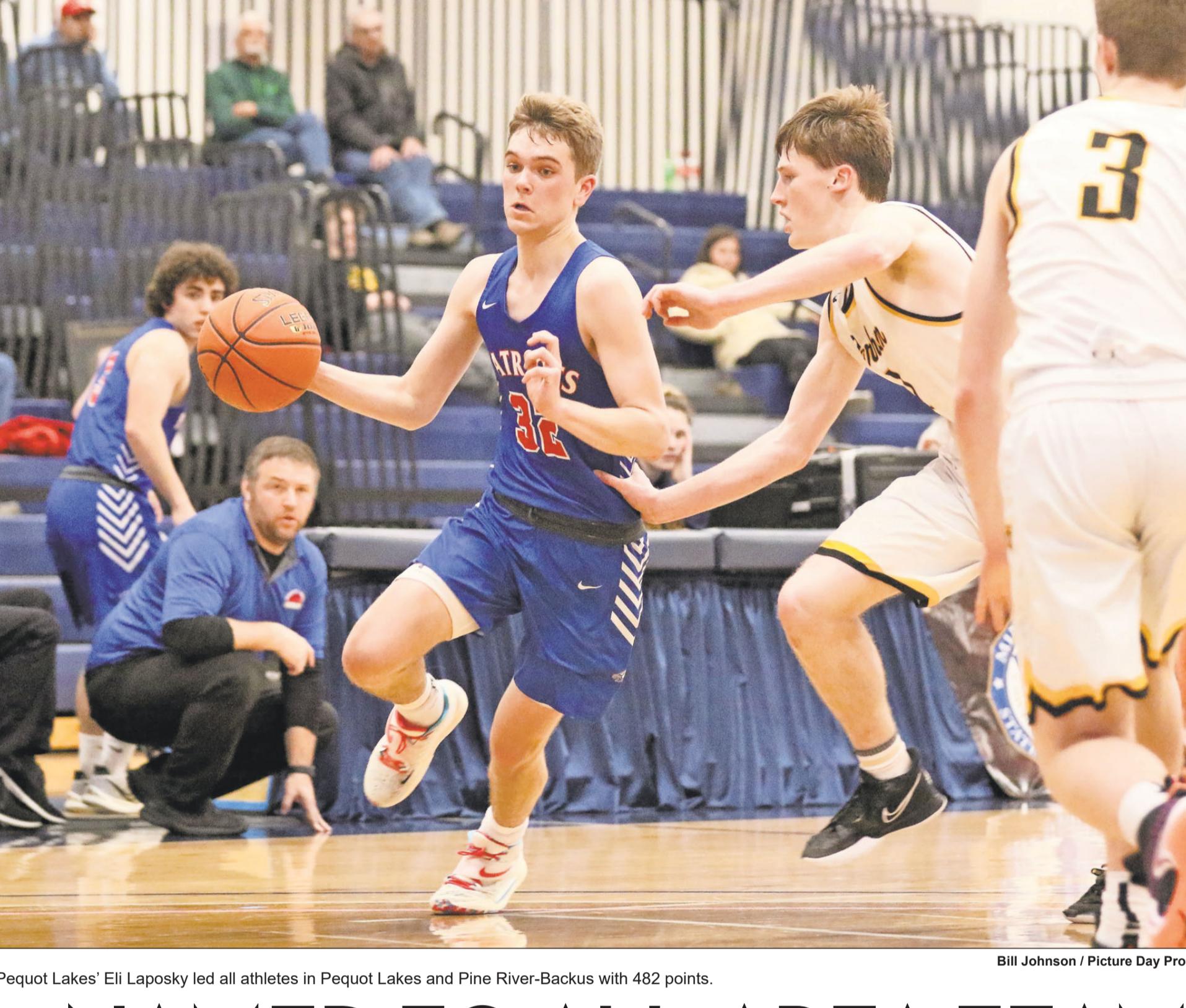


BOYS BASKETBALL



Bill Johnson / Picture Day Pro!

Pequot Lakes' Eli Laposky led all athletes in Pequot Lakes and Pine River-Backus with 482 points.

6 NAMED TO ALL-AREA TEAM

3 Patriots, 3 Tigers represent the Brainerd Dispatch All-Area Teams

The Pequot Lakes and Pine River-Backus boys basketball teams each had three representatives named to the Brainerd Dispatch All-Area Teams. Pequot Lakes sees two of its athletes named to the all-area first team and one to the second, while PR-B have the inverse with one member of the first team and two on the second team.

The Tigers finished their season with a 13-14 record,

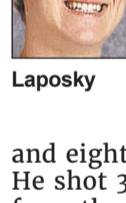
falling to the Swanville Bulldogs 75-61 in the West Subsection 5-1A Quarterfinals on Thursday, March 10.

The Patriots, meanwhile, finished with a record of 25-8, winning the section title and qualifying for the state tournament for the first time since 2007. Their final game was a 79-56 loss to Minnehaha Academy in the state consolation championship.

