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Submitted photo/0401Rylee Gee photo

Luverne's Peyton Behr handles the puck in the state tournament matchup against Proctor/Hermantown on Friday, March 26. The Cardinals lost to the Mirage 8-0.

Cardinals reach state tournament second straight year

By **Brennen Rupp**

The Luverne Cardinals girls' hockey team reached the state tournament for a second straight year and for the third time in program history this season.

It was a season like no other.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic there was serious doubt if there would even be a season, let alone a state tournament.

The Cardinals handled each obstacle thrown their way and finished the regular season with

a 14-4 record.

They earned the No. 1 seed in Section 3A.

After defeating Windom Area in the semifinals, the Cardinals disposed of Mankato East in the section championship to stamp their ticket to the Class A State Tournament.

"We knew coming into the season that everybody was going to be after us," Luverne head coach Tony Sandbulte said.

"Everybody was going to want to beat us because we were the team that went to

state last year. You get yourself to the point where you're the number one seed. You did everything right. We just stayed on it and finished through to the end."

In the opening round of the state tournament the Cardinals lost to Proctor/Hermantown, a team that entered the contest with an 18-0 record.

The Cardinals were able to navigate through uncharted waters this season thanks in large part to the strong senior leadership.

Six seniors, Brynn Thier, Regan Feit, Roz Oye, Rylee Gee, Shelby Kracht and Sophie Holmberg led Luverne.

"They were a really special group," Sandbulte said. "They've been on the team since seventh and eighth grade, winning 125 to 15-games. Their team play on the ice, dedication in the classroom and commitment to the community is second to none. Their leadership will truly be missed. They've set a great example and raised the bar extremely high for future senior

groups to reach.

Thier finished her final season as a Cardinal with 14 points by scoring three goals and recording 11 assists.

"She's a strong defender," Sandbulte said. "She's another physical player for us. She's a stay at home defenseman."

Feit, who has been playing since she was a seventh-grader, finished her final season with seven assists and three goals.

"She's just a hard worker,"

Cardinals/Page 4

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Cardinals/Continued from page 3



The six Luverne seniors on the roster pose for a photo after winning the section championship against Mankato East 7-2 on Friday, March 19. They are (from left) Brynn Thier, Sophie Holmberg, Shelby Kracht, Roz Oye, Rylee Gee and Regan Feit.

Sandbulte said. “She’s very strong and athletic. If we are facing a top line, we want Regan on the ice against them.”

Oye finished her senior season with 13 goals and 12 assists.

“We can always count on her in the defensive zone,” Sandbulte said. “She really rises on big occasions. The tougher the team, the tougher she plays.”

Gee was third on the team with 20 goals. She also recorded 16 assists. The senior speedster also earned Big South All-Conference honors.

“Her speed is her greatest strength,” Sandbulte said. “She’s very quick on her skates. She can just get up and down the ice.”

Kracht finished her senior season with 12 assists and four goals.

“She’s been very flexible,” Sandbulte said. “We feel comfortable having her on offense or defense. She’s got a lot of strength. She’s just very physical.”

Holmberg finished her senior season with seven assists and one goal.

“She adds depth to this team,” Sandbulte said. “She’s kind of a spark plug for us.”

It will be a challenge for Luverne to replace the leadership and production those six seniors brought to the ice.



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A Luverne ANNOUNCER

Cardinals/Continued from page 4

The good news for the Cardinals is they'll have plenty of talent returning for the 2021-2022 season as they look to make it to state for a third straight year.

Kamryn Van Batavia, who earned Big South All-Conference honors this season, is one of those returning players.

Van Batavia led the team in goals (47) for a fourth straight year. She also recorded 40 assists.

Van Batavia's 47 goals and 87 points led the state of Minnesota.

Reghan Bork will also return. Bork earned Big South All-Conference honors for her efforts during her sophomore season.

Bork led the team with 41 assists. She finished second on the team with 28 goals.

