



STATE BOUND

CARDINAL GIRLS' HOCKEY

SECTION 3A CHAMPIONS
2022 STATE TOURNAMENT QUALIFIERS

A PRODUCTION OF THE STAR HERALD & FEATURED ADVERTISERS

Roll cards, roll!

Luverne High School girls' hockey team rolls through section championship on way to state competition in St. Paul

‘Team first’ mentality is secret to successful season for girls’ hockey

By Star Herald staff
The recently completed 2021-22 girls’ hockey season marked the third time in a row a Luverne High School team qualified for the Section 1A state girls’ hockey tournament.

The third time proved to be the Cardinals’ best. They finished the season with a remarkable 23-5 record.

Coach Tony Sandbulte remarked during playoffs that his team built their own successful momentum one game at a time.

“It’s been a dream season. The girls set goals and worked hard to achieve those goals together,” Sandbulte told the Star Herald in February.

“Winning a section championship only made it more special.”

The Cardinals, the No. 2 seed in the section tournament, won in double overtime against section rival and No. 1 seed New Ulm.

Both teams were listed in the Top 20 teams in Minnesota, and Luverne won the section with a final score of 3-2.

That feat alone was a



Luverne hockey girls celebrate after beating New Ulm 3-2 Feb. 15, in the Section 3A Championship game in New Ulm. Pictured are (front, from left) Emma Saarloos, Brenn Siebenahler, Mallory Nelson, Reghan Bork, Kamryn Van Batavia, Cheyenne Schutz, (second row) Hannah Woodley, Payton Behr, Anika Boll, Mallory Von Tersch, (third row) assistant coach Ellen Wenninger, Zariah Holmgren, Billi Connell, Macie Edstrom, Ella Apel, coach Tony Sandbulte, (back) Greta McClure, assistant coach Matt McClure and manager Morgan Gonnerman. Jennifer Nelson photo/0224 hockey group

satisfying accomplishment for the team and for fans.

The Feb. 15 game in New Ulm was the third meeting

between the Cardinals and the Eagles this season.

In the previous two contests, the Eagles outscored the

Cardinals a combined 13 to 3. A Cardinals win seemed unlikely.

“It was truly a gritty win

“We always want to be at our best at the right time. When the girls enjoy coming to practice and have fun playing hockey, it usually shows in the final outcome.”

— Head coach Tony Sandbulte

by our girls,” Sandbulte said. “A lot of people had written us off, but everyone in the locker room believed.”

Luverne’s only other loss in the regular season was against Dodge County, 2-6, at home on Jan. 22.

Taking a 23-3 record into the state tournament was a monumental achievement by the Luverne hockey program.

‘Success builds success’

For the first time, both the girls’ and boys’ hockey teams received a Top 5 seeding from the Minnesota State Hockey Tournament.

Luverne had previously random-drawn (non-seated) statuses that determined the state tour-

Road to state/see page 7

SOME WERE DOUBTERS,
BUT YOU ARE
A TEAM OF
DEWERS!



Photo courtesy of Jim Juhl / Myhré Studio

LHS team members include (front, from left) Emma Saarloos, Brenn Siebenahler, Kamryn Van Batavia, Reghan Bork, Mallory Nelson, Billi Connell, Cheyenne Schutz, (back row) Macie Edstrom, assistant coach Matt McClure, Payton Behr, Greta McClure, Zariah Holmgren, Hannah Woodley, assistant coach Ellen Wenninger, Anika Boll, Mallory Von Tersch, Ella Apel, coach Tony Sandbulte and manager Morgan Gonnerman.

Congratulations Luverne Cardinals on
an outstanding season!



PEPSI BOTTLING CO. 1801 FORMAN DR., PIPESTONE, MN 56164



Jennifer Nelson photo/0310 hockey tab

Good luck at state hockey playoffs, girls. We support you

Luverne High School athletic director Todd Oye addresses the student body Tuesday, Feb. 22, during a pep rally to send off the girls' hockey team ahead of their state appearance that week. Oye congratulated the team members on their victory and snapping Luverne's nine-game losing streak to New Ulm in section finals. The hockey players are pictured with gift bags prepared by the 12U girls' hockey team players ahead of their trip to St. Paul.

