



Two big wins, one loss, for Cardinal girls

By Tom Crawford
News Editor

The Staples Motley Cardinal girls had two wins and a narrow loss in three games played this past week, but one of the wins was a BIG one.

The Cardinal girls handed Pequot Lakes their first Mid State Conference loss Friday night, getting a 53-51 win over the Patriot girls on the Cardinal home court.

Nikki Pearson and Caitlin Robinson each had 18

points to lead the Cardinals to their victory over the Pequot Lakes Patriots. The win gives the Cards a 5-2 conference record, compared to Pequot's 6-1.

"It was a good win and keeps us in the hunt for the conference title," Coach Arden Beachy said. He added he was happy to see the Cardinal girls recover from a two-point loss the night before.

Ashley Lisson added 13 points for the Cardinals.

"We controlled the momentum of the game and had several chances to put it out of reach. Our bench played well." Beachy also noted it was the third game in four nights for the 12-4 Cardinal team.

Those three games started with a 55-50 win at Perham on Tuesday night.

Ashley Lisson's 16 points led the Cards in that non-conference game.

Nikki Pearson added 12 points while Caitlin Robinson and Abby Smith each added 10 for the Cards. "We played really good half court defense," Beachy said. "Perham had the best inside game we have faced this year. Our team adjusted well and found a way to win."

At Barrett on Thursday night, the Cards were tagged for their fourth loss of the year, 49-47.

Nikki Pearson led all scorers with 18 points and was involved in some last second heroics, but West Central held on to edge the Cardinals.

Pearson hit a three to produce the final score. After a time out, the Cards stole the in-bound pass, but an off-balance shot at the buzzer missed.

"We did not shoot well, especially inside," Beachy said. He also said the girls created many turnovers, but failed to capitalize on them. "It was possibly a let down after our big win on Tuesday against Perham," Beachy said.

This week is a little lighter schedule for Beachy's girls team. They host Osakis Friday night, then travel to Little Falls Saturday evening to make up the contest with the Flyers.

See **GIRLS** on page 6b



Leaning toward the basket

Cardinal Nikki Pearson (0) leans into a Pequot Lakes opponent as she heads for the basket with teammate Ashley Lisson standing by to assist. Pearson scored 18 and Lisson 13 points in the 53-51 Cardinal win. (Staples World photo Kelley Kossan)



Scoring

Ashley Lisson goes up to score versus Pequot Lakes. (Staples World photo Kelley Kossan)

Cardinal boys B-Squad results

The Staples Motley JV boys basketball team dropped two games in mid-January, bringing their record to 3 wins and 5 losses. The Cards lost on the road to Perham 49 to 24 and at home to Fargo Shanley 65 to 51.

The Staples Motley Cardinals boys JV team lost to Wadena Jan. 26. Coach Ray Gildow said his players played poor defense and were out-rebounded.

The Cards had a chance to tie the game with 14 seconds but a turnover and a foul put the game out of reach in the closing seconds. The final scores was Wadena 49 and the Cards 45.

The JV squad split road games Jan. 29 and 30, winning 56 to 44 over Park Rapids and losing 47 to 33 at Little Falls

• Scoring vs W-DC: Tanner Roberts-3, Zack Isrealson-11, Alex Jansson-3, Grant Longbella-2, Colton Hill-12, Jordan Jenkins-5, and Zack Borders-8.

• Scoring vs Perham: Dennis Vasquez-2, Colton Hill-10, Tanner Roberts-1, Zack Isrealson-2, Grant

Longbella-2, Jordan Jenkins-5 Michael Strain-2.

• Scoring vs Fargo: Zack Isrealson-6, Alex Jansson-2, Lucas Nelson-5, Grant Longbella-7, Dennis Vasquez-4, Colton Hill-8, Lee Parker-2, Zack Borders-8, Jordan Jenkins-5, Seth Holland-2.

• Scoring vs Park Rapids: Alex Jansson-7, Lucas Nelson-2, Grant Longbella-4, Colton Hill-13, Jordan Jenkins-7, Zack Borders-17, Seth Holland-2, Lee Parker-4.

• Scoring vs Little Falls: Tanner Roberts-7, Alex Jansson-2, Colton Hill-8, Jordan Jenkins-8, Zack Borders-5, Seth Holland-2, Cody Shaffer-1.

The Staples Motley boys JV stopped a losing streak beating Crosby Ironton on Jan. 22 with three seconds to go 38-36. The Cards had 4 wins and 5 losses.

• Scoring vs. C-I Tanner Roberts-7, Zack Isrealson-2, Alex Jansson-7, Lucas Nelson-3, Grant Longbella-2, Colton Hill-9, Jordan Jenkins-2, Zack Borders-2, Lee Parker-4.

During the past several weeks, news stories have appeared from Minnesota to Michigan about the recent discovery of a feared fish killing virus in Lake Superior. Given the large amount of publicity in recent years, most anglers have heard the term VHS, whose more difficult full name is viral hemorrhagic septicemia. That's the virus that's just been found for the first time in Lake Superior.

