Family trifecta

* Olson’s welcome 3rd generation into 1,000-point club

By Bruce Strand

When Lily Peterson of Crosby-Ironton sank a free shot against International Falls for her 1,000th career point on Jan. 25, she extended her family’s membership in the club into the third generation.

Proudest fans in the Rangers gymnasium applauding Peterson were her mother, Sue (Olson) Peterson, who scored 1,340 points for New London-Spicer, and Sue’s dad, Spicer resident Harold Olson, who scored 1,107 points for Wood Lake.

Peterson got there faster, as a junior, and with a little more flair than her mom and grandpa, posting the family tree’s first-ever triple double. The 5-6 guard notched 15 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists in a 74-60 win over International Falls.

She was well aware of the impending family trifecta; her grandpa made sure of that.

“That’s super cool,” Lily said.

“It’s kind of a unique situation. I’d like to know how often it’s been done,” said Harold. “We are pretty excited about it.”

Matt Pederson of Starbuck, who keeps track of the state 1,000-point club, and reams of other state basketball records, said he’s aware of two instances in boys basketball — the Deere’s (Louis, Rich, Josh and Mitch) of Kennedy and Kittson Central, and the Gagnon’s (Steve, Chad and Cole) of Waverly St. Mary’s and Howard Lake-Waverly.

Where daughters are involved, Pederson said, it’s harder to track, since the girls have different last names, and he’s not aware of any other.

Lily averages about 15 points and six assists for the Rangers (11-8) in her third year as a starter and fourth on varsity.

Unlike her mom and grandpa, she’s made batches of 3-point shots. Prep basketball didn’t have the 3-pointer until 1987, two years after Sue graduated. Both Harold and Sue were great long-range shooters.

Sue, asked to assess Lily, whom she coached until this season, said, “I feel like she is a true point guard. She sees everything. She is a smart player and a smart student. She
makes really beautiful passes.”

Lily said she is very familiar with NLS and “the legendary Mike Dreier,” as she put it, having attended Wildcat camps during grade school with her cousins, the Hansons of NLS. And she visits family there regularly on holidays every year.

About her 1,000th, she said, “I didn’t want it to be on a free throw. I was fouled on a layup. The ball went around and around — and fell off. I made the first free shot. Then we celebrated a little, and I missed the second free throw, which was kind of embarrassing.”

Harold Olson, a 1959 graduate of Wood Lake High School (now part of the Lakeview consolidation), could not remember his 1,000th point specifically “but it was probably a long set shot; I took a lot of those.” It was against Clara City, he said, and they made an announcement.

Much more vivid is his senior year in general as it was both exhilarating and heart-breaking. “We were the only unbeaten team in the state,” he said, “and we lost in the district finals, to a team we had beaten by 18 (previously). That was Tyler.”

Olson averaged 22-23 points as a junior and 19-20 as a senior. The Warriors were strong his last two years. A teammate a year older scored 1,001 points. Another had a 50-point game against Belview.

Growing up on a farm, he honed his game in countless haybarn ballgames with friends. He could shoot. He saved one clipping from the Marshall paper where he hit 38 points, shooting 17-for-19 from the floor and 4-for-4 at the line. He would have loved a 3-point line. “I took about half my shots from out there,” he said. “We even had a two-man screen out there to set me up.”

Harold was on the freshman team at Mankato State briefly but left school to return to the farm when his father died. He farmed until his early 30s, when he went back to college and became a teacher. He taught a year in Wisconsin and eight years in NLS before going into crop insurance.

Harold actually coached the first two NLS girls basketball teams in 1974 and 1975 when it was a fall sport. “The athletic director, Curt Pederson, hated girls sports. He said girls should not be playing basketball,” Olson said. “Most of the male coaches felt that way. I had to do everything.”

Fortunately that attitude changed long before Sue came along. NLS was a girls hoops power by then.

Sue, a 1985 NLS graduate, recalls a bit of consternation went into getting her 1,000th point. “The game I was supposed to do it, I only scored six points. I made some silly mistakes.” It came the next game. “I want to say, against Morris? Long time ago! I think it was a free throw.”