HAIR LTD

111 W. Main Street
Luverne, MN 56156

(507) 283-9519

treat yourself right!



FRANKEN
CONSTRUCTION

Travis Franken

Lic #20627458 & Insured
1332 181st St., Luverne

507-920-8253

Ketterling Services, Inc.

401 S. Cedar St. • Luverne, MN • 507-283-2863 • www.ketterlingservicesinc.com
Hours: Tues.-Fri. 8:30 a.m. to Noon & 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sat. 8:30 a.m. to Noon

Roll-Off Service for Building Demo & Remodeling

SANITATION:
Commercial
Residential
Rural



RECYCLING:
Collection
Dropoff

Monthly - Weekly - Daily



Find us on
Facebook

108 E. MAIN ST. • LUVERNE, MN 56156

507-449-0220 • STERLINGSLUVERNECAFE&GRILL.COM



Visit our
website for a
menu!

920 S Kniss Ave | 507-449-8334 | 75diner.com | 

Luverne

ACE

So much more than just a Hardware store

210 East Lincoln • Luverne • 507-283-4161

From the sidelines

Star Herald hockey stringer Matt Lais reflects on role as the 'Voice of the Cardinals' writing about games for the paper during the successful 2021-22 girls' high school hockey season

As the Star Herald continues to search for a full-time sportswriter and photographer, talented local contributing writers and photographers have stepped in to cover high school competitions.

Lifelong Luverne resident and former hockey player Matt Lais agreed to tackle girls' and boys' hockey coverage for the 2021-22 season.

He shares his thoughts here about what that work has been like as the Luverne girls' hockey season stretched into playoffs and eventually to state competition.

You agreed to the job for certain reasons; has it been what you expected or hoped for?

It has been a really fun experience and definitely a lot more work than I envisioned, having weeks of three games each for the boys' and girls' teams.

It takes a lot of time watching game tape, going to the games when I can, just to put a report together for each game.

Add that time to balancing my own work and kids' schedules and it was definitely a challenge.



Matt Lais, pictured with his daughter, Addisyn, has balanced writing Luverne hockey stories for the Star Herald with his work life, family life and hockey children.

"It was very satisfying. I got to see a different approach to sports that I had never seen. When I graduated high school, I thought being a sports reporter in a big city following professional teams from day to day would be so cool. Even though I chose a different career, I feel like I crossed something off my bucket list by getting the chance to do this."

— Matt Lais
Star Herald sports stringer for Luverne hockey

What surprised you?

What have you learned?

What surprised me the most is deadlines, how they creep up on you. At the beginning of the week you look at the upcoming week and feel comfortable about it, but

then by Sunday you're like, "I need to get these to Lori."

What was the most challenging thing about it?

The biggest challenge was balancing how much time to put into

each report, considering the 50-plus games played by the girls and boys, and typically a game takes three hours.

Add the three hours of view-

From the sidelines/see page 14



Bill Korth
Auction Service
Licensed Auctioneer
710 N. Oakley,
Luverne, MN 56156
HOME: 507-283-4766
Cell: 507-227-4958



**HOWLING DOG
SALOON**
507-449-0454



**Congratulations to the
Luverne High School
hockey team and the
Luverne 12U!**
!! ROLL CARDS ROLL !!
**Dave & Jessica
Van Batavia & Family**



EISMA AND EISMA
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
130 East Main St. Luverne MN
507-283-4828





**GrandStay Hotel & Suites
of Luverne**
908 S. Kniss Ave
Luverne, MN 56156
507-449-4949

ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH

203 E. Brown St.



Community sends off Cardinal girls' hockey team with escorted chartered bus



Mavis Fodness photo/0310 hockey tab

Good luck, Cards! Safe travels

The Luverne High School girls' hockey team leaves town Tuesday, Feb. 22, on a chartered bus escorted by Luverne fire trucks, one of them driven by Luverne fire chief David Van Batavia, father of Luverne standout hockey player, Kamryn Van Batavia. The escorted departure followed a schoolwide pep rally in the district's performing arts center where varsity players were introduced one at a time and received parting gifts.