VHS is a disease that causes fish to hemorrhage, or bleed to death. It is believed to have arrived, like so many other exotic diseases and noxious water plants, in the ballast water of ships arriving in the Great Lakes from Europe. It was discovered in the Detroit area in 2002 and there have been large fish kills in Lake Huron, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. VHS has also been found in Lake Michigan.

VHS is so feared not because it is harmful to humans, but because it is indiscriminate in the fish species it kills. Previous fish kills have included walleye, bass, muskies, northern pike, crappies, bluegill and perch; pretty much the gamut of fish that Minnesota anglers and tourism visitors seek.

Inside the Outdoors



Mike Rahn

It should be noted that the fish recently found infected in the Duluth-Superior Harbor, from Superior and St. Louis Bays in Minnesota and Wisconsin and in Michigan waters of Lake Superior, were all alive when tested.

The disease spreads both by natural and human-aided means. The natural migration of fish throughout the Great Lakes system has led fisheries biologists to believe that it was just a matter of time before VHS would make its way throughout the entire chain of Great Lakes.

The release of water from fishing boat live wells, bilge water from larger pleasure and fishing craft and release of the previously mentioned ballast water from merchant ships, are the most obvious human vectors. Fishing rigs whose exterior surfaces have not been thoroughly cleaned or washed down – and ideally dried for at least 12 hours – can also spread the disease from one body of water to another. This is just like other exotic species, such as zebra mussels and Eurasian water milfoil, now in numerous Minnesota waters.

To avoid the potential for spreading VHS to inland waters, the Minnesota DNR three years ago stopped using walleye eggs from the St. Louis River, which drains into Lake Superior,

long before the discovery of VHS in the big lake. The fish hatchery at the French River, which also drains into Lake Superior, is no longer used as a temporary stopover for trout raised in southern Minnesota hatcheries and bound for inland lake stocking.

It has been speculated that the effects of VHS in Lake Superior could be different from those in the eastern Great Lakes and that the large die-offs in Lakes Huron, Erie and Ontario might not occur here. Lake Superior is the deepest and coldest of the Great Lakes and it's possible that the danger will be mitigated by its size, temperature and perhaps less stress on its fish from environmental or seasonal climatic variations.

But what about the spread to Minnesota's inland lakes? Several inland lakes in Wisconsin and Michigan harbor VHS and have had fish kills, so it's clear that the virus is adaptable to just about any aquatic environment. Here is perhaps where the greatest danger to Minnesota fish and fishing lies, in a transfer of the disease from Lake Superior to inland lakes.

If for no other reason than limited space, an inland lake environment makes exposure of its fish populations to the virus more likely. Stress factors

like temperature extremes, or oxygen depletion, are also more likely in inland lakes, particularly shallower lakes. If the usual principles of disease and mortality hold true, stressed fish will be more likely to succumb to a disease like VHS.

The rules that states like Minnesota and Wisconsin have in place are sound. They include boat and trailer cleaning, prohibiting transport of live fish or use of baitfish from infected waters in other bodies of water and encouraging cleaning, draining and drying of fishing boat live wells and bilges. But these are only as effective as angler compliance and commitment.

In fish hatcheries, where potential for spreading VHS also exists, fisheries managers are adopting preventive practices like disinfecting holding tanks and hardware and treating eggs with anti-viral agents or virus-killing ultraviolet light. Where there is even a minimal chance of spreading VHS to un-infected waters, biologists should consider "wasting" hatchery fish rather than risking the spread of VHS.

The optimistic view, one taken by some in fisheries management, is that fish species eventually develop resistance or im-

See **RAHN** on page 6b

Blue Devils girls lose to Mid State champs Park Rapids

The Blue Devils girls hockey squad from Long Prairie-Grey Eagle/Wadena-Deer Creek dropped an 8-1 game Jan. 26 to the Park Rapids Panthers.

The girls recovered

4-1 victory Jan. 28 against Litchfield.

Halley Maas for the Blue Devils scored her team's only goal against PR early in the third period. Getting assists on their goal were Kylee Helling and Cassie Behl.

In another contest last week, the Blue Devils lost 4-2 to Willmar. Leah Dykhoff scored both Blue Devils scores unassisted.

Earlier this year, the Blue Devils, with several girls from Staples Motley

playing on the team, won a 10-0 victory over Redwood Valley and have a 7-2 loss to Morris/Benson and a 10-1 loss to Detroit Lakes.

Kylee Helling got her first varsity goal in the game against Redwood Valley. Sarah Holm from Staples Motley recorded nine saves in earning the shutout.

The Blue Devils have seven wins and 10 losses with three games remaining on their schedule.



On the lake

It was a little cold, but no one seemed to mind Saturday afternoon at the Fishtrap Lake Fishing Derby. Sharon Dingman from Waite Park (left) fished with daughters Shelly Dingman (in back-

ground, center) and Jenell Snyder (right) from Little Falls. The three women, along with Sharon's grandkids, had a good time even without any big fish to weigh in. (Staples World photo by Tom Crawford)



This week:
2-05: Osakis
2-06: @ Little Falls

This week:
12-04: Pequot Lakes
2-06: EGF
2-09: @ St.Cloud Icebreakers.