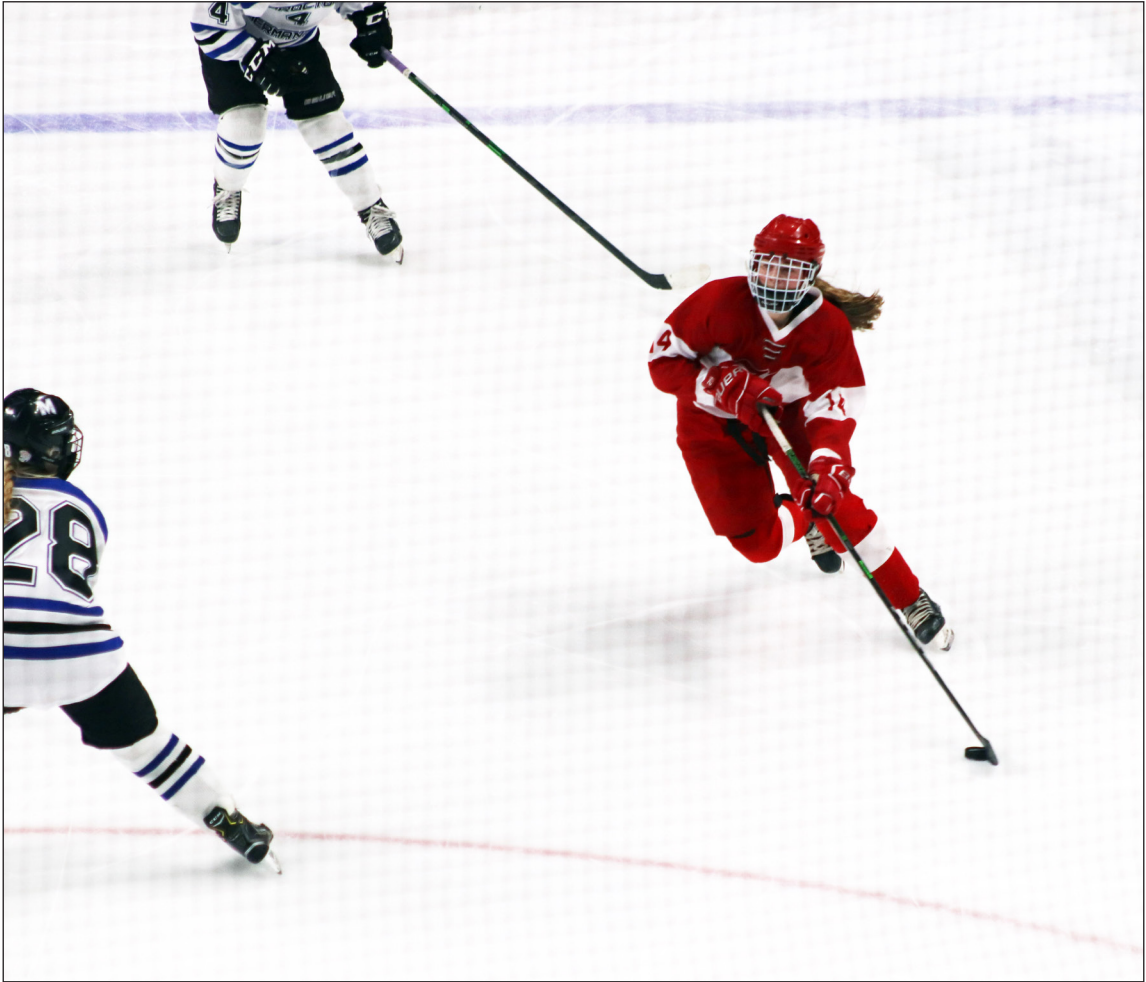
That duo will give the Cardinals one of the most dynamic combinations in Class A next season.

As an eighth-grader, Peyton Behr finished third on the team with 21 assists. Behr also scored 17 goals.

Mallory Nelson was a strong defenseman as a sophomore. Nelson finished this past season with five goals and 10 assists.

During her freshman campaign, Anika Boll scored three goals and recorded four assists.

Zariah Holmgren and Brenn Siebenahler will also return to provide quality depth.



Luverne's leader in goals, Kamryn Van Batavia handles the puck during Luverne's state tournament contest against Proctor/Hermantown. Van Batavia finished the season with a state-leading 47 goals.

The Cardinals will return both of their goalies. Cheyenne Schutz recorded 258 saves and Mallory Von Tersch recorded 170 saves.

Let's take a look at how the Cardinals reached the state tournament for a second straight season.

LHS 6, Windom Area 0

The Luverne Cardinals opened the regular season with a 6-0 shutout victory over Windom Area.

It took the Cardinals 17 minutes to light the lamp during their season opener against the Eagles on Tuesday.

In the opening 17 minutes, the Cardinals and Eagles were deadlocked at 0-0. Then in the second period, the Cardinals had an offensive explosion, scoring four goals.

Kamryn Van Batavia scored the team's first goal of the season. It was the first of

"They were a special group. They've been on the team since seventh and eighth grade, winning 125 to 150 games. Their team play on the ice, dedication in the classroom, and commitment to the community is second to none. Their leadership will truly be missed. They've set a great example and raised the bar extremely high for future senior groups to reach."

- Luverne head coach Tony Sandbulte on what the six seniors meant to the team.

her state-leading 47 goals of the season.

Kracht scored the second goal of the game. Peyton Behr recorded the assist on the goal.

Behr then notched the team's third goal of the game



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Cardinals/Continued from page 5

to put the Cardinals up 3-0. Van Batavia and Reghan Bork both notched an assist on the goal.

