

SPORTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Voyageurs defeated by CL Raiders

RRCC now 4-4 in MCAC North

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

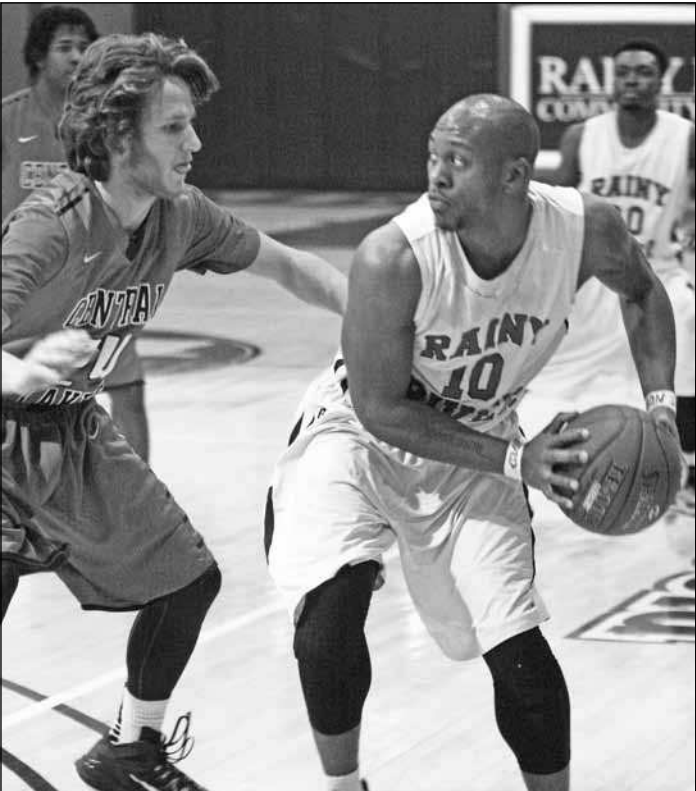
For the second time in eight days, the Rainy River Community College men's basketball team has lost to Central Lakes.

The Voyageurs opened the second half of their Minnesota College Athletic Conference Northern Division schedule at home Saturday with an 81-71 loss to the league-leading Raiders.

"Boy, did (the Raiders) shoot well (Saturday) – a lot of credit to them," said RRCC head coach Kristofer Babler. "They're on a 15-game winning streak. I thought we had a shot to beat them, and some things just didn't work out in our favor."

Central Lakes, which led 49-27 at halftime, outshot RRCC in the first 20 minutes from the field overall, 18-32 (56.3 percent) to 10-30 (33.3 percent), and from 3-point range, 7-11 (63.6 percent) to 3-11 (27.3 percent).

RRCC, which played the first half without its top scorer, sophomore guard Sam Stirgus, and also didn't have 6-6 freshman forward Antoine Tobias in the starting lineup, outscored Cen-



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

In front from right, the Voyageurs' Colin Tyrone (10) works the ball along the perimeter while being guarded by Central Lakes' Jake Dryer (24) in Saturday's game in the RRCC gym.

tral Lakes in the final 20 minutes, 44-32.

Both Stirgus and Tobias saw playing time in the second half. Another player who has started in recent games, guard Sheldon O'Neal, did not play at all Saturday.

When asked why the top-scoring Stirgus didn't play

in the first half, Babler said it involved a "team issue," but didn't elaborate.

The Voyageurs had five players end up scoring in double figures led by Stirgus, Tobias and Jimson Clerveus with 13 points apiece. Arfon Janetkhan added 11 points with Jam-mere Carlisle scoring 10

more. Carlisle recorded by double-double by also hauling in 12 rebounds.

The Raiders were led in scoring by Radamus Jones with a game-high 24 points. Darsean Woodson added 13 points with Davaghndre Jones scoring 11 more.

RRCC, which now has a season record of 4-4 in the MCAC North and 12-8 overall, returns to action at 8 p.m. today with a home game against Itasca, which lost 79-70 to the Voyageurs in the first conference game between the two teams.

"Itasca played us tough down at their place, so we're looking to come in and really execute and make sure we're prepared to play well," Babler said.

Central Lakes 81, Rainy River 71
Central Lakes 49 32 - 81
Rainy River 27 44 - 71

Central Lakes: Darsean Woodson 13, Deshun Patterson 3, Radamus Jones 24, Jayelyn Price 5, Trey Heinsius 2, Jake Dryer 6, N'Gai Dixon 8, Davaghndre Jones 11, Eric West 2, Alex Koch 3, Chris Ayers 4. 3-pointers: Jones 4, Dryer 2, Patterson, Price, Koch. Free throws: 12-23. Fouls: 19. Technical fouls: Woodson.
Rainy River: Ahmad Poche 8, Jam-mere Carlisle 10, Arfon Janetkhan 11, Antoine Tobias 13, Teekay Biti 3, Sam Stirgus 13, Jimson Clerveus 13. 3-pointers: Janetkhan 3, Poche 2, Tobias, Stirgus. Free throws: 8-15. Fouls: 20. Technical fouls: Tobias. Fouled out: Biti.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, the Voyageurs' Roneisha Jordan (20) shoots in the lane past Central Lakes' Bethany Cressman (35) in Saturday's game in the RRCC gym.

