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February 2024 - Activities Director Board Report

Tomahawk High School:

We are now entering what is often called the Magic of March in the state of Wisconsin, as our winter sports season is wrapping up for our student-athletes at THS. Our winter sports have had a lot of ups and downs which is common with the length of the seasons and the winter outside that we are still waiting for.

- Boys' Swimming finished 2nd place in the GNC behind the defending WIAA Division 2 State Champions, Rhinelander. Tomahawk had small numbers for swimming, but Coach Theresa Lesperance continued to put the boys in great situations to improve throughout the year and compete at the conference level. If you were following along, the boys swimmers individually had multiple PRs each and every week, with individuals even setting PRs multiple times in the same event throughout the course of the season. They begin their postseason trek to the WIAA State Finals this Saturday February 10 at Ashwaubenon High School.
- Wrestling also finished their conference portion of the season this past weekend on February 3 with a second place finish in conference behind the conference Champion Medford Raiders. Presley Gutbrod defended his conference championship by repeating as a conference champion, and we had 10 all-conference wrestlers out of 14 weight classes this winter which is remarkable because of the youth of the team this winter. We hosted a GNC Quad on Thursday January 11 for our only home event, which saw multiple Girls' Wrestling matches between Tomahawk, Rhinelander, Lakeland and Antigo, along with the Wrestling team defeating Lakeland and Antigo on the night. The popularity amongst Girls' Wrestling has continued to provide a buzz around the school district. The girls' participated in a Girls' only tournament in St. Croix Falls and came away with four individual champions, 3 runner-ups, and multitude of compliments on their abilities as first year wrestlers. The WIAA tournament series begins this Saturday February 10th at Medford High School, and we are preparing to Host the WIAA Sectional Tournament in Tomahawk on Saturday February 17th. There is a good possibility we will get multiple female and male wrestlers to the WIAA State Tournament in Madison at the end of the month.
- Hockey has grabbed a lot of headlines this winter and are living up to the hype coming into the season. They are currently in the middle of GNC tournament play as the #1 seed in the GNC. They finished the regular season portion of the conference schedule undefeated and are looking to complete the first ever conference championship in Tomahawk Hockey History down the stretch. They also were awarded the #1 Seed for the WIAA Sectional beginning Thursday February 15, as they look to get to the WIAA State Tournament in Madison at the end of the month. One, Hatchet Pride Story, that occurred was on Senior Night v. Oshkosh, foreign exchange student Lorenzo Silenzi scored his first ever goal in Hockey! It has been a team goal for the students to get Lorenzo on the scoresheet at some point this season, and he was set up by Class of 2024 members Logan Seymour and Scout Stromberg. It is moments like these that show the beauty of high school sports in a community.
- Girls' Basketball has fared well in their non conference play this year including winning their home holiday tournament. They currently have 6 wins on the year and a chance to match or pass their win total from the previous season of 7 wins. They also have a decent chance of hosting a WIAA Regional Playoff game for the first time since 2006. The WIAA changed football and basketball where seeding is done by a computer based

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on multiple factors such as strength of schedule, enrollments of opponents, ect.... WIAA tournament series begins Tuesday February 20 for the Girls' Basketball Season.

- Boys' Basketball continues to work hard and play at the best of their abilities. They have battled some injuries and illnesses during key games this year that we could have easily seen the Hatchets on the positive side of the scoreboard. The students continue to show up with good attitudes for Coach Larson and work hard during practice. I am hoping they can catch some momentum down the stretch with the youth of this team to gain some positive traction for years to come for the program. The WIAA tournament series begins Tuesday February 27 for the Boys' Basketball Season.

Not only has athletics been busy for Tomahawk High School, the activities portion has been churning along down the stretch of their winter season.

- FBLA has two state qualifiers coming out of their regional competition! THS Students Ryan Larson, Elizabeth Lee, Sadie Liebelt, and Emerson Lange all competed at the FBLA Regional. Ryan Larson and Elizabeth Lee have both qualified individually for the State Competition on April 8th and 9th of this year. Congratulations to these students.
- The Fine Arts Department has been working diligently on their Musical Production that will be at the end of the month in the Tomahawk School District Auditorium. I cannot wait to see what the students have worked on for this when it is completed as we are fortunate to have so many talented individuals vocally in our school and involved in this project.
- The National Honor Society currently has students going around getting letters of recommendation to turn in for their new members for the upcoming school year.
- The Student Council hosted the Winter Ball on January 27th which was well attended by students in the district and a nice break up after semester one came to an end.
- Members of the esports team were able to take a field trip to Raven Industries in Madison to learn more about careers in technology for their futures. Levi Ott was the driver behind this trip and gained the students some experience for their futures.