Bork scored the fourth goal of the period to put the Cardinals up 4-0. Van Batavia and Kracht both recorded an assist on the play.

Van Batavia opened the scoring in the third period to put the Cardinals up 5-0. It was the sophomore's second goal of the game.

Bork wrapped up the scoring with a power-play goal to put the Cardinals up 6-0.

Van Batavia, who has been on the varsity squad since she was a seventh-grader, scored her 100th career goal in the game.

Cheyenne Schutz recorded 20 saves for the Cardinals.

Rochester Lourdes 4, LHS 2

It was a battle of Top 10 teams inside Blue Mound Ice Arena in Luverne's second game of the season. Rochester Lourdes, the 10th-ranked team in Class A, defeated Luverne, the ninth-ranked team 4-2.

With just three seconds left in the first period, Rochester Lourdes scored the game's first goal.

With 12:05 left in the second period, Van Batavia scored a short-handed goal to tie the game at 1-1. Bork recorded the assist on the goal.

Rochester Lourdes scored the next three goals to build a 4-1 lead.



Mavis Fodness photo/0408 Hockey Tab Viewers

Students at Luverne Middle-High School tuned into the live-streamed broadcast Friday afternoon, March 26, to watch classmates compete in the first round of the girls state hockey tournament against Hermantown-Proctor. In addition to the choir room (pictured above), students watched the game in the gym and individual classrooms.

Van Batavia scored her second goal of the game in the closing moments to make it a 4-2 game.

Mallory Von Tersch recorded 19 saves.

LHS 5, MN River 2

The Bulldogs struck first on an even-strength goal from Darbi Dunning.

Regan Feit evened the game for the Cardinals by scoring a power-play goal. Mallory Nelson recorded the assist on Feit's goal.

Behr put the Cardinals up 2-1 when she scored a power-play goal in the second period. Van Batavia notched the assist on Behr's goal.

The Bulldogs answered right back with a goal to tie the game at 2-2.

Bork scored the first of her three goals in the game to put Luverne up 3-2 in the second period. Behr and Van Batavia both recorded an assist on Bork's goal.

Cardinals/Page 7



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FROM THE CHRIS+DOC SHOW

Cardinals/Continued from page 6

Bork opened the scoring in the final period to put Luverne up 4-2. Van Batavia notched her third assist of the game on the goal.

Bork picked up the hat trick by scoring the final goal of the game to put Luverne up 5-2. Van Batavia recorded her fourth assist of the game on the goal.

LHS 9, Morris/Benson 0

The Cardinals had three players record hat tricks during their shutout victory over the Storm.

Luverne's offense erupted for five first-period goals to put the game out of reach for the visiting team right out of the gate.

Bork opened the scoring to put Luverne up 1-0. Behr and Van Batavia both recorded an assist on the goal.

Van Batavia scored the next two goals to put the Cardinals up 3-0.

Bork scored her second goal of the period to put the Cardinals up 4-0. Behr and Van Batavia each notched an assist on the goal.

Oye wrapped up the scoring in the first period to put Luverne up 5-0. Nelson recorded the assist on the final goal of the period.

Oye scored a short-handed goal in the second to put the Cardinals up 6-0. Bork and Nelson both recorded an assist on the goal.

Van Batavia scored her third goal of the game when



Mallory Nelson looks to pass the puck to a teammate during Luverne's state tournament contest against Proctor/Hermantown.

she opened the scoring in the third period. Bork recorded the assist on the goal.

Bork scored her third goal of the game to put Luverne up 8-0. Van Batavia recorded the assist on the goal.

Oye wrapped up the scoring by notching her third goal of the game. Rylee Gee and Sophie Holmberg both recorded assists on the goal.

Von Tersch recorded 11 saves in the win.

LHS 7, MN River 0

The Cardinals used a strong first period to pick up a 7-0 victory on inside Blue Mound Ice Arena. Luverne scored four goals in the opening frame and never looked back en route to the shutout victory.

Van Batavia scored three of the four first period goals for the Cardinals. Kracht scored the other goal for the Cardinals.

In the second period it was Gee scoring a short-handed goal to put the Cardinals up 5-0.

Van Batavia scored a short-handed goal to put Luverne up 6-0.

Bork wrapped up the scoring in the third period to give the Cardinals a 7-0 lead. Thier and Holmgren assisted Bork on the play.

Von Tersch recorded 17 saves for the Cardinals.



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Cardinals/Continued from page 7

Dodge County 4, LHS 1
Dodge County jumped on the visiting Cardinals by scoring four first period goals. That strong opening frame helped Dodge County hand the Cardinals a 4-1 loss.

The Cardinals were held scoreless through the first two periods before a Gee power-play goal in the third period got Luverne on the board.

Von Tersch recorded 40 saves for the Cardinals.