Voyageurs stop Central Lakes, end league skid

RRCC now 1-7 in MCAC North

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

After going through the first half of the Minnesota College Athletic Conference Northern Division schedule without a win, the Rainy River Community College women's basketball team picked up its first league victory of the season Saturday after defeating Central Lakes, 72-64, in the RRCC gym.

"It feels good, because it's been a while since we've had a win," said Voyageurs head coach Adam Rotar. "I thought we played really well on both sides of the ball."

RRCC, which pulled in front by as much as 11 points in the first half and led 31-25 at halftime, was able to stay in front throughout the second half as the Raiders could come no closer than two points.

"If we could stay with them the first half, and then carry that over the second half, we'd have a chance, and that's what happened," Rotar said. "This is probably one the best games of basketball

we've played all year on both sides of the ball."

In the previous conference game between the two teams eight days earlier, RRCC trailed by seven points at halftime and ended up losing at Central Lakes, 74-51.

The Voyageurs, who only had the five starters available for Saturday's game, had two players end up with a double-double. Roneisha Jordan scored 21 points and hauled in 19 rebounds. Shania Thompson added 18 points and 13 rebounds. Also scoring in double figures for RRCC were Dominique Hines with 13 points and Sarina Phrathep putting in 12 more.

The Raiders, who played with five starters and only one reserve, had three players score in double figures led by Kiana Edwards with a game-high 22 points, followed by Kelly Pearson with 19 and MacKenzie Holst with 12.

RRCC outshot Central Lakes from the field overall, 27-56 (48.2 percent) to 22-62 (35.5 percent).

The Voyageurs, who improved their season record to 1-7 in the MCAC North and 5-14 overall, return to action at 6 p.m. today when they host Itasca.

YOUTH WRESTLING

Mighty Mustangs are wrestling in multiple meets

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Two Mighty Mustang wrestlers, Hudson Mann and Anthony Bechik, took part in four different tournaments last weekend, wrestling Friday in Park Rapids, Saturday morning in Detroit Lakes and Saturday afternoon in Walker, before finishing out the weekend on Sunday in a MN/USA state qualifier at Blaine.

So far this season, Mann is 13-1 in MN/USA action. The MN/USA state tournament will take place March 7-8 in Rochester.

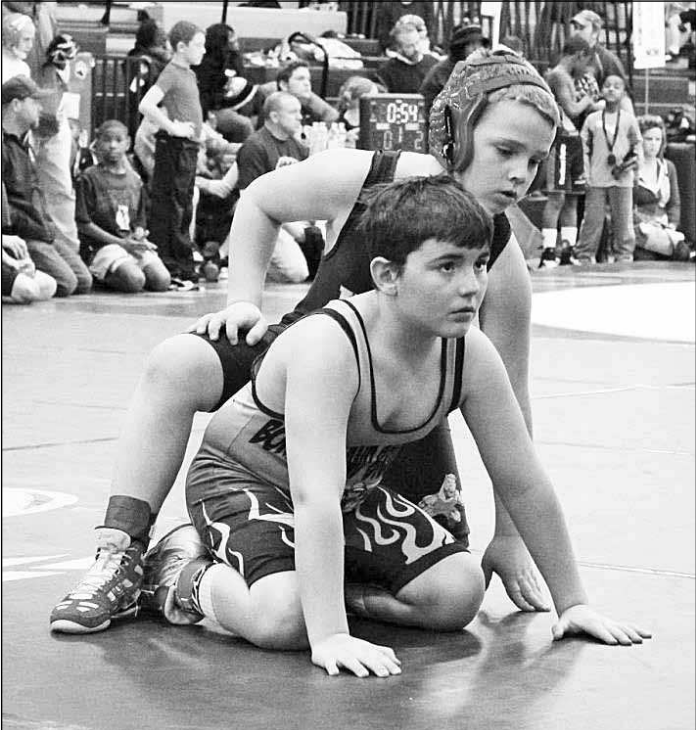
This coming weekend, the Mighty Mustangs will split up to compete at differ-

ent meets. Most of the Mustangs will be in Nashwauk or Proctor on Saturday. Some wrestlers may also choose to wrestle in Bemidji on Sunday.

However, Mann and Charlie Bannert will travel south to Monticello for the Gopher State Nationals. Mann will be wrestling in the Intermediate class at 105-115 pounds, while Bannert will be wrestling as a Bantam at 54-58 pounds.

Generally, the Mighty Mustangs wrestle in the Northern Minnesota Jaycee circuit, which will hold a state tournament in Grand Rapids on March 28.

The Mustangs, who have slightly more than two



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Below, the Mighty Mustangs' Hudson Mann sets up in the "down" position while competing at a recent wrestling meet.

months left in their season, will also be hosting the first annual "Top of the Nation Championship" at Falls

High School on April 12 at the end of the folkstyle season for wrestlers in grades PreK-8.



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