mid-April and a four-game series against the Rangers from May 3-6.

Tickets to games through May 6 went on sale at 10 a.m. to the general public after first being offered to season-ticket holders. The Twins will be able to have up to 10,000 fans in attendance to begin the season.

Briefly

Infielder Andrew Romine has taken his out and will be granted his release. Baldelli said there was a chance that Romine could return and they will know more in the next couple days about his next steps.

... Byron Buxton hit a bases-clearing double and Josh Donaldson had a double and home run Thursday. ... The Twins announced that Brian Meyer, who was supposed to be the Mighty Mussels' hitting coach this season, will take over as the manager of their Low Single-A affiliate. Meyer was elevated after Aaron Sutton, who was slated to manage the team, stepped away from coaching to run a restaurant with his wife.

Fleck says Gophers have 'dangerous football team' for 2021

Minnesota is ranked 19th in the country with 20 of 22 starters back

By Andy Greder
St. Paul Pioneer Press

Big expectations followed the Gophers football team into the 2020 season. With a preseason ranking of 21, Minnesota quickly fell out of the Top 25 with a season-opening blowout loss to Michigan.

The U then lost two one-possession games in overtime (Maryland and Wisconsin) and won two one-score games in regulation (Purdue and Nebraska). In between, the U dismantled Illinois and got demolished by Iowa.

"You beat Wisconsin and you beat Maryland and you end 5-2, it's a different story. That didn't happen," Gophers head coach P.J. Fleck said Thursday. "We also could have lost to Purdue and next thing you know you are 2-5 and everybody is scratching their head."

The pandemic made everyone's head spin, and the Gophers' season was turned upside down by COVID-19, with two games called off and 33 players out when they returned in mid-December to beat the Cornhuskers. Fleck called it one of his most memorable games as a head coach. But the U

finished 3-4 and opted out of playing in a bowl game.

Now with 20 of 22 starters returning and eight transfers joining the team, the 2021 Gophers will be the deepest and most experienced team Fleck has had since he took over in 2017.

"What they went through together (in 2020), what they've overcome together, how they've failed together, how they've succeeded together," Fleck said Thursday. "They've gone through it together and we have a lot of guys that have done it. And to me, that is a dangerous football team."

Fleck isn't the only one bullish. College Football News has the Gophers as No. 19 in the country, behind Wisconsin (11th) and ahead of Iowa (20th) and Northwestern (25th). They said, "Don't sleep on a Gopher team that struggled last year."

The Gophers lost star receiver Rashod Bateman and a top cornerback in Benjamin St-Juste — two players expected to be higher picks in next month's NFL draft. The U also had wildcat quarterback/receiver Seth Green and a top 2020 recruit, linebacker Itay-



Jesse Johnson / USA TODAY Sports

Minnesota Golden Gophers head coach P.J. Fleck waits on the center of the field for Purdue Boilermakers head coach Jeff Brohm (not pictured) to meet him for a hand shake after a 2018 game at TCF Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

vion Brown, enter the transfer portal in the offseason. (Green has yet to make a decision on his next stop, while Brown announced Tuesday he is going to Michigan State.)

Beyond that, Minnesota has every key contributor back, including a handful of returnees along both lines. On the offensive side: tackle Sam Schlueter, guard/center Conner Olson and tight ends Bryce Witham and Ko Kieft, with new transfer in Karter Shaw

(Utah State). On defense, it's tackles Micah Dew-Treadway and Keonte Schad, with new transfer in Nyles Pinckney (Clemson) and Val Martin (North Carolina State).

Also, Big Ten running back of the year Mo Ibrahim and cornerback Coney Durr, all-Big Ten in 2020-19, are back after declining to enter the draft.

The NCAA decision to waive eligibility for the 2020 season will cre-

ate deeper teams in the Big Ten and everywhere, but Minnesota appears to have even more than others.

Typical spring practices have roughly 60 to 70 scholarships players due to seniors exiting and transfers moving on, but this year the Gophers have roughly 95 scholarship players on campus right now. Approximately 10 more freshmen will join this summer.

The Gophers planned to kicked off spring

practice with two shorter and lighter practices on Thursday and Friday, with the official start date Monday. Given the abundance of players, Fleck said they will be able to go three deep in team portions of practice.