LHS 13, Worthington 0
It was all Luverne, all the time, at Blue Mound Ice Arena.

The Cardinals scored nine first period goals to blow out the Trojans 13-0.

It took the Cardinals less than a minute to score the first goal of the game. Behr got the Cardinals off and rolling with a goal 56 seconds into the game. Van Batavia and Bork recorded assists on the goal.

Van Batavia scored the next two goals for the Cardinals to give the home team a 3-0 lead.

Thier scored the fourth goal of the period for the Cardinals.

Rylee Gee put the Cardinals up 5-0. Anika Boll and Roz Oye both recorded assists on the goal.

Regan Bork scored the next two goals for the Cardinals to increase Luverne's lead 7-0.

Behr scored her second



Luverne's Zariah Holmgren prepares for the puck to drop against Proctor/Hermantown on Friday, March 26 at the Xcel Energy Center. The Cardinals lost to the Mirage 8-0.

goal of the period to put the Cardinals up 8-0.

Bork scored her third goal of the period to put the Cardinals up 9-0. Kracht and Thier both recorded assists on the goal.

Boll opened the scoring in the second period to put the Cardinals up 10-0. Holmgren and Bork both recorded assists on the goal.

Bork scored her fourth goal of the game to put Luverne up 11-0. Boll recorded the assist on Bork's fourth goal.

Nelson wrapped up the scoring in the second period to put Luverne up 12-0. Holmberg and Oye both recorded an assist on Nelson's goal.

It was Gee scoring the team's final goal in the third period to close out Worthington 13-0. Holmberg and Kracht both recorded an assist on the final goal of the game.

Von Tersch recorded 14 saves for the Cardinals.

LHS 11, Morris/Benson 0
The Cardinals used a seven-goal second period to pull away from the Storm.

The strong second period helped the Cardinals pick up an 11-0 road victory.

It didn't take long for Van Batavia to open the



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Cardinals/Continued from page 8

scoring for the Cardinals in the first period 1-0. Bork and Behr both recorded assists on the game's opening goal.

Oye followed up Van Batavia's goal with a goal of her own to put the Cardinals up 2-0. Bork recorded the assist on Oye's goal.

Van Batavia scored her second goal of the first period and Kracht scored the final goal of the period to give the Cardinals a 4-0 lead.

Von Tersch opened the scoring in the second period to give the Cardinals a 5-0 lead. Van Batavia and Behr both recorded assists on the goal.

Nelson scored an even-strength goal to give Luverne a 6-0 lead.

It was Behr scoring a power-play goal to put the Cardinals up 7-0.

Van Batavia scored her third goal of the game to put the Cardinals up 8-0.

Thier scored her first goal of the game to get in on the scoring parade to put Luverne up 9-0.

Oye scored her second goal of the game to give the Cardinals a 10-0 lead.

Von Tersch wrapped up the scoring with her second goal of the game to put Luverne up 11-0.

Schutz recorded 18 saves for the Cardinals.



Brennen Rupp photo/0408 Roz Oye photo

Luverne's Roz Oye waits for the official to drop the puck during Luverne's state tournament matchup against Proctor/Hermantown. Oye finished her senior season with 25 points. Oye is one of six seniors that the Cardinals will lose to graduation this spring.

Cardinals/Page 10

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Cardinals/Continued from page 9

LHS 11, Worthington 0
After defeating the Trojans 13-0 on Thursday, Feb. 11, the Cardinals topped Worthington 11-0 five days later.

The Cardinals scored six goals in the first period and never looked back.

Van Batavia scored the first two goals of the game to put the Cardinals up 2-0. Bork recorded the assist on both goals.

Kracht scored the third goal of the game to put Luverne up 3-0. Behr and Van Batavia recorded assists on the goal.

Gee scored the fourth goal of the period to give Luverne a 4-0 lead. Nelson and Feit both recorded assists on the goal.

Bork picked up her third point of the period by scoring Luverne's fifth goal of the game.

Oye wrapped up the scoring to give the Cardinals a 6-0 lead at the end of the first period. Gee recorded an assist on the goal.

Van Batavia picked up the hat trick by scoring her third goal of the game to open the scoring in the second period. Gee recorded the assist on the goal.

Behr put the Cardinals up 8-0 after scoring a power-play goal. Van Batavia notched the assist on the goal.

Gee opened the scoring in the third period to put the Cardinals up 9-0. Oye recorded an



Brennen Rupp photo/0408 Shelby photo
Luverne senior Shelby Kracht handles the puck during the state tournament matchup against Proctor/Hermantown. Kracht finished her senior season with 12 assists and four goals. Kracht is one of six seniors on the Luverne roster that will graduate this spring.

assist on the goal.

Oye scored the 10th goal of the game for the Cardinals to put Luverne up 10-0. Van Batavia recorded an assist on the goal.