BILL'S WATER CONDITIONING
BRANDON WATER
SOFTENER SERVICE
Family owned since 1971

SERVICE • RENTAL • SALES

Luverne: 507-283-4448 Brandon: 605-582-6585
www.billswater.com



Cragoe Realty
*Selling Real Estate in the
Heart of the Prairieland*

Gene Cragoe, broker/owner, lic. in MN & SD, 507-920-3815

  info@cragoe.com | 507-283-2647 or 800-689-2647



Luverne
Area Chamber & CVB



904 S Kniss, Luverne, MN
507-449-2030



VIKING
electric

Viking Electric LLC
Tim Gangestad
Owner
(507) 290-2595
vikingelectricmn@gmail.com
Conquering all of your electrical needs!
Residential • Commercial • Agricultural



ROCK COUNTY
RCC
CHIROPRACTIC

Michael P. Smith, D.C.

Now offering Laser Therapy • Most Insurance Accepted
Massage Therapy • Custom Orthotics • Work Comp/PI

www.rockcountychiropractic.com • 507-283-2561
103 E MAIN LUVERNE, MN 56156

Go Big Red!

Pictured at right, members of the Luverne High School pep band, under the direction of James Jarvie, keep the Cardinal fans inspired in the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul during the state hockey playoffs. Below, red and white apparel dots the seating section where Luverne Cardinal fans cheer for their home team.



Star Herald photos by
Canaan Petersen,
imagesbycd//0310 hockey tab
crowds and band



CLEVERINGA
CONSTRUCTION, INC.

507-920-5631
Merlin Cleveringa

Luverne
507-283-2698 Home
Lic. #BC-20552185

Adam Uithoven 507-227-1770 • Derek Sandbulte 507-227-1065



AMERICAN FAMILY
INSURANCE®

Insure carefully, dream fearlessly.

Nicholas Domagala, Agent
114 W Main St Ste 100 • Luverne, MN 56156
507-283-4695 • ndomagal@amfam.com



110 E. Main, Luverne 507-283-2379



**Luverne Area
Community Foundation**

102 E. Main St. • P.O. Box 623 • Luverne, MN 5616
www.luvacf.org • (507) 220-2424

Give Where You Live
today, tomorrow & beyond

Stroeh's Auto Center

321 E. Main
Luverne, MN 56156

507-283-4226



Congratulations Cardinals!



FROM THE CHRIS+DOC SHOW



Star Herald photos by Canaan Petersen, imagesbycd//0310 hockey tab
Luverne Cardinals take to the ice at the start of the Minnesota State High School Girls' Hockey Playoffs on Feb.23 in the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. From left are Zariah Holmgren, Kamryn Van Batavia, Billi Connell, Macie Edstrom, Hannah Woodley, Cheyenne Schutz, Brenn Siebenahler and Emma Saarloos.

Cardinal girls' hockey season 'Road to State'/continued from page 1

nament’s opening matchups.

The Cardinals first made it to the state tournament six years ago.

“I’ve chatted with some girls from our first team making the tournament in 2016,” Sandbulte said.

“And I told them, ‘See what you started?’ Success builds success.”

He said that success starts and ends with the team.

“We always focus on having a team-first mentality. When everyone is working for the greater good of the team, good things tend to happen.”

And that, he said, takes focus and hard work between competitions.

“We always want to be at our best at the right time,” Sandbulte said

“When the girls enjoy coming to practice and have fun playing hockey, it usually shows in the final outcome.”

Leaders on the ice

Individually several Cardinals achieved significant milestones this season.

At the section championship, senior goalie Cheyenne Schutz

had the best game of her career with 49 saves.

She ended the season with a 21-5 record with a 91-percent save percentage.