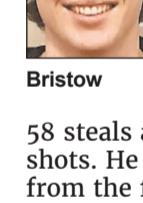
First team



Sam Rysavy,
Pequot Lakes
Junior, center
Finished with
383 points (11.6
per game), 332
rebounds (10.1
per game), 20
assists (0.6 per
game), 36 steals
and 21 blocked shots. He shot
66% (172-259) from the field
and 51% (39-76) from the
free throw line.



Eli Laposky,
Pequot Lakes
Junior, guard
Finished with
482 points (14.6
per game), 144
rebounds (4.4
per game), 158
assists (4.8 per
game), 65 steals
and eight blocked shots. He shot 37% (157-427)
from the field, 33%
(92-282) from 3-point
and 75% (76-101) from the
free throw line.



Brady Bristow,
Pine River-Backus
Senior, guard
Finished with
444 points (16.4
per game), 170
rebounds (6.2 per
game), 63 assists
(2.3 per game),
58 steals and 13 blocked
shots. He shot 47% (162-347)
from the field, 37% (68-184)
from 3-point and 74% (52-
70) from the free throw line.

ALL-AREA TEAM: Page 16

BASKETBALL

Patriots share state experience

By Dan Determan
Echo Journal

Both the Patriot girls and boys basketball teams made it to the state tournament in 2022. For the girls, it was the first time since 2016, while the boys team had not been there in 15 years.

The girls finished fifth overall at the tournament, while the boys took sixth.

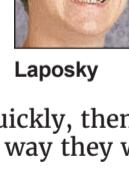
For some of the athletes participating in the tournaments, one of the most memorable things was the atmosphere and the feeling of stepping onto these prominent courts for the first time.

"It was a completely different feeling, getting to be in those NBA locker rooms and then walking onto the court and just seeing how big the arena is and how bright it was," senior Nic Kotaska said. "It almost felt like you were an NBA player out there."

The Patriot boys had the chance to play at the Target Center and Concordia University in St. Paul, while the girls played at Maturi Pavilion at the University of Minnesota as well as Concordia.

"It was amazing," senior girls basketball player Morgan Eckes said. "It was definitely a shell shock when we first walked into Maturi ... but once we got into it, we just had a lot of fun together, especially getting to play on the cool college courts."

However, athletes did their best



Eckes

Laposky

Larson

Martini

Kotaska

to soak it in quickly, then get back to playing the way they were used to playing.

"We only had the first couple of minutes of warm-ups to take it all in, and then we had to be ready to go, but it was just a different atmosphere," junior Eli Laposky said.

For junior Isabel Larson, the most noteworthy aspect of playing in a larger complex was the noise - something she wasn't used to in the Patriot Athletic Center.

"It was so loud," she said. "I couldn't hear anything my coaches or teammates were saying. We were screaming plays and doing actions to show the play we were running. Also, the court was longer, and you could totally tell."

Another substantial change for the athletes was not just the location or the decibel level, but also the level of competition.

"It was completely different than anything I've ever played," Kotaska said. "It was crazy to play against those teams too. They

were there for a reason. They are all really good and it was just fun to compete against them and see how good that competition actually was."

For those Patriot underclassmen returning next year - including the girls' entire starting lineup - if playing in the state tournament has done anything, it has lit a fire under them for next year, with the goal of improving on an already successful experience.

"I am so motivated to go back," junior Maci Martini said. "I could tell a lot of us on the team are. We are kind of perfectionists, so losing right away really affected us."

Next year, we just want to do better than fifth and make it to state again. That is hard to do, but we feel like we can do it again."

"I think we have more experience now and we have guys that want to go back and have that experience again," Laposky said.

"I can see a lot of our guys pushing a lot harder for the next year, especially the sophomores."

PATRIOTS: Page 16

TRACK AND FIELD

Patriots sweep season opening

CHANHASSEN — Pequot Lakes' Lucas Ganley won the shot put and the discus for the Patriot boys as they finished first at the four-team Chanhassen track and field invitational Monday, April 11.

Cruz Megazzini tallied a high jump win and second-place finishes for the 100-meter dash, 200 dash and triple jump.

Reese Laposky captured the triple jump to help the Patriot girls to a first-place team finish. Amelia Davis won the shot put with a throw of 30-foot-4.5 while Joselyn Rinio placed second in the pole vault and 100 dash.

Pequot Lakes is scheduled to compete at the Brainerd quadrangular at 4 p.m. Thursday, April 14.

Boys team scores:
1-Pequot Lakes 65,
2-Minneapolis Washburn 63, 3-Orono 47.5,
4-Chanhassen 31.5

Patriot Lakes results:
110 hurdles: 1-Charles Schiessl (PL)
17.23, 3-Nicholas Holmberg (PL) 19.91
300 hurdles: 1-Zach Nyquist (Orono)
10-0, 2-Joselyn Rinio (PL) 8-0