What she remembers for sure: “It’s a weight off your shoulders when you get it.”

A 5-9 wing, she played five years, four as a starter, and was West Central Conference MVP for first-place teams three times. Most significant: her senior year marked the first of NLS’s 17 trips to the state tournament.

At state, she capped her career with two outstanding games. But not in the quarterfinals, unfortunately. Milroy, led by a 7th-grade superstar guard, Mary Jo Miller, beat the Cats in the first round, putting a box-and-one on Olson and holding her to six points. But she pumped in 33 and 35 points as NLS took the consolation title. The final 74 points of a glittering career came in the state tourney.

She went on to play for Southwest State and started getting 3-point credit for her long jump shots there while topping 1,000 points as a collegian, too. She was a high school coach for 11 years, the last three as Crosby-Ironton’s head coach. She is not coaching this year, and is now teaching in nearby Aitkin. But her hoops career is not over. There’s still the rest of this season, and next year, and probably college ball after that, watching Lily.

Article originally printed in Lakes Region Free Press
Ada-Borup hands East Grand Forks 1st loss 92-73

Ada-Borup, No. 3 in Class 1A, handed East Grand Forks its first loss 92-73 on Tuesday evening in Ada. EGF is No. 8 in Class 2A. The Cougars (15-1) displayed fierce man-to-man defense that forced the Green Wave into numerous turnovers in building a 14-point lead. They ruled the 39-24. Mason Miller, 6-7 senior, delivered 29 points and 21 rebounds. Cameron Spaeth added 22 points, Chase Bucholz 16, Verdis Barber 11 and Preston Gwin nine. Spaeth, an eighth-grader, sank four 3-pointers. For EGF, Sam Votova hit 21 points, Julian Benson 14, Tanner Campos 13, Tyler Aamodt 11, and Nathan Willett eight, with 12 rebounds.

De La Salle nips Holy Angels on clutch 3-pointer

De La Salle fended off an upset bid by conference rival Holy Angels 59-56 as junior forward Cade Haskins delivered the game-winning 3-point shot with under two seconds left, at Holy Angels on Friday evening. This is Holy Angels’ sixth season in the Tri-Metro and their first five conference encounters with DLS were losses of 87-44, 66-44, 86-55, 82-42 and 96-63. Haskins scored 17 of his 20 points in the second half. Matt Banovetz, Holy Angels senior guard, pumped in 26 points, including the 1,000th of his career. De La Salle (13-2) is ranked No. 13 and Holy Angels (11-6) No. 13 in Class 3A.
REGION PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

4B = 4th grade boys
4G = 4th grade girls, etc.

Teams may register for more than one region. See back for details.

Region 1  Site  Date
4G, 6G, 8G, 5B, 7B, 9B  RCTC (Rochester)  March 28
5G, 7G, 9G, 4B, 6B, 8B  RCTC (Rochester)  March 29

Region 2  Site  Date
5G, 7G, 9G, 4B, 6B, 8B  MN State-Mankato  April 18
4G, 6G, 8G, 5B, 7B, 9B  MN State-Mankato  April 19

Region 3  Site  Date
5G, 7G, 9G, 4B, 6B, 8B  Redwood Falls  March 28
4G, 6G, 8G, 5B, 7B, 9B  Redwood Falls  March 29

Region 4  Site  Date
4G, 6G, 5B, 7B  Mora  Feb 29
5G, 7G, 4B, 6B  Mora  March 1
8G, 9B  Willow River  April 4
8B, 9G  Willow River  April 5

Region 5  Site  Date
5G, 4B, 6B  Paynesville  March 14
4G, 6G, 5B  Paynesville  March 15
7G, 9G, 8B  Paynesville  March 21
8G, 7B, 9B  Paynesville  March 22

Region 6  Site  Date
5G, 7G, 9G, 4B, 6B, 8B  Alexandria  April 4
4G, 6G, 8G, 5B, 7B, 9B  Alexandria  April 5