According to the Minnesota Girls’ Hockey Hub, Schutz is tied for sixth in the state for her winning record and is 52nd in the

Road to state/see page 8



746 20th Ave. Valley Springs
1-800-615-3704



First Farmers&Merchants
NATIONAL BANK

We believe in you.™
Member FDIC. And the community.

FREE *Mobile Deposit!*

Luverne 507.283.4463 For more details visit www.ffmbank.com  Find us on FACEBOOK

Meulebroeck, Taubert
& Co., PLLP

Certified Public Accountants

• Tax planning & preparation • Accounting, Payroll & Bookkeeping services
• Agri-plan™ - pretax medical deductions

109 S. Freeman, Luverne, MN
507-283-4055



HEARTLAND MUTUAL
INSURANCE COMPANY

Since 1888



Lismore, MN 507-472-8216 • Luverne, MN 507-283-9182

TITAN MACHINERY
Power & Precision to Grow®

CASE II

HERE TO SERVE ALL YOUR AG EQUIPMENT NEEDS

TITAN MACHINERY
410 W Koehn Avenue • Luverne, MN 56156 • 507-283-2319
Luverne Truck Center • 411 W Gabrielson Road • Luverne, MN • 507-449-6130

Mark's
PLUMBING, HEATING, A/C, LLC

507-283-9245

608 W. HATTING, LUVERNE • MARK & CINDY KURTZ, OWNER

TEMPSTAR
Heating and Cooling Products



Master Plumber Lic.#066849-PM
Lic.# PC644664

Cardinal girls' hockey season 'Road to State'/ continued from p. 7

state for her save percentage.

Team captain Reghan Bork scored her 100th goal of her high school career.

The senior forward was also state-ranked for her play this season.

Bork is second in assists (47), 12th in goals (39) and tied for fifth in points (86), according to the Minnesota Girls' Hockey Hub.

Leading the state in goals and points is junior and assistant team captain Kamryn Van Batavia, who has committed to play D1 college hockey at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

She scored her 200th career goal on Jan. 9, marking a rare milestone, and she led the state in scoring this season.

Van Batavia had 83 goals this season and 127 points (a combination of goals and assists). She ranked third behind Bork in assists (44).

She told the Star Herald, "It has been really exciting, and I really enjoyed seeing all the support from my coaches, teammates, family and fans.

"When I think about our success this year, I relate it to a practice goal we have set for our team: 'Practice at a high tempo, play at an even higher tempo.' We go hard at practice and stay humble, and it's starting to pay off."

The future of Luverne girls' hockey is looking bright.



"When I think about our success this year, I relate it to a practice goal we have set for our team: 'Practice at a high tempo, play at an even higher tempo.' We go hard at practice and stay humble, and it's starting to pay off."

— Kamryn Van Batavia, Luverne High School junior

Luverne junior standout Kamryn Van Batavia looks for a pass opportunity during the Cardinals' game with South St. Paul during the first round of playoffs in the Xcel Energy Center Thursday, Feb. 24. Van Batavia is the state's leading scorer with 83 goals this season. That's head and shoulders above the rest of the state with the second-leading scorer at 54. She's third in the state for the number of assists — 44 this season, right behind teammate Reghan Bork, who is second in the state for assists at 47. Van Batavia leads the state in points at 127, which is a total of goals and assists. Canaan Petersenimagesbycd//0310 hockey tab

Freshman Peyton Behr is tied for eighth in the state in assists (40) and tied for 17th in points (62).

In wrapping up his thoughts on

the recently completed season, Coach Sandbulte reflected on an important element that led to the team's success.

"The team would just like to thank the community for all the support throughout the season," he said. "We'll try it again next year."



**C&B
OPERATIONS**

LUVERNE



City of Luverne

305 East Luverne Street
Luverne, MN 56156
City Office 507-449-2388
Public Works 507-449-5043
Public Utilities 507-449-2388
www.cityofluverne.org

TACO JOHN'S

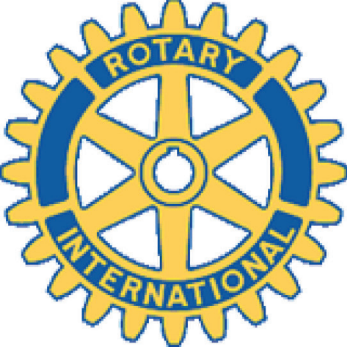
The Fresh Taste of West-Mex

South Hwy. 75, Luverne

507-283-4562

**Luverne
Rotary Club**

Luverne, MN



Kozlowski

Insurance Agency & Financial Services, Inc.

