

## Raiders pick up three big wins as season end draws near



At 106 pounds, Raiders wrestler Justin Gordon worked hard to get a reversal over Daniel Francon of Pelican Rapids.

—photo by Matt Ganz

### by Coach Mike Barthel

The Raiders had a busy week with four duals, two on Tuesday and two more on Thursday. On Tuesday, they made the short trip to Browerville to take on Browerville-Eagle Valley and Royalton/Upsala.

In the first dual against Royalton, the Raiders got two wins to start things off, but then lost the next four to fall into a 10-19 hole. The Raiders pulled off two big wins with Dakota Finck and Nick Bennett, but then gave up two pins making the score 16-30 with four matches left. Dillon Card and John French got forfeits, but the Raiders Dalton Baker was wrestling a great match, only losing 2-1, when he was turned and pinned. Colin Turchin got the pin to end the dual, but the Raiders lost 34-36.

In the next dual, the Raiders took on BEV and really looked good by getting seven pins and two forfeits to take a deciding victory 53-28.

"It was nice to really take it to a team, we are starting to get guys to weight and are wrestling better and better each week," added Coach Barthel.

On Thursday, the Raiders hosted Staples-Motley and Pelican Rapids. In the first dual, the Raiders gave up four pins to start off and looked like it could be a long day, but they were able to come back strong with four pins of their own and a forfeit to take a 30-24 lead. The Raiders

swapped a pair of forfeits and John French wrestled very well, but lost 0-4. Baker and Turchin were able to pick up a couple falls to win the dual 48-33.

In the last dual against Staples-Motley, the Raiders took a quick 12-0 lead and looked primed to run on the Cardinals. Then Staples got a quick pin at 120 lbs., only to be answered by a Marshall Willis pin. The Cardinals answered back with two falls of their own, but the Raiders came back with pins by Finck and Bennett and a forfeit win by Charlie Nienaber to bring the dual to 36-23 in favor of the Raiders.

In the biggest match of the night Dillon Card wrestled the number one ranked AA Blake Petrich. It was a very well wrestled match by both wrestlers and a few takedowns were the only points that separated the two. It was the only match that Petrich did not pin his man so that in itself was a victory for Card. The Raiders dropped the next two matches and then Turchin got a forfeit to seal the victory for the Raiders 42-38.

Next week the Raiders will take on OTC on Tuesday in Bertha and then will have the Park Region Conference tournament on Saturday.

A big thank you to all those who worked and wrestled in the two elementary tournaments that we hosted in Bertha and Verndale the last two weekends.

## Lady Pirates do well at home tournament



The sixth grade girls basketball team placed second in their home tournament on Saturday, January 21. The Pirates defeated the Pillager Huskies in the first game by a score of 24-8. In the second game, Verndale defeated the Henning Hornets 33-13. However, in the championship game, Verndale was defeated by the Frazee Hornets by a score of 22-8. The coaches are proud of the way the girls played especially since they were only 7 of them! Front row: Lillian Bryniarski, Shianne Richter, Haley Youngbauer, Cortnie Cottell and Coach Kelly Youngbauer. Back row: Coach Greg Johnson, Kylie Spillum, Emily Veronen, Katie Johnson and Coach Scott Veronen.



The Verndale 5th grade girls placed first place in their own Verndale tournament this past weekend with wins over Frazee, a strong Crosby-Ironton team and a very tall Detroit Lakes team. "It was fun to see them continue to improve their play throughout the day and become much more aggressive in both their offensive and defensive play!" Their next tournament is February 4, when they travel to New York Mills. Pictured front, left to right: Sharae Conn, Mardi Ehrmantraut and Morgan Glenz. Back row: Imogen Stinar, Alyssa Thompson, Molly Brownlow, Allison Olsson, Skyer Honer and Kristen Peterson.

—submitted photos

# Bears upend Pirates 44-53

by Assistant Coach Samantha Schmitz

The Bertha-Hewitt Bears girls basketball team led 23-31 at halftime and went on to post a 44-53 victory over the Verndale Pirates. The Bears jumped out to an early lead on the Lady

Pirates home court, hitting their first three 3-point attempts. The Pirates struggled to take care of the basketball offensively and rebound in the first half against the Bears 2-3 zone, but the Pirates were able to chip away at the Bears lead in the second half, cutting the lead to one point with 4:19 to play.

With 1:18 remaining, the Bears had a three point lead, but the Pirates were unable to connect on shot attempts, forcing them to foul and the Bears were able to extend their lead by making free throws.

The Pirates shot just 34% on the night. Teresa Moenkedick led the Pirates with 18 points, followed by Jordyn Glenz who added 14 points.

*Korfe, Kirstin—9 points  
Glenz, Jordyn—14 points  
Schluttner, Jordanna—5 points  
Moenkedick, Teresa—18 points*

### Lady Pirates Lose to Nevis

After coming off a loss to Bertha-Hewitt, the Lady Pirates had to turn around and play the Nevis Tigers on Friday night. The Tigers size was too much for the Pirates to handle as they were able to score the majority of their points in the paint and in transition. The Pirates also struggled to rebound as they only had 30 total rebounds on the night.

Scoring against the long arms of the Tigers 2-3 zone was also difficult as they shot 37% from the field and struggled to grab offensive rebounds. The final score read 46-74 in favor of Nevis.

Teresa Moenkedick was the only Pirates to score in double figures with 18 points. She also had 6 rebounds and 4 steals on the night.