Region 7  Site  Date
5B, 9B, 6G  Mountain Iron-Buhl  March 28
8B, 5G, 9G  Mountain Iron-Buhl  March 29
7B, 4G, 8G  Grand Rapids  March 28
4B, 6B, 7G  Grand Rapids  March 29

Region 8  Site  Date
4G, 6G, 8G, 5B, 7B, 9B  Bemidji  April 18
5G, 7G, 9G, 4B, 6B, 8B  Bemidji  April 19

State Championship Sites

MIT - MN Invitational  June 6
State Championship  June 7
MIT - MN Invitational  June 13
State Championship  June 14
MIT - MN Invitational  June 20
State Championship  June 21

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The MN State Champion and Runner-up in each grade are invited to the Great Five-State Championships at the Target Center in Minneapolis.

2019 Great Five-State MN Champions

5th Boys • Jackson Co. Central
6th Boys • Waseca
5th Girls • Crosby-Ironton
9th Girls • New London-Spicer
Minnesota teams won five of seven games against Wisconsin in the annual Breakdown Border Battle last Saturday in La Crosse.

In the marquee duel, Minnehaha Academy fended off La Crosse Central 73-64, with Jalen Suggs sinking 28 points, Chet Holmgren 18 and Kaden Johnson 11. They overcame a 42-point binge by Central’s Johnny Davis. Minnehaha is ranked No. 1 in Class 3A. Central is No. 2 in the Division 2, second-highest of five Wisconsin classes.

Mahtomedi (10-9) won the only close game, 69-68 over Kaukauna (9-8), as 6-8 post Cole Chapman hit a 3-pointer for the lead with 45 seconds left and the Zephyr defense held until the buzzer. Mahtomedi’s Cal Green caused a half-hour delay when he cracked the rim on a reverse dunk. Brody Fox scored 18 points, Greene 17, Will Underwood 15, and Chapman 11. For Kaukauna, Logan Jedwaby tallied 29 points and Jacob Newhouse 25.

Rochester Mayo (13-5) gave up 46 points to Eau Claire North point guard Dalton Banks but prevailed 93-80 over the Huskies (10-4). Gabe Madsen scored 21 points, Michael Sharp 19, Riek Riek 16, Mason Madsen 16, and Мо Hammadelniel 13 for Mayo.

Austin (17-3) cruised 82-53 over Milwaukee Washington (6-10). Okey Okey hit 19 points, Agwa Nywesh 13, Moses Idris 11, and Victor Idris 10 for Austin. Tre Valeriano led Washington with 17.

Lake City (18-1) rambled 99-68 over Brookfield Academy (12-5) with Nathan Heise pumping in 37 points and Justin Wohlers adding 22. For Brookfield, Aidan Clarey tallied 30 points and Logan Landers 23.


Wisconsin’s Stratford (16-0) stayed unbeaten with a 60-39 win over Spring Grove (11-10), led by Vaughn Breit with 17 points and Ben Barten with 15. Caden Grinde tallied 23 of Spring Grove’s 39.
North Woods outguns MLWR 109-104 in double OT

North Woods and Moose Lake-Willow River combined for 213 points Thursday evening (Feb. 6) with North Woods (15-4) prevailing 109-104 in double overtime over the Rebels (16-4), the Duluth News-Tribune reports. Trevor Morrison, an all-state tourney pick for the Class 1A runner-up Grizzlies last year, scored 34 points. The Grizzlies' three Chiabotti’s combined for 61 points — Brenden with 23, TJ with 20 and Jared with 18. Meanwhile, Brady Watrin was game-high with 39 points for Moose Lake-Willow River and Mason Olson added 30. It’s only the second-high total for North Woods this year as the Grizzlies also had a 112-29 win over Floodwood. MLWR notched its fourth 100-plus game of the season. They’ve beaten Virginia 101-91, Mesabi East 103-60 and Cook County 102-55.
Redhawks hand Caledonia 1st loss

By Bruce Strand

Caledonia, top-ranked in Class 2A, was knocked from the unbeaten ranks by Minnehaha Academy, top-ranked in 3A, by 92-71 on Friday evening in Caledonia. Jalen Suggs dominated with 42 points for Minnehaha Academy. Hercy Miller was next with 14 points.