"No job will be won in the spring; I will say that," Fleck said. "We have competition that we haven't had in years at every position. Everybody is going to compete."

BRIEFS

NCAA hires law firm to review tournament gender equity

The NCAA is bringing in a law firm with experience in Title IX issues to evaluate gender equity between men's and women's basketball championships at all three divisions.

President Mark Emmert announced Thursday in a statement that New York-based Kaplan Hecker & Fink

has been tasked with evaluating the NCAA's practices and policies and recommending improvements at the Division I and lower levels.

The move comes after the organization was widely criticized for providing top-notch equipment for teams in the men's NCAA Tournament and sparse equipment for women's teams. The women's weight room in

San Antonio, where all rounds of the tournament are being played, has been bolstered.

"The NCAA will continue to aggressively address material and impactful differences between the Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Championships. While many of the operational issues identified have been resolved, we must continue to make sure we are doing all we can to

support gender equity in sports," Emmert said. "As part of this effort, we are evaluating the current and previous resource allocation to each championship, so we have a clear understanding of costs, spend and revenue.

"Furthermore, we are examining all championships in all three Divisions to identify any other gaps that need to be addressed, both qualitatively and quan-

tatively, to achieve gender equity."

-Field Level Media

Thunder release Meyers Leonard

As promised, the Oklahoma City Thunder have released Meyers Leonard after trading for the embattled forward, The Athletic reported Thursday.

The Thunder acquired Leonard from the Miami Heat last week for Trevor Ariza, but afterward

said the center "will not be an active member of the organization."

Leonard, who is out for the season with a shoulder injury, was fined \$50,000 for using an anti-Semitic slur during a video-game livestream earlier this month.

Leonard, 29, averaged 5.9 points and 4.9 rebounds in 54 regular-season games for the Heat.

-Field Level Media



Japan looking to halve number of official travelers to Games

By Shrivathsa Sridhar
(Reuters) - Japan's government will begin talks soon on potentially halving the number of official travelers to the country for this year's Olympics to around 30,000 amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Kyodo news agency reported

on Friday. Citing a source with knowledge of the matter, the report added that the government aims to cut the number of visitors who are not directly related to competition. Around 90,000 people are expected to enter the country

from overseas for the delayed Games, including about 30,000 athletes, coaches and team members. The report added that talks are expected to begin shortly with the affected organizations. Olympic organizers said on Monday that Japan would not

allow in volunteers from overseas except for those deemed essential, amid public concerns over the novel coronavirus. Athletes' families will also likely be barred although organizers have yet to make a decision, Tokyo 2020 CEO Toshirō Muto told a news conference.

Foreign spectators will not be allowed during the Games and organizers will refund some 600,000 Olympic tickets and another 30,000 Paralympic tickets purchased by overseas residents. The Games are scheduled to begin on July 23.



Dreamstime/TNS

In a step toward giving women even more opportunities to play football, the Charlotte-based National Junior College Athletic Association has announced women's flag football as an emerging sport in a joint effort with the NFL and Reigning Champs Experience.

Women's flag football to be an official sport at junior colleges

By Alaina Getzenberg
The Charlotte Observer
CHARLOTTE, N.C. — On the surface, growing the sport of football doesn't seem high on a list of concerns.

It's consistently ranked as the most popular sport in America and its presence is felt around the world. But after the first 100 years of the National Football League, continuing to expand the reach of the sport and supporting its longevity are priorities for the league. An often-overlooked component of that is giving women increased avenues to actually play the game.

In a step toward giving women even more opportunities to play football, the Charlotte-based National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) has announced women's flag football as an emerging sport in a joint effort with the NFL and Reigning Champs Experience (RCX).

The NFL will provide a \$150,000 grant to the NJCAA Foundation for distribution to NJCAA member colleges that declare their intent to participate in the sport over the next two years. The NJCAA Foundation, along with the NFL and RCX, will award \$10,000 grants to 15 member colleges to move the initiative from an emerging sport to a full championship sport

over the next few years. The NFL and RCX first brought women's flag football to the collegiate level last year, assisting the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) in classifying it as an emerging sport. Those schools have kicked off games this spring.

Thirty NJCAA programs have already committed to adding women's flag football, and more than 60 are expected in the second year.