Kristin Korfe received a great pass down low to score a quick bucket for the Pirates.

—photos by Matt Ganz



A great double team effort by Jordy Schluttner and Teresa Moenkedick forced a Bears turnover.

*Korfe, Kirstin—6 points  
Glenz, Jordyn—3 points  
Moenkedick, Sarah—9 points  
Schluttner, Jordanna—4 points  
Moenkedick, Teresa—18 points  
Kern, Elyssa—2 points  
Glenz, Shania—4 points*

## Ehrmantraut's 17 points in overtime leads the way to victory over Underwood



Junior Joshua Gilb did his part to keep the score close against the Huskies, as he did a great job of not only shooting from the outside, but finding his way to the rim.

—photo by Matt Ganz

### by Coach Jordan Hinkle

Verndale 51—Pillager 58

The Pirates boys were looking to improve on their 3-2 conference record against the conference leading Pillager Huskies. The Huskies man-to-man defense did not allow the home team much room to work and jumped out to an early 23-10 lead. However, the boys battled back and went on an 8-0 run to close out the half and ultimately trail 23-18.

The second half was more of the same. Pillager would jump out to a 6 or 8 point lead and the Pirates would battle back. Josh Gilb did a great job of shooting from the outside and getting to the rim. He led all scorers with 18.

With only four minutes left in the game, the Pirates closed the gap to 40-39, but just could not get another timely bucket or stop.

The Pirates did a good job of limiting the Huskies two tall centers, Cole Hunstad and EJ Ziegler, by only allowing them to score 12 and 11 respectively.

In the end, Pillager made their clutch free throws to seal the game and win by a final score of 58-51.

*Josh Gilb, 18 points  
Aaron Denny, 15 points  
Travis Lollar, 6 points  
Dallas Ehrmantraut, 6 points  
Marcos Gomez, 4 points  
James Kveton, 2 points*

Verndale 64—Menahga 65

The boys traveled to Menahga last Friday hoping to rebound from an earlier loss to Pillager in the week. The first half pace was extremely fast as both teams shot fairly well from everywhere and pushed the ball on nearly every possession.

Travis Lollar and Aaron Denny did a good job securing the boards and finishing around the rim, while Dallas Ehrmantraut spread the ball around. The Pirates went into halftime up by 8, 40-32.

The second half began like the first with the white and green being the aggressors and controlling the tempo. However, with around seven minutes to go, the Pirates went cold and the Braves heated up. In a matter of minutes, the Pirates 15 point lead was erased to nothing and the dogfight began.

With under a minute to go, Tanner Schwartz hit a runner in the lane to give Menahga their first lead of the night, 63-61. With only 30 seconds to play, Ehrmantraut was able to drive the baseline, draw the contact and finish the layup. Dallas would make the free throw and give the Pirates a one point lead at 64-63.

With only 12 seconds left on the clock, Menahga set up, and tried to attack the rim, but the boys were able to force some bad passes and nearly steal it twice. However, with the ball bouncing around, Schwartz was able to find the ball and put up a 15 footer that found the bottom. There were only .8 seconds left on the clock and a desperation heave went wide right.

*Dallas Ehrmantraut, 19 points  
Aaron Denny, 10 points  
Marcos Gomez, 9 points  
Josh Gilb, 8 points  
Travis Lollar, 8 points  
Christian Siedschlaw, 5 points  
James Kveton, 5 points*

Verndale 76—Underwood 62

After a tough loss on Friday, the boys were looking to get back on the winning track against the Underwood Rockets on Monday night. Basketball in the first half for both teams was extremely ugly...it truly looked like a Monday game.

With the game tied at 19 apiece with only three minutes to go in the first half, the Pirates made their move and closed out the half on a 13-0 run and were up 32-19.

Once again though, the Pirates were not able to keep the throttle down and the Rockets, with ex-

tremely good 3-point shooting, fought their way back after being down by 15 early in the second half. Six foot seven, Zane Lind found his outside touch and connected on four shots from behind the arc. Collin Teich found the bottom twice as well and ultimately helped the away team erase the large margin.

With only 25 seconds left and the score tied at 59-59, it seemed that another heart breaking loss was about to occur, but the Pirates held firm on defense and Teich's desperation 3 did not fall.

The overtime belonged completely to the Pirates and junior point guard Dallas Ehrmantraut, as he would score all 17 points. More importantly Ehrmantraut was able to hit 12-13 free-throws to seal the game.

The win helps the Pirates improve their overall record to 5-10. The boys travel next to Bertha on Thursday to try and avenge an earlier overtime loss in December.

*Dallas Ehrmantraut, 36 points  
Aaron Denny, 14 points  
Josh Gilb, 11 points  
Marcos Gomez, 9 points  
James Kveton, 4 points  
Travis Lollar, 2 points*

## Sports Schedule

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

February 3, AWAY  
New York Mills, 7:45 p.m.  
February 9, HOME  
Parkers Prairie, 7:45 p.m.

### BOYS BASKETBALL

February 2, AWAY  
Bertha-Hewitt, 7:45 p.m.  
February 6, HOME  
Henning, 7:45 p.m.

### WRESTLING

February 4, AWAY  
LPGE Tourn., 10 a.m.  
February 6, AWAY  
Breckenridge Triang., 5 p.m.  
February 9, AWAY  
Parkers Prairie Dual, 7 p.m.