

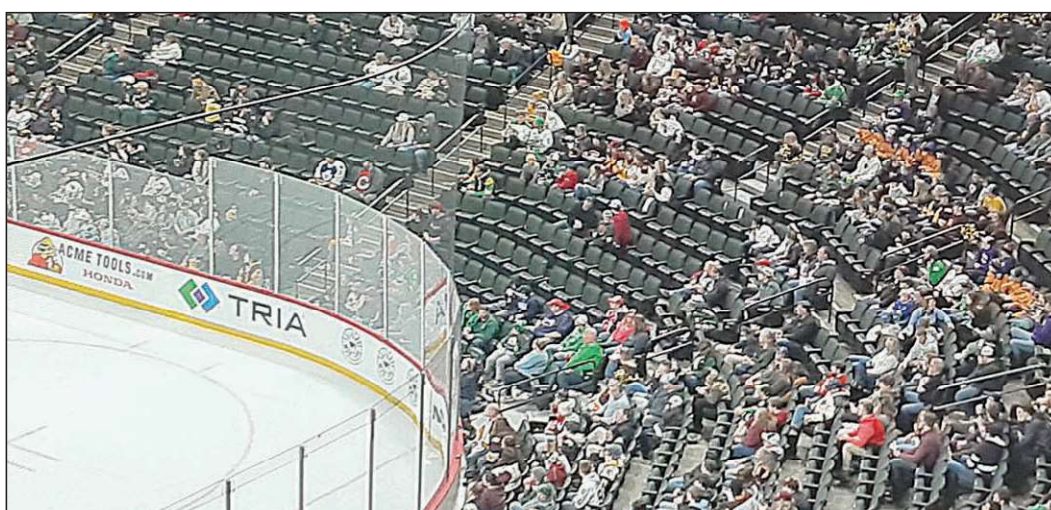
COLLEGE HOCKEY

BENDER GETS SOME LOCAL LOVE



Area fans of University of Minnesota Duluth hockey player Koby Bender, who is from Cloquet and is a former Lumberjack, came out in force in St. Paul last weekend as the Bulldogs won the National Collegiate Hockey Conference Frozen Faceoff tournament at Xcel Energy Center, taking two games Friday and Saturday. Bender scored a hat trick the week before to propel UMD into the "final four" weekend and the conference tournament win. The team began NCAA tournament play Thursday afternoon in Colorado. Right: Bender flicked pucks and gave fist bumps through the glass Saturday as a group of kids in Lumberjacks jerseys, and a large Lumberjacks banner, clamored for his attention. Bender acknowledges the support in warmups Saturday from Sam Midge, Ethan Kvitek, Brennan Gerard, and Nikolas Lehto. Top: Posing with the banner Saturday night are Cole Luense, Brennan Gerard, Easton Halverson, Kenna Gerard, Stacey Gerard, Josh Gerard, and Jamie Halverson. They were an inconspicuous group in a corner of the arena Saturday.

Photos by Mike Creger; Bender photo courtesy of Jamie Halverson.



WILDERNESS

Alaska proves fruitful

Pine Knot News

The Minnesota Wilderness completed a 5-1 road trip to Alaska Saturday night with a 3-1 win against Kenai River. The Wilderness (30-21-1) swept the three-game series against the Brown

Bears (13-36-5). It also marked the end of a nine-game road trip, of which the Wilderness won seven.

Barrett Hall led the way Saturday night, with a goal and an assist, while Matt Smith shined again in net, making 29 saves.

The road success propelled the Wilderness to take sole possession of third place in the NAHL's Midwest Division. It also sets up a showdown scheduled for this weekend in Cloquet with the team right behind them in fourth, the Janesville Jets. The teams square off Friday and Saturday at Northwoods Credit Union Arena in Cloquet.

WHY get the KNOT?

Because you want to know who Steve Korby will write about next.

Pine Knot
News

BARNEY SIGNS WITH CENTRAL LAKES

Cloquet High School basketball standout Conner Barney signs his commitment letter to Central Lakes College basketball March 11 with coach Jim Russell, his brother Jesus Delapaz, right, and Lumberjacks teammate Owen Defoe-Hayes looking on. Dave Harwig / Pine Knot News



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