Behr wrapped up the scoring by scoring the team's 11th goal. Van Batavia recorded the assist on the goal.

Cheyenne Schutz recorded 12 saves for the Cardinals.

With the win the Cardinals completed the season sweep of the Trojans. Luverne outscored Worthington 24-0 in those two games.

LHS 10, Waseca 0
The Cardinals scored five goals in the first and second periods to pick up the 10-0 shutout victory over Waseca.

Van Batavia opened the scoring for the Cardinals. Bork

and Behr both recorded an assist on the goal.

Gee scored the team's second goal of the game to put Luverne up 2-0. Van Batavia recorded an assist on the goal.



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Jennifer Nelson photo/0408 team bus photo

The Luverne Cardinals got a proper send-off on Thursday, March 25, from the Luverne community before they hit the road to St. Paul for the Class A State Tournament.

Cardinals/Continued from page 10

Feit put the Cardinals up 3-0 when she found the back of the net. Oye recorded the assist on the goal.

Bork scored the fourth goal of the first period to put the Cardinals up 4-0. Van Batavia recorded her third point of the game by recording an assist on the goal.

Oye wrapped up the first period with a goal to put the Cardinals up 5-0. Gee record-

ed the assist on the goal.

Behr opened the scoring in the second period to put the Cardinals up 6-0. Van Batavia recorded the assist on the goal.

Van Batavia scored the next two goals to put Luverne up 8-0. Behr recorded an assist on Van Batavia's first goal.

With the two goals, Van Batavia extended her hat trick streak to three games. The sophomore has now recorded

a hat trick in five games this season.

A Nelson goal put the Cardinals up 9-0.

Gee wrapped up the scoring to put the Cardinals up 10-0. Oye and Nelson both recorded assists on the goal.

Von Tersch recorded 13 saves for the Cardinals in the winning effort.

LHS 11, Waseca 0

After defeating Waseca in Waseca, the Cardinals returned home on Tuesday, Feb. 23, and once again shut out the Blue Jays 11-0.

The Cardinals scored seven goals in the first period, leaving little doubt which team would leave Blue Mound Ice Arena as victors.

Bork scored the first goal of the period and was assisted by Van Batavia.

Van Batavia scored the second goal of the period. Kracht and Behr both recorded assists on the goal.

Bork scored her second goal of the period to put the Cardinals up 3-0. Van Batavia and Kracht both recorded assists on Bork's goal.

Oye put the Cardinals up 4-0 and was assisted by Gee

Cardinals/Page 13



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Congratulations Cardinals

on your dedication, hard work and years of practice!



LHS team members include (front row, from left) Brenn Siebenahler, Rylee Gee, Regan Feit, Sophie Holmberg, (second row) Mallory Von Tersch, Shelby Kracht, Rozilyn Oye, Cheyenne Schutz, (third row) Zariah Holmgren, Mallory Nelson, Kamryn Van Batavia, Brynn Thier, Anika Boll, (back row) assistant coach Ellen Wenninger, Reghan Bork, Payton Behr and coach Tony Sandbulte.

12U

Luverne 12U team members include (front, laying down) Emma Saarloos, (kneeling) Ava Schmid, Marlee Nelson, Hannah Woodley, Ella Apel, Macie Edstrom, Izzy Steensma, Ellie Van Batavia, Tenley Behr, (standing) Greta McClure, Rylee Kurtz, Kassidy Saarloos, Trinely Vanderburg, (coaches in back) Dave Van Batavia, Matt McClure and Eric Edstrom.



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!





Brennen Rupp photo/0408 RG photo

Luverne senior Rylee Gee passes the puck to a teammate during Luverne's state tournament matchup against Proctor/Hermantown at the Xcel Energy Center.

Cardinals/Continued from page 10

and Nelson on the goal.
Bork scored her third goal of the period. This time it was a short-handed goal to put the Cardinals up 5-0. Van Batavia and Regan Feit both notched assists.

Oye scored her second goal of the period to put the Cardinals up 6-0. Bork recorded the assist on Oye's goal.
Gee wrapped up the scoring in the first period to put the Cardinals up 7-0.

Bork opened the second period by scoring her fourth goal of the game. Kracht and Siebenahler both recorded assists on the goal.
A goal from Boll put the Cardinals up 9-0. Holmgren

and Bork both notched assists on the goal.
Oye opened the third period by scoring her third goal of the game to put the Cardinals up 10-0. Sophie Holmberg and Gee both recorded assists on

Oye's goal.
Feit scored the final goal of the game to make the final score 11-0. Von Tersch and Van Batavia both recorded assists on Feit's goal.

Cardinals/Page 14

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Cardinals/Continued from page 13

Schutz recorded 10 saves for the Cardinals.