The intent is to begin play as soon as Spring 2022. Emerging sports reaching a full championship level can take three-to-five years. An emerging sport does not get a national championship event at the conclusion of the season and requires a higher level of schools to be participating. Creating guidelines and a competition structure are just a portion of the years of behind-the-scenes work that goes into introducing a new sport to a collegiate association.

Earlier this year, the NFL announced a new grant initiative that committed \$5 million to grow flag football within high school athletics. Only six states sanction high school flag football for girls — Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Nevada and New York.

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What's going on with NFL receiver market?

New league trend could be hurting JuJu Smith-Schuster and others

By Ray Fittipaldo
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Pittsburgh
Last September, days before the NFL season began, the Arizona Cardinals signed receiver DeAndre Hopkins to a monstrous contract that included \$43 million in guaranteed money and an average annual salary of \$27 million over the life of the contract.

Six months later, things are much different. The NFL receiver market went from thriving to a near collapse.

Receivers hoping to strike it rich in free agency were deeply disappointed. The market was down for almost every receiver, including JuJu Smith-Schuster, who agreed to return to the Steelers on a one-year deal for \$8 million.

The richest receiver contract during this free-agency period belongs to Kenny Golladay, who signed a three-year deal worth \$18 million a year with the Giants. But that contract is an outlier. The others were closer in worth to Smith-Schuster's deal and a far cry from the contracts receivers had been signing in recent years.

Hopkins is one of four NFL receivers making \$20 million or more per season and one of 16 making \$15 million or more.

Widely regarded as the top receiver in the league, Hopkins is the prototypical game-breaker and earns \$5 million more per year than the next highest-paid receiver. But there are all kinds of receivers making \$15 million a season or more, including possession receivers such as Jarvis Landry, who is often compared to Smith-Schuster.

Why are receivers suddenly being undervalued?

The pandemic and its financial fallout is part of the reason, but it's not the biggest factor.



Charles LeClaire / USA TODAY Sports

Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster (19) catches a pass for a touchdown against Indianapolis Colts free safety Julian Blackmon (32) during the fourth quarter Dec. 27, 2020, at Heinz Field.

The biggest factor is the number of NFL-ready receivers who are entering the league on an annual basis. This year is no different.

"There's going to be a lot of depth at wide receiver all the way around," ESPN draft analyst Mel Kiper said. "I like the wide receiver position a lot. It's the strongest position overall in this draft."

And it's been that way for a few years now. Last year there were 16 receivers taken in the first three rounds of the draft. This year is similarly strong.

NFL Network draft analyst Daniel Jeremiah has eight receivers in his list of top 50 prospects and said there is great depth after them, too.

"All the way into the fourth and fifth round there are going to be good wide receivers again," Jeremiah said.

In essence, teams are betting they can get a player in the draft just like Smith-Schuster and at a much cheaper price on a controllable contract for the next 4-5 years.

The running back market has been depressed for a decade or more. They have seen their worth on the open market decrease, and there has been a trickle-down effect to the draft.

Running backs are rarely selected in the first round, and there is a belief among front office types that the value is getting them in the second round and after.

The receiver market

is not likely to get as bad as the running back market because running backs have a shorter shelf life than receivers, but there are some similarities in the positions that are affecting salaries.

In addition to the simple economics of supply and demand, NFL general managers have come to the realization that mid- and late-round receivers can be just as effective as first-round receivers.

The Steelers have proven this to be true over the years. They haven't taken a receiver in the first round of the draft since they drafted Santonio Holmes in 2006. Yet they are considered the league's gold standard when it comes to identifying and drafting receivers.

Since then, they've enjoyed great success in other rounds. Antonio Brown was a sixth-round pick; Martavis Bryant a fourth-round pick; Emmanuel Sanders, Mike Wallace, Markus Wheaton and Diontae Johnson third-round picks; and Smith-Schuster, James Washington and Chase Claypool second-round picks.

And Smith-Schuster is the rare player to sign a second contract with the Steelers. The only other one of that group to do it was Brown.

For the most part, the Steelers cycle through receivers and change them out every few years.

One other factor is the pricey franchise tag

number on receivers. This year it was \$15.9 million. Chris Godwin of Tampa and Allen Robinson of Chicago were the only receivers to get tagged. In 2022, the projected franchise tag is expected to be \$19 million.