212 S Kniss, Luverne • (507) 283-3704 or (877) 631-3704

Quality Service Since 1927!

McClure Electric

121 N. Cedar, Luverne, MN | 507-283-4716

Alan M. Aanenson, owner





imagesbycd//0310 hockey tab

Go Cards!



Luverne Middle School students (at right) joined the cheering section Feb. 23-24 in St. Paul to support the Cardinal girls' hockey team in state playoffs. They are (from left) Landyn Lais, Brody Goembel, Blake Sauer, Treven Bell (middle back), Maddux Domagala (lower front), Josh Hansen and Brady Palaschak-Smeins

Luverne Flowers & Greenhouses

811 W. Warren • 283-4451

Luverne Landscaping, L.L.C

Kevin Jacobsma

Shop: 507-283-4451

Cell: 507-920-9932

811 W. Warren, Luverne, MN

Real Estate Retrievers

MLS

REALTOR

Allstate Realty Team ~ Rewarding you with Results

REALESTATERETRIEVERS.COM

Deb Aanenson • Broker/Owner • 507-920-9921

Keith Elbers • Auctioneer/Owner • 507-920-6131

Gene Aanenson • Agent • 507-920-9920

Jen Rolfs • Associate broker/Owner • 507-227-2985

Cole Weidert • REALTOR • 507-220-2297

Sherri Thompson • REALTOR • 507-227-6830

LUVERNE, MN

507-283-4216

HILLS, MN

507-962-3433

Wayne's

BODY SHOP

TIM WALGRAVE • JOSH VANDENHOEK • SETH MILLER

310 W. Hatting Street, Luverne MN

Office: 507-449-8315 Fax: 507-449-8326

MINNWEST BANK

116 East Main Street • Luverne • 507-283-2366

Hwy. 75 • 800 South Kniss • Luverne • 507-283-9131

www.minnwestbank.com • Member FDIC • MoneyLine 888-616 BANK

Sunshine Gas

North Highway 75, Luverne (507) 283-4889

Connell

Car Care

www.connellcar.com

800-884-2341

Senior Cardinal Brenn Siebenahler reflects on season, shares advice

The Star Herald reached out to all the seniors on the Luverne girls' hockey team about their reflections on their high school hockey careers and the success of their team.

Here's what senior player Brenn Siebenahler shared in response to questions:

What's been the most remarkable thing about your successful season and your trip to the state playoffs?

The most remarkable thing about our season was definitely beating New Ulm, since the Luverne girls' hockey team has only ever won against them three times in the history of the team.

What do you attribute your success to and the success of the team?

I had a lot of faith in our team, and I was always trying to pump our girls up as much as I could before every game.

As an outgoing senior player, what advice would you have to your younger teammates coming up through the ranks?

Soak it all up! All the years on the team goes so fast!

Once it's over you will miss it a lot more than you think you would. Always try to have fun.



Star Herald photos by Canaan Petersen, imagesbycd//0310 hockey tab

Luverne senior goalie Cheyenne Schutz makes one of her 38 saves in the Cardinals' game with South St. Paul during the first round of playoffs in the Xcel Energy Center Feb. 23. Shots on goal for the third period were 13-4 in favor of the Packers. Total shots on goal for the game were 41-21 in favor of South St. Paul.



The Estenson Company, LLC

Call me today for a complimentary insurance review.