“We held everybody else in check, and we were willing to give up the outside shot to him,” Caledonia coach Brad King said. “He was making them at that point. He’s hard to stop, I know we played hard and they had to battle to beat us.”

Noah King scored 23 points, Eli King 17 and Sam Privet 10 for Caledonia.

“They’re so challenging defensively,” Noah King told the Winona Daily News, “because (7-footer) Chet (Holmgren) is one of the best shot blockers in the country and when you surround him with 6-5, 6-6 athletic freaks out there, it’s really tough to score. But I think we showed we were capable of that tonight. We made plays, but defensively they are just so good.”

Minnehaha Academy moved up to Class 3A this year after winning 2A three straight years.

Lakeville South has finally supplanted Lakeville North as the city’s top boys team this season but the North Panthers earned a season split by toppling the South Cougars 69-66 on Friday. Josh Kamara pumped in 26 points and Will Blasczak 22 for North (10-9). Reid Patterson had 18, Joe Bachinski 13, Jack Leland 13, and Riley Mahlman 12 for South (15-3). South win the first meeting 61-44 on Jan. 3.

Miah Monahan scored 45 of Glencoe-Silver Lake’s 62 points as the Panthers beat Annandale 62-52 on Jan. 31. Monahan, a 5-8 junior guard, is averaging 22.4 points for the Panthers (12-10).

Karley Motschenbacher of Park Christian delivered a triple-double to lead a 55-42 win over Ada-Borup on Jan. 30. The 5-8 senior guard poured in 35 points, grabbed 10 rebounds, and made 12 steals. She is averaging 25 points for the Falcons (17-4).

Payton Mages, New London-Spicer point guard, was averaging 2.9 points before she was pressed into a shooting role against Litchfield on Jan. 30. The 5-8 senior responded with 19 points, missing just one shot, as the No. 4 Wildcats won 53-50 in overtime, fighting off an upset bid by the Dragons (7-13). With Litchfield clamping down on NLS’s top two scorers, Mages shot 6-for-7 on field goals, with three 3-pointers, and 6-for-6 on free shots.

Waseca guard Gus Boyer’s banner career ended with a knee injury on Jan. 30 during the Bluejays’ 49-39 loss to St. Peter. Boyer is the No. 2 scorer in Waseca girls basketball history with 1,365 points and holds the 3-point record with 226. The Minnesota-Duluth recruit averaged 19.9 points and 7.4 rebounds this year. (Mankato Free Press)

Jon Zinniel is New Ulm Cathedral’s new boys career points leader, breaking a 46-year-old record. The 6-5 shooting guard has 1,542 points, passing the 1,480 mark set by 1974 graduate Mike Wilfahrt. Zinniel is averaging 20.8 points, 7.6 rebounds and 2.3 blocked shots for the Crusaders (19-1). The NUC girls record is 1,694 by Stephanie Klavitter, 1995 graduate. (Mankato Free Press)

Unbeaten St. Croix Prep has four double-digit scorers in junior guard Addison Metcalf (19.6 ppg), senior guard Daniel McCarrell (18 ppg), senior forward Zach Doely (12.2 ppg) and junior guard Andrew Hoard (10.7 ppg). The Lions have beaten No. 5 Minneapolis North 70-58, No. 12 Stewartville 74-61, and Class 4A’s No. 20 Rochester Century 78-74.

Unbeaten Perham is led by junior center Finn Diggins (an all-state tourney pick last March with 20 ppg and senior guard Charlie Rasmussen with 19.5 ppg. Junior guard Elijah Morris adds 11.5 ppg. Perham opened the season with wins over two ranked Class 3A teams, No. 11 Bemidji 68-65 and No. 15 Mound-Westonka 64-43. The Yellowjackets’ only single-digit game since their opener was a 67-62 win over St. Cloud Cathedral on Tuesday.