This, along with some recent first-round receiver busts such as John Ross, Mike Williams and Laquon Treadwell, has given general managers reason to proceed with some caution.

In 2019, two tight ends — T.J. Hockenson and Noah Fant — were selected before any receivers. The same could happen this year with Florida tight end Kyle Pitts being projected among the top picks.

The franchise tag number for tight ends this year is only \$9.6 million.

"Look at the franchise number and look at the difference in money," Jeremiah said. "I think there's a difference of like 6 million bucks. So not only do you have a rare mismatch player that's hard to find, but once you get to the second contract he's going to be extremely affordable compared to if you were going to take a receiver with that same pick."

"So you're getting the same level of impact without having to pay that same level of cost. To me, I think that could be something that could be a tiebreaker when you're making that decision."

Georgia voter law could impact All-Star Game at Atlanta

Field Level Media

The MLB Players Association said that it is ready to have a discussion with the league regarding a new voter law in Georgia, with the All-Star Game set for July at Atlanta possibly hanging in the balance.

"Players are very much aware," MPBPA executive director Tony Clark told the Boston Globe after changes to Georgia voter laws were made this week that had the potential to make it more difficult for Black people to cast

ballots.

Signed by Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp on Thursday, changes regarding absentee voting and the use of voting drop boxes were made, as well as provisions to require additional identification from voters. It will even be considered unlawful to distribute food or water to voters waiting in long lines to cast ballots.

President Biden criticized the Georgia law Thursday saying in a statement that it would "deny people the right to vote." He added that the

Georgia law "is a blatant attack on the Constitution and good conscience."

The 2021 MLB All-Star Game is set to be played in the state on July 13 at Truist Park, home of the Atlanta Braves.

"As it relates to the All-Star Game, we have not had a conversation with the league on that issue," Clark said to the Globe. "If there is an opportunity to, we would look forward to having that conversation."

An opinion column in the Los Angeles Times called for MLB to "move the 2021 All-

Star Game out of Atlanta."

The Los Angeles Dodgers were set to play host to the All-Star Game in 2020, but that game was canceled by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Dodgers instead were awarded the 2022 game since Atlanta was already named as host in 2021.

As recently as last year, MLB has expressed a deep regard for voter rights, giving its employees the day off on election day. Commissioner Rob Manfred called the right to vote, "a pillar of American

democracy (and) a privilege that we should all appreciate and exercise."

In recent objections by sports leagues, the NFL moved the 1993 Super Bowl from Tempe, Ariz., to Pasadena, Calif., after Arizona voters rejected a proposal to make Martin Luther King Jr. Day a state holiday. And in 2017, the NBA moved its All-Star Game from Charlotte to New Orleans after a law was passed in North Carolina that directed transgender people which bathroom to use.

WRESTLING

From Page B1

"The coaches gave me a job to do," Hoernemann said, "and I came in and got it done."

At 220, Beau Nelson cemented the Charging Dragons' victory with an 11-3 major decision over Max Olson. And for good measure, Brendan Rokala ended the semis on a high note with a first-period fall at 285.

"Overall, it was a sense of joy," Buker said when describing the bench after Nelson's clincher. "We were grateful to have a



Joe Brown / West Central Tribune

D-C/Litchfield junior Jude Link (top) wraps up a pin on Fairmont/MCW's Carver Rohman during their 160-pound match in the Class AA team state semifinals Friday, March 26, 2021 at St. Michael.

strong performance and to get that sense of satisfaction."

Early in the final against Simley, D-C/Litch got a surprise victory from Franco at 113. Down 5-0 in the third period, Franco

took a shot and brought Peyton Spychalla down to the mat, sticking him with the fall at 4:57. Spychalla is ranked third at 113 while Franco is seventh.

"That's something we practice on, where

if you're down by a certain amount, get aggressive," Buker said. "(Franco) wrestled all the way through to the end and did a good job."

The rest of the way, it was all Spartans. Reid Nelson (120), Cash Raymond (126), Chase DeBlare (138), Vristol Short (145), Cael Berg (160), Landen Duval (182), Quayin Short (195), Gavin Nelson (220) and Bennett Tabor (285) all scored pins for the Spartans.