(507) 283 2386

Tim Knoll
419 E. Main
Luverne
tknoll@iw.net

Insurance subject to availability and qualifications. Allstate Indemnity Company. Northbrook, Illinois © 2009 Allstate Insurance





Buffalo Ridge
INSURANCE

808 S. Kniss, Luverne, MN
507-283-2381



Luverne
BODY SHOP
AUTO GLASS

920 Commerce Rd. • Luverne, MN 56156
507.283.8711

KEVIN AAKER
kevin@luvernebodyshop.com

ANDREW HEMME
andrew@luvernebodyshop.com



Luverne
Building
Center

102 E. Maple St.
Luverne, MN
(507) 283-9151



Luverne
Aquatics & Fitness

Senior Cardinal Reghan Bork reflects on season, shares advice

The Star Herald reached out to all the seniors on the Luverne girls' hockey team about their reflections on their high school hockey careers and the success of their team.

Here's what senior player Reghan Bork shared in response to questions:

What's been the most remarkable thing about your successful season and your trip to the state playoffs?

The most remarkable thing about our successful season truly was beating New Ulm at New Ulm to win the section championship.

We had lost to them two times prior in the season and to come off of those two losses and pull through with a win was truly something special.

Going back to the state tournament for the third year in a row was a dream come true and something that'll stick with me forever.

What do you attribute your success to and the success of the team?

I attribute my success in hockey to the 13 years I've dedicated myself to the sport. I've done multiple camps and tournaments, been part of many teams, and have shot lots of pucks.

Success only happens when you put the time in, and our team definitely puts intime and hard work in during the off season and



Star Herald photos by Canaan Petersen, imagesbycd//0310 hockey tab

Luverne senior forward Reghan Bork looks for a path to the net during the Cardinals' game with South St. Paul during the first round of playoffs in the Xcel Energy Center Thursday, Feb. 24.

in season. My team and I are also very successful due to our strong coaching staff and there passion for the sport.

As an outgoing senior player, what advice would you have to your younger

teammates coming up through the ranks?

Being the captain of such a passionate and successful team is truly something special.

My advice to any younger player is to be a leader no matter what your age is, give 110 percent every day, and have

fun.

The last and most important piece of advice I would give is skate every game like it's your last because your last comes so quick.

Take pride in wearing the Luverne jersey. It's truly an honor.



Auto * Farm/Home * Crop/Hail * Commercial Life * Health * Long Term Care * Disability
info@Cattnach.com
www.cattnach.com

South Hwy. 75, Luverne, MN
507-283-8383



Luverne's only mobile glass shop

Brian Boll
Owner

507-920-7051



Loosbrock Electrical Construction, LLC

Licensed • Bonded • Insured
Residential • Commercial • Industrial • Agriculture

scott@loosbrockelectric.com
www.loosbrockelectric.com

Scott Loosbrock
Owner

507-360-5418



Tri-State Region
Ten Roundwind Road
Luverne, Minnesota 56156
(507) 283-9561; (800) 533-0303
www.cwgins.com

Period!

Continental Western Group
A BERKLEY COMPANY®

Country Cupboards

"Where Skilled Craftsmen Produce Work With Pride!"

2 miles south of Luverne on Hwy. 75
Phone 507-283-8176



Jason Vote, Agent
311 W Gabrielson Rd #3
Luverne, MN 56156
507-283-4401

Congratulations Cardinals

on your dedication, hard work and years of practice!



LHS

LHS team members include (front, from left) Emma Saarloos, Brenn Siebenahler, Mallory Nelson, Reghan Bork, Kamryn Van Batavia, Cheyenne Schutz, (second row) Hannah Woodley, Payton Behr, Anika Boll, Mallory Von Tersch, (third row) assistant coach Ellen Wenninger, Zariah Holmgren, Billi Connell, Macie Edstrom, Ella Apel, coach Tony Sandbulte, (back) Greta McClure, assistant coach Matt McClure and manager Morgan Gonnerman.



10U

10U team members include (front) Hazel Mollberg, (second row, from left) Addisyn Lais, Kendyl Behr, Mallorie Edstrom, Harper Renken, (back) Willow Domagala, Ayla Nelson, Summer Mollberg, Samantha VanMaanen and Destiny Kubesh. Not pictured: Coach Makayla Sterrett and assistant coaches Amanda VanMaanen, John Mollberg and Nick Domagala.