New Ulm 4, LHS 1

The Cardinals struck first against the Eagles when Van Batavia put one between the pipes to give the Cardinals a 1-0 lead. Bork recorded the assist on Van Batavia's goal.

With 13 seconds left in the first period, the Eagles got on the board to tie the game at 1-1. New Ulm's goal was the first goal the Cardinals had given up in 17 periods.

The Eagles scored a goal four minutes into the second period to go up 2-1.

In the third period, the Eagles added two more goals to secure a 4-1 road victory against the Cardinals.

Von Tersch recorded 34 saves for the Cardinals.

The Cardinals finished the game with 28 shots on goal.

The Eagles finished the game with 38 shots on goal.

New Ulm's goalie recorded 27 saves for the Eagles in the winning effort.

New Ulm 4, LHS 3

The Eagles scored the first two goals of the game in the second meeting between the two teams.

Van Batavia got the Cardinals on the board nine minutes into the first period to cut New Ulm's lead to 2-1.

The Eagles added one more goal in the opening period to take a 3-1 lead into the



Cheyenne Schutz plays in net during Luverne's section championship contest against Mankato East on Friday, March 19. The Cardinals defeated Mankato East 7-2 to punch their ticket to the state tournament for a second straight season.

second quarter.

Nelson opened the scoring in the second period to get the Cardinals back within one. Holmberg and Boll both

recorded assists on the goal.

Gee tied the game at 3-3 when the senior put one between the pipes in the second period. Behr and Van Batavia

both recorded assists on the goal.

A New Ulm goal 11 minutes into the second period gave them a 4-3 lead. That

one-goal lead would hold as neither team was able to score in the final period.

Schutz recorded 29 saves for the Cardinals.

LHS 5, Marshall 0

Luverne's Reghan Bork scored the lone goal in the first period. A beautiful pass off the stick of Van Batavia set up Bork.

The Cardinals scored three goals in the second period to build a 4-0 lead.

Van Batavia opened the second period with a goal to put the Cardinals up 2-0.

Gee scored the team's third goal of the game to put Luverne up 3-0. Thier recorded an assist on the goal.

Van Batavia wrapped up the scoring in the second period to put the Cardinals up 4-0.

Van Batavia scored her third goal of the game to open the third period to wrap up the scoring and give the Cardinals a 5-0 lead.

Von Tersch recorded 19 saves in the game.

LHS 12, Fairmont 0

The Cardinals scored two goals in the opening minute en route to a seven-goal first period. That first period scoring barrage helped the Cardinals pick up a 12-0 victory over Fairmont.

Cardinals/Page 15



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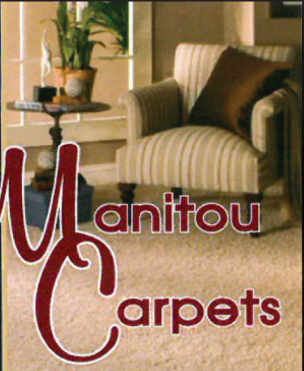
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Cardinals/Continued from page 14

Van Batavia scored 27 seconds into the game to put the Cardinals up 1-0 before the fans could settle into their seats.

It took 30 seconds for the Cardinals to score their second goal of the game. Gee's goal put the Cardinals up 2-0.

Bork scored the third goal of the period. Van Batavia recorded the assist on Bork's goal.

Gee scored her second goal of the period to put the Cardinals up 4-0.

Thier scored the fifth goal of the first period to put Luverne up 5-0. Bork and Behr both notched assists on the goal.

Van Batavia scored her second goal of the first period to put the Cardinals up 6-0. Bork recorded the assist on Van Batavia's goal.

Behr scored the seventh and final goal of the first period.

It was Behr opening the scoring in the second period to put the Cardinals up 8-0. Holmgren and Van Batavia both recorded assists on the goal.

Holmberg scored the ninth goal of the game. Van Batavia and Oye both recorded assists on the goal.

Bork scored her second goal of the game to wrap up the scoring in the second period to put Luverne up 10-0.

Boll opened the scoring in the third period to put Luverne up 11-0.

Behr scored her third goal of the game to wrap up the scoring. Van Batavia recorded the assist on the goal.

LHS 7, Fairmont 0

Bork scored the opening goal of the game to put the Cardinals up 1-0. Van Batavia and Behr both recorded assists on the goal.

Van Batavia scored the second goal of the game to put



Luverne senior Brynn Thier handles the puck during Luverne's section tournament contest against Windom Area on Wednesday, March 17. The Cardinals defeated the Eagles 11-0 to advance to the section championship game.

the Cardinals up 2-0.

Neither team recorded a goal in the second period. Luverne's offense erupted for five, third-period goals to come away with the 7-0 win.