"They're pretty good, top to bottom," Buker said of Simley. "We told the guys beforehand to just be aggressive and let the matches fall as they may."

On Friday evening, seven Charging Dragons — Franco (113), Jerry Simes (138), Eddie Simes (152), Jude Link (160), Tate Link (170), Nelson (195) and Hoernemann (220) — compete in the Class AA individual tournament.

Class AA championship

- 106: Brandon Morvari, S, dec Andrew Joedeman, 7-4
113: Victor Franco, DCL, pinned Peyton Spychalla, 4:57
120: Reid Nelson, S, pinned Alex Joedeman, 0:16
126: Cash Raymond, S, pinned Gabe Nelson, 3:52
132: Kaden Schrandt, S, dec Monte Gillman, 8-4
138: Chase DeBlare, S, pinned Jerry Simes, 5:46
145: Vristol Short, S, pinned Brandon Hackbarth, 2:55
152: Ryan Sokol, S, tech fall Eddie Simes, 22-7
160: Cael Berg, S, pinned Chase Housman, 1:24
170: Travis Smith, S, dec Tate Link, 4-3
182: Landan Duval, S, pinned Will

- O'Brien, 2:40
195: Quayin Short, S, pinned Beau Nelson, 1:39
220: Gavin Nelson, S, pinned Ben Almazan, 0:24
285: Bennett Tabor, S, pinned Brendan Rokala, 0:36

Class AA semifinals

- D-C/Litchfield 41, Fairmont/MCW 23
106: Andrew Joedeman, DCL, dec Rylan Cutler, 9-6
113: Victor Franco, DCL, maj dec Cooper Steuber, 11-2
120: Jesse Potts, FMCW, pinned Alex Joedeman, 3:15
126: Jaxson Rohman, FMCW, tech fall Gabe Nelson, 23-8
132: Kain Sanders, FMCW, pinned Monte Gillman, 0:55
138: Jerry Simes, DCL, dec Lucas Jagodzinske, 7-4
145: Aden Welcome, FMCW, dec Shelby Fischer Lund, 6-0
152: Connor Simmonds, FMCW, dec Eddie Simes, 1-0
160: Jude Link, DCL, pinned Carver Rohman, 1:46
170: Tate Link, DCL, dec Blake Jagodzinske, 4-3
182: Will O'Brien, DCL, pinned Gage Cyphers, 0:39
195: Hayden Hoernemann, DCL, pinned Wyatt Williamson, 3:37
220: Beau Nelson, DCL, maj dec Max Olson, 11-3
285: Brendan Rokala, DCL, pinned Alec Thompson, 1:18

Classifieds

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BREAKING NEWS
Updates online @ www.wctrib.com

HELP WANTED - AGRICULTURE
Farm Equipment Operators
Tractor Drivers for Spring Planting. Starting April 9 for 6-8 weeks. Pay dependent upon experience. Tractor driving experience required.
Call 507-382-1985 or 320-995-6511

PUBLIC NOTICE

HELP WANTED - EDUCATION

English/Language Arts Instructor, 5-12th

Belgrade-Brooklyn-Elrosa Public School District is seeking a full-time 5-12 English/Language Arts instructor for the Fall of 2021. We are one of only 7 schools in MN on the 4-Day school week and have embraced it. The position is in our 6-12 building in Belgrade.

BBE is a district with over 600 K-12 students located about 100 miles NW of the Twin Cities metro area. We have a strong and vibrant manufacturing base in our school district with over 600 people employed in our district in this career cluster. We value our agriculture and manufacturing roots so highly that this has a tremendous impact on our curriculum throughout the district. Our students have 1-1 with technology in all grades. We are in the middle of a personalized learning initiative to help our individual students to customize their learning experience. Our educational approach aims to be both personally and individually responsive. In the fall, we will open a completely remodeled high school that will facilitate personalized and open learning concepts. Teachers will have access to a learning and engagement coach, as well as an administrative team who will work with you to reach your goals.

We will pay market rates for those licensed to teach through the MnSCU system. We have preferences for those who are capable of teaching in a 1:1 environment, as well as leading athletics/activities such as Speech and Theatre.