Three girls teams and six boys teams are still unbeaten. The girls teams are Hopkins, Marshall, and Pelican Rapids. The other boys teams are Eden Prairie, BOLD, Southwest Minnesota Christian, and Fertile-Beltrami.
Pacesetter’s youth state tourneys, leading to Great Five-State, coming up

Pacesetter Sports will conduct its 28th annual Minnesota Youth Basketball Championships for teams in grades 4-9, starting with region playoffs from February through April.

This one-class, statewide competition involving 600 to 800 teams will start with eight regional qualifiers.

The regionals are as follows. Region 1 in Rochester and Stewartville, Region 2 in Mankato, Region 3 in Redwood Falls, Region 4 in Mora and Willow River, Region 5 in Paynesville, Region 6 in Alexandria, Region 7 in Grand Rapids and Mountain Iron-Buhl, and Region 8 in Bemidji.

The region champions are invited to the Minnesota Youth Basketball State Championships in Maple Grove in June. The champion and runner-up at the state tournament are invited to the Pacesetter Great Five-State Championships in Minneapolis along with top teams from Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota.

All teams in that tournament will have at least one game on the main Target Center floor.

Teams may register online now by visiting our web site at www.pacesettersports.net.

Officials needed

Officials interested in working Pacesetter basketball tournaments from March through July should write to jeff@pacesetternet.com. See www.pacesettersports.net for more information.

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STATE BOYS TOP 20 RANKINGS

CLASS 4A

1. Eden Prairie (2) 19-0
2. Eastview (3) 17-2
3. Cretin-Derham Hall (4) 16-2
4. Shakopee (2) 16-3
5. Hopkins (6) 14-4
6. Spring Lake Park (5) 16-3
7. Park Center (5) 14-4
8. Robbinsdale Armstrong (6) 13-3
9. Chaska (2) 16-3
10. Lakeville South (1) 15-3
11. East Ridge (4) 14-5
12. North St. Paul (4) 12-7
13. Tartan (4) 17-1
14. Prior Lake (2) 10-7
15. Maple Grove (8) 14-4
16. Cambridge-Isanti (7) 16-1
17. Champlin Park (5) 10-7
18. Lakeville North (3) 10-9
19. Mounds View (5) 15-3
20. Rochester Century (1) 14-5

CLASS 3A

1. Minnehaha Academy (4) 15-2
2. Mankato East (2) 17-1
3. DeLaSalle (6) 14-3
4. Totino-Grace (4) 13-5
5. Marshall (2) 19-1
6. Waconia (6) 14-4
7. Delano (5) 15-2
8. Austin (1) 17-3
9. St. Peter (2) 12-7
10. Richfield (3) 14-4
11. Bemidji (8) 11-5
12. Hermantown (7) 13-6
13. Holy Angels (3) 13-6
14. Bloomington Kennedy (3) 10-7
15. Mound Westonka (6) 12-5
16. Minneapolis Henry (6) 13-6
17. St. Cloud Apollo (8) 13-5
18. Hibbing (7) 14-6
19. Princeton (7) 16-3
20. Alexandria (8) 14-4

CLASS 2A

1. Caledonia (1) 18-1
2. Waseca (2) 16-5
3. Lake City (1) 18-1
4. St. Croix Prep (4) 19-0
5. Minneapolis North (5) 11-5
6. Perham (8) 16-0
7. Minnesota Valley Lutheran (2) 20-1
8. East Grand Forks (8) 16-1
9. Osakis (6) 17-1
10. Eden Valley-Watkins (6) 17-1
11. LaCrescent-Hokah (1) 14-4
12. Stewartville (1) 17-4
13. Fergus Falls (8) 15-4
14. Litchfield (5) 14-5
15. Rockford (5) 15-4
16. Virginia (7) 14-4
17. Mora (6) 11-4
18. Pine City (6) 17-2
19. Moose Lake-Willow River (7) 16-3
20. Goodhue (1) 15-3