12U

12U team members include (front, from left) Ellie Van Batavia, Kloe Brockberg, Brynlee Lass, Tenlee Pick, (back) assistant coach Mark Steensma, Trinley Vanderburg, Izzy Steensma, Rylee Kurtz, Tenley Behr, Marlee Nelson, Kassidy Saarloos and coach Dave Van Batavia.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the **Luverne Hockey Association** in the beginning, today and in the future.

Thank you also to coaches, parents, kids and the community for your encouragement. Without you this wouldn't be possible!



Score!!!

Luverne girls' hockey players celebrate after scoring their only goal in the game against South St. Paul during the first round of playoffs in the Xcel Energy Center Wednesday, Feb. 23. The Cardinals lost to the Packers 3-1. Total shots on goal for the game were 41-21 in favor of South St. Paul. Luverne senior goalie Cheyenne Schutz made 38 saves in the loss.

The Cardinals went on to face the River Lakes Stars in the consolation bracket Feb. 24 when the Luverne team lost 4-2. Total shots for the game were 38-36 in favor of the Stars.



Star Herald photos by
Canaan Petersen,
imagesbycd//0310 hockey
tab team celebrates

Congratulations on a great season!

COACHES • PLAYERS



Luverne Cardinals



Papik MOTORS

Luverne • Rock Rapids • Sibley

Let the **Papik team** take care of all of your automotive needs.
We make it easy!



507-283-9171 712-472-2595 WWW.PAPIK.COM

Congratulations Mallory and your Cardinal Teammates!



NELSON FARMS

1289 200th Ave, Magnolia, MN

From the sidelines — sports stringer reflects on covering hockey/

from p. 4

ing or attendance time, plus a report, I would have five (hours) wrapped up into these stories, and most weeks you had anywhere from three to six games.

I would get to as many games as my life would allow, and I watched a lot on-line, thanks to streaming services that are in almost every hockey rink in our area.

The Star Herald staff heard from readers that they appreciated your hockey coverage; did you get reader feedback?

I did get some good feedback from people, and that made the work worthwhile. A few of my favorites were from Tami Bergman, Coach Sandbulte, and Susie Van Batavia.

Anyone who knows Susie knows she has been around hockey for as long as I can remember, and for her to send a nice thank-you card



Matt Lais

"I have played and coached all these years and thought I had seen almost everything hockey had to offer, but after all those years, I'm sitting here writing stories for the high school teams.

It's pretty cool when I think of the last 30-plus years of my life to have known so many die-hard hockey people who were instrumental in building the hockey program that we have today in Luverne."

meant a lot.

Despite the late-night writing and deadlines, did you discover any rewards? What was satisfying about the work?

It was very satisfying. I got to see a different approach to sports that I had never seen. When I graduated high school, I thought being a sports reporter in a big city following professional teams from day to day would be so cool.

Even though I chose a

different career, I feel like I crossed something off my bucket list by getting the chance to do this.

Do you have additional thoughts or observations about sports writing for the Cardinal hockey season?

I truly bleed Luverne hockey. All in all, this was a fun experience.

I have been around Luverne hockey almost my whole life.

I think back to how I

started hockey and it was the Connell family that got me started.

Growing up with Tim and Connie as neighbors, I was always playing street hockey with their boys, Pat and Pete, along with John Paquette, Ben Nelson and others.

After playing hockey for so many years, I was able to get into coaching in 1999. I was lucky enough to be a part of coaching for the Luverne boys' first section championship.

I have also coached my 14-year-old son most of his life growing up and have been very lucky to have coached a lot of the kids on the boys' high school roster.

I have spent a lot of years on the bench with lifelong friends, such as Nick Domagala and Tony Sandbulte.

I think of my time with hockey as a "Circle of Life," from how it started to how it finished.

I have played and coached all these years and thought I had seen almost everything hockey had to offer, but after all those years, I'm sitting here writing stories for the high school teams.

It's pretty cool when I think of the last 30-plus years of my life to have known so many die-hard hockey people who were instrumental in building the hockey program that we have today in Luverne.