Upcoming Dates - High School Activities (Home Events):

Thurs. 2/15 - WIAA Regional Hockey v. Rhinelander - 7:00 PM (Sara Park)

Thurs. 2/15 - HS Choir Concert - 7:00 PM (Auditorium)

Fri. 2/16 - V/JV Girls' Basketball v. Medford - 4:00 PM / 5:30 PM

Sat. 2/17 - WIAA Individual Sectional Wrestling Tournament - 10:00 AM

Mon. 2/19 - HS Forensics - Sub District

Tues. 2/20 - WIAA Girls' Basketball Regional v. TBD

Tues. 2/20 - WIAA Regional Hockey v. TBD

Thurs. 2/22 - JV2/JV/V Boys' Basketball v. Antigo - 5:45 PM / 7:15 PM (Fieldhouse)

Thurs. 2/22 - Sat. 2/24 - WIAA Individual Wrestling State Tournament @ Madison - TBD

Tues. 2/27 - WIAA Boys' Basketball Regional - TBD

Fri. 3/1 - Musical - 7:00 PM (Auditorium)

Sat. 3/2 - Musical - 7:00 PM (Auditorium)

Sun. 3/3 - Musical - 2:00 PM (Auditorium)

Mon. March 4 - High School Track Practice Begins

Sat. 3/9 - High School Solo Ensemble @ Northland Pines High School

Mon. 3/11 - High School Softball Practice Begins

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Tomahawk Middle School:

Tomahawk Middle School Athletic Seasons will be wrapping up at the end of this month. Girls' Basketball has been competing well in all of their games so far this season as one program. Tomahawk Middle School Wrestling has been busy with a scramble or meet every week for those individuals. They also had multiple female athletes join their team this year to try wrestling for the first time. Similar to the high school activities department, they also will have forensics and solo ensemble competitions over the next month for the students participating in those activities.

Upcoming Dates - Middle School Activities (Home Events):

Mon. 2/12 - Middle School Wrestling v. Invitational - 4:15 PM

Thurs. 2/15 - 8th Grade Choir Concert - 7:00 PM (Auditorium)

Tues. 2/20 - Middle School Girls' Basketball v. Antigo - 4:00 PM (HS Gym)

Thurs. 2/22 - Middle School Girls' Basketball v. Medford - 4:00 PM (HS Gym)

Thurs. 2/22 - Middle School Forensics hosted by Tomahawk Middle School - 4:00 PM (Multiple Locations in School)

Sat. 3/9 - Middle School Solo Ensemble @ Northland Pines High School

Activities Director Notes:

- The Hatchet Booster Club made a donation for new banners in the Fieldhouse to represent the Athletic Achievements throughout the history of Tomahawk High School. Those are currently being hung and will be ready to go by the Sectional Wrestling Meet on Saturday February 17. Thank you to Hatchet Athletic Historian Bob Skubal for submitting the information and double checking all the years for these. Also, thank you to the Hatchet Booster Club Organization for their continued support of High School Athletics in our school district.
- Kelly Tollefson will be providing a lifeguarding class to the general public and students interested in getting lifeguard certified this month. We are hoping with the new influx of lifeguards we can continue to work towards more open pool time for the community with the increased coverage availability.
- We will be adding open swim times for the public and students after school three days a week at the completion of the boys' high school swimming season to increase the pool availability for the general public.
- This winter the facilities were available quite a bit for the public, the following community groups used the facilities on a regular basis:
 - Hatchet Hoops (Youth Basketball)
 - Tomahawk Area Pickleball
 - Open Gym - Running Track - Fitness Center Weekly (Cooper Kelley Supervising)
 - Northern Wisconsin Volleyball Club
 - UWSP Women's Outdoor Workshop
 - Tomahawk Girl Scouts
 - Community Basketball Gym (Connor Ahrens Supervising)
 - Tomahawk Swim Club (Youth Swimming)
 - Softball Clinics / Open Gyms (Tomahawk Youth Softball)
 - Youth Wrestling
- Posted Head Coaching Position for Special Olympics

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As always, thank you everyone for your time and efforts in representing our district and giving our students better opportunities of growth as they attend our schools. Remember, I have an open-door policy and you are always more than welcome to stop by or call in regards to anything Activities related in the school district.

Report Respectfully Submitted by:
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