CLASS 1A

1. BOLD (2) 19-0
2. Henning (6) 18-1
3. Ada-Borup (8) 15-1
4. Southwest MN Christian (3) 18-0
5. Waterville-Elysian-Morristown (2) 18-1
6. New Ulm Cathedral (2) 19-1
7. Springfield (2) 17-2
8. West Central Area (6) 16-2
9. Fertile-Beltrami (8) 19-1
10. Mountain Lake-Comfrey (2) 16-2
11. Blooming Prairie (1) 15-2
12. Hayfield (1) 15-4
13. Cromwell-Wright (5) 14-2
14. Nevis (5) 16-3
15. Cass Lake-Bena (8) 15-6
16. Parkers Prairie (6) 15-4
17. Nashwauk-Keewatin (7) 15-3
18. North Woods (7) 14-4
20. Nicollet (2) 14-3
### STATE GIRLS TOP 20 RANKINGS

#### CLASS 4A

1. Hopkins (6) 19-0  
2. Farmington (1) 19-2  
3. Wayzata (6) 18-3  
4. Park Center (5) 17-3  
5. Stillwater (4) 14-4  
6. Chaska (2) 17-4  
7. St. Michael-Albertville (8) 13-6  
8. Maple Grove (8) 17-4  
9. Rosemount (3) 18-3  
10. Centennial (5) 17-4  
11. Eden Prairie (2) 11-9  
12. Forest Lake (7) 17-3  
13. Elk River (8) 14-6  
14. Blaine (7) 16-4  
15. Lakeville North 11-9  
16. Rochester Mayo (1) 15-4  
17. Minnetonka (2) 13-7  
18. New Prague (1) 17-5  
19. Minneapolis South (6) 19-2  
20. Burnsville (3) 13-7

#### CLASS 3A

1. DeLaSalle (4) 14-4  
2. Becker (5) 18-2  
3. Simley (3) 17-2  
4. Marshall (2) 20-0  
5. Holy Angels (6) 13-6  
6. Red Wing (1) 19-2  
7. Austin (1) 18-4  
8. St. Paul Como Park (3) 15-4  
9. Hill-Murray (4) 14-6  
10. Waconia (2) 14-6  
11. St. Croix Lutheran (3) 16-5  
12. Alexandria (8) 15-6  
13. Mankato West (2) 13-6  
14. Mahtomedi (4) 14-6  
15. Hermantown (7) 19-2  
16. Hutchinson (2) 13-7  
17. St. Peter (2) 16-4  
18. Totino-Grace (4) 11-9  
19. Richfield (6) 16-4  
20. Big Lake (5) 14-6

#### CLASS 2A

1. Sauk Centre (6) 18-1  
2. Fergus Falls (8) 18-1  
3. Rochester Lourdes (1) 18-2  
4. New London-Spicer (3) 19-1  
5. Providence (5) 18-4  
6. Goodhue (1) 20-2  
7. Pelican Rapids (8) 20-0  
8. Proctor (7) 18-2  
9. Pine City (6) 18-1  
10. Albany (6) 17-2  
11. Lake City (1) 18-4  
12. Waseca (2) 16-5  
13. Duluth Marshall (7) 15-4  
14. Minnehaha (4) 14-6  
15. Belle Plaine (2) 18-2  
16. Winona Cotter (1) 19-3  
17. Mesabi East (7) 16-3  
18. Roseau (8) 17-3  
19. Stewartville (1) 14-8  
20. Hawley (8) 15-4

#### CLASS 1A

1. Minneota (3) 21-1  
2. Cromwell-Wright (7) 18-2  
3. Henning (6) 19-1  
5. Mountain Iron-Buhl (7) 14-5  
6. Mayer Lutheran (4) 16-4  
7. Waterville-Elysian-Morristown (2) 18-3  
8. Blooming Prairie (1) 17-3  
9. Cherry (7) 17-3  
10. Hills-Beaver Creek (3) 17-1  
11. Heritage Christian (4) 15-5  
12. Sleepy Eye St. Mary’s (2) 18-2  
13. Springfield (2) 16-3  
14. Southwest MN Christian (3) 16-4  
15. Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart (2) 17-4  
16. Warren-Alvarado-Oslo (8) 16-3  
17. Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa (5) 12-8  
18. EGF Sacred Heart (8) 17-5  
19. Underwood (6) 14-5  
20. Fillmore Central (1) 16-7