BIG

Oru's



BAR

UPTOWN ADRIAN, MN

507-483-2885



GRAB & GO NOW OPEN!

602 East Main
Luverne, MN
507.449.7608
bluestemcatering@outlook.com
www.bluestemcateringco.com



D. & G.

Drinking
Water
Systems

*Water made by
reverse osmosis process*
Rentals • Sales • Service

610 West Hatting • Luverne, MN
507-283-4630 • Darin Smeins
Lic. # WM068242



BANK WITH PEOPLE
YOU KNOW AND
TRUST.

SECURING
YOUR FUTURE

Member
FDIC

SECURITY
SAVINGS BANK

bankwithssb.com

Mike & Dawn Van Den Top

113 W. Main Street
Luverne, MN 56156
Office: 507-283-9206
Fax: 507-283-9206
Cell: 712-899-4800
manitoucarpets@gmail.com

Carpet - Laminate - Vinyl
Wood - Ceramic Tile





Congratulations
Cardinals!

www.hermanmotor.com
507-283-4427

624 Kniss Ave
Luverne, MN

LIVERNE, MN
Since 1932



Dingmann

Funeral Home & Cremation Services

Luverne
300 N. Kniss
507-283-4567

dingmannandsons.com



DEN HERDER
CONSTRUCTION, INC.

P.O. Box 522 • Luverne, MN 56156-0522
507-920-8916 or 507-920-8917

Senior leadership

Pictured below, Luverne senior Billi Connell battles for control of the puck during the Cardinals' game with South St. Paul during the first round of playoffs in the Xcel Energy Center Wednesday, Feb. 23.



Star Herald photos by Canaan Petersen, imagesbycd//0310 hockey tab
Luverne senior Payton Behr takes a shot that sets up her teammate Kamryn Van Batavia to score in the first round of state playoffs in the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul Feb. 23. It would be Luverne's only goal in a hard-fought 3-1 loss to the South St. Paul Packers.



a place to grow...
a place to excel...
a place to stand out...

Luverne Public Schools
www.isd2184.net



McClure
PLUMBING, HEATING, AIR CONDITIONING, INC.

412 S KNISS AVE. LUVERNE, MN 56156
PHONE 507-449-2828
FAX 507-449-2829

Rock County Abstract & Title, Inc.

LORI DERAGISCH
President
LDRCAT@iw.net

110 N Oakley St Phone 507-283-8460
Luverne, MN Fax 507-283-8461

Luverne
Optimist Club

KLOSTERBUER &
HAUBRICH, LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

DONALD R. KLOSTERBUER
JEFFREY L. HAUBRICH
DAVID A. OWENS

120 N MCKENZIE, LUVERNE, MN • 507-283-9111



Luverne Family
Dental

MAIN: (507) 283-9129
FAX: (507) 283-4159
CELL: (605) 212-3286

115 E. MAIN STREET
LUVERNE, MN 56156

Henning
CONSTRUCTION INC

ADRIAN - LUVERNE, MINNESOTA
201 Louisiana Ave | Adrian, MN | 507-483-2486
www.henninginc.com



HARTQUIST
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES
Celebrating Life

Pipestone • Luverne • Lake Benton • Jasper • Tyler
www.hartquistfuneral.com

Congratulations
Cardinals!

Section 3A Champions
State Tournament Qualifiers



Team members pictured are (front, from left) Emma Saarloos, Brenn Siebenahler, Mallory Nelson, Reghan Bork, Kamryn Van Batavia, Cheyenne Schutz, (second row) Hannah Woodley, Payton Behr, Anika Boll, Mallory Von Tersch, (third row) assistant coach Ellen Wenninger, Zariah Holmgren, Billi Connell, Macie Edstrom, Ella Apel, coach Tony Sandbulte, (back) Greta McClure, assistant coach Matt McClure and manager Morgan Gonnerman.

We're proud to support Luverne High School activities and to be a part of this winning community!



205 E. Warren St.
Luverne MN 56156
507-283-4429
 facebook.com/sunshinefoodsLuverne