Send a letter of interest, resume, credentials, and a copy of your teaching license electronically to swiechman@bbejaguars.org. Application deadline is Friday, April 2, 2021.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

HELP WANTED - FINANCIAL SERVICES/BANKING

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Puzzle Corner

Conceptis SUDOKU by Dave Green

9x9 Sudoku grid with numbers 7, 8, 3, 5, 2, 8, 6, 1, 8, 1, 7, 6, 5, 9, 9, 5, 7, 3, 1, 2, 8

Difficulty Level ★★★★★
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's answers:

9x9 grid with numbers 9, 6, 8, 3, 4, 2, 1, 7, 5, 4, 1, 7, 8, 5, 9, 6, 2, 3, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 1, 4, 8, 9, 7, 2, 6, 5, 1, 3, 8, 9, 4, 8, 5, 4, 9, 2, 6, 7, 3, 1, 1, 9, 3, 7, 8, 4, 5, 6, 2, 5, 8, 9, 1, 3, 7, 2, 4, 6, 6, 7, 2, 4, 9, 5, 3, 1, 8, 3, 4, 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 5, 7

Difficulty Level ★★★★★
3-27 CRYPTOQUIP
TRYL SDIXZ S HZIUUPVPA
UPVTLXP DIZZYP TVIL SJ
RHYSJA HIXZC IT HRMRYN:
"ZCP LSYZPHP TYSMIJ."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN IDEA IS ACCEPTED AS LEGITIMATE ACROSS MULTIPLE COUNTRIES, I GUESS IT'S INTER-NOTIONAL.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals M

HELP WANTED - OFFICE & ADMINISTRATION

The City of Grove City is accepting applications for a FT City Clerk-Treasurer

Applicants must possess knowledge and ability to work with the public; excellent oral and written skills, and the ability to work independently and efficiently. The Clerk-Treasurer performs executive and administrative work with the primary responsibility to manage the daily administrative operations. A Public Administration, Accounting, Finance, or related degree is preferred. Salary will be \$18-\$22 depending on experience.
For application and complete job description, pick up at the City Office, email or call. Send completed application, cover letter and resume to grovecity@embarqmail.com or City of Grove City, PO Box 98, Grove City, MN 56243. 320-857-2322
Position will be open until filled.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Scheffer

ACROSS 1 Get bigger 5 Flag creator 9 "The Office" character 12 Asta's mistress 13 Flightless birds 14 Flamenco cheer 15 Cold War 16 Scuff 17 Opener at Vegas? 18 "Scram!" 19 Inseparable 20 Ritzzy 21 Calendar abbr. 23 "Norma" 25 Retort 28 Wild parties 32 Troublesome car 33 Quartet doubled 34 Turned bad 36 Prepared potatoes 37 Ruby or Sandra
DOWN 38 "Guinness Book" suffix 39 Mad-houses 42 Kiev's land (Abbr.) 44 First 48 iPhone download 49 Rights advocacy org. 50 "Damn Yankees" vamp 51 Standard 52 Sediment 53 Young foxes 54 Devious 55 "Got it" 56 Sports figure?
22 Soprano Fleming 24 Palliative plants 25 Gore and Pacino 26 Ultra-modernist 27 Dallas sch. 29 Cardinal cap letters 30 Golf prop 31 Norm (Abbr.) 35 Low cards 36 Read 39 Micro-waves 40 Milky gem 41 Nashville venue 43 Swiss artist Paul 45 "Act now!" 46 Utah ski resort 47 Sail support 49 Will Smith biopic
Solution time: 26 mins.
Yesterday's answer 3-27

11x11 crossword grid with numbers 1-56

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Notices of Valuation and tax statements have been mailed out to taxpayers.
In regard to planned Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meetings beginning Monday April 5th through Monday April 19th 2021, the County Assessor requests appeals of value or classification be directed to our office via email or by appointment. This method of appeal is accepted by statute by the State of Minnesota. In an attempt to reduce the need for public gatherings and to continue to slow the spread of COVID 19, a letter submitted to your local board or a prior appointment with assessment staff will be the preferred method of appeal. It is our priority to serve the public to our full capacity while practicing social distancing, keeping the public and ourselves safe. Thank you for your continued patience with this process. Our office may be reached by email at assessor@kcmn.us or by phone at (320) 231-6200. Please do not hesitate to contact our office with any questions.