Gee opened the scoring in the final period to put the Cardinals up 3-0. Bork and Van Batavia both notched assists on the goal.

Bork scored her second goal of the game to put the Cardinals up 4-0. Van Batavia and Gee both recorded assists on Bork's goal.

Van Batavia scored her second goal of the game to give Luverne a 5-0 lead. Bork and Thier both recorded assists on the goal.

Gee scored her second goal of the period to put Luverne up 6-0. Regan Feit and Van Batavia both recorded assists on Gee's goal.

Behr scored the final goal of the game. Oye and Holmberg both recorded assists on the goal.

Cheyenne Schutz recorded 22 saves for the Cardinals.

LHS 4, Marshall 1

The Cardinals defeated Marshall in Luverne 5-0 ear-

lier in the season. The Cardinals completed the sweep of Marshall on Thursday, March 11, with a 4-1 victory.

Van Batavia scored the lone goal in the first period for the Cardinals.

It was Van Batavia again in the second period to put the Cardinals up 2-0. Bork recorded the assist on both of Van Batavia's goals.

Marshall opened the scoring in the third period to cut Luverne's lead to 2-1.

Van Batavia recorded the hat trick by scoring her third goal of the game to put the Cardinals up 3-1. Thier and Oye both recorded assists on the goal.

Gee scored the final goal of the game to make the final score 4-1. Mallory Nelson and Bork both recorded assists on the goal.

Schutz recorded 21 saves in the win for the Cardinals.

LHS 10, Windom 2

The Cardinals wrapped up the regular with a 10-2 victory over the Eagles in Windom.

The Cardinals scored the

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Brennen Rupp photo/0408 Team photo

The Luverne Cardinals celebrate after defeating Mankato East 7-2 in the Section 3A Championship Game on Friday, March 19, inside Blue Mound Ice Arena.

Cardinals/Continued from page 15

first three goals of the game to jump out to a 3-2 lead.

Behr scored the opening goal of the game to put Luverne up 1-0 five minutes into the game. Nelson recorded the assist on the goal.

Van Batavia scored the next two goals for Luverne to put the Cardinals up 3-0.

The Eagles scored the final two goals of the first period to make it a 3-2 game after the first 17 minutes.

Van Batavia recorded the hat trick by scoring her third goal of the game to open the second period. Gee recorded

the goal.

Bork scored the second goal of the second period to put Luverne up 5-2. Van Batavia and Feit both recorded assists on the goal.

Behr scored her second goal of the game to put the Cardinals up 6-2. Feit recorded the assist on the goal.

Van Batavia scored her fourth goal of the game to put the Cardinals up 7-2.

Behr opened the scoring in the third period by scoring her third goal of the game to record the hat trick and put the Cardinals up 8-2.

Gee scored the final two goals of the game to make the final score 10-2.

LHS 11, Windom 0

In the two regular season matchups the Cardinals out-scored Windom 16-2.

Luverne defeated the Eagles 6-0 to open the 2021 season.

The Cardinals then wrapped up the 2021 regular season by defeating Windom 10-2.

The Cardinals continued their dominance over Windom

in the section tournament by defeating the Eagles 11-0.

The Cardinals scored six goals in the first period to shutdown any hopes that the Eagles may have had of pulling an upset.

Oye scored the first goal of the game. Bork and Nelson both recorded assists on the senior's goal.

Bork put one between the pipes four minutes later to give the Cardinals a 2-0 lead. Van Batavia and Thier both recorded assists on the goal.

Bork scored her second goal of the period two minutes

later to put the Cardinals up 3-0. Van Batavia and Feit both recorded assists on the goal.

Van Batavia put the Cardinals up 4-0. Bork and Oye both recorded assists on the goal.

Gee scored a goal two minutes later to put the Cardinals up 5-0.

Van Batavia scored her second goal of the game with less than two minutes left to play in the first period to put the Cardinals up 6-0.

Bork and Thier both re-

Cardinals/Page 17



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Cardinals/Continued from page 16

“To win a section championship on your home ice is pretty cool. It’s never been done before. It has to be a special feeling for those girls to leave this rink.”

- Luverne head coach Tony Sandbulte

corded assists on the goal. Oye opened the second period by scoring her second goal of the game. Bork recorded the assist on Oye’s goal. Behr put the Cardinals up 8-0. Thier recorded the assist on the goal. Van Batavia scored her third goal of the game to put the Cardinals up 9-0. Bork and Thier both recorded as-ists on the goal. Gee’s second goal of the game gave the Cardinals a 10-0 advantage. Behr and Holmberg both recorded the assist.

LHS 7, Mankato East 2 Section Championship
For a second straight year, the Luverne Cardinals girls’ hockey team is heading to the Xcel Energy Center for the Class A State Tournament.

The Cardinals punched their ticket to the state tournament by defeating Mankato East 7-2.

