

SPORTS

VOLLEYBALL



Cloquet's Morgan Van Reese makes a dig during Friday's match at Proctor High School. The Lumberjacks ended the season with a 3-1 win. Photos by Dave Harwig / Pine Knot News

'Jacks end it with exclamation point

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If there was a good way to end a season marked by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Cloquet volleyball team found it Friday night by downing the Proctor Rails in a total team effort. The Lumberjacks managed to wrap up their season just hours before the statewide shutdown took effect by dispatching Proctor 25-17, 25-19, 17-25 and 25-16.

"It was really fun. I knew we would really need to rely on our substitutes with this being our third away game of the week," said Cloquet coach Heidi Anderson. "We've also had the potential to have six players scoring, but it

wasn't until the end of the season that we were really able to put it all together."

On Thursday the team blanked Chisholm 3-0 and last Tuesday downed Mesabi East 3-0.

"It was nice to be able to play a few more games and play how we were capable," Anderson said. "This is a team that could have won 20 games with a typical season, but we really tried to focus our efforts on what we were able to do instead of all the things that were out of our control."

A big key in the Lumberjacks' surge this year has been the strong work of setters Emerson Rock and Morgan VanReese.



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Cloquet volleyball coach Heidi Anderson talks strategy to the team Friday.

FOOTBALL

Cloquet scraps to a bitter end

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The wild ride known as the 2020 high school football season came to an end for Cloquet on Thursday night in Proctor when Cloquet fell 40-36 to North Branch, a team the Lumberjacks defeated in the first game of the season.

One of the biggest issues Cloquet faced all night was slowing down the Vikings' running attack led by Ashton Labelle, who gained 178 yards.

"We just didn't tackle well, especially in the first half," Cloquet head coach Tom Lenarz said. "From a scheme perspective, we knew what they were going

to do and we had guys in position to make plays. It just didn't happen for most of the night. I think they came out with more emotion than we did, and it took a while for our kids to respond. We also had several penalties that kept drives going for them. In the end they were just more physical than we were and it resulted in them continuing to move the ball."

After North Branch scored on its opening drive, Cloquet's Marshall Hayes and Labelle traded touchdowns less than two minutes apart to end the first quarter with the Vikings leading 16-8.



Cloquet's Jack Sorenson gets into the end zone past North Branch's Gabriel Huset for a two-point conversion during Thursday's playoff football game in Proctor. Dave Harwig / Pine Knot News

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