“To win a section championship on your home ice is pretty cool,” Sandbulte said. “It’s never been done before. It has to be a special feeling for those girls to leave this rink.”



Regan Feit handles the puck during Luverne's contest against Minnesota River on Tuesday, Feb. 2. The Cardinals defeated Minnesota River 7-2. Feit is one of six seniors on the roster that will graduate this spring.

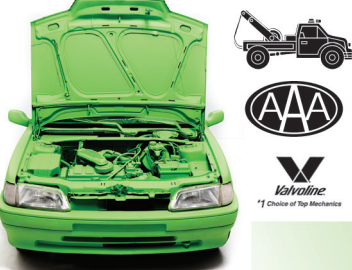
It was a battle for the Cardinals just to get to the section championship. With the COVID-19 Pandemic, it was unclear if there was going to be a	winter sports season. If there was a winter sports season it was unclear if there would be postseason play. Mankato East scored the game’s first goal to take a 1-0	lead over the Cardinals. Van Batavia scored a power-play goal to even the score at 1-1. Bork and Kracht both recorded assists on the goal.	Mankato East scored the first goal of the second period to take a 2-1 lead. Bork scored the equalizer
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Cardinals/Continued from page 17

four minutes later to tie the game at 2-2. Van Batavia and Thier both recorded assists on the goal.

With Mankato East on the power play, Van Batavia scored a short-handed goal to put the Cardinals up 3-2. Following Van Batavia's second goal of the game the Cardinals never looked back.

"We didn't make a lot of adjustments," Sandbulte said.

"We liked where our game was. Mankato East is a really good team. It was back and forth there. We just stayed with it. We were down 1-0. We were down 2-1. The girls kept fighting. We knew once we got the lead we weren't going to look back."

Van Batavia scored her third goal of the game to wrap up the scoring in the second period to give the Cardinals a 4-2 lead.

Behr scored the first goal of the third period to put Luverne up 5-2.

"That fifth goal, Peyton Behr buried it," Sandbulte said. "That broke their back. We just went from there."

Van Batavia scored the next two goals for the Cardinals to put the final touches on the section championship victory.

The talented sophomore finished the game with five goals and one assist.

"We were really waiting for her to shine against a good opponent," Sandbulte said.

"She showed it tonight. When she's going watch out."

Proctor/Hermantown 8, LHS o State Tourney

For the second straight year, the Luverne Cardinals girls' hockey team made the trip up to the Xcel Energy Center for the state tournament.



Brennen Rupp photo/0408 coach photo
Luverne head coach Tony Sandbulte looks on as his team takes on Proctor/Hermantown in the opening round of the Class A State Tournament on Friday, March 26.

Last year, the Cardinals opened the state tournament against Breck, the eventual state champions.

The Cardinals fell to Breck 8-1. In the consolation

bracket, the Cardinals lost to South St. Paul 8-4.

Fast forward a year and the Cardinals fell to undefeated Proctor/Hermantown 8-0 in the opening round. Proctor/

Hermantown, like Breck went on to win the state championship.

The opening period was a competitive affair with the Cardinals killing off two penal-

ties in the first 10 minutes.

With the game tied at 0-0, it appeared that the Cardinals and the Mirage were going to head into the locker room deadlocked.

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Luverne's Reghan Bork and Kamryn Van Batavia celebrate after Van Batavia scored a short-handed goal to put the Cardinals up 3-2 over Mankato East in the section championship game on Friday, March 19. Van Batavia finished the game with five goals for the Cardinals.

Brennen Rupp photo/0408 Cheer photo

Then, with 43 seconds left in the period, Proctor/Hermantown's Alyssa Watkins put one between the pipes to give the Mirage a 1-0 lead. Macy Sieger recorded the assist on

the goal.

In the second period, the Cardinals simply had no answer for Watkins and the Mirage. Watkins scored a goal 14 seconds in the period to

extend their lead to 2-0. Izy Fairchild and Sieger both recorded assists on the goal.

Watkins scored four more goals in the period and her teammate Reese Heltzman

added one for good measure to put the Mirage up 6-0 after the first two periods.

In the third period, the Mirage added two more goals to make the final score 8-0.

With the loss, the Cardinals finished the season with a 16-5 record. Of their 16 wins, 12 of them were shutouts.

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Team members pictured include (front row, from left) Brenn Siebenahler, Rylee Gee, Regan Feit, Sophie Holmberg, (second row) Mallory Von Tersch, Shelby Kracht, Rozilyn Oye, Cheyenne Schutz, (third row) Zariah Holmgren, Mallory Nelson, Kamryn Van Batavia, Brynn Thier, Anika Boll, (back row) assistant coach Ellen Wenninger, Reghan Bork, Payton Behr and coach Tony Sandbulte.

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